



May 13, 2009

ucsonitarian

The Bi-weekly Newsletter of
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

Sunday Service 11:00a.m.
May 24th-10 a.m. service time begins

From the Minister's Study

Renewed, refreshed, uplifted, and grateful are words I find myself repeatedly using to describe how I felt upon returning from the District Assembly of Unitarian Universalists from Arizona, Southern California, and Southern Nevada held in Mesa, Arizona the first weekend in May. There's something about gathering with hundreds of Unitarian Universalists in worship that is deeply restorative.

The word *worship* comes from the Old English word *weorthscipe*, which literally translated, means *worth-ship*. When we gather every Sunday, it is to lift up and celebrate all that is of worth in our lives. For some people, worship involves devotion to a deity or deities, for others, it is the simple act of taking time to consider matters of worth – no deity required. Either way, Sunday worship is the communal event that reconnects our community and renews our spirits.

Making this central event of our communal lives happen every week takes hours of preparation and the cooperation of many people. Inclusion of multiple participants makes the worship experience deeper, multi-layered, more meaningful -- and more complex to plan and manage!

For the past couple of years, I've been working with the Worship Committee in establishing a Worship Associates Program. Shared ministry comes alive with a Worship Associates Program – minister and laity intentionally working together to bring meaningful worship experiences to the congregation each week. Worship Associates broaden and deepen the worship experience for the entire congregation through the sharing of their gifts and insights.

Leading the congregation in worship takes certain skills and abilities. It takes commitment and planning. Just as important, it takes dedication to theological reflection and the cultivation of a spiritual life. All of it together is what allows for the trust needed for those present to open their hearts and minds to an experience that renews and uplifts.

To that end, Worship Associates are accepted into the program through an application process. The application is brief. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a description of the Worship Associates Program. The application itself is available on-line at www.uuctucson.org and in the church office.

I am grateful for the opportunity to gather with you every Sunday, renewing a sense of *worth-ship*.

Fondly yours,
Diane

**Great Things
Are Taking
Place
at UUCT:**

**Thank you to all
for the
successful and
productive
annual meeting
On April 26th.**

**Also, more than
20 UUCT church
members
attended and
enjoyed District
Assembly in
Mesa earlier this
month!!**

Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 17

Milestone Moments: A Service of Rituals

Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings

Marking the passages of life within community makes them more meaningful. Our graduating youth will take part in a bridging ceremony and our newest members will be recognized, all wrapped in the beauty of a traditional Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion. Special original music will be by Adan Miranda, a blind keyboardist.

Sunday, May 24

We Remember

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Memory is part of what makes us human. Rituals play an important part in stitching memories together into a quilt of wisdom. We'll consider the rituals of our lives, those small habits that add structure to our days and those intentional celebrations that add meaning to our years.



Mata Ortiz Tour 2009

By Carolyn Saunders and Julia Mehrer

Yes, that rumor you heard was correct! We are planning another trip to Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua, Mexico, November 11-15, 2009.

This year's trip includes all transportation, 4 nights lodging, breakfast daily, four lunches, a light buffet dinner on the first night as well as various activities and museums. You may also choose to take an optional cooking class or go horseback riding.

Prices for the five day trip are \$725 for singles, \$629 per person for doubles, \$569 per person for triples or 4 people per room \$554 each. These prices include a tax-deductible donation to UUCT. A \$100 per person deposit will hold a room for you.

You may choose your accommodations this year at either the Hacienda Hotel in Nuevo Casas Grandes, or a beautifully restored adobe compound in a B&B-like setting owned by Spencer and Emi MacCallum. The McCallums will host a wine and cheese reception when we arrive. Other activities include a stop at the Amerind Foundation near Benson, AZ for a tour of the museum and a chat with the Director, anthropologist John Ware; possibly a short visit to the Pancho Villa Museum in Columbus, NM; and, of course, a visit to Paquime, the outstanding museum and ruins of an ancient city near Mata Ortiz.

We will spend a full day in Mata Ortiz with plenty of time to visit all the galleries as well as view pottery making demonstrations. New this year is an archeological and historical excursion to the town of Janos. There we will see ancient petroglyphs, visit Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Janos Mission, and tour a sotol factory where the local version of tequila is made.

A highlight of last year's visit was lunch at Hacienda San Diego which we will repeat this year. The Acosta family occupies and is in the process of restoring this historic, semi-ruined hacienda, one of 23 in Chihuahua once owned by Luís Terrazas. The Hacienda San Diego has interesting architectural features and history. Francisco Madero was proclaimed president of Mexico here, and Pancho Villa for a time made it his headquarters. There will be an optional cooking class at the Hacienda, photo opportunities, and horseback riding after lunch at the Hacienda.

Please contact Julia Mehrer at perujourney@gainbroadband.com for information regarding the trip and rooms still available. Registration forms and the complete itinerary are online at www.uuctucson.org.

Worship Associates Program

A Worship Associates program is a special kind of shared ministry, in which the minister and associates challenge each other to offer the richest, most diverse, most thoughtful and inspired worship they are capable of. If you would like to be part of shaping the worship life of the congregation by working with the minister, guest speakers, and other members of UUCT to develop and lead worship services, please consider applying to become a Worship Associate.

Worship Associate Job Description

Purpose: Worship Associates broaden and deepen the worship experience for the entire congregation through the sharing of their gifts and insights. Worship Associates work in partnership with the minister to lead the congregation in meaningful worship and work with guest speakers in the minister's absence.

Duties:

- 1) To work with the minister and guest speakers in developing a worship theme through choices of readings, music, and hymns.
- 2) To be present in the pulpit as assigned to present various elements of the worship service.
- 3) To coordinate with guest speakers.
- 4) To submit written order of service for lay-led Sundays.

Commitments:

- 1) 2 years of service
- 2) Serve 3-4 Sundays a year
- 3) Attend Worship Associate Retreats 3 times a year
- 4) Maintain appropriate professionalism (preparation, training, appearance, appropriate attire)

The application is available in the church office and on-line at www.uuctucson.org. Questions? Call Rev. Diane at 748-1551ext. 11

Circle of Life

Rita Watkins has a broken foot but is getting around slowly.

Tom Watkins was in the hospital for 10 days for some surgery. He is now home and doing fine but a bit fatigued.

from Friends in Deed

Membership/Community Life

Membership and the Future of our Church Community

by *Mary Wiese*, Membership and Community Life Administrator

As I was sitting in one of the workshops at District Assembly last weekend, it occurred to me how much these types of District and/or National events inspire and rejuvenate me. While the work we do here at UUCT has merit, it is also very beneficial to network with other UU churches and their leaders.

I participated in three different workshops while at District Assembly, AKA DA. The last one was a workshop facilitated by the Reverend Charles Gaines. Charles did the Growth Assessment for us and facilitated a workshop last October, based on his recommendations. After the workshop, we voted to make 5% annual net growth our goal.

His workshop at DA was called, "Ten Commandments for Church Growth." While many of the 'Commandments' were similar to the specific recommendations in our assessment, it made me sit down and take an inventory of what we have accomplished since the workshop. Here are some of those successes based on the recommendations:

- We have an updated website that is more user friendly than our previous one.
- A representative from the Membership Team meets interested Newcomers in front of the pulpit and offers them a free lunch almost every Sunday. They are given a Welcoming packet and encouraged to fill out an information card that puts them on our mailing list.
- We now have an established Pathway to Membership with a list of requirements and suggestions. Once a Newcomer has completed the list of requirements, they may attend a New Member class with Reverend Diane. During the class, Diane explains the importance of commitment as a member. If they decide that membership in our church is a good fit, they sign the Membership Book. (*The Pathway to Membership brochure is available in the office or on our website.)
- We have two services during the busiest months of the year.
- We often sing a hymn in Spanish and we now have a Braille hymnal.
- We have updated our facilities tremendously which makes them more welcoming and accessible to first time visitors.
- We have a Celebrations column on the front of every newsletter.

We still have more to accomplish but we have made an impact. We have 34 new pledging units this year and we broke records for attendance on both Christmas Eve and Easter.

Another thing Charles and many other growth experts recommend is pretending to look at the church as if it was your first visit. Ask yourself: Is it comfortable? Is it friendly? What makes you want to come back? Summer time is often our busiest time for church shoppers. I encourage each of you to do this exercise and look at the church with fresh eyes; and next time you meet someone new at church, smile and spend five minutes with them. Growth is up to all of us.

FYI: Please note that Membership Chair, Judy Dare's email address has changed. : jadare@q.com

Lifespan Faith Development

Volunteer Appreciation: Religious Education for Children and Youth

It takes many volunteers from our congregation to provide a quality program for our children and youth every Sunday.

The **RE Council** has oversight of the program with Kathleen and Lisa. For 2008-09 the Council members and their portfolios have been:

Heather Reed, Chair **Lynn Healey, Secretary**
Becky Keyes, Family Ministry
Margo Newhouse, Social Action **Patrice Davison, Youth**

The teachers meet with our groups of children and youth throughout the year and engage the curricula.

Spirit Play (Preschool & Kindergarten): Margo Newhouse, Erin Deely, Mary Catherine Habeck-Leighou, Jackie Lynch, and Jimmy Ranieri (substitute)

First & Second Grades: Poonam Bholia, Jamie German, Radka Hart, Beth Newhouse

Third – Fifth Grades: Suzanne Borth, Scott Hart, Sally Masteller, Chaz McBride

Middle School (6-8th grades): Chuck Lundstrom, Michael Meyer, Lorraine Russell, and Natasha Warner

YRUU (high school youth group): Tom Clowes, Julie Larsen, Larry Newhouse, and Walt Staton

Many, many thanks to all of you for passing on Unitarian Universalism to the next generation!

Music Notes

I want to let you know about some very special music that's scheduled for Sunday, May 24th.

A trombone quartet will be featured on the prelude, offertory, special music, and postlude!!

The quartet members are:

Don Schlessler, a retired Army Colonel originally from Montana;
Jim Van Brocklin, a retired medical doctor from Michigan;
Joseph Turner, a graduate student in trombone performance at the University of Arizona;
and Dennis Foster, retired music educator from Tacoma, Washington.

The quartet, officially known as "Lazy Bones" has played together for about three years. All but Joseph are members of the Tucson Concert Band.

This is the time of the year when we are trying to get sheet music copies back in their church files. So I'm asking those of you who have sung with our choirs to see if you have some music hiding in your home. If so, it would be helpful and much appreciated if you would bring them back to the church. I have a mailbox just above the office manager's desk so you could leave it there. Thanks for checking.

Agnes Paulsen
Minister of Music

Alliance News

The Alliance will appreciate your continued donations of recent magazines and aluminum cans for our summer recycling program. Our opening meeting for next fall will be October 13th.

Marcia Schenck

Book Club

The Book Club will be reviewing "Religious Literacy" by Stephen Prothero The teaching of religion in public schools from a historical and secular point of view. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested. Come and join the discussion. on May 21 at 7 pm in the Awareness Room.

Potluck Appreciation!

The Membership committee would like to show its appreciation for everyone who has hosted a Newcomers Potluck. If you have hosted a Newcomers Potluck and have not received an invitation to the Appreciation Dinner, please contact Julia Mehrer at 762-4035 or perujourney@gainbroadband.com or speak to Mary Wiese.

Artist of the Month Gallery

Creativity is the name of the game! In May, we have art in many mediums by you, UU Members and Friends. In the summer, we'll enjoy your photographs. Bring them, ready to hang, to the Sanctuary, on Tuesday, June 9, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. There will be a reception in your honor on Sunday, June 14, after the service.

Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee

NUCLEAR ENERGY: A GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND GLOBAL WARMING THREAT !!

Attend a free lecture on Sunday, May 31 from 11:30 PM -1:00 PM on the topic --The featured presenters will be Russell Lowes, Research Director of www.SafeEnergyAnalyst.org and Jack Cohen-Joppa, Co-Publisher and Co-Editor of *The Nuclear Resister* newspaper.

This free lecture will be held in the air-conditioned Awareness Room. This lecture is free and open to the public and is presented by the Peace Group of the UUCT. For more information, please contact Stuart Thomas, Peace Group Leader at (520) 722-2837 or Humanharmony2005@aol.com



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

4831 East Twenty-second Street
Tucson, AZ 85711
www.uuctucson.org
office@uuctucson.org

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Tucson, AZ
Permit No. 573

Label