



Tucsonitarian

January 20, 2010

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

From the Minister's Study

As I write, I'm looking forward to a retreat. Every January, the ministers of the Pacific Southwest District gather for renewal and learning. I'm particularly looking forward to this retreat. We'll be engaging in Circles of Trust, a process based on the Quaker model of Clearness Committees. It involves a circle of trusted people, one of whom has a question or an issue in life that has them stuck or puzzled in some way. The purpose is to help this "focus" person to access inner resources of wisdom in ways that help them move forward.

I've known people who have used Clearness Committees at various turning points in their lives, and found them to be quite useful. The benefits accrue to the Committee members as well as the focus person. There's something about being in such a non-judgmental, loving and affirmative space that frees up deep wellsprings of knowing for everyone involved.

Many ingredients go into a successful experience. One is an agreement that once the Clearness Committee process is complete, it is not talked about again, not even with others members or the focus person. It requires openness, honesty, and vulnerability as well as a great deal of discipline. It reminds me of the discipline needed to follow the Buddhist precept of right speech, which asks: Is it True? Is it Kind? Is it Necessary? Is it Timely? What doesn't meet these four criteria isn't spoken.

In the world today, there are so many forces pulling people away from one another. Trust is an antidote to alienation and loneliness. It draws and holds people together.

I'm looking forward to learning another tool for creating the kind of trusting atmosphere needed if the church is to be an agent of transformation. I'm also wondering how such a process might transform decision-making within the church itself, freeing up collective wellsprings of wisdom, especially needed during these difficult times.

I'll be away from January 25 through January 28. In case of a pastoral emergency, I can be contacted through the church office.

Yours in trust,
Diane

Sunday Services (9:15 and 11:00 a.m.)

Sunday, January 24

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Confronting Evil

The first step in confronting evil is one of recognition. Sometimes our liberal religious optimism leaves us unprepared to name evil when it happens. What is evil? Why does it exist? Where does it come from? What can and should be done about it?

Sunday, January 31

Guest Speaker

Oscar Martinez



Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT

Our UU Kids made 18 scarves, 6 hats and almost completed 1 sleeping bag for the homeless on January 10th!

Sonoran Springtime!!

Thank you congregation for responding to our plea to pay your pledges up to date.

In the month of December we deposited \$ 47,597.04 to our checking account and disbursed \$36,736.33, leaving a balance of \$15,683.73 on January 1, 2010.

Margot W. Garcia, Treasurer

Where do we want to be?

Progress at UUCT happens when we have a clear idea of what we want. The Board of Trustees is working to develop a Strategic Plan to carry us forward. We need your input to develop a clear Vision as a basis for a workable plan. Contact any of our Trustees with your ideas on improving our rough draft statement below. It is your Church!

UUCT VISION (Draft)

We envision a day when:

Our Sunday services consistently fill our sanctuary to capacity, our Religious Education program for children is brimming, and congregants of all ages are excited to participate in our Sunday ministry. We have a dynamic minister, whose sermons are intellectually stimulating and draw from different religious traditions, scientific discovery, and personal experience. Family Singers and Desert Chorale enjoy record-numbers of participants, and are joined in service by additional musical performers from within and outside of our church.

Our staff has increased—commensurate with our growth—ensuring that our congregation is offered a full range of programs, including adult faith development, religious education for youth, pastoral care, social action, and other fellowship activities. Our lay leadership is strong, numerous, and diversified. We have enough leaders to spread the responsibility for running our church in a healthy way. Our members participate actively in ALL aspects of our operation enabling us to operate and function far beyond depending on paid staff only.

Through outreach and social action, we have elevated the profile of our denomination in southern Arizona. Locally and within the UUA, we are recognized as a congregation that speaks out and acts decisively on issues of religious intolerance, discrimination in all its forms, and humanitarian issues affecting our community.

Our existing facilities and campus are well maintained and make a positive first impression on newcomers and visitors. We have developed a plan to construct new buildings and enhancements of our landscaping, which are recognized as a model for innovative and environmentally sensitive design in the greater Tucson community and within our denomination.

The strength of our programs; our vision for the future; and our leadership have contributed to a dramatic increase in contributions to our church. We are well on our way to becoming a financially sustainable institution, with operating budgets generating an annual surplus and a growing endowment that will ensure a financially secure future for our church.

Some call their auction “Time and Treasure”, others “Goods and Services”. At UUCT, “**Service Auction**” has been used. Certainly we can’t forget the terrific GOODS and the FUN, the ADVENTURE of out-bidding others, the fine HORS D’OEUVRES and DINNER, all coming your way on March 13. What a great way to celebrate Sonoran Springtime!

Right now we need you to put the date on your calendar, purchase your dinner/live auction tickets, then complete and turn in the donation forms for the goods or services you will be offering.

Why the hurry? We need the donation forms (and items) by Feb. 7 so an auction catalog can be prepared and given to you for your perusal prior to the auction. So, don’t delay – time flies! Auction Day will be here before we know it.

Need help? Stop by the auction table in Goddard between services or after 2nd service.

P.S. Yes, we will have the 50/50 Raffle again this year. Raffle tickets will be sold beginning February 21. Thanks for your support.

Janet Moore, Ellie Nelson, Co-Chairs.

My Heart Is In the Mountains

A Snowy Winter Weekend Camp for Children grades K-6.*
Dean: Celeste Plumlee Music: David Diiorio
Camp de Benneville Pines
February 12-15, 2010
Cost - \$145.00 campers; \$120.00 parents; \$85.00 younger siblings (under age 3 free)
Registration form available at www.uucamp.org

The Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team invites you to participate in “RENEWING OUR ENERGY”, *Leading With Purpose & Vision*, a workshop to enrich your experience and involvement at UUCT on **Saturday, February 13, 2010, HOLLAND SANCTUARY from 9:00 – 12:00 P.M. (Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.)**

This workshop explores reasons and ways to include many voices in the work of the congregation. When all members share their ideas, life experiences and wisdom, the community becomes more adept and creative in meeting challenges. Selected from the UUA Tapestry of Faith curricula, this workshop is designed to provide the basis for fruitful conversations and healthy decision-making. Helen O’Brien will be the facilitator.

As Unitarian Universalists, we bring our head, our heart and our hands to our journey to fully develop our faith and our identity. Each of us comes with unique gifts, which, when shared, help strengthen and shape our congregation, as well as give meaning to own lives. We encourage your participation.

NCLDT: Judy Dare, Janie Foy, Kate Jones, Brooke Myers, Helen O’Brien

Please RSVP to Janie Foy (foyjanie@hotmail.com) (P: 344-9879) or Judy Dare (jadare@q.com) (P: 624-9272) by Feb. 9th.

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Submitted by Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life
Administrator: 748-1551 X 16 or mwiese@uuctucson.org

Extra Funds and Goods Needed for the Church Food Bank: In the last church newsletter, it was announced in the 'Great Thing are Happening at UUCT' section of the newsletter that we collected over \$900 for the churches food bank at our Christmas Eve services. While this is good news, it is short of our annual budgeted amount of \$1200. Demands for food bags are up and this fund also supports our Homeless Hospitality program. If you were unable to attend one of these services but would still like to donate to this vital ministry, please make checks out to UUCT and put Church Food Bank in the memo line. Of course, non-perishable goods such as peanut butter, pasta, and tuna are always welcomed.

New Member Class: New Member classes are held in the Minister's office on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., or second Sunday of the month, after service. Childcare is available on request. You need to complete the Pathway to membership before becoming a member. Please RSVP to Mary Wiese or if you have questions.

Cabaret, Friday January 29: The Kitchen Ministry will once again prepare a delicious pasta dinner for our traditional Cabaret on January 29. If you would like to help us prepare the meal on Thursday evening, January 28, please contact Mary Wiese or Kathy McDaniel: kmcdaniel@dakotacom.net

*Yours in community spirit,
Mary*

RE Happenings:

A Book of Common Faire. At 12:00 PM in Goddard Hall our Sundays Together Lunch on January 24th will feature an Olde English menu (beef stew, hearty bread) and fruit served buffet style. Join kindred souls who love to talk books and movies at tables designated by various genres. There will also be a book sale – you may drop off donated books for this sale beginning Jan 3rd in Goddard. Contact Mary or Kathy if you would like to help in any way.

UU History Class begins January 24th. All Children in 1st grade through Middle School will come to the Awareness Room for their introduction to the history of Unitarian Universalists at 11:00AM.

Thank you to all who participated in the Sleeping Bag for the Homeless Project on January 10th. We made 18 scarves, 6 hats and almost completed 1 sleeping bag. All are welcomed to please continue to work on this project during Coffee Hour and Sundays Together Lunch. Special thanks to Paul and Paula McIlrath for taking charge of this project.

Copies of the **2009 Holiday Pageant**, the Three Miraculous Births are now available on DVD. Please contact Kathleen Hogue (khogue@uuctucson.org) to obtain a copy.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT (AFD)

Because UUCT is an active congregation and space in the Tucsonian is limited, there is room only for brief descriptions of any of the offerings below. For additional information, come to the AFD table after the service on Sundays or check out the website at <http://www.uuctucson.org>. You may also call Mike Greenbaum at 326-8831 or email him at mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org.

UU CHRISTIANS DISCUSSION GROUP

The UU Christians discussion group is a recently organized AFD group for those who are interested in discussing those Christian ideas and concepts which personally mean a lot to them within the framework of Unitarian Universalism. The group will meet every other Monday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Servetus room. The next meeting is Monday, January 25.

TOUCH OUR SOUL

Touch Our Soul, a new group to support members and friends on their personal and spiritual journeys, held its first meeting on Jan.8. Information about the group and its first session is available on the group's blog at: <http://touchoursoul.wordpress.com/> Feel free to read the blog and write comments even if you cannot attend the group's sessions. Touch Our Soul is designed to complement other programming at UUCT. The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 12, from 1 - 3 in the Awareness Room. The group is open to all.

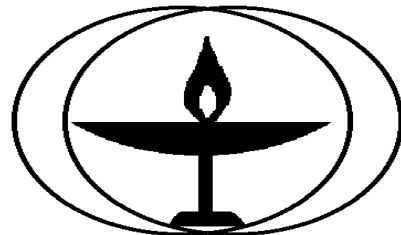
DRUMMING FOR FUN AND STRESS RELIEF

Drumming for Fun and Stress Relief is a six-week drum circle series facilitated by Solange Monette and Sinda Rubiner which will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Awareness Room on Monday evenings from February 1 through March 8.

The fee for the class is \$80 for all six sessions. Drums and percussion instruments will be provided. Come participate in the fun of a drum circle and at the same time reduce stress and increase peace and gratitude in your life. No musical skill or experience is needed to participate.

CONTINUING GROUPS

Along with the new programs above, our continuing groups, **Listening for the Spirit** (Thursday afternoons, 1-3 pm, Awareness), **Exploring Spirituality** (Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 am, Servetus), and the **Men's Group** (2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm), all welcome new members. **Covenant Circles** meet on the second Sunday and Monday of each month. Check out the website for more information on all of these.



First Saturday **UUCT Hikers** have an outing coming up on February 6. We will hike the Seven Falls Trail in Sabino Canyon. However, we will access the trailhead from Bear Canyon. Meet at 9:00 am at the McDonald's parking lot at the intersection on Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy. From here we will carpool and caravan to the trailhead, where there is very limited parking. Because the hike will extend beyond lunchtime, please bring your lunch and water. Call Ellie Nelson, 615-4136, or Chris Wallace, 326-6043, if you have questions.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH GALLERY

Enjoy the abstract oil paintings of Michael Campione through Sunday, February 7. The Gallery's next exhibit will feature the black and white photographs of Greg Cranwell.

Members and Friends, it is not too soon to begin getting your own art (paintings, drawings, prints, watercolors, collages) ready for our Members and Friends exhibit in May. Circle Tuesday, May 4, in your calendar as the day to bring your art, ready for hanging, to the church for this exhibit.

Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee.

The deadline for the next Tucsonian and Transforming Times is January 26 by 5 p.m.



Immigrants Rights Film and Discussion Series

The UUCT Immigrant Rights Working Group and the Adult Faith Development program will offer a special immigrant rights film and discussion series on border issues on three upcoming Sunday afternoons: January 24, January 31, and February 7, from 12:45 to 3:00 pm in Holland Sanctuary. There is no fee for the series, but donations to No More Deaths, our UUCT social justice ministry, will be gratefully accepted at the events.

A brief schedule follows with more information at the AFD table and on the website:

****January 24** - Film: "Voice of a Mountain" (2008), a documentary about oppression against Guatemalans at home and in the U.S. with a speaker and discussion to follow.

****January 31** - Film: "Crossing Over" (2009) starring Harrison Ford, with a speaker and discussion to follow

****February 7** - Slide presentation by UUCT member Craig McComb on the No More Deaths Abuse Project followed by a speaker on the new Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) bill

Worship Associates Retreat

Saturday January 23

9:00 – 3:00

Awareness Room

Open to anyone who is currently a Worship Associate or is interested in becoming one.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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