



# The El Paso NUUsletter

## April 2012

4425 Byron Street  
El Paso, Texas 79930  
Phone: 915-562-4001  
Web page: [WWW.UUELPASO.ORG](http://WWW.UUELPASO.ORG)  
Email: [UUCEP@UUELPASO.ORG](mailto:UUCEP@UUELPASO.ORG)

### UUCEP PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Hello, UUCEP members and friends,

I hope everyone is enjoying our lovely spring weather. Of course, spring weather means our spring work party will be coming up on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 9 a.m.. Considering all the physical improvements we've made to the church in the past year - new coolers, new roofing, and new doors, to name a few -- I think it will be a real pleasure to spruce the place up after the winter.

We have some exciting events on the agenda this coming month:

First, at 2:00 PM on April 1st, Gene Keller will present a concert entitled "A Perfect Fool", in honor of both April Fool's Day and National Poetry Month. Gene is a consummate poet and musician, and this will be a show not to be missed.

On April 8th, we will have our quarterly congregational meeting – fun for the whole family! An agenda will be mailed out in the near future (if it hasn't been already).

Also, all through the month of April the CYRE Coming of Age class, and their mentors, will be presenting special Intergenerational stories and activities at Sunday services. These events are always fun, so please try to catch some of them.

I would like to say a few words about the recent increase in contact between UUCEP and other nearby UU churches. In the past two years, we have had some fruitful interchange with the Las Cruces UU congregation, including cooperation between our CYRE programs, and our recent hosting of the Las Cruces ministerial candidates. Further, in March some of us took part in an event organized by the Alamogordo UU fellowship that attracted UUs from all over the region, from Deming to Roswell. This is a trend that I would like to see continue. If any of you have ideas about how we can foster closer ties among area UU congregations, this would be an excellent time to come forward with them.

Finally, let me emphasize that hospitality is the key to a successful congregation. If you see a new face on Sunday morning, please take a moment to say hi, introduce yourself, and guide the newcomer toward an Order of Service or the coffee table. And perhaps introduce the new person around to a couple other people. Nothing makes people feel more welcome than a sense of connection.

Happy Spring, everyone!

-- Joe Knapka  
UUCEP President

*This congregation welcomes the participation of all members, friends and visitors without regard to race, class, national origin, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression.*

Service & Event Schedule:

*April 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Joseph Campbell – The Sacred Spot  
Presented by Keith Thompson**

Joseph Campbell describes Kundilini Yoga as the Worlds' most mature religion. Replete with symbols, mystery, and colorful imagery, we take the path of the Kundilini as it rises in metaphorical splendor up our spine to become the Lotus of many petals. This is the last part in my Joseph Campbell series. Learn why the way of "JC" can become part of your spiritual life. For now, "Follow your Bliss."

*April 8<sup>th</sup>*

**Sacred Celebrations of Spring  
Presented by: Reverend Nancy J Anderson**

Today we celebrate the Lessons from three sacred traditions that are marked in the spring of the year, Easter, Passover and Spring. However you mark this time of year, it is a time of community sharing, remembrance, renewal and celebration. Please join us as we mark this special time.

*April 15<sup>th</sup>*

**The concept of sin...  
Presented by Aurolyn Luykx**

"Does the concept of sin have meaning outside of a religious worldview? Aurolyn Luykx will give one atheist's perspective on how sin retains its moral force, even without the fear of divine punishment."

*April 22<sup>nd</sup>*

**The Unoccupied Space  
Presented by Kevin Rauvola**

Kevin Rauvola examines the relationship between UU Spirituality and grass-roots revolution.

*April 29<sup>th</sup>*

**The Lure of the Fuzzy  
Presented by Tina Priester**

Please join us with your favorite fuzzy stuffed animal for a fun filled service on why they are so alluring to us. All classes will be staying in to enjoy the service as well.

Fuzzy slippers and pj's not required to join in the fun!  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection with Special Guests!

The Worship Committee is seeking speakers and worship associates for upcoming services. If you are interested in either, please contact us via the UUCEP at [uucep@elpaso.org](mailto:uucep@elpaso.org), or see our Sunday Programs Chair, Dusty Baker Adamson, at a service. You need not be a speaker yourself to suggest topics, ideas, or to let us know about speakers or groups in the community. Also, if it will be your first time volunteering as a worship associate, know that we are here to support you with training, script, and support throughout the process.

We are also asking for input and suggestions from members and friends about our current service format. Please look for opportunities to share your opinion in our April Order's of Service.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE &  
RECEIVE SERVICE**

If you have concerns for yourself or for others or need a ride, please call 562-4001.

**Food Bank:**

Clear box with a blue lid next to the Sanctuary information table/ Food is donated to the Missouri Street Shelter.

**Chalice Lighting, Flowers & Music:** For opportunities to help with Sunday morning programs, please call 562-4001.

**Recycling at the Community:**

El Paso recycles not only paper, but also cardboard, junk mail, plastic containers, cans, and aluminum foil. We now have recycling pickup at the Community; so, when we have community events, like the potluck luncheons, please place recyclables which includes the disposable foil baking pans and the plastic cookie or raw veggie trays in the blue bin outside.

**Address Changes:**

Anytime you move, change your phone number or your email address; please let our office administrator know, so they can update our records and the directory. Just send her an email:

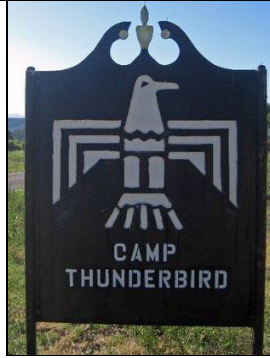
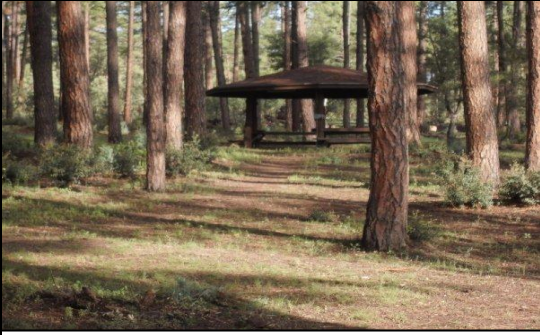
[UUCEP@UUELPASO.ORG](mailto:UUCEP@UUELPASO.ORG)

**Volunteers Needed:**

We need volunteers to help with Sunday Services. There is a sign-up sheet, to bring snacks, on the table next to the double doors in the sanctuary. People are also needed for set-up and clean-up. Please contact Enedina Vargas to sign up.

**Orders of Service and Bulletin:**

Announcements need to be to Christy no later than Wednesday of that week. 915-562-4001 or [uucep@uuelpaso.org](mailto:uucep@uuelpaso.org) Events taking place at UUCEP will be listed on the calendar when a room reservation (Building Usage Form 1-A) has been made through the office. Forms are available in the hutch outside the office. Forms need to be submitted 30 days before the event.



## Camp Thunderbird

### Save the Dates!

This summer come join us in the Gila Wilderness for one of UUCEP's most beloved traditions – **Camp Thunderbird!** The dates are set so mark your calendars for **July 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>**. This is an extremely low cost, family-friendly vacation opportunity. The fees have not gone up this year, \$40 per adult and \$20 per child, per day will cover lodging and all your meals. You can't beat those prices with a stick!

Whether you stay in a cabin, bring an RV, or pitch a tent, you will have fun, so don't miss out! Registrations are due June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. *Registrations submitted after June 1<sup>st</sup> will require an additional late fee.*

With your Registration form please include 2 checks: one for the Registration fee and one check for camp fees. **If you choose to pay all fees upfront online you will receive a 5% discount!!** Registration fees are \$25 per person attending ages 16 and over. Camp fees are the same as last year: \$39.99/day or \$13.33 /meal with children 12 or under half price. Financial assistance is available! Please submit your request form no later than May 15.

### From the Finance Committee:

#### ***Service Auction***

Mark your calendars; April 14 is the date for our Annual Service Auction and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off! Bring your appetite, your favorite chili recipe or side dish, and your love of bidding to an evening that has long been a favorite of our Community's!

#### ***Pledge Drive***

Our annual pledge drive has done well and is almost completed. We now have 43 pledges for a total of \$59,810 which is more than the amount in the proposed budget. Thank you for your support of UUCEP. If you haven't yet turned in your pledge card or if you need a pledge card, please contact Nick Emerick, or Pat White.

#### ***Albertsons Card***

Our latest check from Albertsons was for \$144.04. The Albertsons card is easy to use. Just give it to the clerk to scan when you checkout. We receive 1% of what you spend each month. If you don't yet have a card or know someone who would like one, see Pat White or Nick Emerick.

We are also selling our UUCEP t-shirts & cookbooks on Sunday. The t-shirts are \$15 for adult sizes and \$10 for children's sizes. We have 1 cookbook left at \$10.



The **Board of Trustees** will meet in the Sanctuary the third Sunday of each month after the Service. Regular meetings are open meetings with no set agenda. Members and friends of UUCEP are invited to attend and present matters for consideration by the Board.

The ***Program Council*** Committee Chairs meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings are open to anyone wishing to be more active in our community.

**Annunciation House**  
If you would like to volunteer to help prepare a meal or donate items, please contact Ann Singer or Janet Kincaid for more info. If you would like more information, please contact: Ann Singer, 755-6818 or Janet Kincaid, 539-8851.

***NEED A HAND?***

The ***Caring Committee*** at UUCEP is alive & well. If you are ill or need help of any kind or know someone who is or does, please call Ann Singer at 915-755-6818. We will do our best to see that you are taken care of.



**Denominational Affairs**

Mountain Desert District (MDD) Office:  
District Executive: Rev Nancy Bowen [executive@mdduua.org](mailto:executive@mdduua.org)  
2242 S Albion Street Denver, CO 80222  
(303) 756-1378/ (303) 756-1407 FAX

**Save the Date: Leadership School 2012!**



This year's Russell Lockwood Leadership School will be held **in Alta, UT, July 22nd- July 28th 2012**. Updates are coming soon, so keep an eye on the [RLLS website!](#)

**Human Rights On the Border 2012**



**A BorderLinks Trip sponsored by the Mountain Desert District of the Unitarian Universalist Association Thursday – Sunday May 3-6, 2012**

The trip will be a service/learning/reflection journey for the Unitarian Universalists to engage in the issues of human rights and immigration at the Arizona/Sonora, Mexico border. We will visit with individuals and organizations that provide basic assistance to migrants, create community-based alternatives, and advocate for just policies on both sides of the border. We will meet with people who are directly affected by current economic and immigration policies, and we'll be given tools and resources to work for justice. There will be ample time for worship, theological reflection, and fellowship while we travel the borderlands of Arizona. Total trip cost will be \$300, not including travel to/from Tucson, AZ. Space is limited, so register now! For more information, contact Kierstin Homblette, Community Ministry Intern at [kierstinhomblette@gmail.com](mailto:kierstinhomblette@gmail.com).

**Membership Committee Chair: *Enedina Vargas***

If **YOU** are interested in membership in this Community, please ask the greeter for a membership application. After completing the form, please put it in the offering basket or give it to a greeter at the end of the service. The Membership Committee meets every other second Sunday, 30 minutes after the service. All are welcome to attend. If you need a new nametag, please see a greeter on Sunday morning. You do not have to be a member to wear a nametag.

***Interested in getting to know us?***

If you have been visiting and feel that you would like to get to know us better, please fill out one of the light-green Welcome Guest!/Visitor Cards found in the packet that a greeter can get for you. The packets are located at the entrance to the hall on the shelves. Please ask for one; fill it out and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the greeters at the end of the service. Remember that you do not have to be a member to wear a nametag; so, if you would like one, be sure to let us know.

 **WUULF**   
*Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival*  
at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico



The Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival (WUULF) is a week long intergenerational retreat for UUs designed to inspire, empower, and encourage your artistic and spiritual well-being in the stunning surroundings of Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. The 2012 program, “*Inner Practices for Wellness*” will be held **June 18-24, 2012** and is now open for registration.

Detailed information on program offerings and adventure possibilities are available at [www.wuulf.org](http://www.wuulf.org), where you can download a catalog and registration form and even contact the WUULF Board with your questions or comments. Registration deadline is May 1, 2012, however space is limited and the camp tends to fill up early.

Join UUs from all over the country in the northern New Mexico desert for a unique and uplifting week! As a bonus for this year only, we will be waiving the registration fee for elementary and younger kids attending WUULF with their families. Hope to greet you soon under the Wisdom Tree.

**APRIL  
BIRTHDAYS**

*4<sup>th</sup> Kati-Jo Wyatt*  
*7<sup>th</sup> John Lockhart*  
*14<sup>th</sup> Frances Kramer*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Lynda Duke*  
*16<sup>th</sup> Anna Mattersdorff*  
*17<sup>th</sup> Marjie Day*  
*22<sup>nd</sup> David Wyatt*  
*23<sup>rd</sup> Patricia Apostolides*  
*28<sup>th</sup> Sally Spener*  
*29<sup>th</sup> Donald F. White*



For anyone interested in joining choir please contact Cris Merritt at 915-222-3046. Openings are available.

All interested in adding to the music program at UUCEP whether it be singing a solo, duet, part of the choir or if you play an instrument and would like the opportunity to play during a service; please come to rehearsals on Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available during practice.

# CHILDREN'S YOUTH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## CHILDREN'S YOUTH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our year is almost over, but we still have many things planned for the CYRE!

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** Younger Grades – Old fashioned Easter egg coloring with Ronna Kelley. Older Grades – Baskets for Horizon Health Care.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** Hop with the Borderland Bunny Express as we visit the residents at Horizon Health Care Center. We will be leaving UUCEP no later than 12:15pm please be here by noon if you are following the caravan over.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** – Gardening (weather permitting) then Easter Carnival in the UUCEP back playground area.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** Mentor & Mentee stories continues with Aurolyn Luykx and Elizabeth Furr.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** Mentor & Mentee story with Joe Knapka and Jaxson Priester.

**April 29<sup>th</sup>** – CYRE students get to join in the service and bring their favorite stuffed animal. There will be craft projects for those that do not wish to attend. Final Mentor & Mentee story with Sonia Galindo and Mariel Montero.

**Looking ahead:**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Coming of Age practice for their service.

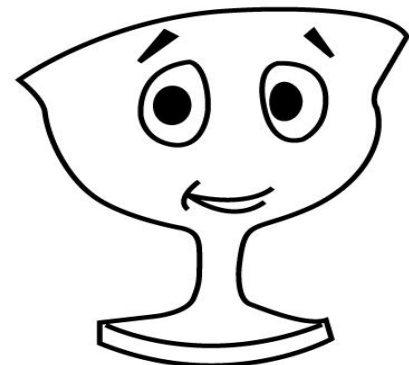
May 12<sup>th</sup> – Rehearsal for C.O.A. in Sanctuary 1pm.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Mother's Day & Coming of Age Graduation!**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** – **Our Whole Lives (OWL) Special Service**



**KIDS: Color "Alice the Chalice" and draw her a flame!**



\*Alice the Chalice" Copyright 2004 Peter Bowden



\*Alice the Chalice Copyright 2004 Peter Bowden. Permission granted to copy for use as activity pages in Unitarian Universalist church services and religious education programs. For more resources like this one visit [www.UUPLANET.com](http://www.UUPLANET.com).

### LOVE TO GARDEN?

The UUCEP—CYRE Community Garden is in need of items to turn our Crane House Garden and yard into a sanctuary! If you can donate old 2x4's, trellis, poles, etc. Please contact Sarahummingbird Johnson for more details!



**Our CYRE Card Fundraiser is at a critical point! In an effort to recoup costs, the card is now FOR DONATION. We MUST sell these cards. Please consider buying 1 or 2 and helping the kids out! The play area beckons for equipment!**

**REDUCED TO DONATION!!**

**DISCOUNT CARD VENDORS:**

- Winger's Wings ⊕ Texas Roadhouse ⊕ Fuddruckers ⊕ Arby's ⊕ Dairy Queen ⊕ Brown Bag Deli ⊕ Long John Silver's ⊕ Jando's Italian Cuisine ⊕ Bob O's Family Fun Center ⊕ PB's Pizza ⊕ Pizza Pros ⊕ Peter Piper Pizza ⊕ Burger King ⊕ Mulligan's North Bar & Grill ⊕ Carl's Jr. ⊕ Little Caesars Pizza ⊕ Leo's Mexican Food Restaurant

**AVAILABLE NOW & DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL OCTOBER 2012!**

**CONTACT TINA PRIESTER OR CYRE YOUTH TO PURCHASE ONE AND START SAVING TODAY!**

⊕ Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso ⊕  
**Adult RE and Community Outreach Events**

**UUCEP's Pagan  
 Spirituality Group  
 2012 Schedule**

- **Tarot Class**—2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at “The Crane House” address: 3500 Tyler St. Childcare is provided. All levels are welcome to attend.
- **Drumming Circle/Special Event Night**— Last Wednesday of each month. Check the UUCEP newsletter to find out what is scheduled. If you would like to give a special class, this would be a great night to do so. This also takes place at “The Crane House.” No childcare for Drumming Circles.

**Schedule:** Please pay special attention to time, date and place! This is a “tentative” schedule and may change. If you see a “blank space” after “Led by” this event is open for someone to lead. For any questions, comments, etc. please send all emails to:

[PaganGroup@UUELPASO.ORG](mailto:PaganGroup@UUELPASO.ORG)

**April:**

- ❖ 7<sup>th</sup> Teaching Moon Esbat at Heather’s House 1300 Clausen El Paso Led by Heather & Georgia
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> Tarot Class Led by Starla
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> **Enlightenment 8 at Gerald Thomas Hall** (3rd Floor) at NMSU, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
  - <http://the-eseries.webs.com/>
- ❖ 25<sup>th</sup> Drumming Circle/Special Event
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> **PPD Planning meeting at 2pm in Las Cruces at The Gibbs residence, ask Tina for details if you would like to go**

**May:**

- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Beltane Celebration in the UUCEP Sanctuary (4425 Byron) @6 pm Potluck
  - Led by Tina & Mike
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> Tarot Class Led by Starla
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> **Divini-Tea (Las Cruces at Pi-Yoga) 6pm (El Paso will also hold a Divini-Tea at UUCEP on July 14<sup>th</sup> and looking for specialty readers see Starla for more info)**
- ❖ 30<sup>th</sup> Drumming Circle/Special Event

**Find us on Facebook: UUCEP’S Pagan Spirituality Group**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/UUCEPs-Pagan-Spirituality-Group/264095326944030>

**Discussion Group:**

[withincircle@yahoo.com](mailto:withincircle@yahoo.com)



**Witch’s Runes and Yes/No Questions**

The Witch's Runes were first introduced to me about six years ago. The symbols are relatively simple and their origins are many. The Waves for example are spirals which appear in various places all over the world. Below I've listed the names for the runes and given a plus or minus symbol by each of them. One method of reading the runes is the "Yes/No" method. The plus sign in this case will represent a "Yes" answer and the minus sign will represent a "No" answer. However the meaning of the rune and how it personally speaks to you should always be taken into consideration when asking yes/no questions.

- Sun +
- Moon+
- Woman -
- Man +
- Star+
- Waves -
- Rings +
- Harvest + (looks like a tree or a happy face)
- Eye +
- Cross -
- Romance - (looks like the Tri-symbol)
- Scythe - (looks like a hook)
- Birds –

For more information from last month’s class see our Facebook page for downloads.

## Special Announcements

On Sunday, March 11 the service focused on the congregational covenant and how that might be strengthened. To that end, the congregation was asked to respond to the two questions below. These are the responses that were left in the basket at the door. There may be others out there that folks might want to include. Please send your responses to the Board President or Newsletter editor if you have something to add.

In Faith,  
Rev. Nancy J Anderson

### **What you are willing to promise to the members of the congregation?**

I am willing to promise to the members of this congregation

- To listen without judging
- To participate without complaining
- To join with others in sympathy and empathy and joy.

I am willing to promise honesty and empathy to the congregation

What I promise to others in the congregation:

- A consistent presence (I am here almost every Sunday)
- The occasional sermon, relating my inner most spiritual concerns to the life of the congregation
- A proactive welcome to newcomers and hugs and affection for old comers
- \$ and constructive criticism

I promise to never knowingly cause harm and to try to make amends if it is pointed out that I have. I promise to try to give unconditional positive regard regardless of how pigheaded and wrong someone else's opinion may seem.

My attendance and support

I am willing to promise

- Financial support for community
- That I will confront the person with whom I have a disagreement, rather than gossiping about them.

### **What do you need from others in order to feel safe in speaking your truth?**

I don't expect anything. I will be content to participate with others. So be it. Amen.

In order to speak my truth, I do need support from others, in not reacting too surprised or disgusted or not to be so easily "hurt" or offended. I guess in speaking my truth, I need to say it in a non-angry way.

From the congregation I need honesty and empathy to feel safe in speaking my own truth.

Consistency from others: I would like to see board members and committee chairs here at least three out of four Sundays.  
Better coordination of church tasks.

Mutual accountability; follow through on decisions we have made to make our services better.

To overcome my own fears & insecurities.

Patience while I grow and a fourth, fifth or 39<sup>th</sup> chance to overcome my inner flaws.

Friendship

Commitment that others will confront the people with whom they have disagreement rather than gossiping about them



**WHAT: GENE OF EL PASO: A PERFECT FOOL  
A PROGRAM OF POETRY, STORY AND SONG**

**WHEN: FOR APRIL (NATIONAL POETRY MONTH)  
FIRST (FOOL'S DAY)  
SUN., 4/1/12 \* 2 - 4 PM**

**WHERE: UUCEP \* 4425 BYRON (EPTX 79930)**

**\$5 + DONATION FOR FOOD BANK, OR \$10**

**ALEXANDER POPE WROTE A POET IS A FOOL, THOUGH NOT EVERY FOOL IS A POET.  
WAVY GRAVY SAID A CLOWN IS HALF POET, HALF MONKEY.  
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE TWO YOU'LL FIND GENE KELLER,  
WHO SEEKS TO BRING A SMILE TO A STRESSFUL WORLD,  
BY BEING A CONSCIOUS FOOL. HE IS A PERFECT FOOL.**

REPRINT: **UU SPIRIT JANUARY 2010**  
By Anna Mattersdorff

Our Affirmation ends with the words: "Thus do we covenant with one another."  
"To covenant" is to enter into a solemn agreement to which each participant promises to adhere.  
The words of the Chalice Lighting and the Chalice Extinguishing are also part of this Covenant.  
The thoughts expressed in all three are at the heart of the Unitarian Universalist spirit.

The Chalice Lighting begins with:  
"May the light we now kindle inspire us to use our powers to heal and not to harm."  
"To heal" means to make whole or sound, to cleanse, to bring back to health.

In our UU context, the healing refers to both the individual members of the congregation and the congregation as a whole.  
Congregational health simply reflects that of each individual member.  
If individual members are experiencing toxic or dysfunctional behavior, then congregational health is suffering too.

Our UU faith is all about building: especially building relationships in order to achieve important societal goals. The spirit of our Covenant is to prepare us for building what is needed. We cannot fulfill our societal obligations with strength and success unless we first take care of each other.

Let's start the New Year determined to improve our healing capabilities. The key to healing is kindness.

As an interesting aside, in Kurt Vonnegut's book *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, the protagonist has to prepare a baptismal speech for his neighbor's twins. The speech begins: "Hello, babies. Welcome to earth. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It's round and wet and crowded. At the outside, babies, you've got about one hundred years here. There's only one rule that I know of, babies, . . . you've got to be kind." (just put vonnegut babies into Google and you'll get several websites including *15 Things Kurt Vonnegut Said Better Than Anyone Else Ever Has Or Will*)

\*\*Copies of all of Anna's Articles will be available in the Fellowship Hall. For those seeking to understand Unitarian Universalists better, I encourage you to read her articles. She provides a wonderful insight from her many years as a UU.

In December 2008, I took over as newsletter editor for UUCEP and never imagined that I would have enjoyed doing it for as long as I have. Last year, I started our UUCEP Facebook page to help keep our beloved community out into the Facebook world. With pictures to highlight our events, wonderful articles and colorful illustrations, our newsletter has delighted many over the past few years. Now, it is time to pass this torch on to someone new. My hope is that someone will love it as much as I have and continue to strive for higher levels of excellence and keep moving us forward not only with the newsletter, but also with Facebook. This has been a wonderful journey for me and I am excited to see where the next editor takes this publication. Blessings to all and I bid you all a very fond farewell! Tina Priester