



August 5, 2009

ucsonitarian

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

From the Minister's Study

A wise person once noted that the purpose of religion is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Oh how I hate it when the latter is true!

My religion, our religion, teaches that every person has inherent worth and dignity -- a comforting thought under the weight of my own imperfection, a balm for the fragile ache of my brokenness. Somewhere in me there is an inherent okay-ness, in spite of my shortcomings.

Those times, late at night, when I lie awake, wondering at my place in the grand scheme of things, I am comforted knowing there is an ultimate source of life from which I can never be severed. Call it love, call it life, call it god -- there is something larger than me that holds and embraces me through good times and bad. My soul is comforted by these fundamental teachings of my religion, our religion.

There are those times, too, when I lie awake at night with a prickly conscience, afflicted with the knowledge that hatred, violence, and oppression are active in the world, forces that work against human worth and dignity. When I consider my own place of privilege, and how, in the grand scheme of things, I have done precious little to earn it, my air-conditioned house and soft bed are not comfort enough. I know too much. Just beyond the climate-controlled envelope of my peaceful home, there are people who ache with hunger and quest for a better life with a thirst that will never be quenched. The still, small voice within me says, "There but for the grace of god go I."

Somewhere between comfort and affliction, there is another way. Comfort can become an end in itself, seductive and suffocating, like a feather bed in serious need of a forceful shaking out. Affliction, on the other hand, can be painful and immobilizing, like salt rubbed in a wound that will not heal.

A prickly conscience can be a catalyst to action. Comforts, large and small, can be embraced and celebrated with large doses of gratitude and humility. Taken together, comfort and affliction make for a life of purpose and meaning.

May it be so because we make it so,
Diane

Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT: The Church has had a fantastic array of incredible Sunday Speakers this summer.

And the music has been outstanding as well!

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 9 *Rev. Sandy Szelag*

"Who Knows What Will Come To You?"

In her memoir *Moments of Being*, Virginia Woolf writes about special moments when what she calls the "cotton wool of daily existence" falls away and something astonishing shines through the ordinary. Who knows what will come to you if you turn your light sensor on?

Sunday, August 16 *Bill Keyes*

Poetry Sunday

The poets of UUCT will honor you with readings of their original works. Their personal insights into life are always inspiring and thought provoking.

Sunday, August 23 *Rev. Diane Dowgiert*

One Family

The study of human DNA reveals an engaging story of how humans have populated the earth. Within the story are some truths. We have one common ancestor. We share one home. We are one family.

Sunday, August 30 *Extended Family Worship led by Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings*

The Water That Blesses

Living in the desert we are constantly reminded that water is precious; truly a blessing. During this year's Water Communion ceremony, we will name and celebrate the many ways we are blessed by water.

Interfaith Community Services News

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) is supported by 48 different faith communities in Tucson, including UUCT.

ICS (www.icstucson.org) helps seniors, disabled individuals and families in financial crisis achieve stable and independent lives. How can ICS do this?? Because over 600 people volunteer! This has allowed ICS to serve 24,000 individuals so far this year.

ICS Programs include: a food bank, emergency assistance, care giving services, mobile meals and health advocacy. If you would like to volunteer, here are some opportunities. Anything you choose will be arranged according to your schedule and availability. Training will be provided. Call 297-6049 for questions, assistance or to sign up!

Services Available for homebound neighbors: Do you or someone you know need assistance getting to medical appointments or going grocery shopping? Call ICS for information on receiving these services or others, like friendly visiting/phoning, minor home repairs, and daily reassurance calls.

Volunteer Needs

Help people get a new lease on life: ICS' east side office provides emergency financial assistance to people working to get back on their feet. Volunteers are urgently needed to answer the phone and do preliminary phone intakes with prospective clients. Open shifts are Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Terri Patt-Smith at 297-6049.

Volunteer Drivers: Make a difference for seniors in our community. As a volunteer driver, you would take recipients to and from medical appointments or grocery shopping. Areas that need coverage include: east of I-10 and south of River and also east of Alvernon. ICS offers mileage reimbursement (55 cents/mile) to these volunteers.

We want to congratulate the Rev. Peter Morales, who was elected president of the UUA at General Assembly in June!!

What is a sabbatical?

The contract between our congregation and its ministers or its professional religious educators includes the provision for a sabbatical. The sabbatical usually is a time for refreshment or further training, usually taken after five to seven years of service and grants one month of compensated leave time (not vacation) for each year of service.

The sabbatical is an opportunity for renewal and spiritual regeneration—a change from the daily routine of concentration on work with the congregation.

A special committee is appointed to help the minister/religious educator plan for the sabbatical period, which should begin and end with a formal celebration of some kind. The committee helps to decide how the functions of the position should be covered in the minister's/religious educator's absence and at its conclusion to help evaluate the process and its results.

Joyce Hardin, on behalf of the Sabbatical Committee

Adult Mountain Retreat

The UU-oriented nonprofit Pacific SouthWest Institute of Religious Liberals (PSWIRL) welcomes you to their annual adult event at beautiful Camp deBenneville Pines in Angelus Oaks, California. Relax, swim, or take part in a wide variety of workshops and activities -- it's up to you! The 2009 PSWIRL Week is from Sunday, August 23 through Friday, August 28.

The Theme Speaker is Rev. Jim VanderWeele, Minister of the Community Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans and the theme is "The Secret Working Together in Time of Crisis".

DeBenneville is owned and operated by the Unitarian Universalist Pacific Southwest District. It is at 6800 feet altitude in the San Bernardino National Forest among towering pines, oaks and cedars with a creek nearby, and Jenks Lake within walking distance. It has an Olympic-size swimming pool and a large hot tub. A field trip to Big Bear Lake Solar Observatory is offered.

In 2009, per person costs range from \$335 to \$450 depending on the type of accommodation you select, and includes all meals and a rich selection of workshops for the week. Please ask about partial scholarships.

More information is available at <http://pswirl.org/Flyers/PSWIRL2009.htm>. Information about Camp deBenneville Pines is available at <http://www.uucamp.org>. Alternatively, for registration information, contact Marcia Taylor at marsha@pngusa.net or 909-597-1037.

Join us in our beautiful mountain camp as we welcome newcomers and greet old friends! Experience for yourself the varied offerings of PSWIRL week.

Now Focus, Focus, Focus!!

Ye Olde Safeway Participants: There has been a very high volume of purchases this year. While we are grateful for the Safeway rebates (which are only at a 6.9%-- point 69), if that same number of purchases were based on Frys or Sunflower rates (5%), instead of a little over \$700 for the year, we would be receiving over \$5000. At Basha's rate (6%) it would be over \$6000. Amazing!!

However, beginning on August 12, Safeway is starting their "Back To School" program which offers a rebate of 10% on items identified by a yellow tab with a school bus in the background. So if you would, please keep an eye out for these items. This program will last until September 15.

Basha's has assured me that they will continue the 6% rebate even though they have filed for Chapter 11.

Whole Foods Enthusiasts: Whole Foods does offer a program with a 5% rebate. It is necessary to purchase gift cards in the amounts of \$50 or \$100. I am willing to become involved if there are enough people who may be interested in these purchases. Please let me know.

Year End: I will publish a rebate report for the 2008-2009 year as soon as I have the facts.

Again, many thanks for your support over the past year.

Marj Smith - Grocery Coordinator

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Summer Film Series - 2009

The AFD Summer Film Series is halfway through its schedule for this year. We have three more interesting and illuminating films to present on Sundays, after the service at 11:30. There is no charge for the film. A brown-bag lunch will be available for purchase for \$5 or you may bring your own.

Sunday, August 9 - THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN

With the death of his father during the late 60s, a teenaged John Peterson took over a traditional family farm, slowly turning it into an experiment of art and agriculture, making it a haven for hippies, radicals and artists. The film, shot over a 25-year period, charts both the end of this idealistic era as the farm debt crisis of the 80's brought about the tragic collapse of the farm and then its surprising rebirth a beacon of today's booming organic farming movement.

Sunday, August 16 – THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

And finally, something completely different: a film of the 1983 PBS production of Thornton Wilder's 1943 play, *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Wilder mixes the most ancient of characters (Adam, Eve, Cain, and Lilith) with a 1940s "average" family, Mr. and Mrs. Antrobus (from the Greek for *person* or *human*), their children, and their maid--who just happen to keep a mammoth and a dinosaur as pets, and experience an ice age, a flood, and a major war. Although quite different from Wilder's earlier *Our Town*, this play uses a similar theatrical convention: having its characters directly address the audience. The play is surprisingly modern, and some think that incidents in the play foreshadow such concepts and events as global warming, the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, and Columbine.

RE Program Needs!!

The Religious Education Program will be using a new curriculum for children in our 1st-3rd grades Primary class for the 2009-2010 year titled Picture Book UU and Picture Book World Religions. The Curriculum was written by Kate Tweedie Erslev. You can see her web site at www.uure.com/picturebooksWR.html.

Picture Book World Religions is an introduction to Hindu, Islamic, and Buddhist faiths. Sessions are designed for 15 engaging picture books. Picture Book UU is all about U.U. Identity. It implements fun, friendly and concise lessons that are based on the 36 best picture books for teaching young children about our faith.

You can help make this program a success! We have set up an account at Amazon.com where you may purchase the picture books needed. To donate books go to amazon.com, click on gifts and wish lists at the top of the page. On the right side of the page in the field that reads "Search Wish Lists and Registries" type in UUCT Religious Education. Next, simply purchase the book(s) you choose and they will be sent to us here at church. For more information please contact Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org.

Music Notes

Family Singers will start up on Sunday morning, August 16th, at 9:00 in Awareness Room. We are planning to sing *Riversong* for Water Sunday on August 30th. Since some of our members have sung this anthem in the past, I am inviting any and all of you to come sing with us. We will have electronic piano, flute, violin, guitar, and drum accompaniment and I promise you it will be a fun anthem. I hope newcomers will join as well and I look forward to seeing all of you who were singing with us last year. We need each and everyone. I have CDs available of *Riversong* for singers who wish to get a head start on learning the anthem. Just give me a call.

Brian Moon tells me that he is starting up rehearsals with Desert Chorale on Wednesday, August 12th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. He extends an invitation to current members and new singers to join.

Colin Shepard, who is attending the PSU School of Music in Portland, Oregon, presented a wonderful piano recital on Sunday afternoon, July 26th. Colin writes: "I started attending UUCT in middle school when my parents decided that such a community was in our best interest. And indeed it was – the warmth and acceptance was immediately felt and as I eventually grew up around such intellectual and loving people, I was also given my first, and most special opportunities to express my burgeoning love of the piano."

I want to thank all of the musicians who have enhanced our summer Sunday morning worship from June 14th through August 2nd as well as those who are preparing to do so on August 9th and 16th: Maggie Thompson, Tom Clowes, Sheryl Holland, Sylvia Hamilton, Liz Ricketts, Shannon Kimmel, Carolyn Cooper, Bob Fitzsimmons, Bill Gray, Ann Kozachik, Brian Moon, Linda Selsor, Helen Koenig, Randy Springer, Jim Periale, Kay Pool, Celeste Rogers, Kimberly Kozachik, Blair Keyes, Anne Jones, Colin Shepard. Last of all, I appreciate that Carol Brubaker substituted for me when I was in Salt Lake City at General Assembly and visiting my son and family.

Agnes Paulsen
Minister of Music
Phone: 326-8259

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Registration Information RE Classes Begin Aug. 16th at 10 a.m.!

Registration for Religious Education is now taking place. Forms are available at the Religious Education table at the back of Holland after the service and may also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.uuctucson.org>.

At the website, click on Faith Development along the top and choose Children and Youth. Then click on Religious Education Forms in the list at the bottom of the page. You'll find the Religious Education Registration Form for 2009-2010 there.

Leave the completed form with Kathleen Hogue or a volunteer at the RE table in Holland after the service or put it in Kathleen's mailbox in the office.

Music for the Soul

What: Musical Celebration of the Feast of St. Mary
Where: St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Parish (Wilmot and 5th)
When: Sat. August 15 at 6:00 PM
Why: Concert will benefit Interfaith Community Services, of which UUCT is a member
Bonus: Wine and cheese served

Sweet Tomatoes FUN RAISER

Save the date: Monday, Sept. 21 from 5-8PM, at Sweet Tomatoes Broadway and Wilmot
Why? UUCT will make 15% of total dinner sales generated by members and friends. Such a deal!! You can enjoy Sweet Tomatoes healthy variety of salads and soups, **and** UUCT makes money!
What's the catch? None! Bring the flyer, which will be handed out at UUCT, purchase a meal and a beverage, and UUCT makes money!
Even better: Give flyers to your friends so they can join you for dinner, and UUCT will make even more money!!

Second Sunday Songfest Jam

Second Sunday Songfest for August will not be held due to travel plans. It is expected to start up again in September. An announcement will be placed in the September Newsletter as a reminder of the next event. For more info call Rick Meyer, 748-2886.

Minister's Summer Schedule

June 30- August 16 Vacation and Study Leave
In case of a pastoral emergency, contact the church office.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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

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 lenses of our fellow congregants. Browse and buy. A portion of the sales price goes to the church. *Abby Root*

Remember to gather a small amount of water from your summer activities to bring to church on August 30 for our annual Water Communion ceremony. As you gather your water, think about how the water blesses you and what blessings you would like to bring back to our church community.

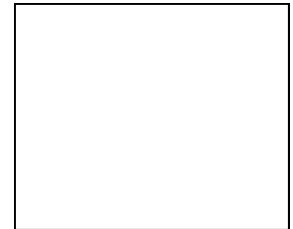
Calling all UUs!

SAWUURA, Sierra Ancha Wilderness Unitarian Universalist Religious Association, has had the kitchen area washed out by a flood! With only a few weeks until the Labor Day Family Camp, we're inviting folks to come up and help repair things on August 15th. www.sawuura.org

RE Class Schedule

Sunday, August 16, at 10:00 am

Nursery (under 3 years of age)	Ballou Room
Spirit Play (3 years – kindergarten)	Servetus Room
UU Community (first grade – middle school)	Awareness Room
Coming of Age (eighth – ninth grades)	Emerson 1 Room
YRUU (high school)	Emerson 2 Room



Label

