



September 2, 2009

ucsonitarian

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

Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT:

Thanks to Cliff Smith, the church now has two classrooms where there was only one. We now have two Emerson rooms!!

See the article on page 3.

Enhancing Our Share-the-Plate Program

This coming year, we'll be enhancing our Share-the-Plate program to make it more relevant and more participatory and to encourage everyone in the congregation to put their own faith into action in several different ways.

As in the past, on the fourth Sunday of each month, half of the non-pledge money collected during the offering will go to a non-profit, social service organization in the Tucson area. A complete list will be published in the next Newsletter.

The enhancements to the collection are two. First, on the Sunday preceding it, we'll have a representative of the organization as our Sunday Speaker after church to help us learn more about the goals of the organization, the benefits it provides to our community, and the opportunities available to support it for those interested in the work it does.

Second, when possible, we'll organize intergenerational volunteer opportunities for members and families on a one-time basis, either here at the church or at the organization's headquarters, similar to the work we've done in the past by packing boxes at the Community Food Bank or preparing packets of needed supplies for No More Deaths.

More details will follow in the next *Tucsonitarian*.

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Dr. Ed Savard

To Whom It May Concern: A Sermon on Prayer

September 13

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Free Pulpit, Free Pew

Freedom of the pulpit is a cherished tradition in Unitarian Universalism, arising out of our roots in the left wing of the Reformation. There is a reciprocal freedom involved: freedom of the pew. Ideas freely expressed from the pulpit are freely examined from the pew. The result, ideally, is the cultivation of deep, respectful, ongoing conversations about matters of importance.

September 20

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Wise Restraints That Set Us Free

There's a paradox to spiritual practices. Voluntary submission to the restraints of disciplined practice leads to greater spiritual freedom. The rigors of disciplined practice can be humbling. Pretensions and illusions of control fall away, often liberating us from our own false beliefs, ill-conceived notions, and unchallenged assumptions.

September 27

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Class Matters

In a world increasingly divided into "haves" and "have-nots", what is the role of liberal religion in addressing gross inequities? Can our congregations model a way of being in community that truly welcomes and includes people of differing class backgrounds? If we did, what might change?

President Morales Speaks Out on Immigration Reform

In the first major justice-related action of his presidency, Rev. Peter Morales traveled to Washington, DC, to take part in an interfaith messaging training and lobby day in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The day's events were organized by several groups from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, of which the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is an active member.

For more information on the interfaith coalition go to their web page at www.interfaithimmigration.org. To check out UU resources go to the UUA site at www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/immigration/welcoming.pdf

Fear and Loathing in the USA A Healthcare Pastoral Letter

Rev. Ken Brown, District Executive

Okay, so I borrowed the first part of the title to this letter but it describes what I feel has been happening over the summer. I have been a bit depressed during the confirmation hearings for Justice Sotomayor and during the debate over health care reform.

My conclusion is that racism and classism are still strong in this country. In my opinion the declarations of "reverse racism" and the calls to "give me back my country" are based on the fear of change, the loathing by many white folks of people of color in key leadership positions is at the core of these declarations.

These debates go to the heart of how we will define the future of this nation. Do we want a nation that continues to divide people by race, ethnicity, and class? Or do we want a nation where we truly support "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" for all. The sad fact is the racial posturing has prevented us from being able to discuss the real issues that would help this nation live up to its potential.

One of those key issues is covering all our citizens with adequate health care. It should be a no-brainer. While I am clear that there is not a unanimous opinion about health care within our Unitarian Universalist congregations, we will never agree on every aspect of health care reform; yet it is important that our voices be heard in ways that will truly impact the end result. I believe, that in the wealthiest nation in the world, there is no excuse for health care not being available to everyone. It is a moral imperative!

The day I am writing this letter I was on a conference call for interfaith leaders. President Barack Obama shared his perspective with us, and he stated "These struggles always boil down to a contest between hope and fear." I believe that our UU tradition calls us move beyond fear and loathing to hope for the future. It is time to focus on our UU traditional commitment to justice and equality.

Santa Fe Here We Come!

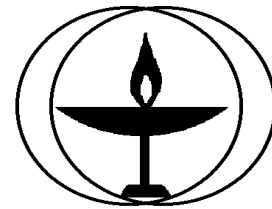
Did you know Santa Fe will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2010? This city's natural beauty captivates and inspires all who live and visit there. Its cultural heritage was honored in 2005 when it became the first American city in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Now you have a chance to explore this priceless landmark that is America's oldest capital city with a group of friends from UUCT. Our week-long trip, November 11-17, will give you the opportunity to explore the city's many treasures including gardens, museums, art galleries, and Taos pueblo.

Accommodations will be at the Santa Fe Sage Inn, a favorite Santa Fe hotel located 6 blocks from the Historic Plaza and directly across from the Santa Fe Railyard Park. Restaurants, galleries and shops are all within walking distance. For more information on the hotel, check the website at www.santafesageinn.com.

The tour price is \$799 for a double room or \$999 for a single. Rooms are all on the first floor with two queen beds. The price includes a healthy start breakfast at the hotel, as well as transportation, entrance to the various museums listed on the itinerary and a tax-deductible donation to UUCT.

Visit the UUCT website--www.uuctucson.org--for an updated itinerary and registration form. Forms are also available in the church office. Mail your registration form and a \$300 deposit to the church as soon as possible (4831 E. 22nd St., Tucson 85711). The final payment is due no later than October 1.



Luunitarian Weekend

The Luunitarian Weekend in Rocky Point with UUs from our other cluster churches will be Oct. 2,3 and 4, 2009. This tradition of camping at a KOA style campground, with hot water showers and hook-ups, on the beach has been a very special pilgrimage for many since the 70s. Playa Bonita Resort also has 2 hotels. Call Curtiss Manker – Seale at 520-982-3984 or curtissimo@mac.com ASAP for further information, reservations and details. He will reserve sites Monday, Aug. 31st.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Religious Education

Two New Classrooms

We offer a special great big “Thank You” to Cliff Smith who, over the summer, planned and built two classrooms out of what was formerly only one. Cliff divided the Emerson Room in Goddard Hall, making it into two badly needed spaces since this year we’ll be having both YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) for our high school youth and a Coming of Age class for eighth- and ninth-graders. The rooms are now ready for use, and during the year the Coming of Age class will decide on a new name for its room which is temporarily being called Emerson 2. Thanks again, Cliff!

New Adult Faith Development Classes

Voluntary Simplicity

The economic recession, while not good for our pocketbooks, actually presents an opportunity to examine our relationship to money and to the environment.

In that vein, the Green Group and Adult Faith Development together are presenting a course called Voluntary Simplicity. It is a five-week discussion group where participants will explore what it means to live a simpler life, the place material possessions play in our lives, how we resolve the conflict between our desire for money and our desire for a more enjoyable life, finding the time to slow down, the effect our material consumption has on the environment, and what do we really need to live a satisfying life.

Participants will be helped to develop a personal Action Plan to integrate simplicity into their lives. The group will meet for five consecutive Mondays beginning October 5 at 7:00 p.m. and will be co-facilitated by Julie Larsen and Chris Wallace. Cost of the book for the class is only \$25.

Our American Roots

This fall, for the first time in three years, we’ll be offering Our American Roots: Unitarian Universalism in North America. This history of the Unitarian and Universalist movements in America examines the large part they played in the formation of our democracy and in the 19th century transcendental movement.

The class uses professionally produced video clips, group discussion, and interactive experiences to help participants develop a better understanding of how Universalist and Unitarian ideas evolved and to deepen our appreciation of our fascinating and relevant religion.

Co-facilitated by Margot Garcia and Randy Springer, Our American Roots will meet on Wednesday evenings from October 7 through November 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The fee for the seven sessions is only \$25, and scholarships are always available.

More information and sign-up sheets for both of the above classes can be found at the AFD table at the rear of the sanctuary after the services or you can email Mike Greenbaum at mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Submitted by Mary Wiese,

Membership and Community Life Administrator

Newcomer News:

Newcomers, Save these dates:

Newcomers Potluck: If you are new to the church but have not had an opportunity to attend a Newcomers Potluck Dinner, now is your chance! Many new members have enjoyed these the last few years and some are quoted with saying, “The Newcomers Potluck is what made me join the church!” The Potlucks are a casual, intimate opportunity to get to know a few members of the congregation. They are held at a members home and a few newcomers and a few members are invited to get to know one another. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, September 13. Please contact Julia Mehrer for more information: perujourney@gainbroadband.com. Or 762-4035.

Newcomers Orientation:— The first newcomers Orientation of the year will be held on Sunday, September 20, after service. A free lunch and childcare will be provided. The Newcomers Orientations are designed to give newcomers an introduction to our history, theology, programs, committees. Participation in an orientation is a requirement for membership. Please contact Mary Wiese to RSVP or if you have questions: mwiese@uuctucson.org , 349-4521.

New Member Classes – After you have completed the Pathway to Membership, you are welcomed, and encouraged, to become a member. Becoming a member is a personal decision that requires some commitment. If you are ready, there will be a New Member classes held in the Ministers office on the first Wednesday of the month beginning October 7, at 6:30 p.m. or after church beginning Sunday, October 11. Please contact Mary Wiese to RSVP or if you have questions: mwiese@uuctucson.org , 349-4521.

Kitchen Ministry:

We need help in the kitchen, especially with Coffee Hour. Please contact Kathy McDaniel if you can lend a hand: kmcdaniel@dakotacom.net. or Mary Wiese, mwiese@uuctucson.org.

Yours in community spirit,
Mary

Religious Education Fun Family Potluck

This event will be held on Friday, September 11 beginning at 6:30 in Goddard Hall. Come enjoy a time of fellowship with other UU families and volunteer teachers. You will also get to hear what is going on in RE this year. We will be having dinner and desert and be playing games as well. Please bring a dish to share. For more info, please contact Becky Keyes at: becky.k@mountainviewtours.com

UUCT Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Thursday Sept. 17, 2009 at 7pm. We will be reviewing ""The Omnivore's Dilemma" a natural history of four Meals by Michael Pollen. All are welcome.

Second Sunday Songfest Jam

Sunday, September 13: Second Sunday Songfest continues with live music (folk, rock, western, popular, children's and originals) and socializing. Bring snacks/beverages to share. Awareness room, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. For more info call Brian Moon at 529-2035 or just come on down.

Artist of the Month Gallery

Celebrate a new season with "The Colors of Tucson," art by members of ACT, Artists Connection Tucson. The exhibit continues through October 4th.

Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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