



Tucsonitarian

May 12, 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

The state of Arizona has come under national scrutiny for legislative response (SB 1070) to immigration and border control. The issues on the table are moral issues, age-old questions of "Who is my neighbor?" and "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Many groups and organizations are boycotting Arizona. Within Unitarian Universalism, consideration is being made about whether or not to hold General Assembly in Phoenix in 2012 as planned. As of this writing, no decision has been made. The board of trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association is undertaking a deliberate process of gathering information and hearing the voices of those most impacted.

There is precedent for moving General Assembly out of Phoenix. It was in 1988 when the Arizona State Legislature voted to not honor Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday for state workers. Over time, the pressure of many boycotts did result in change.

There are no easy answers and a decision about GA 2012 must be made relatively soon. The decision will be a hard one. If SB 1070 is not overturned, people of color, especially those who are Latino/Latina, Hispanic and Native American will not feel safe traveling to Arizona to attend GA. Pulling out of the GA contract will have an economic impact on service workers who rely on conventions and tourism for a living – in many cases, the very same people we are trying to help.

These are challenging times that call for a moral response from the religious community. I truly believe that to the extent that our actions and words are consistent with our deepest values, wisdom will prevail.

In faith,
Diane



Sunday Services

Sunday, May 16

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Happy 200th Birthday, Margaret Fuller (one week early)

So who the heck was Margaret Fuller? And why should we care so much about her, even after all these years? Hint – born on May 23, 1810, she was an influential presence in the Transcendentalist Club, with members like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. But her influence didn't stop there. Her 200th birthday is a happy event for all of us.

Sunday, May 23

Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Kathleen Hogue, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Fiesta of Rituals

Rituals are a formal way of celebrating life passages or beliefs we hold sacred. Join us for an extended family worship service of rituals which celebrates the gifts we bring to our community (Flower Communion), welcoming our youngest (Child Dedication), giving wings to our youth and religious educator (Bridging & Farewell), and gratitude for service (Teacher Recognition & Appreciation). All of this festive celebration will lead into the Fiesta Sundays Together Lunch in honor of our RE teachers & AFD facilitators. Plan to stay for a delicious celebration! Remember to bring a flower, a symbol of your commitment to our community!

**Please join us
to celebrate Lisa's 13 years of service to UUCT
Friday, May 21 at 6pm:**

A Pot Luck Dinner will be shared in Goddard at 6pm. Bring a dish to share with at least 10 people (last name beginning with A to F: salad or vegetarian dish; G to L: main dish; O to Q: snacks or hors d'oeuvres; R to Z: dessert).

Dinner will be followed by a ceremony in Holland at 7pm. Rev Diane will start things off in Holland, followed by an "open mic" for all congregants to share some of their memories of Lisa. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Reed at heathertreed@gmail.com.

District Assembly Passes Resolution on AZ Bill 1070

April 25, 2010

By now you have all heard the news about the AZ governor signing AZ Bill 1070 into law on Friday. You have also been copied on some of the reaction from congregants in AZ. Yesterday at the business session of the District Assembly of the Pacific Southwest District the delegates passed the following resolution calling for congregations to support all activity to overturn this law or prevent its implementation. It goes on to request that UUA President Peter Morales meet with the General Assembly Planning Committee and representatives of the city of Phoenix and the convention center to reexamine holding GA 2012 in Phoenix.

Resolution of the delegates to the 2010 Assembly of the Pacific Southwest District

Whereas, the governor of Arizona has signed legislation requiring state law enforcement officers to question persons about their status to legally be in the state if there is a reasonable suspicion of the question of the individual's immigration status, and making it a misdemeanor to lack proper immigration paperwork, and,

Whereas, there is a well-founded belief that persons of Hispanic origin will be turned into suspects in their own communities, regardless of their legal status and, in the words of president Obama, "[this] undermines basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and our communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe," and,

Whereas, Unitarian Universalists, dedicated to speaking and standing on the side of love, and in affirmation of the worth and dignity of every person do,

Resolve, that the Pacific Southwest District strongly objects to the final implementation and enforcement of this law and encourages its member congregations to support all efforts to overturn this law at the federal level through any and all administrative, legislative and judicial means available;

Further, the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA, requests the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to re-examine the decision to hold the General Assembly of the Association in the city of Phoenix, AZ in June 2012 and to be in discussion with the General Assembly Planning Committee and representatives of the city and the convention and visitors' bureau on this issue of human dignity and rights.

This was not an easy conversation for delegates, particularly from our Arizona congregations but in the end the only thing that really mattered was that the PSWD stands and speaks firmly on the side of love even at the possible cost of GA in Phoenix. Please know that this is not a call for a boycott at this time but is a call for conversation that may open the door to that path.

Please feel free to contact me, Rev. Ken Brown (PSWD District Executive) or Michael Sallwasser (PSWD District President) if you have any questions. Ken will be formally submitting the resolution to Peter on behalf of the delegates.

In faith and trust,

Tom Loughrey
tloughrey@mac.com
PSWD UUA Board Trustee

Financial Report

During the month of April, the church deposited \$26,158.46 in the operating account. Expenditures withdrawn from the account were \$43,998.23. This is somewhat higher than last month because there were three pay periods in April and it was the end of the quarter, so we paid the withheld state and federal income taxes to the respective governments. The ending balance in the account is \$10,917.50.

Margot Garcia, Treasurer



PSWD Express

I have been hearing from many people across the District and the United States, people deeply concerned about the actions taken by the Arizona legislature and governor. It is clear now is the time to act. Yet there is not agreement on actions, the ministers and lay leaders in Arizona are in conversation with unions, immigrant rights groups, the ACLU, and other progressive organizations around the state. Our District has a seat at the table and I will keep you updated on the actions and decisions from this group. The UUA board is also in discussion about how to deal with our scheduled General Assembly in Phoenix in 2012. At a time when the politics of division seem to be taking the day, we Unitarian Universalists need to stand up and be heard. At a time when our nation is becoming more multi-cultural and pluralistic we need to find ways we can stand with our brothers and sisters to create a nation truly open for all people.

Suggested Actions:

- -Each congregation can support reflection, study, protests, and action on immigration reform in their communities, states and in Arizona
- -Encourage members to pledge non-compliance with the unjust and racist law SB 1070 (there will be t-shirts, bumper stickers and posters available to declare such a stand)
- -Mobilize our congregations to advocate for 1) the Dream Act, see this video for information <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBqkin-6agM> ; 2) a just and fair Comprehensive Immigration Reform; and 3) the abolishment of SB 1070.
- - Let the Arizona Legislature know how you feel, here's a link to the list of legislators with contact information <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp> Gov. Jan Brewer's page is found at <http://azgovernor.gov/>

A Study/Action issue titled "[Immigration as a Moral Issue](#)" will be on the ballot at this year's General Assembly. If it is selected, UU congregations will focus on this important topic from 2010 until 2014. The four-year process allows for deepening understanding and consensus-building in regard to complex social justice topics.

Ken Brown, District Executive
Pacific Southwest District

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

Adult Faith Development
Mike Greenbaum
mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org

New Member Class: The last New Member class of the season will be held in the Ministers office on the first Wednesday of the month, June 2, at 7 p.m., and the second Sunday of the month, June 13, after service. Childcare is available on request. If you have completed *The Pathway to Membership* you are eligible to become a member. You must RSVP to Mary Wiese to attend.

All Church Potluck: Mark your calendars! An all church potluck is scheduled for Sunday, June 13, at 5 p.m. on the Holland patio. Music, drinks, and fun will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Please contact Mary Wiese or Susan Call, 886-2281, for more information.

Closing Goddard for the Summer: Yes, that time is soon upon us. The first Sunday after Memorial Day, June 6, we will be closing Goddard Hall for the summer. This helps us save on cooling costs and also helps our planet. If you set up an information table on Sunday, please make plans to move it over to Holland before the 6th. **ALSO**, we will stop serving lunches after Memorial Day this year due to lack of volunteers. Contact Mary if you need more information.

*Yours in community spirit,
Mary*

CONGREGATIONAL DIAPER DRIVE

Are you aware of the link between soiled diapers and child/spousal abuse? Babies with soiled diapers cry a lot. Crying babies are more likely to be abused by an already stressed-out caregiver who may take it out on the baby or the mother. This is a real problem faced by many low-income families. Diapers are not covered by food stamps or the WIC (women, infants, and children) Program. A healthy change of diapers costs a family \$100 a month or more--for all ages.

Although many people ask why cloth diapers cannot be used, cloth is not always an option. Many of the families assisted by the Diaper Bank have unstable housing with limited access to washing machines and sometimes no money to operate them. In addition, child care centers require parents to leave disposable diapers for their child.

The Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona works with the Pima County Health Department and other partners, such as crisis nurseries, domestic violence shelters, and senior centers, to provide disposable diapers to infants, children, and older adults who cannot afford them.

On May 23, the Southern Arizona Diaper Bank will be our Share the Plate partner and will receive half of the non-pledge money contributed during the offering. In addition, the RE Council, through its social justice program, is sponsoring a diaper drive on the same day. When you go shopping, pick up some diapers and bring them to church on May 23. All sizes are needed, particularly larger child sizes and adult sizes.

Let's get "behind" the UUCT diaper drive.

DRUM CIRCLE CHANGES

In an effort to make drumming available to more people, the **Drum Circle** has dropped its fixed price for each class fee and will now simply ask for a donation, suggesting an amount between \$5 and \$10.

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. 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.

UU CHRISTIANS DISCUSSION GROUP

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, May 17**. For additional information, call Mike Greenbaum at 326-8831 or email him at mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org.

Green Bottle Fundraiser

The FUNdraising Committee is sponsoring another sale of those great stainless steel water bottles. Not only are we doing this to raise much needed funds for UUCT, but also to raise awareness about saving our planet and reducing the use and massive disposal issues created by one-time use plastic water bottles.

Green Bottles are made of 304 food grade stainless steel and come in three versatile sizes--a 12 oz. youth size for \$14, a 20 oz. size perfect for backpacks or purses for \$15, and a 25 oz. wide mouth size for \$16. There are many designs and color to choose from that fit everyone's personal style! All Green Bottles include a sports cap and travel clip which make Green Bottles easy to take everywhere.

So place your order any Sunday this month at the table in Goddard Hall. This is a smart and eco-friendly way to raise funds for our church.



Artist of the Month Gallery

Calling all photographers. The summer art show for the Gallery is Members' and Friends' photographs. We especially invite the people who took the photography class with John Schaefer to bring us a sample of their work.

On June 8 at 10 o'clock, please bring your photographs that can be hung on our sanctuary walls. If you can't bring the photos at that time, contact Margot Garcia (327-3946 or mgarcia@vcu.edu) or Petey Periale (721-8361 or jamper@cox.net) to make special arrangements. The show will last until September 7, 2010.

Margot Garcia for the Gallery Committee

Come to see the play: 7 Jewish Children
(followed by a discussion)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson: Holland Hall
11:45 AM; Sunday, May 16, 2010; Free.

It was a hit at the NW UU Church!
For more information, please call Stuart Thomas, UUCT Peace Group Leader, at 722-2837.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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Book Club

On Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 the UUCT Book Club will be discussing the book "Open The Veins of Latin America" by Eduardo Galeano. The meeting will be at the Awareness room. We are hoping to have new members join us and encourage those of you who are interested in a diversity of books to meet with us.

The deadline for the next Tucsonitarian is May 18 at 5 p.m.



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