



April 1, 2009

# ucsonitarian

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

The Bi-weekly Newsletter  
of Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

## Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT:

A wonderful time was had by all at the auction and it has brought in over \$16,000 so far !!

### From the President of the Board

Just as the global economic turmoil has affected each of us individually, it's also created significant challenges for our UUCT home. The Finance Committee and the Empowerment Team have been working diligently on a 2009/2010 budget that maintains our current level of programs and staffing in order to fulfill this church's mission. Part of their commitment is also not to borrow again from the Congregationally Restricted Funds account.

To this end, they have been in the process of creating a "status quo" budget based on projected pledge income of \$300,000. At the present we have pledges totaling \$281,000. Since we still have some pledges outstanding, the Stewardship Committee feels that \$300,000 is an achievable goal. This budget must be finalized within the next several weeks in preparation for our Annual Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

At this point in the process, we are approximately \$31,000 short of a balanced budget. To even get to this level, our first priority has been to look at ways to cut overhead, or "non-human," costs. We see the need to develop strategies and discipline to be more environmentally friendly while reducing the waste of resources. Therefore, beginning this summer, we will move Sunday services into Goddard Hall, saving the expenses of cooling Holland Sanctuary. Also, we will be installing locked thermostats with fixed temperatures, potentially saving 20% on our electric bills.

Another savings will come from going paperless with newsletters and orders of service. Those who want newsletters mailed may subscribe to this service for a small fee. Otherwise all newsletters will be emailed and will be posted on the church website. This will save in the cost of paper, printing and postage. The orders of service will be available on the church website and individuals who wish may print and bring their own copies to church. We will use our media system to project announcements on the screen before the service.

For those of you using credit cards for your pledge payments through Vanco, we urge you to have automatic payments made directly from your bank account, saving the church 2.5% per each transaction. Finally, we propose cutting or deferring interest payments to the Congregationally Restricted Funds until economic conditions are more stable.

The congregation of this church has met every challenge in the past year, from broken air conditioning to leaking roofs, most generously, so that we have been able to grow and proceed with our mission. In order to continue this progress, we are asking everyone who has not pledged to please do so right away. We would also ask those who have pledged to consider raising your pledge by \$2-\$4 per week. Just this much of an increase will allow us to raise enough funds to continue with the programs and services that are already in place and achieve a balanced budget.

You will have an opportunity at the Town Hall meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed budget and to share your good ideas for increasing income with the church's leaders. Times may be tough and the future uncertain, but with the amazing "can-do" attitude of our staff and the creativity and generosity of each of you, we can keep our liberal light burning brightly on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street!

In faith,  
Fran Brazzell, President  
Board of Trustees

### Sunday Service

Sunday, April 5 Services at 9:15 and 11:00

**Friendship as Spiritual Practice** Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Sunday, April 12 One service at 11:00

**Light, Life, Freedom, and Love** Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings

Sunday, April 19 One service at 11:00

**Youth Sunday**

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

**UUCT Annual Meeting of the Congregation – 2009**

**Mark Your Calendars**

On **April 5<sup>th</sup>** there will be **Town Hall Meetings** following each service. At these meetings you will hear in advance the proposed questions to be brought to a vote at the annual meeting.

Hopefully this will give members and friends adequate time to give feedback and have their questions answered before the Annual Meeting. The modified vision for our last year of the congregationally approved 3-yr. Strategic Plan will also be presented.

On **April 26<sup>th</sup>** UUCT will have its **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**. The purpose of each annual meeting is to review congregational affairs, elect the officers for the next year and adopt the annual budget. Twenty percent of the Congregation **must** be present to vote on each questions presented.

It is the Board of Trustees hope that we can provide you with the information that you need to understand the business that has been carried out on your behalf and to make informed decisions on those issues where you will be asked to vote. Note: At this year’s Annual Meeting you should come prepared to vote. While there will be the opportunity to speak in favor or against each proposed question presented for congregational vote there will NOT be an opportunity for lengthy debate on the floor.

In addition to the Town Hall we will also be mailing a series of emails with more information about the following items:

**Strategic Plan**

The Board of Trustees held a special meeting this year to review the 3-yr Strategic Plan and make revisions for 2009-2010. Prior to that meeting opinions and ideas were sought from each of you. You may have written to a Board member, given feedback at a town hall, or talked to one of us individually. Thank-you for all that contributed to that process and helped us keep UUCT on track with our plans for the future. We hope that next year we can form an ad hoc committee to develop a new multi-year strategic plan to help us continue to realize our vision. If you are interested in participating in those efforts please let us know.

The current plan modification is posted on the UUCT Website <http://www.uuctucson.org/>. Go to the “Home” tab, then to “Governance” and finally to “Modified Strategic Plan”. Comments and suggestions for change are welcome at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting or if you prefer contact any Board member in person or by email. The Strategic Plan Revision will not be on the Annual Meeting agenda.

**Slate of Officers**

The Nominating Committee & Leadership Development Team is pleased to announce the nominees for Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson’s elected positions.

	<u>End of Term</u>
<b><u>Board of Trustees</u></b>	
John Schaefer	2012
Chaz McBride	2012
Patrice Davison	2010
(Completing the position vacated by Jan Dowling)	

**Committee on Ministry**

Roger Steenland	2012
David Burks	2012

**Nominating Committee & Leadership Development Team**

Helen O’Brien	2011
Brooke Myers	2011
Judy Dare	2012
Janie Foy	2012

**Congregational Nominations**

Nominations by the congregation are allowed according to the Bylaws (Article VII, Section 4). These additional nominations require a petition with signatures of at least twenty members and the nominee’s agreement. In order to notify the congregation by mail at least fourteen days prior to the Annual Meeting, petitions must be received by the Nominating Committee & Leadership Development Team by April 8.

No nominations for office or position under the auspices of the Nominating Committee & Leadership Development Team shall be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. Bylaws (Article VII, Section 5)

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia McDaniel, Chair  
2009 Nominating Committee & Leadership Development Team

**Bylaws Changes**

The bylaws revision was initiated by a Bylaws Revision Committee established and charged by the Board of Trustees February 12, 2008. Initial changes were presented to the congregation on November 2, 2008 but after losing a congregational quorum no vote was possible. After additional feedback, and spearheaded by Bill Hoffman, modified revised bylaws were approved at the Board of Trustees on March 24, 2009. They will be presented at a Town Hall, April 5, and for vote at the annual Congregational meeting, April 26, 2009.

A full copy of our existing bylaws is available on the UUCT website <http://www.uuctucson.org/>. Go to the “Home” tab, then to “Governance” and finally to “Bylaws”. In this same section you will also find the “Proposed Revised Bylaws”. Each Roman numeral references the corresponding article in the Bylaws.

The purposes of the revision were to:

Minimally change the wording of the bylaws to permit current and desired UUCT governance practices. This includes clarifying the Board of Trustees’ responsibility for all church finances and recognizing that boards dealing with finances such a the endowment board and memorial board should be a part of the Finance Committee policies, not the bylaws.

Add items to improve the governance of the church, but not add items that should or could be in policies and procedures. These include adding an associate membership, allowing consecutive terms for some elected offices, easing election restrictions on interim appointees, and publicizing the procedure for allowing nominations from other than the Nominating Committee. The Committee on Ministry was not added to the bylaws because it is still in a two year trial period established by the congregation.

**Covenant of Right Relations**

Following our recent workshop with Rev. Stephanie Etbach-Dale an Ad hoc committee was charged with writing a draft of the UUCT Covenant of Right Relations guided by the input received during and after the workshop and by a review of covenants from many other congregations. Mark Henson [markhenson@theriver.com](mailto:markhenson@theriver.com) , Helen O’Brien [hobrien@ultrasw.com](mailto:hobrien@ultrasw.com) and Linda Selsor [lselsor@msn.com](mailto:lselsor@msn.com) have created a covenant draft and continue to welcome your feedback.

## Membership/Community Life

### Newcomer News:

*New Member Classes:* New Member Classes will be held in April, on the first Wednesday, at 7 p.m., and the second Sunday, at 12:30 p.m. If you have fulfilled the requirements for the Pathway to Membership and are ready to commit some of your time and resources to the congregation, then we welcome, and encourage you, to become a member. If you would like to reserve a place in the class or if you have questions, please contact Mary Wiese, [macbrude@cox.net](mailto:macbrude@cox.net).

*All Church Cookout:* The date will be announced soon. If you would like to help coordinate this fun event, please contact Mary Wiese, [macbrude@cox.net](mailto:macbrude@cox.net), or Becky Keyes, [becky.k@mountainviewtours.com](mailto:becky.k@mountainviewtours.com).

### Kitchen Ministry:

We are continuing to look for lunch donations and groups/individuals that could sponsor a lunch by funding one. Please contact Kathy McDaniel if you want to contribute to this vital ministry of the church: [kmcdaniel@dakotacom.net](mailto:kmcdaniel@dakotacom.net).

Yours in community spirit, Mary

## Music Notes

We recently purchased a copy of the Braille edition of our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*. I want to express special thanks to Margo Newhouse who indexed the Roman Numerals on the pages; fortunately, she is somewhat familiar with the Braille having once worked with a blind student. The plan is to make the hymns available each Sunday in a notebook located on the greeters' table. I also want to let you know that on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Adan Zoraida, a talented blind musician, will be the guest pianist at our morning worship service.

Submitted by Agnes Paulsen - *Minister of Music*

## Auction Update

Thanks to donors, bidders, volunteers - there are too many name to name - who made Circus Ole a resounding success. The evening was magical and we made lots of money. A few events are not fully subscribed, so if you would like to sign up, please contact Anne Roberts at 615-5186 or [anwelro@aol.com](mailto:anwelro@aol.com), or you may sign up at the auction table at church.

**April 11** *"Make 'n Take Craft Day"* Try beading, paper crafts, fun food creations and a delicious lunch \$25

**April 11** *Indian Dinner* prepared by Alli Hansen at the home of Maureen Mylander/George Sellinger \$60

**May 16** *Pajama Party*, a blast from the past hosted by Fran Brazzell & Peg Smith \$65

**June 6** Mt. Lemmon Hike and Dinner  
Carolyn Cooper, Chris Wallace will host \$50

**July 11** Betsy Dokken's *Famous Fig Feast* \$60

## Lifespan Faith Development

For information about Lifespan Faith Development programs or Covenant Circles, email [mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net) or call him at 326-8831. You can also find out more at the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard after the service.

### Special Food Bank Project

The 2007-2008 Covenant Circle members agreed upon three projects as the service component of the program. The first two projects involved improving the interior and exterior of the church, and those have taken place with the painting of the Goddard kitchen and Rev. Diane's office and with the parking lot cleanups. The third project agreed upon was to volunteer at the Tucson Community Food Bank. Two dates have now been set, and former and present Covenant Circle members as well as all members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to participate.

On **Saturday, May 9**, we're asking for volunteers to help pack up food collected by letter carriers and load it into trucks. The time commitment would be from 2:00 to 5:00 pm (just three hours!) at the Speedway /Silverbell post office. On **Wednesday, May 20**, we're asking for volunteers to sort and pack bags of food for distribution. This would be from 9:00 am to noon (just three hours!) at the Food Bank at 3003 S. Country Club. This is a great way for you to give back to the community at a time when so many more people are depending on the Food Bank to help them through very difficult times, and it's a great opportunity for a really meaningful family project. We do request that people sign up at the AFD table in Goddard Hall.

### Listening for the Spirit Continues Its Comparative Religion Focus

Awareness Room:Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Currently, the group is reading about and discussing Hinduism. The class uses a combination of Huston Smith's landmark work *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*. Drop-ins 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 "Crosses the Event Horizon"

Exploring Spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist meets from 9:30 to 10:30 am each Sunday in the Servetus Room. This is a drop-in group. Everyone is welcome for a stimulating hour of conversation. The group is currently viewing and discussing *Crossing the Event Horizon* a DVD series produced by Nassim Hamein, a scientist whose theories about the geometry of space and time and their relation to the fundamental structure of the universe and to spirituality have been the subject of much discussion and controversy in the scientific community.

**CPR and First Aid Classes** Saturday April 25, 1:00 pm  
Cost:\$20.00 per person. Scholarships available.  
Presented by Desert Fire CPR & First Aid  
Open to all interested parties.- teachers, volunteers and Safe-Sitters.  
Participants receive an American Heart Association certification card valid for two years.  
Sign up at the LFD table on Sundays in Goddard Hall or call Kathleen Hogue at 312-0441.  
Deadline for registration: April 19th.

**UUCT First Saturday Hikers** have their last hike of the season on April 4. We will be hiking the Canyon Loop Trail at Catalina State Park, followed by a group picnic. The trail is easy, by Tucson standards, and is between 2 and 3 miles in length. If we're lucky, we may get to cross the washes on stepping stones with gently flowing water!

Meet at church at 8:30 am for carpooling, or at Trader Joe's on Magee and Oracle for a 9:15 am departure. Unless the carpool drivers have a state park pass, there is a \$6.00 charge per carload of 4 for entrance. Bring some cash to participate in this fee. Don't forget to bring your lunch, and water. If you have questions, please call Ellie Nelson 615-4136 or Chris Wallace 326-6043.

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**The Book Club** will revue "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan". We will meet on Thursday April 16 in The Awareness Room. We welcome all who are interested as we explore new books.

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**Artist of the Month Gallery:** See "Paris in Black and White" through Ed Warner's eyes during April, when his photographs will be on exhibit in the Sanctuary. He'll be available for discussing the details of his shots during his reception, Sunday, April 26, after the service. "Paris" will be on display through May 3.  
*Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee*

I would like to thank the congregation for its prayers and thoughts for my mother this last month and to inform the congregation of her passing on March 16<sup>th</sup> in her 98<sup>th</sup> year.  
*Terence J. Sheridan*

**Alliance News:** On Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, we invite everyone to join us at 11:30 for a fun picnic at Fort Lowell Park, Ramada 5. Come and sign up at our Goddard table if you are interested in carpooling from our church at 11:00. We will provide chicken but we ask you to bring a potluck dish for sharing and your own plate, utensils, napkins, cup and drink.

Directions: from Craycroft and Glenn, take Glenn East to the 2<sup>nd</sup> park entrance. At the tennis courts on the left, take a right to Ramada 5. See you there!  
*Marcia Schenck (326-1102)*

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**Easter Canned Food Hunt:** It's almost time for our annual Easter egg, OOPS!, canned food hunt. On Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, our children will search the playground for hidden canned goods. When they turn in their finds, for use in our food bank, they will be rewarded with a small bag of Easter candy. We're asking everyone to help with this event by bringing canned goods to church on April 5<sup>th</sup> or before the service on Easter Sunday. There will be boxes in the foyer of Holland and in Goddard Hall to collect your donations.

**Safe-Sitter Training**

**Saturday, April 18: 9:00am—4:30pm** For children ages 11-13. Fee: \$45.00 (includes materials and lunch) Scholarships available. Registration options: e-mail [Lwhealey@gmail.com](mailto:Lwhealey@gmail.com) or call her at 471-2928 or also by going to the LFD table in Goddard. Topics to be covered are: entertaining children while keeping them safe, basic child care skills (diapering, feeding, etc.), handling choking situations, calling for emergency help, safety for the sitter, and babysitting business skills. Child care is an important part of our congregational life!



**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Tucson**

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