



May 27, 2009

ucsonitarian

Sunday Service 10:00a.m.

The Newsletter of
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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

**We have had
over 35 new
members join
UUCT in the
past year!**

From the Minister's Study

I was surprised on a recent Saturday morning by a group of people cleaning up my neighborhood. I looked out my window, and there they were -- all of my neighbors, happily pulling weeds and picking up trash. The grown-ups, the children, even the teenagers were there. "Why didn't anyone tell ME?" Surprise turned to righteous anger, and quickly.

Then I looked at the stack of unread newsletters on my kitchen counter, all from organizations I belong to and care about. They looked back accusingly, as if saying, "We bet they *tried* to tell you."

Angry feelings subsided. Instead, I felt gratitude. After all, I was the beneficiary of my neighbors' actions. I got to enjoy a spiffed-up neighborhood. A gift.

Continued on page 2

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday May 31

A Nomination for the Greatest Unitarian Ever

Rev. Charles Gaines

Over forty-five years in our ministry, I've heard and written a number of sermons about the greatest Unitarians (and Universalists, too). I'll share with you another nomination that I or my colleagues hardly ever mention. Special cello music will be provided by Tom Clowes.

Sunday, June 7

To See Beauty, Even When It's Not Pretty

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty," wrote John Keats. Yet, the truth is sometimes not-so-pretty. How do we find beauty, even in hard truths?

Sunday, June 14

Faith of Our Fathers

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Some claim that the United States is a Christian Nation. Unitarian Universalists don't necessarily agree. What did our founding fathers believe?

Sunday, June 21

Gifts of Our Fathers

Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Student Minister & Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Father's Day is a day for honoring fathers and other male nurturers in our lives. Fathers have influenced, both positively and negatively, many aspects of our lives from our interests to our taste in music to our perception of money to the state of our environment. On Father's Day we'll consider the many gifts of our fathers.

Sunday, June 28

Eating as a Spiritual Practice

Margot W. Garcia

The saying goes that "we are what we eat." So what we eat and how we eat affect who we are as spiritual persons who are part of the interrelated web of life.

Cont. from page 1

I take one important lesson from this Saturday morning surprise, though many more are possible, like:

*we live with way too much information;
communication is a two-way street;
anger can be habitual, and not always appropriate;
gratitude feels better than anger;
you **really can** change your emotions by changing your thinking;
I'm not the center of the universe;
there are lots of good and kind people in the world.*

Here's the lesson I take, a spiritual lesson. Surprises are like grace. Unearned, but freely given, surprises shake us up, wake us up, and open our eyes to see the world differently. Moments of grace abound. Sometimes it takes a surprise to make us notice.

Yours in faith,
Diane

MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Do you need a little financial aid during these tough economic times, or do you know someone who does? Our minister, Rev. Diane, now has at her disposal, a Minister's Discretionary fund, for just that purpose.

It is funded through contributions, so it is a wonderful way to share your generosity with others while honoring or memorializing someone, or celebrating a special occasion or event in your life. If you like, the honoree of the contribution can be notified with a card.

To contribute, you need only send a check made out to UUCT, with Minister's Discretionary Fund written on the memo line. You may rest assured that it will find its way to Rev. Diane, where it will be used wisely and be deeply appreciated.

Music Notes

On Saturday evening, June 20th, at 7:30 p.m., our church is sponsoring a benefit concert for an elementary school in Caneille, Haiti. Tom Clowes has been traveling to Haiti for several summers to teach music at the Holy Trinity School. In addition to cello selections by Tom, guest Ann Weaver, the principal viola player of the Tucson Symphony, and pianist Aryo Wicaksono will be featured. Tom tells me that they will be playing Haitian classical music, some voodoo music, and some tango selections. A free will offering will be taken.

Family Singers will now be taking a summer break until rehearsals resume on Sunday, August 16th. Members of the Desert Chorale will start their summer break after singing for the worship service on June 7th. They will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 12th. This is a fitting time to thank the singers in both choral groups for their dedication and to tell them that we appreciate the beautiful music they have provided at our worship services.

Music for the service on May 31st, when Rev. Charles Gaines is our guest speaker, will be provided by Tom Clowes on the cello and Donna DeHaan at the piano.

Agnes Paulsen
Minister of Music

From the UUA

Since many at our church support No More Deaths, you will be interested in the UUA's social justice action for May.

Action of the Month

The UUA's [Crash Course](#) for **Immigrant Justice** has begun! Check out our newly updated page of [resources and activities](#), including a page on current [legislation](#). Rev. Sinkford kicked off Crash Course by testing his knowledge with the [United States citizenship test](#). Don't forget to enter the Crash Course essay contest -- [guidelines](#) have been posted and entries are due to la_racialjustice@uua.org by May 31st!

Also, find out how you can stand in solidarity with communities affected by [immigration raids](#) by commemorating last year's May 12th raid in Postville, Iowa.

Report from Financial Secretary

It is so easy to earn money for the church! The Grocery Rebate Program is, of course, the main thing that comes to mind. It was nice to deposit a check for \$75 from Basha's recently. But another check recently deposited was for \$70.30 from the Cartridge World Recycle Rewards Program. Just drop your empty ink cartridges in the box in the church office this summer and earn money for UUCT!! Thanks for all who are doing this. Also, thanks to all of you who are getting those 2008-2009 pledges paid up before June 30. Don't forget...the new fiscal year starts July 1.

Carolyn Saunders

HOW'S THIS FOR COMPARISON?

We have just received a check for a 6 month period from Albertsons in the amount of \$28.65. Now compare that to our 6 month check from Frys with a rebate of \$1948.96. What a difference!

We only have next month (June) before UUCT's year ends and as I have noted before, there really is no reason that we cannot see rebates totaling 10K or more if everyone were willing to participate. If those people who purchased a Frys card and have never added to it would do so, it would help and your participation would be appreciated. However, if there has been a 0 balance on the card for 90 days it has become inactive and a new card is necessary. (The 6 month Frys period prior to another rebate check is thru July.)

I know of 6 people who participate in our program and have no connection to UUCT. Remember, it costs nothing extra. It is amazing that people are willing to participate if it costs them nothing and they are not already participating elsewhere. Safeway is very easy for them to join. They just need a copy of the "how to join" blurb I have at the table and a club card. Anyway, any help in adding to our program is and would be appreciated. Remember, most people eat and it costs nothing.

Marjorie Smith
Grocery Rebate Program Coordinator

Membership/Community Life

by *Mary Wiese*, Membership and Community Life Administrator

Community Life and Administration:

I am often inundated with questions from many different people about the church. Often the question starts with: “**How do I...**” Therefore, I thought I would write a brief article with guidelines for some of the most common questions.

- **Question 1:** “I donated some food to the Kitchen Ministry and also gave them \$25 for upcoming events. How do I get credit for this donation?” **Answer:** Donation forms are kept in the main office on the cork bulletin board behind the lobby door. We ask that you fill in the form and then get an authorized signature. Any core staff person has authorization as does any financial officer. If you itemize your taxes, you need this form for *any* donation that is not included on your quarterly statements.
- **Question 2:** “The Book Club would like to have a potluck in a few weeks. How do we reserve a room and advertise the potluck?” **Answer:** Event information is also on a form that is located on the cork board in the main office. While this information sheet may not answer all of your questions, I bet it will answer a lot.
- **Question 3:** “Who runs the Men’s group?” **Answer:** Committee and group information is in the ‘Ministries of Our Church Brochure’. This brochure is in the church foyer. (**Please remember to let us know if contact information has changed!!*)
- **Question 4:** “I would like to donate flowers in honor of my mother for next week’s service. How do I do this?” **Answer:** Flower donation forms are kept in the office on the now infamous cork bulletin board! Instructions are included.

While this may not answer all of your questions, I hope it helps with a least a few of them!

Newcomer News:

Mini Summer Newcomer Orientation: On Sunday June 14, at 11:15, we will be holding a ‘Mini’ Newcomers Orientation. Free lunch and childcare will be provided. If you are new to the church and would like an opportunity to learn more, this is your chance. This orientation will last about an hour and provide a very brief overview of the church. To RSVP or ask questions, please contact Mary Wiese, macbrude@cox.net.

Kitchen Ministry:

Bag lunches will be available during most of the summer for purchase after church outside of the Holland Sanctuary. A minimal Coffee Hour, cookies, coffee, tea, and lemonade, will be available inside the Holland Alcove. Anyone who can help during the summer months is encouraged to do so: Kathy needs a break! Please contact Kathy McDaniel if you can lend a hand: kmcDaniel@dakotacom.net.

Yours in community spirit,
Mary

Lifespan Faith Development

Sunday Speaker: June 21

Walt Staton: Europe’s Borders: The Politics Against Refugees

While headlines about the problem rarely appear in US papers, thousands of refugees have died while crossing the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean sea seeking safety and a new life in Europe in recent years. An advanced smuggling operation puts refugees at great risk during the journey, and those who make it fall victim to political and legal systems which are organized to further the suffering.

On Sunday, June, 21, at 11:30 am, after the service, join Walt Staton for a slide show and discussion about his recent trip to Germany and Malta with several other humanitarian volunteers from Tucson. Walt visited churches that are giving sanctuary to refugees, as well as severely overcrowded detention camps where incoming refugees are imprisoned, and spoke with various officials on the issue. There will also be a report on a new international campaign, "Humanitarian Aid Is Never A Crime."

Summer Programs for Elementary & Junior Youth Begin May 31st

This summer the Religious Education Program at the UU Church of Tucson is offering a curriculum we’ve developed at UUCT called *Living the UU Principles*. This curriculum seeks to engage **elementary** kids (**entering 1st-5th grades** in the fall) in understanding what each of the seven Principles means to them and identifying one or two ways that they can live that Principle in their daily life. Jamie German, Kathleen Hogue and others will lead this program.

For youth **entering** middle school and Coming of Age (**6th-9th grades**) this summer marks the beginning of our Junior Youth Program. They’ll use a curriculum developed for this age group called *UU Traditions with a Wink*, a fun way to learn about Unitarian Universalist history and traditions. Amanda Kopplin and others will lead this group.

Younger children (0-Kindergarten) will enjoy our expanded nursery. Senior youth (10th-12th) can sign up to assist in the elementary class or the kitchen. Otherwise they are invited to enjoy the worship service with other adults. Emerson room will be closed for renovations.

Our Fall Religious Education Program for children and youth preschool through high school begins Sunday August 16th.

Menu for the Future

Coming this summer: We’ll offer an Adult Faith Development course on ethical eating and local foods facilitated by Becky Keyes and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings. Check your order of service announcements for specifics.

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

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* paper.

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

.....
: On July 5th, Karla Brockie, student minister at UU Congregation
: of NW Tucson, seminary buddy of Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings at
: Meadville Lombard Theological School, and lay chaplain at TMC
: Hospice, will preach on a subject to be revealed.....
: Agnes Paulson is leading the music.
:

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

MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION ON JUNE 7, 2009

A dedication of Golda's Peace and Memorial Garden will immediately follow our Sunday service on June 7th. Please join in the celebration and hear the history of the original garden. Fountains, flagstone walks, memorial boards and new plantings will help to make this area a wonderful retreat for thought and meditation. We hope you will attend and share in the history.

Sunday, June 14: 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 pm. Interested in performing? Call Rick Meyer at 748-2886 or just come on down.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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

