



September 30, 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:

On September 11, we had an RE Family Potluck. 33 people were in attendance, including a lot of preschoolers.

Also, the Coming of Age sojourners attended a September 12 sleepover at the church .

## Petition for Full Equality

For the next two Sundays you will have an opportunity to add your name to a plea for full and equal protection under the law for LGBT people. This petition, an action of the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love initiative, will be used throughout the year as they push for specific legal advancements, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and of the Defense of Marriage Act.

Standing on the Side of Love is deeply committed to achieving full and equal protection under the law for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. They want to be able to say to lawmakers that they know, with certainty, that thousands of Americans share their passion for full equality. This petition provides that certainty. The petition reads:

I stand on the side of love in support of full equality for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

I believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people deserve equal treatment in all matters of law, including the rights to marry, to adopt children and to serve openly in our country's armed forces. Furthermore, our nation's laws should protect everyone who faces violence, intimidation, and discrimination because of their identities.

In signing this petition, I am affirming the full humanity of all people. I am harnessing love's power to stop oppression. I am honoring the spark of the divine in each and every person. I am pledging to uphold love as a guiding principle in my treatment of others.

I call on my lawmakers to do the same by providing full and equal protection under the law for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

The petitions signed here at the church will be delivered to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' office by October 11, National Coming Out Day and also, this year, a date when people across the nation will demand of federal lawmakers full equality for LGBT people.

You may also sign the petition online by going to [www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org).

*Please read additional articles on Page 2.*

## Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 4

### **Blessing of the Animals**

*Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Kathleen Hogue*

Animals are an important part of our lives, both as companions and as part of the natural wildlife that makes Tucson such an interesting place to live. This year, for the first time, we will be offering a blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis Day. You are welcome to bring your pets or pictures of pets to receive a blessing. In deciding which of your pets to bring, consider the animal's temperament and your ability to handle them in a crowd of people and other animals. In order to maintain a peaceable kingdom, all dogs must be leashed, all cats and other small animals must be caged.

Sunday, October 11

### **Growing Our Diversity**

*Rev. Diane Dowgiert*

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we are in covenantal relationship with our sister congregations around the country. A new tradition among us is to celebrate Association Sunday: to celebrate our common heritage and to join in the creation of a bright future for Unitarian Universalism.

## Looking for People With “DRIVE”

Make a difference for seniors in our community every day. As a volunteer driver, take recipients to and from medical appointments or grocery shopping.

Areas that need coverage include: east of I-10 and south of River – zips 85705, 16, 18, and 19; east of Alvernon – zips 85710, 11, 12, 15, 30, 48, 49, 50 to Irvington and Houghton.

ICS offers mileage reimbursement (45 cents/mile) for transportation volunteers. Our system lets you volunteer when and where you are available. Training provided. For more information, contact Interfaith Community Services at 297-6049

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## Church Budget with No More Deaths Included

By Margot Garcia, Treasurer

Over a year ago the Congregation voted to make No More Deaths (NMD) a ministry of our church. Our joining has met goals for both of us. Donations to NMD, a ministry of UUCT are tax deductible; NMD's activities meet a Strategic Plan goal of engaging the Congregation in a social action project with local and national import. The lay and professional staff and leadership have been working over the past year to integrate NMD into the church organization.

Paul Barby is NMD's liaison to the church and he has been diligent and gracious in providing information on NMD's organization and finances. While NMD maintains its own checkbook, Paul provides monthly accounting of income and expenditures. They follow church procedures for requiring receipts and request vouchers for expense reimbursement. These are kept at the church. We are the owners of five vehicles NMD uses to transport volunteers and supplies and have added to our staff two summer employees who coordinate volunteers and logistics for NMD. These are paid with NMD donations.

The bottom line is that our integrated finances result in a budget of \$533,490 in expenses with a projected income \$521,095. At our 2009 Annual Meeting, the Congregation voted for a budget of \$427,039 that did not include NMD. Integrating NMD's finances into the church finances has resulted in an increase of \$106,451 to the budget. NMD has been very successful in its requests for donations and as of September 2, 2009 had \$38,201.97 in the bank. However, the bad news is that their budget was under funded by about \$10,000 and added to the church adopted shortfall of \$2,304 leaves us about \$12,000 in the hole. The Finance Committee, ET and staff are combing through expenses and researching alternatives to find savings to erase the deficit and remove the staff furloughs. Next month I will write an article on our efforts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [mgarcia@vcu.edu](mailto:mgarcia@vcu.edu) or 327-3946.

*Cont. from page 1*

### 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](mailto:mwiese@uuctucson.org), or Jeanna Jones 891-8296.

### UUCT to Host First Tucson Multi-faith Pride Service:

In conjunction with Tucson's October Pride festivities, religious communities will gather to celebrate the gifts of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community. Leaders from the Jewish, Sufi, Sikh, Christian and other traditions will lead the service on Thursday, October 8, at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, 4831 E. 22 St. Several community choirs will offer rousing and inspirational music. A reception will follow the service. The service is sponsored by Wingspan's Multi-faith Working Group. For more, contact Marc Paley at [lgbtinfo@jfsa.org](mailto:lgbtinfo@jfsa.org).

### Up-coming Tucson Pride Festivities:

Pride on Parade - Tucson's GLBT community will take to the streets to march in Pride of who they are and who they love. Now in its 5th year, Pride on Parade will continue to delight Tucson with a colorful procession taking place this year on Friday, October 9, 2009 from 6:00-9:00pm. The parade will start on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. UUCT, and UUCNWT will be participating as well our UU congregations to the south. Come cheer us on!

Pride in the Desert - Pride in the Desert is an all-day festival held at Reid Park that attracts more than 6,500 participants each year. Pride in the Desert features commercial and non-profit exhibitors, a food court, interactive displays and entertainment from local and national acts. All of our local UU churches will be sharing a booth. Come visit us!

Visit the website for more information: [www.tucsonpride.org](http://www.tucsonpride.org).

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## 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, October 11th. The cut-off date for signing up is October 1st. Please contact Julia Mehrer for more information: [perujourney@gainbroadband.com](mailto:perujourney@gainbroadband.com) or 762-4035.

## Lifespan Faith Development Program

### Covenant Circles 2.0

UUCT's Covenant Circles will resume during the second week in October and sign-ups are taking place NOW.

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.

### New Adult Faith Development Classes

Two new Adult Faith Development classes will begin this fall. We've provided some short descriptions below.

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.

Dates: Wednesday evenings, October 7 - through November 18  
Time and place: Servetus Room: 7 - 9 pm  
Facilitators: Margot Garcia and Randy Springer  
Cost: \$20; scholarships always available

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.

Dates: Monday evenings, October 5 - through November 9  
Time and place: Awareness Room: 6:30 - 8 pm  
Facilitator: Cheryl Lilian, certified Yoga instructor  
Cost: \$60 for six-session course

Sign up at the Adult Faith Development table after the service or contact Mike Greenbaum : mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org. at 326-8831

## Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Submitted by Mary Wiese,  
Membership and Community Life Administrator

### Newcomers News :

- *Newcomers Orientation* – The next Newcomers Orientation of the year will be held on Sunday, November 15, 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 second Sunday of the month, after service beginning October 11. Please contact Mary Wiese to RSVP: mwiese@uuctucson.org .

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## What's Happening in RE?

### Past Events

On September 13, 2009 we had our Covenanting and Safety Sunday.

Firefighters from our local fire station showed up just in time with our fire drill. Children and youth enjoyed a demonstration from the fire fighters and got to take home coloring books.

In September and October two new Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality Education (OWL) facilitators were sent for training. If you would like more information about this program please contact Heather Reed at heathertreed@gmail.com

### Now and Later

Our classes are up and running from Spirit Play through Coming of Age. Our YRUU is busy painting their room and will be beginning regular sessions soon. We are very excited to have full teaching teams in all of our classrooms.

Extended Family Worship: Animal Blessings on October 4, 2009  
YRUU Youth Advisor Training on October 18, 2009  
Halloween Bingo Party on October 23, 2009  
please contact Becky Keyes at scrapkeyes@yahoo.com for more info.

### Getting Involved

- We still need teachers and classroom assistants. Please stop by the RE table in the back of Goddard to speak with a member of the RE Council.
- Donate Books. We need books for the Primary and Elementary classes. Purchase a book by visiting the RE table in Goddard.
- Help is needed in the RE Office. Please contact Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org



The DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 20 to audition for the **UU Children's Choir** next summer in Minnesota.

It's a 5 day music camp for select singers 10-12 years old. At the end of the week they sing for thousands of UUs at General Assembly. Adult chaperones are also needed. The camp takes place on the beautiful campus of Macalester College. Financial assistance is available and tax-deductible donations are being accepted.

The person in charge of arrangements is Jan Chamberlin, Director. His phone number is (314)662-2947 or he can be reached online at [janchamberlin@me.com](mailto:janchamberlin@me.com). Anne Jones participated in the UU Children's Choir a few years ago and her mother, Helen, was one of the chaperones. If you have questions, please feel welcome to call me: (520) 326-8259.

Agnes Paulsen

**Sunday, October 11: 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 Rick Meyer at 748-2886 or just come on down.

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**The Book club** will meet on **Oct. 15** at 7pm  
in the Awareness Room.

We will be reviewing "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman.  
The book describes places in the world that have gone back to nature.  
Anyone is welcome.

The deadline for the next Tucsonitarian is October 6 by 5 p.m.



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Church of Tucson**

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