



# Tucsonitarian

April 14, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson  
Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.  
www.uuctucson.org

## From the Minister's Study

On Easter Sunday, our children helped us understand the importance of forgiveness by presenting a short play. Set in Grudgeville, the message of the play was simple: it feels better to let go of grudges than to hold on to them. The play also taught the use of five "magic" words: "I'm sorry," and "I forgive you." The more you use these words, the more powerful they become, working to make life lighter and more joyful.

I would add two more "magic" words to the list. "Thank you." I can personally attest to the power of these magic words to grow a more abundant and expansive attitude, but you don't have to take my word on this. Try it out for yourself. It takes very little time and costs nothing.

This is the time of year when members of the congregation elect new leaders, which means that some current leaders will soon be finishing their terms of service. I know that I'm grateful for all they do, and my guess is that you are, too.

Next time you come to church, find five people who give of themselves to keep our congregation alive and vital. And then say to them, "Thank you."

As Meister Eckhart noted, "If the only prayer you say your whole life is 'thank you' that would suffice."

In gratitude,  
Diane

### Sunday Services

Sunday, April 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 a.m.

#### **"Beyond Local Thinking"**

*Carolyn Saunders, Randy Springer and Susan Call*

From the historical affirmation of the unity of God (Unitarian) to the universal salvation of all souls (Universalist), UU beliefs have expanded to a broad concept of unity in diversity.

We cherish individualism and spiritual freedom, yet there is a sustaining bond of union between the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

## Adult Faith Development

For additional information about any of the activities below, call Mike Greenbaum at 326-8831 or email him at [mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org](mailto:mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org). You may also stop by the AFD table in Goddard Hall after the service.

The **UU Christians** discussion group is for those who are interested in discussing Christian ideas and concepts within the framework of Unitarian Universalism. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Servetus room. The next meeting is **Monday, April 19**. Currently the group is discussing the book, *When Jesus became God*, by Richard Rubenstein.

**Listening for the Spirit** will move next to discussing *Olive Ketteridge* by Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout. Listening for the Spirit is not a book club. It is a group for UU's interested in looking for and discussing elements of spirituality found within the context of modern literature. The group meets **every Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 pm** in the Awareness Room. Drop-ins are welcome but must bring their own copy of the book which is available new or used at various bookstores around Tucson or online.

The **Drum Circle** welcomes everyone, and no previous musical or drumming experience is required. Come drum, play percussion instruments, sing, exercise, and laugh. All ages and abilities are welcome. Feel energized and relaxed, express your creativity, improve your health, and have fun! The group meets **weekly on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm** in the Awareness Room. Each session is \$10 with four sessions for \$35. Drums and percussion instruments are provided by the drum professionals who facilitate the group. Advance sign-up is not required; you may do that when you attend the class.

## Adjustment to Congregationally Restricted Fund

Over the last several years our Treasurers, the Finance Committee and bookkeeper have worked hard to straighten up our bookkeeping and accounting so that our funds and spending are more transparent and in keeping with generally accepted accounting practice for not for profit entities. In order to appropriately recognize and fund the balance of a donor designated gift to the church, an adjustment is needed in our Congregationally Restricted Fund. This will not reduce the overall restricted funds set aside for the church; rather it reduces the fund so as to appropriately recognize the restricted gift. Thus the total amount of restrictions will not change—just where the money is recognized in the financial statement.

This may cause some concern among members who voted to set up the congregationally restricted fund. This action was taken by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees at its February meeting after over a year of deliberation. This also came after a review of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's publication on "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made" for not for profits and consultation with the Chief Financial Officer of a local not for profit with revenues in excess of 33 million per year. They deal with restricted gifts on a regular basis. In essence, and to be perfectly blunt, legally a donor designated gift trumps a congregation's action to restrict funds otherwise not designated. This is why we did not bring this for a vote of the congregation.

The gift was accounted for separately in the financial statements but was not funded, in essence creating an obligation against the Congregationally Restricted Fund. We would have needed to make the adjustment when called upon to spend the money for its intended purpose anyway. Thanks to good sleuthing on the part of our Treasurer, Margot Garcia, our best estimate on the balance of the gift, less funds spent is \$12,621.50. Thus, \$12,621.50 has been transferred from the Vanguard Account holding the CRF money to the Money Market Fund where restricted funds are held. This will be reflected in our next financial statement and we wanted to give you all a heads up.

Should you have concerns or wish to discuss this in more detail, you can reach me by e-mail address at [Lselsor@msn.com](mailto:Lselsor@msn.com); my home phone is 529-9081. Best time to reach me is in the evening.

*Written on behalf of the board—Linda Selsor*

## Report from the Treasurer.

During the month of March, \$53,655.54 was deposited into the church checking account. This figure includes the income from the service auction, one of our main fund raising events. \$39,056.50 was paid out in expenses.

Any prepaid pledges are put in the Money Market account and will be transferred to operating account on July 1, 2010. Therefore they do not show as income in the above reported figure.

*Margot W. Garcia, Treasurer*

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### **PBS NewsHour reporter to speak on immigration at UUCT April 27 at 7:00pm in Goddard Hall**

Jeffrey Kaye a reporter and producer at the PBS NewsHour will give a reading and sign copies of his newly published book **Moving Millions: How Coyote Capitalism Fuels Global Immigration.**

**Jeffrey Kaye writes:** America's approach to importing workers looks from the outside like a patchwork of unnecessary laws and regulations, but the machinery of immigration is actually part of a larger, global system that satisfies the needs of businesses and governments, often at the expense of workers in every nation.

Jeffrey is the brother in law of George Papcun. George's parents were Alice and George Papcun Sr. They were long time members of our congregation and well known civil rights activists in Arizona.

The event is free and open to the public. See <http://www.jeffreykaye.net/> for more information. Sponsored by the UUCT immigrant Rights Working Group.

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**April 18, 2010: 12:00 – 1:30 Town Hall** to review the new Strategic Plan, annual budget and other agenda items that will be voted on at the Annual congregational meeting. Our intent is to provide ample opportunity for review of all agenda items so that we can carry out the official business of the annual meeting as efficiently as possible.

**May 2, 2010: 11:45 – 1:45 Annual Meeting**

## **An Open Letter to the Congregation**

Thirteen years ago I came out of the congregation to serve as our church's religious educator—first as Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth for eight years, then three years as Adult Faith Development Director, and now two years as Lifespan Faith Development Director. Very quickly I felt this work, helping people of all ages explore their beliefs, as a calling, and in 2005 I began studying for the Unitarian Universalist ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

As I get closer to my goals of internship in 2011-12, meeting with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) in December 2011, graduating from Meadville Lombard in May 2012, and celebrating preliminary fellowship at General Assembly in Phoenix in June 2012, I have realized that I have lots of work to do to bring these dreams to reality! So it is with sadness that I must resign my position as religious educator at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2010. This will allow me to become a full time student taking my last 4 or 5 classes at Meadville and online, completing the MFC reading list, preparing the portfolio of competencies and myself to meet with the MFC, and writing my integrative paper for Meadville Lombard.

I have really enjoyed my work with the congregation, especially meeting with small groups of individuals exploring their spiritual paths. Fortunately I am leaving the position, but not UUCT. I look forward to once again becoming a participating member of the congregation.

Thanks to all of you for your moral support and congregational sponsorship on my pathway to ordained ministry. The reality is coming closer!

Sincerely,  
*Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings*

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### **Newcomer News:**

*Submitted by Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life Administrator: [mwiese@uuctucson.org](mailto:mwiese@uuctucson.org)*

***New Member Class*** – New Member classes are held in the Ministers office on the *first Wednesday* of the month at 7 p.m., or *second Sunday* of the month, after service. You need to complete the Pathway to membership before becoming a member. Please RSVP to Mary Wiese. New member Classes will not take place in July or August.

## **Prosecutor Drops Charges against 13 Humanitarians, NMD Negotiations Continue with Dept. of Interior**

Federal littering charges against 13 humanitarians from No More Deaths, the Samaritans and Humane Borders for putting out water on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR) have been dropped, according to the US Attorney's Office. The US Attorney has also agreed to delay UUCT member Walt Staton's sentence of 300 hours of community service. Walt is finishing his first year of seminary in California, where he is studying to become a UU minister.

A negotiating team from No More Deaths, a social justice ministry of the UUCT, is continuing negotiations with US Secy. of the Interior Ken Salazar for a use permit so that humanitarian groups can put one-gallon water jugs out on BANWR without getting ticketed.

No More Deaths is preparing for its summer desert camps to open May 22, when hundreds of volunteers are trained to reduce the deaths and suffering of migrants found in the desert. To volunteer for the camps, go to [www.nomoredeaths.org](http://www.nomoredeaths.org) and look up the volunteer application forms. More than 160 volunteers (a 50 % increase from last year) from Germany, Australia and all over the US participated in the spring break camps, including physicians, EMTs, nurses, social workers and college professors as well as college students.

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## **16 UUCT Members Honored with "UUCT Humanitarian Awards"**

At a special March 28 service on "No More Deaths: Justice and Compassion Crossing All Borders," UUCT Board President Fran Brazzell and 15 other members of the congregation were honored with "UUCT Humanitarian Awards" for their volunteer work with No More Deaths, which works to reduce deaths and suffering of migrants in the desert due to the government's "deterrence" policy, which funnels them through the most treacherous parts of the desert.

Award winners are: Fran Brazzell, Tom Clowes, Danica Davison, Patrice Davison, Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca McDaniel-Hutchings, Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Evan Keyes, Craig McComb, Helen O'Brien, Leila Pine, Mary Sommers, Walt Staton, and Kelly, Sean and Zach Taylor. Congratulations to all!

**May is Members and Friends show.**

Calling all artists among members and friends of UUCT. May is your month to share your gifts on the walls of the sanctuary for the Artist of the Month Gallery. We welcome all media (except for photography which is hung in June for the summer). Bring your art works to the church on Tuesday, May 4th at 9:30 am. If you can't bring the artwork on Tuesday morning, please contact Mary Ng (298-1930 ) or Margot Garcia (327-3946) to make special arrangements.

*Margot Garcia for the Gallery.*



**"Migration and Border Militarization"**

Two exciting events will be sponsored by the UUCT Immigrant Rights Working Group. At 11:45 a.m. Sunday, April 25, in the Awareness room, Dr. Norma Price, a physician and medical volunteer with the Samaritans, a humanitarian aid group at the border, will present a slide show on "Migrants and Militarization" about her experiences working with sick and injured migrants in the desert.

And at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, veteran journalist and PBS NewsHour correspondent Jeffrey Kaye will speak in Goddard Hall about his new book, "Moving Millions: How Coyote Capitalism Fuels Global Immigration".

The deadline for the next Tucsonitarian and Transforming Times is April 20th at 5 p.m.



**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Tucson**

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