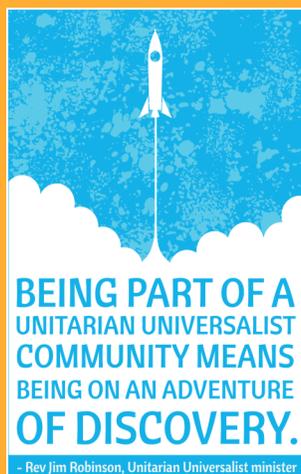


UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
COMMUNITY OF
EL PASO
4425 BYRON ST.
EL PASO, TX

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jonny Crane
Food Pantry
Open 10 a.m.—1 p.m.
October 24th
November 21st
December 19th
Volunteers needed on
these days!
- Annual Community
Thanksgiving Dinner
Nov. 26th @ 2pm
- Annual Tree Trimming
December 4th 7pm
- Annual Holiday Bazaar
Dec. 5 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Dec. 6 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Service
December 24th 7p.m.



The El Paso NUUsletter

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday Morning Service Schedule for October

18th Call To Serve: The need to help others in our 79930 zip code

Presented by the Jonny Crane Food Pantry Committee
Special Collection for the Jonny Crane Food Pantry.

25th Reproductive Rights as Human Rights

Claudi Yoli of Texas Freedom Network and Alyssa Roth of West Fund will speak on the state of reproductive rights in our community.



Sunday Morning Service Schedule for November

**1st The Dawn of the Dark:
Contemplation of the end and the beginning**
(Samhain Service on the Wheel of the Year.)
Presented by Robin Witzky

8th Honoring Their Memory and Service: Veteran's Day Service
Present by Various Military Veterans
Special Collection for The Annual UUCEP Thanksgiving Dinner

15th Hope
Presented by Joe Knapka

22nd Indigenous View on Thanksgiving
Present by TBA

29th The Lure Of The Fuzzies: What is the lure of stuffed creatures? Why do we love them so? Please bring a treasured stuffed friend and drift back into childhood as we explore this phenomenon.
Presented by Tina Priester

All services are tentatively scheduled. Please watch emails for changes or updates.



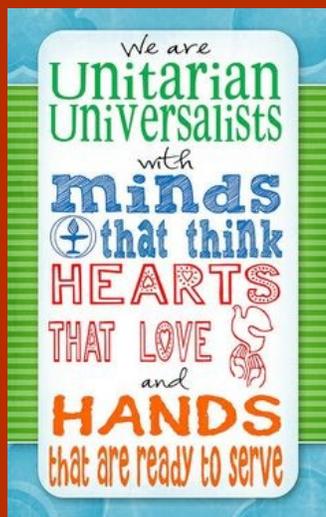
**President's
Column
By Aurolyn
Luykx**

*It is a blessing
that you were
born.*

*What you think
and do
matters.*

*Your experience
of the Divine is
true.*

*And, you don't
have to go it
alone.*



Happy AUUTumn! The heat has lifted, gardens are reviving, and hearts are light. That first nip in the air marks the beginning my favorite season in our community life.

At our quarterly meeting on Sept. 27th, the congregation affirmed the interim board that has been operating since the summer. As we discussed our ongoing and upcoming projects, it became clear that we really need all hands on deck. We have numerous service and social justice initiatives in the works, from our neighborhood food pantry, to sharing fellowship with the women at Villa Maria, to "new members' RE" and anti-racism training in our congregation. We are also planning to host a Thanksgiving gathering for soldiers from Ft. Bliss who don't have family in town. Lots of exciting stuff going on, so pick a committee and jump in! And please also consider taking your UU involvement to the next level by running for a

spot on the board in December.

On Sept. 24th, a dozen UUCEP members and friends went to see The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi at the Abraham Chavez Theater. It was a beautiful and mystical performance, organized by our friends at the Raindrop Turkish House/ Dialogue Institute of the Southwest. On Oct. 15th, our Turkish friends will host the Annual Friendship and Dialogue Dinner at the Camino Real Hotel, one of the major interfaith events of the year, featuring wonderful food, speakers, and art. Even better, it's a benefit for the Opportunity Center for the Homeless. Contact me if you would like tickets. Last month we welcomed two new members into our congregation: Suzette Urbano and Diane Bal-lain. They both come with lots of talents, so please take the time to meet them if you haven't al-

ready. Later this month we will welcome two more: Ruth Wood and Wallace Long. And we've been blessed with fascinating and friendly visitors of late, so may our congregation continue to grow through the season.

Last Sunday we were visited by Ellen Upton and Carol Veit, two beloved members who moved away from El Paso some time ago. This month, we will say goodbye to Michael Tarabulski and Sheila O'Brien, as they move back to St. Louis, MO for Michael's new job with the National Archives and Records Administration. Be they old friends or new, the pleasure and comfort that we take in each other's company is as welcome and refreshing as rain in the desert.

Now, get outside and enjoy the weather!

Aurolyn Luykx
President, UUCEP Board of Trustees

Crane Neighborhood House Project

Hi all,

Everyone is invited to an informational and planning meeting of UUCEP's newly funded Crane Neighborhood House Project.

IT IS FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7 PM AT UUCEP. (October 9, 2015)

I will have copies of our original and modified proposals and budget. We need to plan specifically for conducting a needs assessment and getting some training for those of us interested in getting this project off the ground.

Please bring a snack or drink to share while we talk about this neat project and the opportunity it offers to us.

Thanks,

Chris

Jonny Crane Food Pantry



The vision of the Crane Neighborhood Project was only part of the social justice projects geared towards helping out the immediate community in the 79930 zip code.

Led by Oscar Morales and a small group of volunteers, they ventured to begin the Jonny Crane Food Pantry after another successful El Pasoan's Fighting Hunger event.

We received our first delivery of food for the pantry which was suppose to be about 1000 pounds of food, but we received over 2000 pounds thanks to El Pasoan's Fighting Hunger.

Unsure of if the pantry would continue after the opening date of September 26th, volunteers decided to give out all the food

received to the first 50 people. During this event, the needs of the community were strongly felt by those in attendance and able to witness the gratitude of those receiving the extra food we were able to give.

We decided that we needed to be able to continue with this work. At the congregational meeting we got the buy in from the rest of the community to continue this work. Volunteers have stepped forward to take on the lead positions as follows:

Co-Chairs:

Janine Peters & Tina Priester

Inventory & Control:

Pat White & Sonia Wyatt

Translators:

Patty Apostolides & Enedina

Vargas

We have had a metal shelving unit donated by Gillian Leng to which we are extremely grateful for!

More help is needed!

This is a community venture and since there is no outside funding, we need help raising

funds to purchase food. This isn't included in any pledges though.

We must order at least 1000 pounds of food for it to be delivered. Which can run anywhere from \$120 to over \$150.

Generous Pantry Donators:

October: Robin & Greg Witzky & Kaay Miller & Janine Peters

November: Collections from the service on 10/18 and hopefully other generous donations.

December: Gillian Leng

Help is needed to continue this work. Please consider donating money to help us purchase food. We are able to purchase food at a great discount from the food bank. Our order for October cost a little over \$130, but it is over 1000 pounds worth of food! So every dollar helps and is only used to support the food pantry.



Minutes of the Quarterly Meetings on September 27, 2015

The meeting came to order at one o'clock; a quorum was established.

The current board was approved to serve until the year end meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting will be approved at the next meeting, as they were unavailable.

Committee Reports

Food pantry: Sonya Wyatt reports that the project has been successful, but needs commitment by the congregation. The goal is to feed 50 families in our neighborhood, at least monthly. We were able to purchase 2,000 pounds of food from EPFH for \$148, which was donated by Janet Kincaid. We need a volunteer to be the contact person with EPFH.

Pat White suggested using money set aside for the Minister's salary. Suzette suggested a Sunday arts or craft raffle. The next food distribution is set for October 24th, and Patty Apostolides has volunteered to translate.

Sunday Programs:

Joe reports that some upcoming services will include topics Reproductive Rights, Compassionate Divorce, and the 7 Principles of Christmas.

Membership:

We welcomed 2 new members today, and 2 others have applied for membership.

Social Justice:

John Pearson reports again on the success of the food pantry, announces a game night and dinner at Villa Maria, and talks about coordinating with the Metropolitan Church and The Revolution Church.

Nominating Committee:

We will need a Chair for a Social Media Committee.

Children's Religious Education Committee:

The committee met two weeks ago. We are reminded that all parents are members of the RE committee. There are numerous items needed for the babies. We will ask Morgan to make a list. David Wyatt will be getting the changing tables.

Buildings and Grounds:

David Wyatt reports on the gas leak and line replacement. It's a 6000.00 plumbing job, which insurance may cover. He is tackling the mess of cords, and correcting electrical problems that had us out-of-code. A fall work party will be announced.

Pat presented the Treasurer's Report.

Aurolyn reported on the Crane Neighborhood Project. We have received \$4000.00 in grants to plan and survey needs. The grants are contingent on anti-racism anti-oppression training. She is in talks

with the UUA group that provided this training. It would require five congregational sessions. We are unsure of the timeline.

Kaay Miller suggests that we should be able to put something together that adapts to our needs, including our distance from everywhere. Tina Priester suggests that we check with MDD to see if any other congregation wants to join up, or are already doing training.

Other new business:

- Adult RE classes for new UU's is needed. Pat White has located some materials at UUA. Joe suggests using some of Christine Robinson sermons combined with UUA materials.
- We have had a request for some basic Spanish classes. Aurolyn thinks it would be fun to combine this with music, learning some Spanish songs.
- Joe Pearson said there had been talk of a language swap with the Villa Maria residents.
- Suzette is planning another musical meet and greet in November.
- Tina will go forward planning Thanksgiving Dinner.

Annual UUCEP Holiday Bazaar

Calling all crafters!

The Annual UUCEP Holiday Bazaar is looking for vendors! Space is limited! This will be a weekend long event!

December 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Setup begins at 8:30 a.m.)

December 6th from Noon until 2 p.m. (Fellowship Hall only)

Vending cost: \$25 on Saturday & \$10 on Sunday

Please ask Kathy Anderson or Tina Priester for a vendor application!

In October,

when YOU were born . . .

the leaves turned,
filling treetops & bluffs
with gorgeous reds,
oranges, & yellows.
Others, perhaps shyer by
nature, went less
spectacularly but
unashamedly brown,
adding to the landscape
a lovely humble

WARMTH.

kufof

- Sonja Wayne 10/5
- Sergio Pena 10/7
- Vern Friday 10/16
- Julia Gonzales Mills 10/18
- Ellen Upton 10/22
- Andrea Crowley 10/30



In November,

when YOU were born . . .

people put on
thick sweaters,
built fires, & made little
rituals of things like
cocoa, toast, & jam.
All the creatures began
settling in for the winter,
feeling cozy &

CONTENTED.

kufoley

- Naomi Lacy 11/3
- Judith Knight 11/3
- Garland Greene 11/7
- Nick Emerick 11/10
- Jon Arnold (Priester) 11/19
- Matt Arnold (Priester) 11/19
- Michael Priester 11/21
- Violet Gilson 11/25



John Pearson
Co-Chair Social
Justice Committee



Janet Kincaid
Co-Chair Social
Justice Committee

Pagan Spirituality Group

Oct. 18th @ 5pm
Pagan Council Meeting
Potluck & Meeting
beginning at 5pm.
Planning future classes
& rituals.

Potluck Crafting of Sam-
hain wreaths at 6:30pm

*Please bring food to share
for the meeting & some-
thing to add to the
wreaths.*

Open to everyone.

Social Justice Committee

Co-chairs Janet Kincaid
and John Pearson

I began attending UUCEP
when I moved to El Paso in
2004, but I have been a UU
since I became a member
of the First Unitarian Soci-
ety of Milwaukee, Wiscon-
sin in 1984. I revived our
dormant Social Justice
Committee in the spring of
2014 in part because I
have a long-time interest in
social justice issues. Main-
ly, though, I hoped an in-

creased presence in the
community would help
spur growth in our con-
gregation. In January of
this year Janet Kincaid
joined me as co-chair of
the committee.

The Social Justice Com-
mittee is the main means
by which our congrega-
tion engages the larger El
Paso-Juarez communi-
ty. We have distributed
food to needy people in
our Lower Dyer neighbor-

hood, and are involved
with such organiza-
tions as Villa Maria
Women's Shelter and
the Annunciation
House which serves
immigrants. Our com-
mittee will be meeting
soon and doing another
dinner and game
night at Villa Maria,
please contact me at
jpears_qc@yahoo.com
or (915) 262-9090 for
further details.

Buildings & Grounds

The buildings & grounds chair, David Wyatt has been busy around UUCEP
working on various projects that need to be done.

Please watch for the announcement of the Fall Work Party.

Technical Traditional Witchcraft

by the Pagan Spiritual Group

The A to Z on why we do what we do to build a strong foundation with
solid & practical information with no emphasis on theology.

Taught by a local trad witch with 30+ years experience and
one of the founders of our group. Class taught within sacred space.

You will *NOT* be asked to take an oath or to dress in special attire.

Family friendly environment!

Where: Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso ~ 4425 Byron St.

When: 1st Saturday of each month

Time: 5 p.m. Gathering time 6 p.m. class/ritual potluck will follow

Cost: \$5 per person per class to cover class costs & materials

Childcare available for an extra \$5 per child (max \$10 per family)

**Regular month attendance is advised, but not required. Each lesson will build on the
previous month's lesson to help build a solid foundation.*

**No matter where you are on your path, seeker, solitaire, elder or for a class...all
are welcome! We welcome all with an open mind, heart and a thirst for knowledge.**

Find us on Facebook for more details: Pagan Spirituality Group UUCEP

A Thanksgiving Celebration

Honoring those that serve and their families.

Thanksgiving Day, 2pm

Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso, 4425 Byron Street El Paso, TX 79930

As a military spouse, I personally know the struggles that come with the holiday season. Being away from friends and family is difficult and is more so when our spouses are deployed. I arrived in El Paso 3 days before Thanksgiving (recently married) and a retired military wife called me and invited my family to Thanksgiving dinner with no refusal accepted. In her kindness, I learned the importance about celebrating the joy of gathering in kindred spirit. Which is how this celebration came into being. My husband was deployed and I was again missing the large gatherings of friends and family and the sadness crept in. So I turned to my community and asked to hold a community and to invite military families to Thanksgiving and several years later...the rest is history!

So on behalf of my beloved Unitarian Universalist Community, I hope you will join us for a potluck style dinner. All we ask is that you bring something to share. If you cannot afford to bring something, please bring yourself and your family! *I learned early on as a military spouse, that finances will determine so much...but on this day, here with us, it does not. Please join us in celebration!*

*We come together to celebrate as a community,
but leave as family.*

Please message or email your name, how many in your family & your phone number and best time to call to confirm to: UUCEP@UUELPASO.ORG

On behalf of the planning committee, I cannot wait to welcome you and your family to our Sanctuary! —Tina Priester (AD, D 1/43 FRG Co-Leader & Army Military Spouse 18 years & counting)

Dear UUCEP community,

This is the letter that is sent out to the many FRG's (Family Readiness Groups) and posted on the family groups on Facebook and other social media.

While the need to support our military community is great, so is helping those at UUCEP. During my very first Thanksgiving that I arranged I was deeply touched by the stories of those within our own community that didn't have anyone to share in the giving and receiving on this day. In every dinner I have arranged since that first dinner, I am amazed by our community to come together to share a meal and happy times together. We are now several years into this annual dinner and it keeps growing! We have had 50+ in attendance every year! Bringing people around the table and sharing delicious food and stories is such a joy.

So I hope you will join us this year and bring a dish to share!

To help cover costs, the Special Sunday plate collections on Nov. 8th will help to pay for the extras needed to make this dinner special.

*Unitarian Universalist
Community of El Paso*



*Nov. 14, 2015
Canvas Kickoff
Dinner*

Pledging Our Hearts, Our Hands and Our Money

*6pm Social Hour
7pm Dinner and Program*

*MC:
TBA*

*Entertainment:
TBA*



Table Hosts:

Coming Soon!

**For more information,
please speak with Pat
White or Chris Ward!**



*Building our community together with our hearts, our hard work
and our financial support. What level of support can you offer
for the future of this community, it's vision and it's youth?*

**Unitarian Universalist
Community of El Paso
4425 Byron Street
El Paso, TX 79930**