



Tucsonitarian

February 17, 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

Giving Up e-mail For Lent

Lent begins on February 17 this year. I've observed that Unitarian Universalists tend to be Mardi Gras people more than Lent people, preferring the festivals of Mardi Gras over the sacrifices of Lent.

The Rev. John B. Wolf proposes a Lenten Diet for UU's. He recommends that we "fast from criticism, and feast on praise . . . fast from resentment, and feast on contentment . . . fast from jealousy, and feast on love . . . fast from fear, and feast on faith." In this way, we can have Lent and Mardi Gras, too!

Lent is a season of surrender. Small sacrifices are made in order to welcome more life. Some people use the season of Lent to make significant life changes, like giving up smoking, or desserts, or meat. The six weeks of Lent are long enough to give it a try, without making a life-long commitment.

In that spirit, I am giving up e-mail for Lent. Really. At least I'm going to try. I don't know if it's possible. I do know that e-mail has taken over more of my life than I am willing to give.

I believe that an e-mail fast will make me more available to you, not less. The hours I spend now, downloading, reading, prioritizing, filing, printing, deleting, and responding to email will be freed up for real, live communication. I'm fasting from email communication in order to feast on human connectivity.

My email account will remain open. This is a six-week experiment, after all! An auto-responder will respond to all incoming messages, giving specific instructions for how to reach me. Those same instructions will be posted on the church website.

The telephone is always the best way to reach me in case of a pastoral emergency. My home phone number is listed in the church directory.

Yours in times of fast and feast,
Diane

Rev. Diane's weekly schedule

Sunday – I'm on the church campus three Sundays a month for worship, fellowship, and classes. One Sunday a month is spent away from the church. On these Sundays, I can be reached on my home phone in case of a pastoral emergency

Monday – This is my Sabbath Day of rest, my one and only scheduled day off each week. In case of a pastoral emergency, I can be reached on my home phone.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday – I'm usually on the church campus from around 11:00 a.m. through the conclusion of evening meetings. You can make an appointment to meet with me on any of these days by calling the church office.

Friday – This is my sermon-writing day, spent at home. In case of a pastoral emergency, I can be reached on my home phone.

Saturday – I'm on church campus as needed for meetings, classes and special events. In case of a pastoral emergency, I can be reached on my home phone.

What constitutes a pastoral emergency? A personal life event that involves serious injury, illness, or personal loss.

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

Sunday, February 21

The Things We Do For Love

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Being in relationship with others requires that we give something of ourselves. In this season of Lent, we'll look at the sacrifices, large and small, that we make for those we love.

Sunday, February 28

Universalism: Past, Present and Future

Guest Speaker: Rev. Kalen Friestad

Clear your calendars on February 27th!

Enlighten your minds (and souls?) with an afternoon of culture. The UUCT Meanderers will be meeting at noon on Saturday, Feb. 27 in front of the Center for Creative Photography on the U of A campus.

We'll be checking out the art at the U of A art museum, and the CCP. Afterwards, Brian Moon, the choir director for the Desert Chorale, will enable us to see some photos from the U of A music archives. Questions and discussion are encouraged; we may even go out afterwards for a bite to eat, and to discuss it all.

Please forward all questions/comments to Cyndi Clements at czclements@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

“UU” HUMANITARIAN AID IS NEVER A CRIME!

The Human Rights Abuse Documentation Project, the Desert Aid Working Group, weekly water distribution in Arivaca, the Migrant Aid Stations in Nogales and Naco, supporting Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) in Congress, organizing alternative spring break and summer camps—these are some of the fascinating and rewarding humanitarian aid projects of No More Deaths, a social justice ministry of our church. More than a dozen members of UUCT have been active in one or more of these No More Deaths projects as true UU humanitarians.

Even if you don't speak Spanish or don't want to camp in the desert, we have plenty of roles you can play that are essential to our humanitarian aid work! They include outreach to the Tucson faith community, fundraising, donating furniture for our new volunteers apartment in Nogales, planning, learning and applying first aid for migrants, putting together food packs in Ziploc bags, donating used but clean socks, clothing, tennis shoes and blankets, starting a collection at church, buying food and delivering it to the spring break and summer camps in Arivaca, helping on a “basura” (trash pick-up) day, helping put water out in the desert, etc.

Leila Pine of the UUCT has been named as the new liaison between our church and No More Deaths. If you have any questions about No More Deaths (www.nomoredeaths.org) or want to join our UUCT Immigrant Rights Group, please contact Leila at sabinosanctuary@gmail.com.

Upcoming No More Death events:

Feb. 20—Charlie King Benefit Concert at UUCT (see related article in this issue)

Feb. 21—Strategic planning for comprehensive immigration reform

March 1—General meeting at 7 p.m. in Goddard Hall

March 28—Special service on No More Deaths:

“Standing on the Side of Love in the Desert”, with Rev. John Fife, honoring UU Humanitarians.

Then at 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary: “Cruelty in the Desert: Government Abuse of Arizona Border Crossers”, a very moving 30 min. power point photo presentation by Craig McComb, a member of UUCT and of No More Deaths' Abuse Documentation Committee.

We deposited in the operating account during the month of January \$34,665.50. During January, \$39,906.03 was withdrawn from the account to cover expenses.

Margot W. Garcia

UUs support Habitat for Humanity Tucson

Many members of our congregation donated time, money, and “things” to support the work of Habitat for Humanity in our community in 2009.

It is estimated that over 650 hours of UUCT volunteer time were put in at the Habitat office, at the construction sites, and at the HabiStore. Susan Call and Reah Barrows staff the office on a weekly basis. Josie Hartman has attended training classes and worked on construction and at the HabiStore. Judy Dare has been a Board member, served on several committees, and works at the HabiStore every Monday.

Members have contributed over \$3,000 in cash (including our Share The Plate Sunday in November)! One cannot begin to count the items that have been donated to the HabiStore. And, many thanks to the countless UU HabiStore shoppers who spend their hard-earned dollars that go directly into building more Habitat homes! Keep up the good work!

AUCTION TIME is fast approaching! March 13, Saturday, is the date. Tickets are still available on Sundays in Goddard at the Auction Table. The cost is \$20.00 per person, and entitles you to an evening of great fun and entertainment, as well as a delicious Sonoran Spring dinner, served between the silent and live auction.

Many folks have already been working behind the scenes with this congregation-wide project by donating items, donating money to the cause, and volunteering to do the myriad tasks necessary to have this auction happen.

But, more help is needed; here is how you may be of assistance: Sanctuary Clean Up Reorganize the sanctuary after the auction for Sunday services. “Many hands make light the work” is oh so true, and can be said of Goddard clean up as well. Stick around afterwards: it won't take long if many pitch in to help. Meal Preparation Work with our jolly kitchen crew as you peel, chop, sauté and otherwise prepare the appetizers and meal for the auction. Help is needed on Friday evening, March 12, from 5-9:00 pm, and on Saturday, March 13, from 1-3:00 pm, and from 3-6:30 pm. Sign up in Goddard on Sundays at the Auction Table.

The 50/50 Raffle tickets will be sold beginning February 21, with the cost being 6 tickets for \$5.00. You need not be present to win. The drawing will take place after the live auction. Half of the raffle proceeds will go to the lucky person whose winning number is drawn. The other half will go to the church.

Thanks for your participation and support of this great endeavor.

Janet Moore, Ellie Nelson. Auction Co-Chairs

What would it be like not to have the tools to do your job?

Ask Kathleen Hogue. She has been trying to do her job without a computer for almost three months. Having a working computer in the RE office is an absolute necessity in order to keep the Religious Education Program operating smoothly. If you can help get Kathleen a newer working computer, please contact: David Burks at 520-749-6682 or email at davidburks@earthlink.net. He will give you the details of what is needed.

YRUU Bake Sale to support the Heifer Project

The YRUU 9th-12th Grade class has chosen to help a needy family by raising \$500 to promote sustainability through the purchase of livestock. Please come to church on Sunday February 21st ready to purchase lots of yummy baked goods during Coffee Hour.

Welcome Back Lisa McDaniel- Hutchings!

If you see a familiar smile and hear a familiar voice, be sure to welcome back our Lifespan Faith Development Director. Lisa has been away on Sabbatical since September and was surely missed. Stop and say hello!

Cantastic Sculptures Food Drive

Please help us collect enough food to replenish our Food Bank. On Easter Sunday the Children and youth of RE will be creating sculptures of the cans that are donated to display in Goddard. Come and pick your favorite sculpture. You may begin dropping off your donations in the RE Office immediately.

CHARLIE KING & KAREN BRANDOW TO SING FEB. 20

Charlie King and Karen Brandow will sing their insightful, humorous and inspiring songs for us at the UUCT on Saturday, February 20, as a benefit for No More Deaths, which is a social justice ministry of our congregation. No More Deaths humanitarians who have risked getting "littering" citations for placing life-saving water in the desert will be honored at the event. This event is cosponsored by our Immigrant Rights Working Group and ITZABOUTIME.

The free concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Holland Sanctuary, but don't miss out on the dinner and raffle starting at 6 p.m.! If you want to bring a one gallon bottle of water for dehydrated migrants in the desert, No More Deaths volunteers will collect them at the concert.

Pete Seeger says Charlie King is "one of the finest singer song-writers of our time." Karen's beautiful voice and exquisite guitar stylings add great depth to their performances.

There will be a pre-concert vegetarian meal in Goddard Hall at 6 p.m., prepared by La Indita Restaurant, and donations to cover the costs will be gratefully accepted. Then at 7 p.m. there will be a raffle, with proceeds from the raffle tickets going to support No More Deaths' humanitarian aid efforts in the desert. So please buy plenty of raffle tickets when you arrive, and bid on the items you want that are on display in Goddard Hall. Tax-deductible "free will" donations to No More Deaths will also be gratefully accepted.

**SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES:
PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION**

Tucson Interfaith Community Services (ICS) was formed in 1985 to help Tucson seniors, disabled individuals, and families in financial crisis achieve stable and independent lives.

UUCT is a member of ICS along with 50 other member faith communities, all working together to help ICS to achieve its goals. In February/March, Interfaith Community Services is our Share the Plate Partner.

As part of the Share the Plate program, Karen MacDonald, the Faith Community Outreach Manager, from ICS will be our featured Sunday Speaker on Sunday, February 21. She'll tell us more about the many ways in which the organization helps the Tucson community and what new things are happening at ICS.

Plan to join us after lunch on February 21 to learn more about putting your faith into action to make a difference in the lives of people who need our help.

Thoughts from the President

Earlier this month, the UUA Board held its first ever virtual board meeting using Persony, a web-based application that allowed Trustees and observers to simultaneously view a common set of documents and listen to one another debate the pros and cons of a motion, without anyone having to travel further than the distance to their home computer. It was fitting that a novel approach to meeting, that leverages current technology, be employed to consider steps to transforming the governance structure of the UUA to accommodate the second half-century for Unitarian Universalism in a new millenium.

The motion that was debated and passed, declares the Board's intention to engage the widest possible audience of leaders in the transformation of governance at multiple levels of the association. Objectives being pursued are reducing the size of the UUA Board, a change that would require changes to UUA bylaws; shifting congregational alignment from districts to regions, a conversation already begun in earnest with the District Presidents; holding board meeting throughout the country, a practice already initiated; and committing to hearing and heeding the voices of youth and young adult and people claiming historically marginalized identities as we consider our governance transformation.

The transformation is not change for the sake of change, but transformation in governance for the sake of fully realizing the saving message of Unitarian Universalism. The Board's vision is that we will be an association of congregations that collectively and individually more effectively makes a positive difference in the world as we move into the 21st century and the next 50 years of Unitarian Universalism. The PSWD Board will devote its workshop at District Assembly to a conversation about the future organization and governance of our district and region. That conversation will continue at General Assembly. I hope you intend join the conversation and make your voice heard. If you don't already, consider yourself invited.

living my faith, **Michael Sallwasser**

**Congregational Town Hall
Strategic Plan – 2010-2014**

On Sunday, March 7th there will be a Town Hall meeting at 12:45 – 2:00 in the sanctuary following the 2nd service.

The Draft Strategic Plan for 2010-2014 will be presented. Board of Trustee members will be on hand to answer your questions.

GALLERY HELP WANTED!

Interested in art? The Gallery Committee needs a new PUBLICIST! A minimum amount of work (sending out PR notices to the newspapers, the Tucsonian, and the Order of Service)---and in return a maximum amount of delight (working with artists and helping the Gallery Committee hang a new exhibit each month).

Thanks!

Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee

The deadline for the next Tucsonian and Transforming Times is February 23rd.



B&G Meeting, 3, 3, 2010, 6:30 pm Awareness Room.

This wonderful committee has great cooperation good meetings and lots of fun (no kidding)!

Many thanks to Chuck Gould, Mickey Dowling, and Richard Brodesky for the roofing work!

Barbara Tegethoff, Chair

ARTIST OF THE MONTH GALLERY

Greg Cranwell's exciting photographs of Arizona will remain on display through March 7th. They will be followed by the art of Martha Lee McKiernan.

Remember, it's not too soon to begin getting ready for your contribution to the Members and Friends exhibit which begins in May. Choose among your yearly output of creative art and get it ready to be part of the exhibit. You'll have a chance to be amazed at the artistic accomplishments of this congregation.

Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee.

LOOKING FOR A NEW OR GENTLY USED COMPUTER!!!!

The UUCT Religious Education Program does not have a working computer. If you can help get Kathleen up and running again by giving a tax deductible donation of a working computer, please contact: David Burks at 520-749-6682 or email at davidburks@earthlink.net.to get the details of what type of computer is needed. Thank you!



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Church of Tucson**

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