

December 9, 2009



# ucsonitarian

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson  
Sunday Services at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

## Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT:

UUCT collected a total of \$361.21 for Habitat for Humanity last month!

UUCT made almost \$4,000 profit from the Santa Fe trip, which has been donated to the church! Wow!

Thank you notes came from the Mt. Diablo UU Church for our contribution to the Kevin Drewery fund and from No More Deaths volunteers for our Share the Plate offering.

## From the Minister's Study

alive and human  
hurtling through time and space  
on this blue green earth

The winter holiday season gives us pause to contemplate what it means to be alive in this astonishing universe. Guided by a star -- a cosmic event -- wise men were drawn to witness the birth of a baby. At Christmas, we retell the story of the miraculous birth of Jesus because the story reveals something of what it means to be human. Economic recession doesn't even begin to describe the climate in which Mary and Joseph found themselves: subsistence living, hand-to-mouth, another homeless family, looking for a place to rest for a time in order to give birth to the future.

Our liberal religious faith teaches that each one of us is a miracle -- a cosmic event -- a manifestation of inherent worth and dignity -- a glimpse of divinity -- incarnate in human form. The mystery of life unfolds as we go about the daily business of living. No one of us knows for sure exactly how our living will impact generations to come. But what if we lived as if we knew we were born to some greatness -- bringing enlightenment, or compassion, or healing, or a wondrous saving grace to the world? How would we live then?

In this season of wonder, may we live for a future that embraces all of humanity.

neighbors of the world  
we're traveling together  
destiny of friends

Holiday peace,  
Diane



## Sunday Services

Please note that starting December 6th, UUCT began two services ( 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)

### Sunday, December 13

Extended Family Worship

Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Kathleen Hogue

### Three Miraculous Births

The traditional Christmas story tells of a miraculous birth. The idea is expanded when miraculous births from other traditions are considered. At the 9:15 service, we'll look at the similarities among the birth stories of Confucius, the Buddha, and Jesus. At 11:00, the same themes will come to life in pageant form, as children, youth, and adults re-enact these Three Miraculous Births.

Service Music: 9:15 Donna DeHaan

11:00 Family Singers, Agnes Paulsen and Guest Musician Paul Amiel, playing music on Chinese and Indian instruments

### Sunday, December 20

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

### Enumerating God: None, One, or Many

Atheist, theist, pantheist -- these are but some of the ways of labeling beliefs about God. But do we really know what we mean when we use these labels? Is the concept of God something more than numbers?

Worship Associate: Gilbert Moore

Service Music: 9:15 Donna DeHaan

11:00 Donna DeHaan and Desert Chorale

### Christmas Eve, December 24 -- Services at 5:30 and 7:00

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

### Night of Wonder, Night of Silence

This year we'll celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional family service of holiday music, candle lighting, and child dedication at 5:30. The 7:00 service will be an "Acoustic Christmas", featuring traditional favorites played on guitar and harp.

Service Music: 5:30 Holiday Choir (singers from the Desert Chorale and Family Singers, and alums), Soloist Sheryl Holland and flutist Sylvia Hamilton

7:00 Jeff Chamberlain, Guitar and Celeste Rogers, Harp

### Sunday, December 27

Guest Speaker: Christopher Hoffmann

Worship Associate: Bid Romans

Service Music: 9:15 and 11:00 Steven Brubaker, Cello and Carol Brubaker, Piano

## Planning Underway for District Assembly

By Carolyn Saunders

While April 23, 2010 may seem far in the future, the District Planning Committee is busy working out the details of yet another District Assembly with the most urgent aspect at this point being the call for workshops. This year's theme is "Diversity: Between Aspiration and Reality." How does the theme apply to our church or your life? You are asked to share the good ideas that have worked in your congregation or your life in a workshop.

Proposals for workshops may be sent to Michelle Melancon, michellemelancon@gmail.com or 5829 Tower Rd, Riverside, CA 92506. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2009. It will be necessary for presenters to provide their own transportation, DA registration, and room.

This year's theme of "Diversity: Between Aspiration and Reality" will be highlighted by the distinguished keynote speaker, The Rev. Mark Morrison Reed, a longtime Unitarian Universalist minister. The title of Mark's talk will be "Torn Between Fuzzy Aspirations and Hard Realities - The Perversity of Embracing Diversity."

In addition to the keynote address, Rev. Reed, author of *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*, will also present a workshop on Saturday morning. There will be a book signing gathering later on Saturday.

DA will be held at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA, with support for programs from the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Goleta, on April 23-24, 2010.

Because this DA will be held at a congregation rather than a hotel, the registration cost will be lower than the past few years. Look for registration information on the PSWD web site in early February, but save the dates now!



### Enjoy Life with UU!

We have started a new group, the UU Meanderers! This group will meet once a month for some kind of easy-going activity, from museum visits to short bicycle rides to car camping. We will start with a New Year's Eve camping trip in Organ Pipe National Monument, two nights starting Dec. 31. The campsites will be right next to your vehicle, and there are bathrooms with lights and running water. If enough people RSVP early, I may try to make a group reservation, otherwise, it's first come, first served. There is a \$12 per night camping fee. Please email me to RSVP, or if you need more information, at: [czclements@yahoo.com](mailto:czclements@yahoo.com). Hope to start the new year with you!

Cyndi Clements

## Pottery Sale Huge Success

Due to the generosity of UUCT members and members of the greater Tucson community, 33 families in Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua, Mexico will have a merrier Christmas this year. The November 22 pottery sale to benefit their village was a resounding success.

Ana Trillo and her son, Ricardo Corona Trillo, who brought the pottery that had been made by themselves and 31 other potters in the village, wanted to express their thanks for all that UUCT made possible for them.

We would like to thank Susan Call, Jan Dowling, Margo Newhouse, Lisa and Gabriel Martin and all the other members of the Fun-Raisers who helped with this endeavor.

Julia Mehrer and Carolyn Saunders

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### Poinsettias

The beautiful poinsettias decorating Holland Sanctuary are more than just symbols of the holiday season. This year they were donated by a number of church members in memory of or in honor of loved ones and special occasions. They were donated as follows:

#### By

Susan Call  
Bruce & Carolyn Saunders  
Margot & JD Garcia  
Janet Boice  
Darlene Mathews  
Jan & Mickey Dowling  
Donna DeHaan  
Cary White

Jim & Mary Feisley  
Agnes Paulsen & Family

Margi Magruder  
Pat McDaniel  
John & Linda Garrett

#### In Memory of

Rick Call  
Our Parents  
JD & Veva Garcia  
Jerry Boice  
Dylana and Elden Mathews  
Family Members  
Flo & Rudy DeHaan  
Nancy Richmond Torrey & Isolde Haag  
Bill Feisley, Dear Brother  
Lyle Paulsen

#### In Honor of

Mom & Dad  
My husband, John  
Our 50th wedding anniversary,  
Dec. 27

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### Think Ahead!!

Who doesn't eat? Grocery gift cards are something everyone can use and the holidays can stress a lot of budgets. Helping put food on the table when the gang arrives can be a big boost at holiday time. Also, if there is no gang and little money for extras, what better gift might be given?

Sooo, if you would like holiday grocery gift cards, it would be helpful for me to know ahead as it takes a week to obtain them. We'll be there in Goddard after services if we can help out in any way.

Marj Smith, Coordinator  
Grocery Rebate Program

## Newcomers ComUUnity Mixer, January 9, 2-5 PM

Welcome from the Newcomers ComUUnity Group. We are a committee that helps newcomers feel welcome and get acquainted with church members.

We think one of the most interesting ways to get to know people is to share ideas while also sharing food and beverages. During the fall we organized several dinners held in member's homes to provide a casual environment for newcomers to get to know a few members.

Our next event will be an all church mixer on Saturday, January 9 at the church from 2 to 5 PM. We expect to have a wonderful warm Tucson winter afternoon and enjoy being outside on the excellent church patio.

Just like our dinners, the Mixer will be a potluck event. So come and bring something interesting to share, an appetizer, finger food, hors d'oeuvre, snack, or favorite beverage. We will provide music and have games to get to know each other better.

This will be a fun afternoon and a great way to meet new people as well as getting to know some old timers. We hope you will join us on Saturday afternoon, January 9.

*The Newcomers ComUUnity Group*

*Susan Call  
David Burks  
Sherrill OShaughnessy-Alexander  
Julia Mehrer*

## MUSIC NOTES

### Music on Sunday, December 13th

At the 11:00 o'clock service on Sunday, December 13th, the Religious Education Department and Family Singers will be presenting the pageant, "The Three Miraculous Births of Buddha, Confucius, and Jesus." We will have as our special guest, Paul Amiel, from the University of Arizona, who will play selections on the Japanese Shakuhachi, the Guqin, an ancient Chinese instrument, and the Ney flute. Family Singers will be singing songs from the Indian and Chinese cultures as well as traditional Christmas music.

### Holiday Choir on Christmas Eve

Once again on Christmas Eve at the early service, 5:30 p.m., we're inviting interested singers to join the Holiday Choir. We will be rehearsing at 4:15 preceding the service. We will also go over the anthem during the early part of Desert Chorale rehearsal on Wednesday, December 16th, at 5:30 p.m. Even though you're not a regular member of the Desert Chorale, you're invited to come then as well. Do let me know if you have any questions.

*Agnes*

(520) 326-8259 or e-mail: [agnespaulsen@cox.net](mailto:agnespaulsen@cox.net)

## ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

*Mike Greenbaum*  
[mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org](mailto:mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org)

## UU CHRISTIANS DISCUSSION GROUP

Because so many Unitarian Universalists come from another faith tradition, various UU congregations throughout the country have initiated discussion groups for those who identify as UU Christians, UU Jews, UU Buddhists, UU Wiccans, and even UU atheists.

Here at UUCT, Scott Shumaker is interested in forming a discussion group for those people who come to Unitarian Universalism from a Christian background and who would be interested in discussing those Christian ideas and concepts which personally mean a lot to them but who want to talk about them within the framework of Unitarian Universalism and are not interested in returning to the ritual or the dogma of a Christian church.

The first meeting is set for December 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. If you would be interested in learning more about this group and possibly meeting with others, please call Mike Greenbaum at 326-8831 or email him at [mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org](mailto:mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org). If you're interested in the group but find it difficult to make a daytime meeting, please email or call Mike with that information.

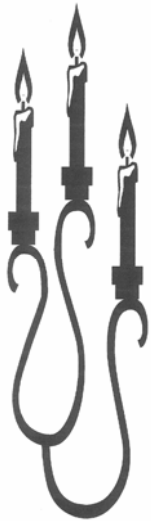
## HOMELESSNESS, HOSPITALITY, AND HOPE DECEMBER 20

That will be the subject of a talk to be given by Lori Block, director of the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless, on Sunday, December 20 at 12:45 in the Awareness Room. This group will be our Share the Plate partner for December/January. UUCT participates in Project Hospitality, run by the Interfaith Coalition, by providing beds and meals six nights during the winter for homeless men, women, and children. Ms. Block will discuss 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. She will also talk about other programs that are available for homeless people.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Many thanks to all who attended the Sunday Speaker orientation talk by Barbara Brown from Habitat for Humanity on November 15. If you signed the waiver and release form that day, you're set to go to offer your time and energy to Habitat! The two dates to sign up for a volunteer morning at a construction site are Thursday, January 7 (7:30 am - 1:30 pm) and Saturday, January 23 (7:30 am - 1:30 pm). It would be fun to get a group of UUs to go together. There will be a sign-up sheet at the AFD table after Sunday services.

If you missed the Sunday Speaker Series, but are looking for other volunteer opportunities with Habitat, like the HabiStore, office work, committee involvement, or partnering with a family, you can access these at the Habitat web site [www.habitattucson.org](http://www.habitattucson.org) or by calling 326-1217. More information is also available at the AFD table in Goddard Hall after the service.



**UUCT 09 Xmas Dinner**  
Xmas Dinner at UUCT Dec. 25, 09  
Social Hour 11:30 Dinner 12:30

5.00 per person to cover cost of turkey and ham (children free).  
You will be asked to bring a side dish.  
Any questions, call Kathy Maresh at 749-2920.

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**UUCT Book Club 12-17-09**

The book club will meet on Dec.17, at 7pm in Awareness Room.

We will be reviewing “Julia Childs” By Laura Shapiro. The story of Julia’s life.

We welcome all of you who like to read and enjoy meeting like minded readers.

**Sunday, December 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 Rick Meyer at 748-2886 or just come on down.

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**Service Auction**

It is time for a brain- storming session about next year's auction!

Dec 11th @ 6:00 Ellie and Bill Nelson's home 615-4136

Let Ellie know if you can bring hors-d'oeuvres, salad or dessert to share.



The deadline for the next Tucsonitarian is December 15 by 5 p.m.



**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Tucson**

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