



September 16, 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:

New AFD classes and Covenant Circles 2.0 beginning soon. See inside for details.

The Grocery Rebate Program earned \$5,562.35 for the 08-09 fiscal year!! Thanks to all of you who participated and especially to Marj Smith, who worked tirelessly to have that happen.

From the Minister

As health care debates rage around us, I ask, “What do we bring to the table as Unitarian Universalists?” Our history is full with those who championed health care reform in their time – from Benjamin Rush who pioneered the study and treatment of mental illness – to Clara Barton who helped found the American Red Cross – to Henry Whitney Bellows, president of the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War, whose work provided adequate sewage treatment and clean drinking water – to Linus Pauling, who discovered the health benefits of Vitamin C. Today, we teach *Our Whole Lives: Comprehensive Sexuality Education*, teaching healthy sexuality, including factual, age-appropriate information about the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and prevention of unwanted pregnancy.

A deep chord of emotion has been unleashed in the American people. It’s hard to know how much is really about reforming our system of health care delivery and how much is about something else. When details of rational plans backed by rational arguments are met with accusations of diabolical ulterior motives like “death panels” deciding who will live and who will die, maybe the emotional backlash is about something else.

I believe that “something else” is a fundamental erosion of trust. How easy it is to cast doubt, raise suspicion, and fuel fear. These are the messages that capture our attention and linger in our psyches, true or not. Mistrust carries a high spiritual price tag. It keeps us held in the bondage of fear.

Our religious heritage promises something more: the freedom to be vulnerable and take risks, knowing that our lives have value beyond narrow self-interest. The words of a beloved hymn come to mind: “Teach us how to trust each other, how to use for good our power.”

What UU’s bring to the table of the health care debate is a long tradition of promoting health and well-being for all. Fruitful debate happens best within an atmosphere of trust. Let us begin by fostering an atmosphere of trust here within our own community and letting it ripple out into the wider world.

Yours in trust,
Diane

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

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?

From the Finance Committee

Remember that cash flow problem the Finance Committee was concerned about over the summer? Well, thanks to all of you it didn't happen. But now income has slowed down, and we are faced with a fall cash flow problem. So keep those pledges and contributions coming in--the bills for the operations of the church continue to come in!

New PSWD Board Convenes

by Carolyn Saunders

The new Board of Trustees for the Pacific Southwest District held its first meeting Aug 28-30 in Palm Springs, California. It was an extremely productive and worthwhile weekend, as we got to know each other, learned about our diverse leadership styles, and set up an agenda for the work we want to do in the coming year. We also began a study of Unitarian Universalism in a Multiracial, Multicultural World, a study we plan to continue throughout the year and share with all the congregations in the district.

Geographically, we have a very evenly balanced board with 4 members from Arizona, 4 from California and one from the one congregation in Nevada. So we hope to be able to address the concerns and issues of all our member congregations. The mission of the PSWD is to proclaim the positive faith of liberal religion by promoting the Principles and Purposes of the UU Association, serving as a resource for local congregations and helping to extend influence in the larger community.

In order to achieve this mission, the PSWD Board, operating under policy governance, has established these ends:

- A. Ever-growing congregations are meeting the spiritual and social needs in the congregation and larger community.
- B. Congregations are generous and financially stable.
- C. Congregations are served by responsive, inspired, effective and visionary leadership grounded in UU tradition.

The PSWD Board members are dedicated to seeing these ends realized. I would welcome your comments or questions as your representative on this Board.

Results of 2008-2009 Grocery Rebate Program!

Thanks to all of you, our annual rebate total for the Grocery Program is \$5,562.35 from the following stores: (5%) Frys \$3,493.46, (6%) Basha's \$823.89, (.69%) Safeway \$764.37, (5%) Sunflower \$423.75 and Albertsons \$56.88. This is \$3,288.29 more than the 2007-08 year. Great work!! Thanks for your efforts.

Maybe we can make the 2009-10 year even better. I'm willing. If there is anyone out there who eats and has not yet become involved, I am usually available after services at the Grocery Rebate Table. It costs you nothing extra when purchasing your groceries and if we all were involved, we could contribute so much more at no cost to any of us!

Marj Smith, Grocery Program Coordinator

November 11 may seem like a date far in the future, but it's really just around the corner. That is the day a group of us from UUCT, UUCNWT, and at least 2 UUs from California will be heading for Santa Fe, the spiritual center of the Southwest. You don't want to miss the bus!

Itineraries and registration forms are available online at uuctucson.org, in the office, or at the ToUUr Table on Sundays.

The 7-day trip cost \$799 per person for a double, \$725 for a triple or \$999 for a private room. All registrations must be in by Oct. 1.

Contact Carolyn Saunders c_saunders1@msn.com or Julia Mehrer, perujourney@gainbroadband.com for more info.

WHERE ARE WE GOING? UUCT STRATEGIC PLANNING

What will UUCT accomplish over the next several years? To achieve our dreams we need to articulate our vision for the future and outline how we are going to get there. Now is the time to formulate a new road map to guide UUCT over the next several years. If you have ideas about where you think we should go, your Board of Trustees wants to hear those dreams – even if you have no idea how we might achieve them. And if you have an interest in creating our new vision, we invite you to join this process. Watch for additional opportunities to participate in planning over the upcoming months as well as updates on the development of a new Strategic Plan. Talk to any Board member to get more information. Let the journey continue!

In faith,
UUCT Board of Trustees

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Covenant Circles 2.0

UUCT's Covenant Circles will resume beginning in October and sign-ups will begin on September 20.

Covenant Circles are UUCT's form of small-group ministry, providing a place where groups of up to ten people and two co-facilitators meet once a month for two hours in an intentional way to deepen spirituality and to get to know one another. Using the skills of deep listening and deep sharing, they reflect together on topics and questions of a spiritual nature.

This year Covenant Circles will have a couple of exciting changes--our reason for calling them 2.0.

First, a handout about each month's topic will be provided in advance to participants and will also be available on the UUCT web page. The packet will include essays, readings, and comments on the topic--although not the actual questions to be discussed during the meetings. Second, there will be fewer questions and increased opportunities to share more deeply on any of the questions discussed, to share reactions to the readings provided in advance, and to reflect from one's personal viewpoint on what others in the group have shared. These changes will provide a more interactive feel to the Covenant Circle experience while still adhering to the format of deep listening with equal sharing of time without interruptions or cross-talk.

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Submitted by Mary Wiese,

Membership and Community Life Administrator

Newcomers Reminders :

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. Participation in an orientation is a requirement for membership. Please contact Mary Wiese to RSVP or if you have questions: mwiese@uuctucson.org.

New Member Class – After you have completed the Pathway to Membership, you are welcomed, and encouraged, to become a member. There will be a New Member class 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: mwiese@uuctucson.org.

Newcomers Potluck - The next Newcomer Potluck will be held on Sunday, October 11. Please contact Julia Mehrer for more details: perujourney@gainbroadband.com.

Interweave News:

Interweave is a social action group that is dedicated to affirming gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgendered people in our congregation and in our community. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please join us for an evening of discussion, ideas, and information on Tuesday October 6 at 6:30 P.M. in the Awareness room. Drop by the Interweave information table on Sunday after church. For more information please contact Mary Wiese: mwiese@uuctucson.org, or Jeanna Jones 891-8296.

Help Wanted:

Times are tough. Staff has been cut back and money is short; Therefore, we need your help! Below are just a few of the items that the church could use help with:

Do you have art or computer graphic skills? We need someone who is willing to design a map of the church that shows where all of the fire extinguishers and alarms are installed. Jesus Carrillo, our custodian, knows where all of the extinguishers and alarms are located. This person will work with Jesus. Please contact Mary Wiese: mwiese@uuctucson.org, if you can help.

Are you a handyman/woman? There are several minor repairs around church that need tending to. (Have you notice the changing table that is falling apart in the handicapped bathroom in Goddard?) If you have some spare time and the skill, please contact Mickey Dowling: mdowling4@cox.net.

Can you spare about 20 minutes before the service or sometime after the service on Sundays? The kitchen crew really needs help with Coffee Hour and clean-up. In the past, we have had the money to hire extra help for cleaning. Since funds are tight now, volunteers would really be appreciated. Please contact Kathy McDaniel: kmcdaniel@dakotacom.net.

Sunday Sept. 27th will be Share the Plate Sunday
and proceeds will go to **Casa de los Ninos.**

There will be a speaker from Casa de los Ninos after the service the Sunday before (Sept. 20th) to share information from this long time Tucson agency.

New Adult Faith Development Classes

Three new Adult Faith Development classes will begin this fall. For details, visit the AFD table in Goddard after services, check out uuctucson.org, or email mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org or call 326-8831.

Yoga: A Beginning Class will help you to become more centered and peaceful as you develop a new relationship with your body, mind, and spirit. The class is suitable for high school youth and for adults of ALL ages and mobility ranges. No previous experience with Yoga is needed.

Mon. Oct. 5- Nov.9, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Awareness Room \$60
Cheryl Lilian, certified Yoga instructor

Voluntary Simplicity is a weekly 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 we really need to live a satisfying life.

Mon. Oct. 5 – Nov. 2, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Servetus Room \$25 (for text)
Facilitators: Chris Wallace and Julie Larsen Deadline: September 20

Our American Roots: Unitarian Universalism in North America uses video, group discussion, and interactive experiences to help participants develop a better understanding of the large part our faith traditions played in the formation of this country's democratic heritage and their place in the 19th century transcendental movement.

Wed., Oct. 7 – Nov. 18, 7 - 9 pm Servetus \$20; scholarships available
Facilitators: Margot Garcia and Randy Springer

From the Music Director

Have you ever noticed that even when you're working together in groups, some people help you accomplish more than others? Recently, I've been moving the sections of the choir around, and asking people to stand next to people they might not normally stand near. As it happens, they appear to my ear to be sounding better with each move. What's particularly interesting to me, is that no one in the choir was trying to hold anyone back. We were trying to sound our best before we began to move.

I think that happens a lot to us in the church, also. We all try and move further down our own paths, supporting each other and attempting to encourage everyone towards their own goals and potential. But sometimes, when we break out of our comfort zone within the church, and try something new, in other groups, we find that we flourish in a way we might not have foreseen. This is consistently what I hear from people who begin to volunteer in RE; they never thought they'd connect to kids, and then suddenly, they discovered something that makes their time at the church more enriching than they ever thought possible. Obviously, I'd like you to all try the choir, because I feel confident that making music is good for each of us in countless ways. But at the least, I'd encourage you to keep searching through the UUCT's many outlets until you find the group, or the handful of people that seem to help your voice flower and your spirit grow.

Peace and Cookies,
Brian

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:

To work with the minister and guest speakers in developing a worship theme through choices of readings, music, and hymns.
To be present in the pulpit as assigned to present various elements of the worship service.

To coordinate with guest speakers.

To submit written order of service for lay-led Sundays.

Commitments:

2 years of service

Serve 3-4 Sundays a year

Attend Worship Associate Retreats 3 times a year

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 748-1551 ext. 11



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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TUCSON VOICES SUPPORTING ENHANCED AND EXPANDED MEDICARE FOR ALL!

On Sunday 27, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. in Awareness Room, the Peace Group of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson (4831 E. 22nd St.—just East of Swan) will present:

The program will include a Street Theater play and Tucsonans speaking out their support for enhanced and expanded Medicare for all.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, please contact Stuart Thomas, UUCT Peace Group Leader, at (520) 722-2837.

Worship Associates Retreat and Training

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 – 3:00
Awareness Room

Have you ever wondered what goes into making a meaningful worship service on Sunday morning? Do you enjoy public speaking? Do you enjoy exploring religious and philosophical ideas? Do you like working with a creative, collaborative team? If you answered yes, then please consider joining our brand new Worship Associates program. Applications to become a Worship Associate are available on the UUCT web-site. You may also ask Rev. Diane for an application.

The deadline for the next Tucsonarian and for the Transforming Times is September 22nd by 5 p.m.. The topic for the Transforming Times is Covenant.

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