



February 4, 2009

ucsonitarian

Sunday Services
9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

*The Bi-weekly Newsletter of
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson*

Great Things
Are Taking Place
at UUCT:

Cabaret!!

The Cabaret was a huge success! Over 130 people enjoyed a delicious dinner and delightful music and entertainment. We made a \$1200 profit as well.

UUCT Finances

We have good news concerning finances at UUCT. As of the end of December, half way through the fiscal year, we have total income of \$28,204 *above* the anticipated 50% of budgeted income. We have only advanced \$10,000 of the budgeted \$30,000 borrowing allowance from the Congregationally Restricted Fund, and we continue to pay down our line of credit.

Pledge income is slightly below budget for the half-way point, but donations are above budget by almost \$7,500. General fundraisers have also exceeded anticipated income. The Mata Ortiz trip raised \$1,700 for the church and so far, sales of John Schaefer's book have raised over \$1,000. Grocery rebate income is another good news story, being above budget by \$4,500.

Thanks to all of you who are faithful stewards of UUCT, giving so generously of your time to make things happen and your money to keep our finances at the level they need to be. Let's keep it up and see if we can avoid cash flow problems this summer!

Carolyn Saunders, Financial Secretary

No More Deaths update

Traditionally, the winter months were a time for the many committed No More Deaths volunteers to rest. They would debrief the previous summer's work and vision for the future. But this year there has hardly been a moment to take a breath. While the 24/7 camps closed in October, volunteers are present in the desert each week on supply runs—putting out caches of water jugs and food in areas where migrants in need are most likely to find them. On the border, the need is ever growing for our support in the form of food, clothes, medical care and shelter. Migrants approach us and say that our water saved their lives. But there is still much work to do.

Starting this spring, keep an eye on the UUCT newsletter for opportunities to get involved with No More Deaths. We are

creating short job descriptions for a variety of in-town tasks with which we hope you will help. Walt Staton, our liaison to No More Deaths, is organizing some day trips out to the desert aid camp and to the border for us to become more familiar with the various project sites.

Currently, No More Deaths is asking for donations towards purchasing a heavy-duty 4x4 truck to bring loads of water out into the desert. If you can contribute towards this purchase, please make a check out to UUCT with "No More Deaths – Truck" in the memo.

Thanks for your ongoing support for this ministry!

Walt Staton

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life
Administrator

Newcomer News:

Newcomer Orientation: The next Newcomers Orientation will be held at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, February 22. Our Newcomer Orientations are intended to give newcomers an overview of UU history and theology, introductions to our programs, and opportunities for involvement. The Orientation includes a free lunch and childcare. Newcomer Orientations are a requirement for the Pathway to Membership. Please contact Mary Wiese if you have questions or to RSVP: macbrude@cox.net.

Yours in community spirit, Mary

Auction Alert!

Save March 21 for the party/circus at UUCT! Our service auction theme this year is "Circus Ole." Mary Wiese has planned a fabulous menu for dinner, and of course there will be drink and hors d'oeuvres aplenty during the silent auction which precedes dinner and the live auction. Our live auction will be run by our beloved auctioneer, Christine Sullivan.

We are actively soliciting acquisitions, so please stop by the auction table in Goddard Hall to turn in your donation. We will begin selling tickets to the auction on February 15. We welcome questions and suggestions at any time!

Ellie Nelson, Cynthia McDaniel and Karen Greenbaum

Burghardt Turner, a former member of UUCT, passed away on Sunday, January 11. A memorial service was held in Silver Spring on January 31. Burg touched many, many lives. He will be missed.

Parking Lot Clean-up Day

Please join us in volunteering for a few hours on Saturday, February 7, for the parking lot clean up day. We plan on working from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. You can come and work either in the morning or in the afternoon.

Plants to be removed will be marked, limbs will be trimmed up and the general condition of our front area will be much improved. We need your help!! We've secured dumpsters, have chain saws and shovels and ask that you come out in community, preferably with gloves, to restore the beauty of our native plants and their surrounding areas.

For more information or to sign up, call or email Vicki Behm, chair of Buildings and Grounds: Vbehm@cox.net 885-3499.

Saturday Salon

Our speaker will be Dr. Rosario Carrillo of the University of Arizona Center for Mexican American Studies and Research. Rosario, a member of UUCT, has undertaken a ten-year project of studying and implementing learning strategies which build on the cultural richness of home literacy practices of adult Latinas. She will address the importance of supporting Latinas in acquiring critical literacy skills.

The February 14 program will be held from 6 - 8 p.m. in Goddard Hall.

Alliance News

We invite everyone to join us on Tuesday, February 10, for a historical tour of the Franklin Museum, which houses the entire Franklin automobile collection plus Indian artifacts.

We will carpool from the church. Come at 9:30; we will leave at 10:00. Or you can meet us at the museum at 10:30. The address is 1405 E. Kleindale Road. Please sign up at our table in Goddard after services and pick up a helpful map. Admission fee is \$5.00. We'll have lunch about noon at the New China Super Buffet, 1160 N. Wilmont (north of Speedway on east side). Marcia Schenck, 326-1102.

Sunday Schedule — services at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 8, *Jazz and the Art of Making Justice*, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Shared leadership and improvisation are hallmarks of jazz music. In this service filled with jazz, you just might be amazed to learn that justice making, like jazz, can be a fun and creative process.

Sunday, February 15, *Divine Creation: The Big Bang as a Random Act of Kindness*, Bill Stoeger, Jesuit priest and cosmologist, astronomer with the Vatican Observatory group at the University of Arizona

Sunday, February 22, *'Horton Hears a Whu-Whu,'* by Dr. Seuss

This extended family service will feature a retelling, in the context of liberal religion, of Dr. Seuss's classic story about an elephant who hears a small voice. The story stars Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Lisa McDaniel Hutchings and Brian Moon. Adapted text and original music by Randall Springer, for Family Singers, Brian, and Diane.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

We still need your help with this year's religious education program. Currently we are seeking volunteers for the curriculum committee which will meet only twice before the summer. We will hold that meeting at church on a Sunday during the lunch hour. Those who serve on this committee will be offering insight on curriculum choices for the next program year. If you can serve on this committee, please contact Kathleen Hogue at 312-0441.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT (LFD)

We have one new Adult Faith Development class beginning in February and changes in two of our existing programs. For information about any of these, please email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net or call him at 326-8831. You can also find out more at the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard Hall after the service.

Discovering a Sense of Place

This is a new class which will be offered on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Awareness Room, beginning February 9 and running through March 30. Participants will learn how an intimate understanding of our "place," the community and landscape of greater Tucson and the Sonoran Desert, can help us protect it in the face of growth and change. The course will introduce leading thinkers linking community and environmental stewardship and the approaches community advocates are using to promote a sense of place. There is no fee for the class, but each participant is responsible for purchasing the book to be used, and the cost of that is \$19. Class size is limited, so sign up as soon as possible.

Listening for the Spirit

This group meets in the Awareness Room on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00, for those who find evening groups not convenient. It has just begun exploring issues of religion and spirituality through a comparative study of the world's religions. The class uses a combination of Huston Smith's *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions* (also available as *The Illustrated World's Religions*) and excerpts from a DVD series, *Great World Religions*. The first discussions will be on Buddhism. New participants are welcome at any meeting, but it's best to check with Mary

Schantz at 731-8189 to find out which chapters are being discussed.

Exploring Spirituality

Exploring Spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist continues to meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Servetus Room. This is a drop-in group, and everyone is welcome for a stimulating hour of conversation. During February, Exploring Spirituality will begin an in-depth look at transcendentalism by viewing and discussing a series of DVDs called *Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement*. The emergence of transcendentalism in the early 19th century in and around Boston had profound effects, not only on Unitarianism, a major religion of the time, but also on such important American issues as education, slavery, and women's rights. In many ways, it also changed the way many Americans thought about spirituality, and an understanding of it is relevant to Unitarian Universalism today.

Second Sunday Songfest

Sunday, February 8: Second Sunday Songfest continues with live music (folk, rock, western, popular, children's and originals) and socializing. Bring snacks/beverages to share. Goddard or patio, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Interested in performing? Call Rick Meyer at 748-2886 or just come on down.

A Desert Illuminated

Copies of John Schaefer's book *A Desert Illuminated* are available in the Church office for \$26. Part of the proceeds are donated back to the church.



A Valentine for Peace

An Intergenerational, Interfaith Event

The Balkan Peace Support Group and the Religious Education Council at UUCT in conjunction with the Lutheran Refugee Resettlement Project are hosting this intergenerational, interfaith event. Refugee families from Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, Nepal, and elsewhere have been invited to join our UUCT family for an afternoon designed to break down barriers and build community.

Join us on Sunday, February 15, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. to get to know these new members of our Tucson community and help make them feel welcome. There will be activities for young and old alike. You can also learn more about the wonderful work of the Lutheran Refugee Resettlement Project. Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

Gloria McMillan, TBPSG Event Liaison and member of UUCT, at 623-8905 or Heather Reed, RE Council Chair, at heathertreed@gmail.com.

Artist of the Month Gallery

“Land, Sea and Sky: Landscapes in pastel, oil and watercolor,” paintings by Barbara De Losier and Robert Swetzer, the Gallery’s February exhibit, opens with a reception for the artists on Sunday, February 8, after the service.

Robert Swetzer’s early practice of art returned full time when he retired to the Sonoran desert, where he paints in plein-air. Barbara De Losier has used pastel as a medium for three years. Both Barbara De Losier and Robert Swetzer have worked extensively in the “Open Studio” of Tucson’s The Drawing Studio.

UU First Saturday Hikers

The UU First Saturday Hikers are planning a trek at Sabino Canyon on Saturday, February 7. The hike will be 2 to 3 miles in length, with varied terrain: nothing difficult. Meet Chris Wallace at church at 9:00 am for carpooling, or meet Ellie Nelson at the large map outside the Sabino Visitors Center at 9:30 am. For information contact Ellie Nelson ellienelson@msn.com or 615-4136.

Mining Wisdom’s Gold:

Discovering and Writing Your Legacy Letter

Fellow UU-er Edna Groves is offering a one-day workshop on sharing your life story. In this workshop you will review the history of your ancestors, reflect on the meaning of your life, and offer blessings to those you love who will carry your story forward. Saturday, February 28, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at St Francis United Methodist Church, 4625 E River Road. \$95.00 (\$85 if mailed by Feb 7). Call Edna at 630-204-1650 for registration details.

Special Needs Committee

Volunteers are needed for a new committee which will be responsible for assessing and determining the needs of the entire congregation concerning those with special needs.

The committee’s work takes place during coffee hour and lunch and includes mingling with other congregants to assess the needs of the church in this area. This initial committee will meet twice during the month of February. If you’re interested in being involved, please contact Kathleen Hogue at 312-0441.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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