



July 1, 2009

# ucsonitarian

*The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson  
Sunday Services at 10:00a.m.*

## From the Minister's Study

Living in the desert brings a heightened awareness of water's preciousness. Without it, there is no life. Each one of us has cause to remember that water is a blessing. Every year we each gather a small amount of water to bring to church for water communion. Gathering the water is a chance to stop for a moment and feel the connection to our church community, even if you are away. It's also a chance to stop and remember the many blessings of life.

Water cleanses, refreshes, renews, quenches, cools, lubricates, soothes, and blesses our lives in many other ways. As you gather your water, pay attention to its blessings. This year's water communion will be on August 30. Our combined waters, poured together, will be like a mighty stream, rolling across the land with hope, commitment, and passion for peace and justice – blessed by life – blessed by you.

My summer schedule this year includes travels to Salt Lake City, Utah for the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, to Colorado to visit family and friends, and to the East coast, also to visit family.

I'm grateful for the many capable people who, through the summer months, keep the church doors open, a shining beacon for all who seek a community such as ours.

As I gather my water, I'll be thinking of how blessed I am by a wonderful congregation.

Blessings of the summer, Diane

## Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT:

In the past 12 months, UUCT's Share the Plate program has raised over \$2,000 for agencies serving the greater Tucson area.

## Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

### Sunday, July 5: Chaplain Stories

*Karla Brockie*

Karla Brockie, student minister at UUCNWT, works as a chaplain at TMC Hospice and she will share stories from her practice, exploring what it means to be a UU professional providing spiritual care in a multifaith setting.

### Sunday, July 12: Parts of the Bible We Do Know

*Rabbi Weizenbaum*

Rabbi Weizenbaum is a frequent and cherished speaker in our pulpit. His sermons are always amazing as he weaves biblical story, rabbinical wisdom, common sense and current events into a coherent and interesting narrative.

### Sunday, July 19: Life or Litter? The Value of People and Hope

*Walt Staton*

Hope is not for the passive observer; it is something we must actively engage in to make it real. Confronted with death, suffering and abuse caused by a system that values some people more than others, we must create hope and act on it.

### Sunday, July 26: "Will the Minister Be Speaking in the Service Today?"

*Randall Springer*

Our attitudes toward the ministry are complex and not always consistent. In this service we will explore some of the assumptions about the ministry, especially as they apply to our Sunday services, that we bring--or don't bring--on Sunday morning.

### Sunday, August 2: My Life as a Monk

*Rev. Kate Braden*

A reflection on our call to live as human beings in relationship with one another, and the standards our society puts into place around what it means to be community.

## A Message from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reports that church income was sufficient to cover expenses during the month of June. However, after paying bills and payroll last week, the checking account has dipped below a fiscally sound level and the average summer weekly deposits are not sufficient to prevent cash flow problems in July.

In order to prevent this from happening, members and friends who are able to pay their 2009-2010 pledges early are urged to do so. This will ensure that we are able to pay our bills over the summer!

Thank you to those of you that have fulfilled your 2008-2009 pledge balance. If you haven't paid the balance of that year's pledge, you may still do so until the end of July. Any payments received after July 31 will be credited to your pledge for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Because these fiscal years can be confusing, the financial secretary would like to remind you to please mark your checks as *08/09 Pledge* or *09/10 Pledge*. If you just mark it as *09 Pledge*, she has to guess or try to call you to ascertain which fiscal year you intended.

As we begin a new fiscal year, let us also remind you that the operational budget for the church is based largely on the pledges of our members and friends. These pledges are used to pay for the lights, water, air conditioning, programs and salaries of staff. So please make it a goal to keep your pledge payments up-to-date in the coming year.

However, if you experience financial difficulties, contact Rev. Diane Dowgiert or Mary Wiese to have your pledge amount adjusted in our database. We are hoping 2009-2010 will be a financially healthy year for all of us!

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## Honor UUs in the Armed Services

Not since 1942 has Unitarian Universalism provided resources to our service members or the chaplains who serve them. We are now seeking to publish a collection of materials that provides encouragement and comfort to Armed Service men and women in their times of need. Such a collection is an alternative to the usual religious literature that is readily and abundantly available to service members. Additionally, this collection would spread the word about our Unitarian Universalist values.

In order to begin publication of this handbook, the UUA was seeking to raise \$25,000 before June 30, 2009 to produce, manufacture and distribute 20,000 copies at no charge to service members, military chaplains, and military chapels.

If you would like to be a part of this project, go to <http://www.uua.org/giving/donatenow/index.shtml> and select "UU Military Handbook." Call the toll free number **1-888-792-5885** to reach a staff member at any time.

## From PSWD Express

As we celebrate the 18,000 marriages that the California Supreme Court upheld as legal in its decision released today, we know that many of these commitments were made before UU ministers and many involved members of our congregations. Yet, by upholding Proposition 8, we are greatly disappointed that the Supreme Court decided all Californians are not entitled to equal protection under the law. In a state where many vital human and civil rights have been upheld over the last half century we are saddened that our BGLT friends must continue to live in a state and country that does not recognize their rights to marry who they choose.

We encourage those members of the congregations in the PSWD who care about this issue to join in rallies and other responses to this decision. As District Staff, we pledge our support to the ongoing struggle in California, Arizona, and Nevada to keep this important issue before the legislators, voters, and courts.

*Tera Little & Ken Brown*

To read the full 185-page decision go to: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S168047.PDF](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S168047.PDF)

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## More District News

Congratulations Beth Nakao (Orange Coast UU Church) and Connie Jahrmarkt (UU Congregation of Phoenix) who were awarded the status of Credentialed Music Leader by the UUA Music Leadership Credentialing Committee (MLCC) at their May 7, 2009 meeting. Beth and Connie are among the first seven music leaders ever to be credentialed by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Beth and Connie will be recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association in the Service of the Living Tradition during General Assembly 2009 in Salt Lake City UT.

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## Youth Ministry Workshop

As part of preparation for youth groups and classes for 2009-10 for both UU congregations, Karla Brockie, Student Minister at UUCNWT, is offering a one-day workshop on ministry with youth, for designated and potential teachers and youth advisors (including Coming of Age, OWL, YRUU, and Sunday school), parents, young adults, and youth of middle or high school age. We will meet at a place to be determined from 10am to 4pm on Saturday July 18 (bring pot luck or a sack lunch).

The subjects we will explore will range from contemplation and prayer to engagement in interfaith work in the community. We will explore what it might mean to deepen the experience of ministry with youth, both for the youth, and for the adults. This will be an interactive workshop, and we will be using the ideas from these books (participants are welcome to do some reading beforehand, but it is not required).

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## Minister's Summer Schedule

**June 22-29**

Ministry Days and General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah

**June 30- August 16**

Vacation and Study Leave

In case of a pastoral emergency, contact the church office for assistance.

## Adult Faith Development

### Summer Film Series - 2009

This year the Summer Film Series will present six interesting and illuminating films on Sundays, after the service at 11:30, from July 12 through August 16. There is no charge for the films shown. A brown-bag lunch will be available for purchase for \$5 or you may bring your own.

#### **Sunday, July 12 – RELIGULOUS (Neologism of *religion* & *ridiculous*)**

Comedian and TV host Bill Maher (*Real Time with Bill Maher, Politically Incorrect*) takes a pilgrimage across the globe on a mind-opening journey into the ultimate taboo: questioning religion. Meeting the high and low from different religions, Maher simply asks questions, like “Why is faith good?” “Why doesn’t an all-powerful God speak to us directly?” and “How can otherwise rational people believe in a talking snake?” For anyone who’s even a little spiritually curious, this divine entertainment will deepen your faith--in comedy!

#### **Sunday, July 19 – THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK**

Even if you’ve seen the recent film, *Milk*, with Sean Penn, you’ll want to see the original documentary made in 1984, about San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to office in California, who was assassinated, along with Mayor George Moscone in 1978. Unlike *Milk*, the documentary includes interviews with the actual people involved in Milk’s life and takes the story through the trial of Dan White and its aftermath.

#### **Sunday, July 26 – FLOW**

The world water crisis has been identified by many as the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st century. This film builds a case against the growing privatization of the world’s dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel. But the film also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.

#### **Sunday, August 2 - CHINA BLUE**

This film was clandestinely shot in China to reveal to the world’s consumers how the clothes we buy are actually made. Following a pair of denim jeans from birth to sale, *China Blue* links the power of the U.S. consumer market to the daily lives of a Chinese factory owner and two teenaged female factory workers. Filmed both in the factory and in the workers’ faraway village, this documentary provides a rare, human glimpse at China’s rapid transformation into a free market society.

#### **Sunday, August 9 - THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN**

#### **Sunday, August 16 – THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH**

(Movie descriptions for these final two films will be in 8/5 Tucsonitarian)

### Exploring Spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist

Exploring Spirituality will be taking a hiatus for the summer months. We’ll return in September, refreshed, with new discussions. For further information please email [mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org](mailto:mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org).

### Menu for the Future

James Beard has written: “*Food is our common ground, our universal experience.*” To further explore this idea, UUCT is offering a new six-week class, **Menu for the Future**. Facilitated by Becky Keyes and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, the class will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Awareness Room, beginning **July 13** and running through **August 17**.

Participants will explore the connection between food and sustainability by:

Examining food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems.

Gaining insight into agricultural and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well-being.

Considering our own role in creating or supporting sustainable food systems.

There is no fee for the class, but each participant is responsible for purchasing the text to be used, and the cost of that is \$25. Books must be ordered in advance, so sign up as soon as possible at the AFD table at the rear of the sanctuary after the service or by emailing [mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org](mailto:mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org) or by calling him at 326-8831. **The deadline to sign up and pay for the book is July 5, 2009 so please act promptly.**

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## Music Notes

### Resting Our Voices

The choirs are now taking a break, avoiding the heat, and enjoying our summer hiatus. We return in August and are looking forward to a great new year.

Over the summer, I’ll be traveling to Portland, Oregon to attend the Unitarian Universalist Musician’s Network conference. This nearly week long event will allow me the opportunity to work with other musicians from across the country and compare notes. One of the features of the conference that I’m most looking forward to is the daily sight reading sessions. Each day every person in attendance will receive a packet of new music that will be run through during an hour. I’ll get a chance to hear, sing, and read through many new anthems to help decide how best to spend our limited sheet music budget next year. I’m hoping to find some real gems. The other activities will range from the practical (rehearsal techniques and hymn singing), the intellectual (arranging music for choirs), and the spiritual (using music to help create transformative worship experiences). I look forward to telling you about all I learn in the Fall.

Peace and Harmony,

Brian Moon  
Music Director

Cont.

### Concert and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at CDO Baptist Church 9200 N. Oracle Rd.

What could be better during Tucson’s toasty summer months than a Dustin Jones classical guitar concert and an ice cream social?? And you can feel good about attending, because all non-perishable food or cash donations for this free event will go to stock the shelves at Interfaith Community Services Food Bank. UUCT is now a partner with other faith communities in this great organization. So come on out and support!

For more details call: Karen Mac Donald at 297-2738 ext. 221 or Monnie Applegate at 297-2738 ext. 222

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### UUCT Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Thursday July 16, at 7pm in Awareness. All are welcome to attend. We will be reviewing “Paris to the Moon” by Adam Gopnik. Gopnik, his wife and infant son move to Paris from New York City and set out to enjoy the storied existence of “An American in Paris.” *Barbara Tegethoff*

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### O.K. - Time To Get Serious!!

June was our last month in the UUCT 2008 - 2009 year to bring up our annual rebate for Basha's, AJs, Food City and Safeway. However, we still have the month of July before our next 6 month rebate from Frys. Now is the time to add whatever you can to boost that rebate. I hate to be redundant but every bit helps! *Marj Smith*

### Artist of the Month Gallery

Travel to distant lands or find surprise around the corner. The Gallery's summer exhibit features the work of UU photographers. Take advantage of this opportunity to view the world through the lens of our fellow congregants. Browse and buy. A portion of the sales price goes to the church.

*Abby Root*

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### A celebration of VUUrse!

**UUCT Poets:** Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Annual Poetry Service. If you would like to read from your work that day, please send up to 3 poems to Bill Keyes at 4034 E. Hayne St., Tucson, AZ 85711 or email to [bbkeyes@dakotacom.net](mailto:bbkeyes@dakotacom.net). The deadline for submissions is Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. As always, we will fit in as many poets as possible. And thank you for honoring us with your writing!

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### Second Sunday Songfest Jam

Sunday, July 12: Second Sunday Songfest Jam will have a new format - and location. We sit in a circle and take turns choosing songs (folk, rock, western, popular, children's and originals). Bring snacks/beverages and your voice to share. Awareness room, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Rick Meyer, 748-2886



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

4831 East Twenty-second Street  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
[www.uuctucson.org](http://www.uuctucson.org)  
[office@uuctucson.org](mailto:office@uuctucson.org)

