

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY

of El Paso

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LOUIS IRWIN, PRESIDENT
REV. LORAKIM JOYNER, MINISTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF EL PASO
JUNE 2004

June 6

Sunday Service 9:00 and 10:30AM: "Same-Sex Marriage and Our Faith/Matrimonio del Mismo Sexo y Nuestra Fe." Ministers LoraKim Joyner and Meredith Garmon. *Your prospective co-ministry team invites you to share with us this Sunday and the next two Sundays' lively and enriching services. We were free to marry each other and seek support from our society. Many others suffer civil discrimination based on their partner's sex. Today we will celebrate the diversity of the human species as we take a look at the same-sex marriage issue during June, Gay Pride month. Choir present. Forum to follow.*

- ◆ **9:00AM Service:** Based on our UU source of Jewish & Christian teachings with a Eucharist (communion).
- ◆ **All RE Classes to Chesbro/Gilson home for Summer Kickoff Pool Party 10:30AM: ***

June 13

Sunday Service 9:00 and 10:30AM: "Public Education and Our Faith/Educación Público y Nuestra Fe." Ministers LoraKim Joyner and Meredith Garmon. *Today we continue our Celebration of Co-Ministry as we share with you our prospective co-ministry team. We will recognize our graduates as our children and youth bridge through their Religious Education programs and public education institutions. What is our role as a religious community and as people of faith in public education? We will also welcome new members. Following the service there will be a forum to ask questions about co-ministry.*

- ◆ **9:00AM Service:** Based on our UU source of Jewish and Christian teachings in the style of UU traditional service
- ◆ **Pre-School/Elementary R.E. 10:30AM ***
- ◆ **Jr. High/Teen/Young Adult R.E. 10:30AM: ***

June 20

Sunday Service 9:00 and 10:30AM: "Foreign Policy and Our Faith. Política Exterior y Nuestra Fe" Ministers LoraKim Joyner and Meredith Garmon. *Today our Celebration of Co-ministry continues with this service and a special congregational meeting afterwards to vote on calling us as your co-ministers. Viewpoints on the US's foreign policy, and in particular, the Iraq situation are polarized. How might our faith help the various groups come to see one another so that war may cease and peace may reign? We will also be celebrating Father's Day. Choir present. Congregational meeting to follow.*

- ◆ **9:00AM Service:** Based on our UU source of World Religions
- ◆ **All RE Classes and their families to the zoo 9AM***
- ◆ **Congregational Call Meeting 12PM**

June 27

Sunday Service 9:00 and 10:30AM: "War Crimes and International Law: The American Perspective." David Hackett *Recent revelations of prisoner abuse in Iraq raise questions about the American perspective in regard to international law. At the end of World War II, the U.S. played a major role in war crimes trials and influenced the 1949 Geneva Convention. But many Americans now wonder if we have completely abandoned the principles we helped define at the end of World War II.*

- ◆ **All RE Classes participate in Game Day 10:30AM***

** Details of R.E. Programs in Youth Religious Education column. UUCEP now has four separate R.E. classes.*

Opportunities to Give/Receive Service

Monthly Social Justice Activities: See SJ column.
Food Collection: Clear box with a blue lid next to the Sanctuary information table. Food is donated to the Missouri Street Shelter.

Chalice Lighting, Flowers, Music: Unlimited opportunities to help with Sunday morning programs. Sign up or talk to Connie Crawford.

If you need a ride or have concerns for yourself or others, please call Caring Committee Chair, Harriet Miller at 566-9193.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTARY: Louis Irwin

I am both humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve as president of the UUCEP during the coming year, which promises to be momentous in the life of our congregation. In June we will decide on calling LoraKim Joyner and Meredith Garmon to be our co-ministers. Over the summer, we will assess the prospects for continuing our programmatic expansion to dual Sunday services and in other areas. By the fall, we will be in a good position to gauge our progress toward financial stability and the move that will enable us to expand further. Other initiatives by individuals already underway or being planned promise to make this a memorable year.

The prospects would be more daunting than they are, were it not for (a) the excellent upgrade in our administrative structure that the new bylaws provide, (b) and the quality of the new Board and committee chairs. I am pleased, in particular, to be assisted by Ann Singer and Lynn Slater, our two vice-presidents, whose long experience and wise counsel will be invaluable for meeting the challenges of this year and smoothing the transition to whatever we will become beyond that.

My aim is to merge the best parts of our heritage, movingly recalled for us by Melanie Treviño and Robert Upton earlier this year, with the tremendous potential presented to us by the co-ministry of LoraKim and Meredith. I am really looking forward to our journey together.

Board Meeting: Sunday, **June 13**, following Forum
Call Congregational Meeting: Sunday, **June 20**, after the morning services

UUCEP Ongoing Events

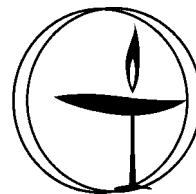
UU Breakfast Club – They will meet **Thursdays, June 10 & 24 at 7:30 a.m.** at El Rincon de Cortez, 3415 Sun Bowl Drive, just off North Mesa. Everyone is welcome. Questions: Les Walker: 778-1195

Good GNUUS Rehearsals - Choir rehearsals continue on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the home of Violet Gilson & Byron Chesbro. 544-4283

Meditation – see Adult RE column or Gene Kramer (562-7879) for evening meditation information.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS: Pat White

Mountain Desert District (MDD) Office:
District Executive: Ellen Germann-Melosh
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The El Paso and Las Cruces UUs will co-host the MDD Annual Conference **October 8-10, 2004** in Las Cruces. The Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA President, will be the keynote speaker and give the sermon Sunday morning. Our plan is to move our Sunday Service to Las Cruces that weekend and encourage all to attend. The theme will be *Life's Journeys* with three tracks – youth, social justice and experiential religion. Ann Singer, Carol Irwin, Scott White and Pat White are on the steering committee. Save these dates and plan to attend. Forms for workshop proposals are available on our web site (<http://www.mdduua.org/AC2004>). Deadline is **June 15**. Check our web site for more information as planning goes forward.

GA (General Assembly) 2004 will be held in Long Beach, CA, **June 24-28**, and GA 2005 will be held in Fort Worth, TX, **June 23-27, 2005**. For more information go to the web site:

<http://www.uua.org/ga>.

We are looking for members who would like to attend Leadership School this summer, **July 25 – 31**, near Estes Park, CO. The Early Bird deadline for registration is **June 1**. Check their web site:

http://www.mdduua.org/rlls/RLLS_2004.html for more information. If you are interested, please see Connie Crawford, Louis Irwin, or Pat White.

LORAKIM'S LORE:

James Luther Adams (and who was he?), a famous Unitarian theologian of the 20th century, once wrote that Unitarianism is the *prophethood of all believers*. He is paraphrasing Martin Luther of the 16th century whose pull away from the Catholic Church highlighted his belief that the church was a *priesthood of all believers*. The original Luther attempted to say that we do not need priests to mediate between us and the divine – we don't pay and support priests to do our religious, spiritual, and community work. Centuries later as the Protestant Reformation continued in our own Unitarian Universalist faith, James Luther attempted to say that we do not need professional ministers to mediate between us and justice – we don't pay and support ministers to do our social justice work.

Our model here is that of shared ministry, a vision of both Luthers. We are all ministers, calling each other to our better selves and a better life for all as we speak and live the truth as we see it. A professional minister is just one of many ministers, and one especially who has the gifts and time to help others become the ministers they were born to be. In the relationship between a professional minister and the congregation, the lay members use their gifts and time to help the professional minister become the minister he or she was born to be.

We are in this together, helping the congregation be all it was created to be.

Con gratitud,
LoraKim

MEREDITH'S MUSINGS:

Hello and greetings! The Call Committee will recommend to the congregation that LoraKim and I be called as the half-time-each co-ministers for the Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso. The congregational vote on this recommendation will be **June 20**. As part of the process, I'll be attending meetings and functions, and leading worship services during the first three weeks in June.

I'm very excited about the possibility of working with and ministering to this congregation: about Unitarian Universalism, about ministry, about El Paso, about working with LoraKim. I've been a Unitarian Universalist all my life. Throughout the years, I've been a part of, or visited, more Unitarian Universalist congregations than I can count. When I walk in the door on Sunday morning, I have always known instantly that I was among my people, that I was home. I've been a Unitarian Universalist minister for just over two months. I am brought to ministry by a need for a community within which we come to be and understand ourselves and come to understand and serve one another – and by a need to take up professional leadership in the development and growth of such a community.

I've been an El Pasoan for 21 months. When LoraKim and I first arrived, I was instantly smitten by the desert, and the mountains. I grew up in the Southeast: Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia. I had driven through the Southwest before – when I was too young or too callow or too rushed to notice its magic. This time was different. I feel bonded to the region.

I have become convinced that our liberal religious movement took on a special quality when the tradition growing out of New England planted and began growing in the Southwest. The mountains give us constant reminders of both grandeur and our comparative smallness. The desert gives us a particularly intense relationship to water, the source from which all life comes. The cultural medley of Spanish, Native American, and Anglo influences swirls everywhere. The Unitarian Universalism we've got out here just isn't the same as what is in Boston or Atlanta or Seattle.

There is a lot to be proud of in the liberal religion, El Paso style, we've got here. In what I've seen myself, and in talks with LoraKim, this congregation combines long experience, deep commitment, and deft skill in its lay leadership. This is a great place to be a Unitarian Universalist. At the same time, there are few towns with a greater need for a vital and active Unitarian Universalist presence. There is so much seriously to celebrate of what we are! There is so much joyfully to keep doing! I'm ready to join with you in both.

Faithfully,
Meredith

CALL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Call Committee Update: Jane Riger

The Call Committee is pleased and proud to ask the UUCEP Congregation to call LoraKim Joyner and Meredith Garmon to co-ministry at a special congregational vote to be held **June 20**. This isn't meant to be a detailed review of the letter of agreement (which is being drawn up by the Committee as this is being written), but an overview of some of the areas that might cause questions or need clarification.

- ◆ If called, LoraKim and Meredith will jointly, as co-ministers fulfill the final year of extension ministry (beginning August 2004), and continue after the end of the extension ministry year as our "called" ministers.
- ◆ Finances: The total cost of ministry (TCM) will not change with co-ministry. The ministerial budget that was approved at our last Annual Meeting will not change. LoraKim and Meredith ask that some rearranging of line items occur to help with taxes, but the bottom line cost to the congregation will not change until UUCEP becomes more financially stable.
- ◆ Communication can get complicated when extra voices are added to the mix, and LoraKim and Meredith will "find creative and individual ways to keep up on communication between themselves and with the congregation." This will involve consistent debriefing, shared email addresses, and a heightened awareness to avoid the pitfalls of triangulation.
- ◆ Sabbatical: LoraKim has a two-year jumpstart on accumulated sabbatical leave. To even things out, the contract will allow them to "pool" the accrued one month sabbatical leave per year that each of them will earn.
- ◆ Timelines: The committee decided that sooner is better, given the complicated nature of most folks' summer schedules. A variety of celebratory/informative events including sermons, dinners, forums etc. are being planned for the first two weeks in June. Details of these events can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

We feel so lucky to have the opportunity to welcome LoraKim and Meredith to shared

ministry at UUCEP. We embrace them wholeheartedly as our future co-ministers and hope that the congregation will support them and this committee as we approach the final stages of the call process. Questions, comments are welcomed from the Call Committee – Connie Crawford, Violet Gilson, Louis Irwin, Anna Mattersdorff, Jane Riger.

Celebrating Co-Ministry: Anna Mattersdorff

On **June 20**, your Call Committee will be offering the congregation the exciting opportunity to vote for a co-ministry as envisioned by LoraKim Joyner and Meredith Garmon.

LoraKim has now been with us for two years of the assigned three years as our full-time Extension Minister. Meredith completed his ministerial studies in December 2003 and was then interviewed by the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee. He passed with the highest marks possible, and is therefore able to enthusiastically begin a co-ministry with LoraKim for the third year of her Extension Ministry Program. This arrangement would then extend into a called or settled ministry.

A called ministry is made up of ministers who have been formally voted upon by the congregation to stay for an indefinite duration of time. The congregation chooses or calls the ministers to stay, creates a covenant, and agrees to work together in a mutually defined and agreed upon ministry designed specifically for that congregation.

Recognizing that co-ministry is new to us and new to them, LoraKim and Meredith have prepared a handout for you on co-ministry, which is the result of much research on what it looks like and how it works. This will be available on our literature table in the Sanctuary.

The period from **June 1 to June 20** will be called "Celebrating Co-Ministry." Meredith will attend as many congregational functions and committee meetings as is possible in order to become familiar with committee specifics, and also to give people an opportunity to ask questions about the co-ministry.

The services on **June 6, 13 and 20** will be conducted by LoraKim and Meredith together. Following the service on **June 13**, there will be a Forum focusing on the details of a co-ministry. The Call Committee will also sponsor **two**

potluck suppers on Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19 to give you an additional opportunity to meet LoraKim and Meredith and ask more questions. Sign-up sheets will be in the Sanctuary.

Your Call Committee has been charged with making the best decision possible for the future health and well being of the congregation. Come and participate in some of these events and catch our enthusiasm!

UUCEP Program Council

All Committee Chairs and anyone else interested are requested to attend the UUCEP Program Council meeting on Thursday, **June 10**, from 6-8 p.m., at the Slaters' home, 904 Winter. The meetings will continue on the second Thursday of every month and are open to all.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Connie Crawford

The Sunday Programs Committee will meet on **Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m.** in the minister's office.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Janet Kincaid

June 6:
All RE Classes 10:30 a.m.: Our kickoff for "Summer Fun" will begin with a pool party at the Chesbro/Gilson home at 1621 Rim Rd. We will swim and enjoy lunch until 2 p.m. Children will leave from the Community following the intergenerational story.

June 13:
Lower & Upper Elementary RE 10:30 a.m.: Children will participate in a "UU Carnival" that focuses on the seven principles of our faith. Children will also create make & take items that reinforce the lessons. Teacher: Janet Kincaid
Jr. & Sr. High RE 10:30 a.m.: A small reception in the Lovett House will be held in honor of the OWL graduates and those who participated in the bridging ceremony. The

Community is welcome to stop by for refreshments after the service.

June 20:
All RE Classes 9 a.m.: "Take Your Parent to the Zoo Day" The children and youth of the Community wish to extend an invitation to dads, grandparents, moms or a special loved one who would like to join us as we monkey around a bit at the zoo. This will be a terrific opportunity for families to spend some quality time together. All entrance fees will be paid. (Transportation is needed) Please be at the Community by 9 a.m. so we will have time to go to the zoo and be back for the congregational meeting.

June 27:
All RE Classes 10:30am: "Game Day" The young adults of the Community will provide age-appropriate games and activities for each class. Teachers: Sophia Anderson, Sara Chesbro, Nick Emerick & Lauren Emerick.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE 4: "Hats Off to Diversity" Don't miss out on all the fun! Be a part of this exciting Intergenerational RE Night, as we begin preparations for the Southwestern Pride Parade and show support for the GLBT community. Take a look at the wonderful activities that are planned for both young and young at heart from 6:30-8:30 p.m.:
Chalice lighting and reading
Hat Story
Make your own hat as unique as you are! (materials will be provided)
Enjoy a refreshing rainbow float
Design posters and decorations for the truck or for those marching
Sharing and reflection
Closing words

June 5th:
Those wishing to participate in the Gay Pride Parade, gather at the park opposite First Baptist Church on Montana Street at approximately 9 a.m. If anyone would like to volunteer their vehicle(s) for those who wish to join us, but cannot walk the entire route, please contact Janet as soon as possible. The turnout last year from the Unitarian Universalist Community was quite impressive, but this year, we're hoping it will be bigger and better!

"Take Me Out To The Ball Game" at Cohen Stadium! Let's make this a fun-filled day and evening as we enjoy Diablo baseball at its finest! If you or your family are interested in this activity, please sign up in the Sanctuary. See Reagan or Janet for more details.

June 6th:

Pool party at the Chesbro/Gilson home

June signifies summer has arrived and school is out! Therefore, more relaxed activities and events are designed for the children and youth of the Community up until Labor Day. This is a time when the teachers take a well-deserved break, and we ask other members of the Community who have a hobby or skill to share their gifts with the children on Sunday morning. Here are a few examples of activities you may want to help teach:

- knitting, crocheting, sewing
- gardening
- camping
- arts and crafts
- first aid
- sports
- cooking
- origami
- music/singing

I will have a sign-up sheet available on **June 6**, for those who wish to be a part of our UU Summer Team.

June 12:

An RE Meeting and potluck/brunch is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Community! Continued discussion and planning for the fall curriculum is on the agenda, as well as Camp Thunderbird plans, summer curriculum/activities, intergenerational events and updates from the sub-committees. Anyone interested in CYRE is always welcome to attend.

Please join us as we say goodbye to the Rutledge family and wish them well as they head for Georgia. Lynn, Jeremy, and Jarod have given so much to this Community, and we will especially feel their void in the ARE and CYRE programs where their talents and gifts have shown so brightly. To say thank you for all they have done, a potluck dinner will be held at the home of Tom and Janet Kincaid, 902 Park Road, at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be provided on Sunday, **June 6**.

June 20:

"Take your Parent to the Zoo Day": What a fun intergenerational activity for the whole family. Entry fees will be covered by the CYRE Committee. Please meet at 9 a.m. at UUCEP.

June 22: UU Campus Youth Movement will meet at the Community. Time TBA

June 24:

The CYRE Committee would like to extend an open invitation to those who would be interested in organizing or helping sponsor a seminar on Childhood Depression that would be held some time this fall. If you have a background in counseling, education, psychiatry, or feel strongly about this issue and wish to be an advocate or participant, please join us at 7 p.m. at the home of Janet Kincaid to begin discussion and planning.

Last Chance for Labels!!

If you have been saving Campbell's, etc., labels to help Youth RE earn playground equipment, NOW is the time to turn them in. Please bring your labels by **Sunday, June 6**, and place them in the Campbell's container in the foyer outside the office.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Kathy Newman

Merry Meet Again!

Join me in exploring the new Pillar Adult Religious Education Classes that will be held every Wednesday. Adult RE will take on a new look this year. Every series will focus on one or more of the following Five Pillars of UU including UU History, World Religions, Judeo-Christian, UU Values and the Interdependent Web. Most classes will be an exciting combination of a short presentation followed by lively and informative group discussion that will relate the presentation to how we experience our lives today. **Each class will start at 7 p.m. and end around 8:30 p.m.** However, some of our presentations may have a slightly different format due to subject matter. We will make every effort to present new information in the best format for learning and discussion.

As always, Adult RE is here to provide our Community with the opportunity for fellowship, knowledge and personal growth. Please show your support by participating in all Adult RE events!

June Events:

Wednesday, June 9, 16, 23 and 30, 7 p.m.: World's Religions

This series will focus on the world's predominant faiths, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism and the native traditions of the Americas. We will explore how each of these paths impact our lives today. This series will overflow into July.

Sunday, June 20, 7 p.m.: Litha

Litha celebrates the first day of summer. Join our open circle as we recognize this special time of year when the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer.

Justice and Spirituality

We will be finishing up our series on Justice and Spirituality on Tuesday, **June 15**, 7 – 8:30 p.m. The evening's topic will be mysticism as a source for a justice-making lifestyle for the flourishing of all beings within the web of life. If you have not attended before, see Rev. Joyner to get the reading. Please call if you need childcare.

The History of Ancient Egypt

Monday, June 14

The Great Pyramid of Giza: Books and theories on the Great Pyramid of Giza seem endless, but what do we really know?

The End of the Old Kingdom: The time of the first great kings comes to an end

Monday, June 28

The First Intermediate Period: Ancient Egypt enters a time of darkness

The Middle Kingdom-Dynasty XI: The road back to glory.

Two lectures per class (30 minutes each) by award-winning Professor Bob Brier on clear digital DVD the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. These materials are provided for our use and enjoyment by The Mystic Light Pronaos AMORC, (the Rosicrucian group). For more information call Doc Ray: 821- 6832

Esoteric Studies Group

TAROT

Magick as a Meaningful Life's Path: With special guest speaker Chris Dendy. Mr. Dendy will tell us how a working knowledge of Magick has helped him overcome the many obstacles in his life. This promises to be a fascinating and uplifting evening for everyone as well as those interested in alternative spirituality. Also, a short opening discourse and meditation: New Beginnings... The number 10 in the Sacred Tarot Come join us on **Thursday, June 3 at 7 p.m.** Facilitated by "Doc" Ray, 821-6832.

Zen Meditation

(The Border Zen Group)

The Border Zen Group will now meet **every Tuesday evening**, in the Sanctuary, 6:55 p.m. to 8:30. Meetings include 25-minute zazen (seated silent meditation), 10-minute kinhin (walking meditation), another 25-minute zazen, unison readings, serving of tea, and a dharma discussion. Meredith Garmon is the organizer and facilitator. Newcomers are welcome. If you need basic meditation instruction beforehand, contact Meredith Garmon at garmon.sm@juno.com or 562-7042.

Baseball Game!

Attention baseball fans! We would like to get a group together for a Diablos game on Saturday, **June 5**. Invite your friends and family and come cheer on El Paso's team. If we get a group of 20 or more, we get a group discount (\$4 each instead of \$5 each). Ticket scholarships are available. Please meet at the Community at 6:30 p.m. to get your tickets and to car pool. Please sign up on the sheet in the Sanctuary so we know how many tickets to buy in advance. For more information, please see Reagan in the office.

UU Poker Night

On Wednesday, **June 2**, there will be a UU poker game at Gene Kramer's, from 7 to 10 p.m. The stakes are dime ante, dollar limit, and all are invited.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Xavier Miranda

Fourth Sunday Collection

Our 4th Sunday collection for June will be taken on the first Sunday, **June 6**, since the recipient fits with the topic of the service. We will be supporting the UUA President's Freedom to Marry Fund. The Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA says "Unitarian Universalism calls us to fight for the civil and religious rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people, and this new fund allows us to fully participate in the public debate in favor of civil marriage as a civil right." UUs have long stood on the side of love, and now is our chance to increase our support in the middle of a national debate. Funds will be used to strategically help support local and state initiatives. Checks should be made out to "UUA – Freedom to Marry Fund".

A reminder to those interested in social justice issues---meetings are held **every third Friday** of the month at 6625 Southwind. Contact Xavier Miranda at 842-0577 or xmiranda@u.washington.edu for information.

EPISO LEADERS' ASSEMBLY

UUCEP is one of 30 EPISO congregations. At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, **June 6**, (change from June 1) leaders from the congregations will meet to consider the EPISO plan of work for the year. This is an excellent opportunity to better understand the "broad picture" of what will be happening and why. It is also an excellent opportunity to adjust that picture.

The meeting will be at Mount Carmel at the intersection of Alameda and Zaragosa. Take I-10 to the Zaragosa exit, then travel south on Zaragosa until you cross Alameda. Turn left into the church parking lot almost immediately after crossing the intersection. As you enter the lot, you will see cars clustered around a building to your right -- which will be the building for the meeting.

For questions or comments, call Lynn Slater, 472-2782.

CARING: Harriet Miller

Frances Kramer is still working at the Baghdad hospital. Fortunately she did not have to go to the front.

John Bloom has early cancer.

Cathy Gilliland's tests were negative.

Congratulations to John Padalino and Rachael Ribble who were married in Houston on May 15.

We welcomed Atticus Maxwell Baldwin, son of Kate and Bill Baldwin, in a child-naming ceremony on May 16.

Congratulations to Lisa Cauley on receiving her master's degree and to Kelli Higgins on being named Teacher of the Year at her school.

The next Caring Committee meeting will be on **June 16**, at 7 p.m. at the Community.

PERSONNEL: Jane Riger

We are pleased to welcome Virginia "Ginger" Duplisea, who has been hired to replace her daughter as UUCEP Office Administrator. Beginning July 1, the mother/daughter duo will work together for a month to bring Ginger up to speed with computer programs, and we'll say "goodbye and good luck" to Reagan as she leaves for grad school in August.

Newsletter cost: The Personnel Committee has been evaluating the costs of publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. By our recent accounting the monthly cost is: \$45.00 office administrator time, \$89.00 postage, \$7.00 paper and \$168.00 copying (3/4 of the allotted 3,120 pages of rental monthly copier cost) which totals a whopping **\$309.75** per month. We are aware that some UUCEP folks read the newsletter carefully/critically and depend upon it for news; others barely glance at it, and of course it is an important outreach and public relations representation of who we are and what we offer to the greater El Paso community. The question that we are raising is: is it sensible to spend **\$3,717.00** per year on a newsletter when we as a congregation are running over **\$20,000.00** per year in the red? In our committee we have discussed several options and would like your feedback on what makes sense to you. We can put the newsletter online (actually we already do that on our web site – minus sensitive information like names, phone numbers, addresses, etc.) and print a limited number of "hard copies" which could be picked up when you come to a Sunday Service.

Friends/members of UUCEP who feel strongly about receiving “hard copy” could pay a flat fee of \$10 to \$15 annually to cover costs, or we could leave it as it is as a UUCEP expense. Or there are a number of other communication options which I’m sure creative UU folks could come up with – how about tom toms, smoke signals, ESP? We’re hoping that you will give some input/feedback to our PC members: LoraKim Joyner, Ken Muncy, Jane Riger, Melanie Trevino, Pat White. Maybe we’ll come up with a response/opinion form for next month. Meanwhile, please think it over and give us your opinion. PS – see new “Brevity Award” under Newsletter News on back page.

PUBLICITY: Sally Savage

Publicity – What is UUCEP’s message to potential members? OK, so now I’m Publicity Chair for UUCEP. As with so many other activities in the Community, this function is an evolving moving target. Will it be like herding cats?

My personal challenge is to balance my focused, corporate world MBA approach to marketing vs. UUCEP’s blissful self-empowerment service-to-humankind fellowship. I first wandered into our sanctuary in January of 2002. I am amazed at the profusion of activities we have within and outside our walls. It’s a great story to tell in many ways.

We have agreed to grow and embrace more members in our loving Community. I firmly believe there are many people in this area who are looking for the spiritual acceptance and diversity within UUCEP. They just don’t know about us.

I suggest we need a more conscious approach toward the possibility that everything we do can attract new members. As we all have ministerial functions, I think we all have “marketing” functions. Huh?

Think about advertising campaigns for a moment. (Stay with me here. This is pretty simple.) The advertiser wants you to buy their product/service. They first have to get your attention by creating visibility and identity. They create interest and desire. Then they have to motivate you to take the intended action.

Most people don’t usually buy a suitable product the first time they see it. Sometimes they

have to be exposed to it many times. Since UU is not a mainstream religion, even people with liberal tendencies may have to look at UUCEP a bunch of times before they grasp it.

Keeping this in mind, one of my concerns is that it might not always be clear that a given event is part of UUCEP. Since our Community has so many diverse activities, I suggest we organize and implement all activities using a common slogan or motto. It doesn’t have to be an in-your-face thing; just an acknowledgement of UUCEP’s role.

What is our succinct message to potential members? What brings YOU under the umbrella of UUCEP? I’m asking this of the new Board Members, members of the Program Council, and anyone else who wants to provide input. Please think about it and let me know your thoughts by mid-June.

At the least, look at me as an internal resource for your committees and events. You are part of the story of UUCEP. I’d like to help you tell the story.

Finally, many thanks to Jane Riger, Reagan Duplisea and Ken Muncy for their continuing work in producing the monthly newsletter. Their dependability is a valuable service in keeping us informed about what we’re all doing.

-Namaste-

BUSINESS & FINANCE: Carol Irwin

First of all, I want to thank Doris Elevier, whose hard work and enthusiasm made this year's rummage sale come to pass. Thanks also to the elves who showed up in the preceding week to bring their treasures and help organize and display them as well as those who were there to assist with the sale itself. Nice going, Doris!

With the annual meeting now history, we're off and running in our new fiscal year. We need fresh ideas for fundraisers, so I will be sending out an e-mail soon to announce a special brainstorming session, probably the last week in June. We'd love to have new members on our committee, but we would also welcome your attending just this one meeting to throw around ideas with us.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat White

Our fiscal year ended April 30. Thank you to those who paid their pledge in full. We collected 98% of our pledges for the past fiscal year, which is very good. Just a reminder - outstanding balances can still be paid.

As our new fiscal year started on May 1, **it is time to start paying on your new pledge.**

MEMBERSHIP: Billie Slater

A picnic for the Membership Committee, greeters and new members, will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, **June 27**. Details to be announced by phone and email.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Billie Slater

The members of the Committee on Ministry continue to meet at least monthly to discuss ideas and concerns regarding our shared ministry in this congregation. We are completing a report which we call, "The Sharing of Our Gifts," looking at the ways in which all of us here, minister and congregation, focus on goals that are in sync with our principles and grow out of our needs. On a more pragmatic note, we welcome suggestions and expressions of concern from members and friends. If you'd like to speak with one of us, or all of us, right now we are Garland Greene, John Russell, Ann Singer, Billie Slater, Lynn Slater and, of course, Rev. Lora Kim Joyner.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Interested in Membership?

If you have been visiting and feel that you would like a more vital role in our Community, we would welcome you as a member. Complete a Membership Application card, give it to a greeter and we will start the process.

Newsletter News

Thanks to Reagan and Ken Muncy who play significant roles in getting the newsletter out. Please continue to email all material to Jane Riger at pjriger@sbcglobal.net and uucep@htg.net. Please don't leave hard copy in the mailbox – give it to Reagan to type. The “official” deadline continues to be the 23rd of each month. Notice of new award: “**Most Succinct**” committee report for June goes to Connie Crawford, “**Queen of Brevity**” !!!

Mailbox Reorganization

With the election and approval of our new board members and committee chairs, the mailboxes in the foyer outside the office have been re-labeled and reorganized. Please check your box regularly for important information and communication. The Camp Thunderbird and Ray Ashworth Trust boxes have been moved to the desk outside the office.

UU WomenSpirit Retreat

WomenSpirit Retreat, **September 24 - 26, 2004**, Camp Chimney Spring, Mayhill, NM. Application forms are available in the Sanctuary.

June Birthdays

- Carol Irwin - 6/5
- Sarah Bohannon - 6/6
- Sandra Cox - 6/6
- Layla Raehl - 6/7
- Al Lawrence - 6/8
- Rachael Ribble - 6/10
- Nancy Prince - 6/12
- Raina Sparks - 6/12
- Meena Saxena - 6/13
- Annette Stone - 6/27

Who's Who at UUCEP

STAFF:

Minister: Rev. LoraKim Joyner

Home Phone: 562-7042, e-mail: amoloros@juno.com

Pastor's Study 562-9708 (Tues., Wed., Fri.)

Director of Religious Education: Janet Kincaid

Home Phone: 532-5743, e-mail: kinajt@sbcglobal.net

Music/Choral Director: Stanley Ross, 845-5847

Office Administrator: Reagan Duplisea

UUCEP Office Phone: (915) 562-4001, fax: (915) 562-3864

UUCEP e-mail: uucep@huntleigh.net, web: www.uuelpaso.org

Nursery Attendant: Reagan Duplisea

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Vice President: Ann Singer

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Vice President: Lynn Slater

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