



THE EL PASO NUUSLETTER

MARCH 2012

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El Paso, Texas 79930
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UUA PRESIDENT MESSAGE—LIGHTEN UP BY REVEREND PETER MORALES

I have always been fascinated by why some congregations grow and thrive while others decline and struggle. I have read any number of studies on the subject.

Lately I have noticed something that healthy congregations have in common, something that I don't see talked about much in the literature or in workshops on membership. It is almost too obvious to notice. Thriving congregations have a lot of fun.

Fun? Yes, fun. Yes, our finest congregations (of whatever size) have great worship, a terrific religious education program, good music. Yes, they are engaged in public witness and work for justice. And yes, they have small group ministries and good governance. All of these things are important. And so is having fun.

I know, "fun" does not sound very religious or spiritual or deep or profound. Religion, after all, is about life's big questions, about our ultimate commitments.

Yet as I attend congregations that have been named a [Breakthrough Congregation](#) or are known in their region as healthy, I always hear laughter. In fact, these congregations typically have a "silly" edge, a playful childlike quality. It isn't that they don't take their ministries seriously, for they do. But they don't take themselves seriously.

The key is that our best communities are places where people love being together, where they form deep friendships. Spiritual friends share from their hearts, they work together, and they play together.

The best churches I know make time for fellowship. They create spaces for picnics, stewardship musicals, family outings, and lots and lots of informal gatherings.

Think about it. Is your congregation having enough fun? If not, get busy playing.

I hereby issue a powerless presidential edict: Lighten up. That's an order. 😊



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:

March 4th

**Why Am I A Unitarian Universalist
Group Lay-Led Service**

Please join our community in celebrating why we are Unitarian Universalists and if desired, share with us why you are a UU.

March 11th

**Holy Manners: Renewing Covenant
Presented by: Reverend Nancy J Anderson**

The thing that holds us Unitarian Universalists together in our diversity is covenant. The affirmation of our covenant that we speak each Sunday is an expression of intent, a promise we make to one another. What are the implications for our behavior?

March 18th

**Ostara—welcoming Spring
Presented by Lynda Duke**

Native American Style welcoming Spring to Mother Earth and our spirits.

March 25th

**When You Strip It All Away—Meditations on
God and George Harrison
Presented by Sonia Galindo**

George Harrison once wrote a note to himself that said “When you strip it all away, there is only God.” Join me for a discussion of this idea and how George’s beautiful, human and divine understanding of this world has influenced mine.



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, 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 March 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, Christy, know, so she can update our records and the directory. Just send her an email:

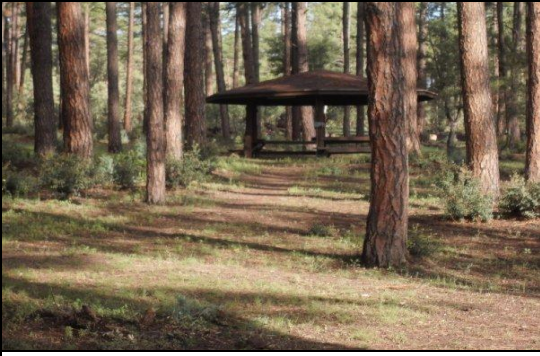
UUCEP@UUELPASO.ORG

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 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 3rd -8th**. 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! See Joe Knapka for early registration.

From the Finance Committee:

Service Auction

The Service Auction will be held Saturday, April 14. Start thinking of the services you can donate!

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 \$155.24. 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.

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 2nd 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.



Denominational Affairs

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

Mountain Desert District is pleased to announce the creation of a new resource for UU congregations: classes.mdduua.org!

[Katie Covey](#), adjunct instructor at ILIFF Seminary in Denver, CO is adjunct instructor at ILIFF Seminary in Denver, CO in Religious Education and a Director of Religious Education for over 25 years, will lead series of online classes for lay leaders, or webinars, to help with the issues that arise in congregational life, providing resources and tools for leaders without requiring extensive travel and expense. They are open to all and are specifically targeted to lay leaders, board members, new DRE's, and student ministers. They will be offered as a live call-in class or as an MP3 recording, after the class. These classes are designed to be friendly to those without extensive experience with technology and only require a computer with internet access and a telephone. Beginners are welcome! All webinars will be \$15 for registration.

The first series pertains to Religious Education in congregational life. Here are the 4 hot topics in Religious Education that congregations struggle with:

- Mon. 3/5/12 , 7-8:15 p.m. (MT) [Youth Program](#) - It's not about the black room anymore

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.

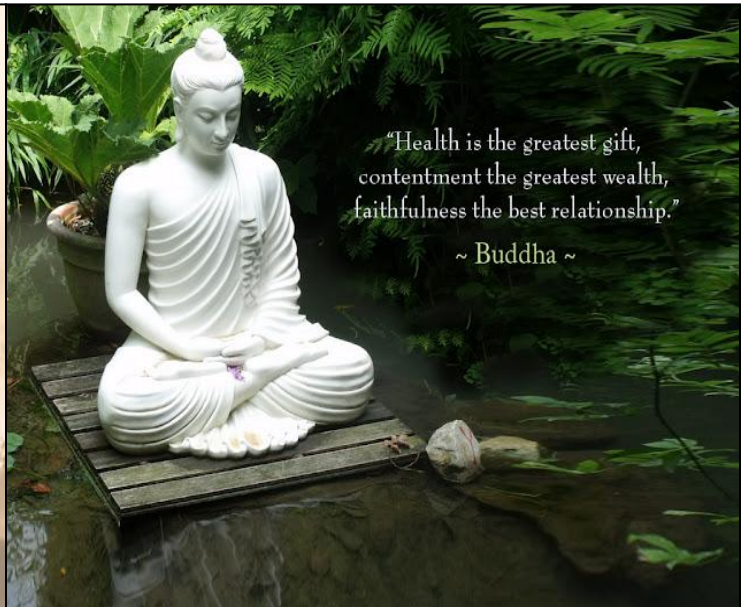
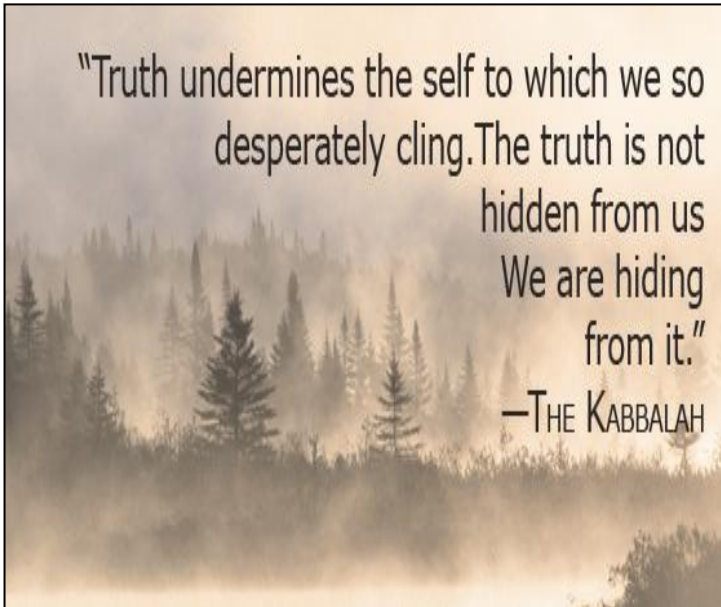
Membership Committee Chair: [Enedina Vargas](#)

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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Paul Riger 03/04
Ali Sanders 03/13
Jonny Crane 03/19
Eric Adams 03/30

Happy Birthday, dear friend!



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

The CYRE Chocolate Auction was a **HUGE** success!!

**WE RAISED
OVER \$1400!!!**

Our gratitude list is long but we would like to recognize those that really went above and beyond for the CYRE:

- ✚ Violet Gilson—Our #1 truffle lady!
- ✚ Those that donated to our baskets!
- ✚ Janet Kincaid for keeping track of our winning bids and collecting the \$\$
- ✚ For those that stayed and waged a hefty bidding war for a prized basket!

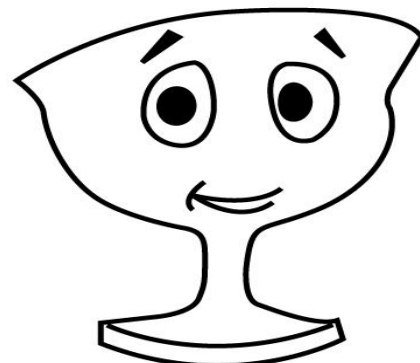
We could not have had as successful a fundraiser without all of you! Thank you all!

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!



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.



Our CYRE Card Fundraiser is at a critical point! In an effort to recoup costs, the card is now \$5 which is our cost. We MUST sell these cards. Please consider buying 1 or 2 and helping the kids out! The play area beckons for equipment!

REDUCED TO \$5!!

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**—2nd 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

March:

- ❖ 7th Teaching Moon Esbat “Crane House” at 6:30 p.m. Potluck Led by Brian
- ❖ 14th Tarot Class Led by Starla
- ❖ 21st Ostara Celebration “Crane House” @ 6:30 p.m. Potluck
 - Led by Novi & Stephanie V.
- ❖ 28th Special Event—Beginning Runes Led by Tamarra

April:

- ❖ 7th Teaching Moon Esbat at Heather’s House 1300 Clausen El Paso Led by Dee
- ❖ 11th Tarot Class Led by Starla*
- ❖ 21st **Enlightenment 8 at Las Cruces UU**
 - <http://the-eseries.webs.com/>
- ❖ 25th Drumming Circle/Special Event

May:

- ❖ 2nd Beltane Celebration in the UUCEP Sanctuary (4425 Byron) @6 pm Potluck
 - Led by Tina & Mike
- ❖ 9th Tarot Class Led by Starla*
- ❖ 30th 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@yahoogroups.com



Ostara, Celebration of the Goddess of Spring

The spring equinox, also known as Ostara, takes place around March 21. It is a time where the light is equal to the darkness and from here on out the days grow longer. This sabbat represents a time for rebirth in nature and in our own lives. Ostara is the Germanic Goddess of Spring another name for her is Eostre. In ancient times, this was a time of year for fertility, which is where the symbols of the eggs and rabbits come from. Rabbits are known to mate many times throughout this season, and female rabbits are known to have many litters of babies during this time, which is why the rabbit is such a strong symbol for the fertility of Spring.

There are many different ways to celebrate the Spring Goddess. You can do a ritual in her honor, plant seeds of beautiful spring flowers, or try to start anew in your own life. Another symbol for rebirth is the labyrinth; you can make one of these, and walk it to symbolize finding your center. A labyrinth can also symbolize the cycles of life and nature, since your life never goes in one direction, so too the labyrinth will take you on a journey to help you find your center.

When walking your labyrinth, walk in a slow meditative state, and contemplate your life and any changes or rebirth you plan to do this coming year. Once you get to the center, you turn around and come out the same way you went in, make sure not to step over any of the lines. You can get a little dizzy when walking it, so if that is the case just stop for a moment, take a deep breath, and start again.

<http://loveofthegoddess.blogspot.com/2010/03/ostara-celebration-of-goddess-of-spring.html>

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>8-9:30 p.m. - NA, Fellowship Hall</i>	2	3 2-4 NA Guest Speaker-Fellowship Hall
4 10:30 a.m. - Service 10:30 a.m. - Children/Teen RE, Crane House	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6	7 <i>7-8:30 p.m. - NA, Sanctuary</i>	8 <i>8-9:30 p.m. - NA, Fellowship Hall</i>	9	10
11 10:30 a.m. - Service 10:30 a.m. - Children/Teen RE, Crane House	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13	14 <i>7-8:30 p.m. - NA, Sanctuary 6:30-9:30-Tarot Class-Crane House</i>	15 <i>8-9:30 p.m. - NA, Fellowship Hall</i>	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
18 10:30 a.m. - Service 10:30 a.m. - Children/Teen RE, Crane House	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20	21 <i>7-8:30 p.m. - NA, Sanctuary 6:15-9:30pm Ostara Celebration-Crane House</i>	22 <i>8-9:30 p.m. - NA, Fellowship Hall</i>	23	24
25 10:30 a.m. - Service 10:30 a.m. - Children/Teen RE, Crane House	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28 <i>7-8:30 p.m. - NA, Sanctuary 6:30-9:30 Drumming Circle-Crane House</i>	29 <i>8-9:30 p.m. - NA, Fellowship Hall</i>	30	31