



Tucsonitarian

August 25, 2010

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

THE AUCTION IS COMING!!!

The Auction has moved to Saturday night November 13th, just in time for holiday gifting! What to donate to help make the Auction a fun and successful event? Gift Cards (restaurants, stores, I-Tunes); gift memberships (museums, botanical gardens); gift tickets (symphony, movies); dinners; handmade/homemade items. So put your thinking cap on and bring your Auction donations to the table in Goddard, starting Sept. 12th. Tickets for the Auction dinner (\$15) will be available soon!

Your Voice in Arizona Can Be Heard!

We people of faith and conscience *can* be heard in the upcoming election. UUCT has been invited to join our voices with those of the Pima County Interfaith Council (PCIC).

PCIC is a coalition of churches, synagogues and non-profits. These organizations forged their alliance to create power in numbers and to foster ideas and synergy. The organization is non-profit, non-partisan and has worked in Tucson for more than a dozen years. And, they take effective action for our communities.

This election year, PCIC has arranged a “**Candidates Accountability Conference**” at the **Tucson Convention Center, on Sunday, September 26th at 2:30 p.m.**

All major candidates for public office in Southern Arizona will attend. We will present our civic and humanitarian concerns, and the candidates will answer. The conference will be an organized, courteous presentation and response.

To have impact, we need at least 1,000 participants. This is a time when the size and volume of our presence and witness are essential.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Marsha Love on (520) 575-9093 or by email at marsha21045@yahoo.com. When you talk with Marsha, she will be happy to discuss the views you would like represented at the conference.

Sunday Services

August 29

Counting Blessings

Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Kathleen Hogue

As you collect water for this Annual Gathering of the Waters Ceremony, take a moment to reflect on the ways your life has been blessed. What blessings do you wish to bring to the congregation?

Music: Family Singers

September 5

Poetry Sunday

Worship Associate: Bill Keyes

Music: Desert Chorale and Donna DeHaan

September 12

Blindspots, Rearview Mirrors, and Headlights

Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Covenant Circle participants share reflections on how an intimate circle of spiritual friends can help us to see ourselves and our life journeys more clearly.

Worship Associate: Walker Smith

Music: Donna DeHaan

September 19

What's Your Worldview?

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

How we view the world shapes our beliefs, and thus, how we engage the world. We'll look at different worldviews throughout the ages and how they have shaped religious beliefs.

Worship Associate: Terrance Sheridan

Music: Desert Chorale and Donna DeHaan

September 26

Blessing of the Animals Extended Family Worship

Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Kathleen Hogue

Animals extend our vision of family. Continuing a tradition started last year, we'll gather to bless the furry, the scaly, and the feathery members of our community – and express gratitude for the ways they bless our lives.

Worship Associate: Carolyn Saunders

Music: Family Singers and Agnes Paulsen

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Submitted by Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life Administrator:
mwiese@uuctucson.org

A huge 'Thank You' to our Sunday Office Volunteers!

Over the past 10 years, a friendly voice has been available to answer phones and lend a smile in the office on Sunday mornings. However, with today's technology, cell phones and email, the staff felt that volunteer hours could be more useful in other areas. A big round of applause goes to Reah Barrows who was instrumental in making sure that there was always someone sitting behind that desk, rain or shine. Thank you Reah, and everyone else, for helping over the years.

(* There will always be a staff member or volunteer that can be reached by cell phone on Sunday mornings in case of an emergency.)



Community Life Happenings:

Lunches – Lunches have begun. We will not serve lunch on September 5 due to the Labor Day weekend, or October 3 because of the Catalina Park event. We need people to help with food prep. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

Catalina Park Annual Campout- Saturday, October 2 and Sunday October 3, we will be having our semi-annual all church campout at Catalina Park. There will be a fee of \$10 per person to cover food and supplies. Additional entrance fees are required by the park: \$15 per car for overnight campers or \$6 per car for day use. This event was a big hit in the past BUT, *we really need volunteers to help with this!* There is food to be prepped, hikes to be planned, games to be played, songs to be sung, and marshmallows to be toasted! Please, please, contact Mary Wiese, Kathleen Hogue, or Becky Keyes, scrapkeyes@yahoo.com, for more information and to make this campout a success.



Membership News:

New Team Members are needed for the Membership Committee. Please contact Mary Wiese, or Judy Dare, jadare@q.com, for more information.

New UU Class to begin in the fall! The New UU program is written by Jonalu Johnston, and is part of the Tapestry of Faith Adult Programming provided by the UUA. "The ... UU program provides important tools to help congregations welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into their faith communities... It provides opportunities for members of your congregation to share with newcomers what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist... It provides an explicit invitation to become a member." Classes will begin sometime in October. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.



September 2010

ransforming times

Vision

The Journal of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

Civil Disobedience and the Casting of a Moral Vision

When Ralph Waldo Emerson visited his friend Henry David Thoreau in jail, he reportedly asked, “Henry, what are you doing in here?” Thoreau replied, “Waldo, what are you doing out there?”

Thoreau refused to pay taxes to support a system of slavery in this country and what he saw as an immoral war against Mexico. As a result, he was arrested and taken to jail.

Eighty-two people found themselves in Phoenix jails on July 29, twenty-nine of them Unitarian Universalists. In Tucson, 13 were jailed. Many UU’s, myself included, were present at the demonstrations, both in Phoenix and Tucson, protesting against SB 1070 and policing practices that terrorize Latino/Latina communities.

Among those arrested were the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

Like Thoreau, those arrested spent one night in jail. As they make their way back to their home communities and their UU congregations, I know at least some are being asked a question similar to Emerson’s. “Why on earth would you willingly go to jail?”

The question is complex, and so are the answers. First-hand accounts of arrest experiences are being posted on blogs, web-sites, and social networking media. These accounts are as inspiring as they are disturbing, giving insight into individual motivations and a glance inside the Phoenix Municipal and Maricopa County jails. Conditions in our jails have changed a bit since Thoreau’s time – and not for the better.

When Thoreau refused to pay his taxes, he held no illusion that his action would end either slavery or the war. It was simply his way of matching his actions to the dictates of his conscience, no matter the consequence. As he said in his *Essay on Civil Disobedience*, “What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn.” His refusal to pay taxes was an expression of his moral vision.

Later, Thoreau’s ideas on non-violent civil disobedience were successfully used by Mohandas Ghandi and Martin Luther King to bring about social change. Thoreau’s ideas were also the basis for resistance of McCarthy-era policies and for strategies used to overcome apartheid in South Africa.

If you haven’t read *Civil Disobedience* recently, I commend it to you. Though the context has changed, the moral issues of government in relation to human rights have not.

Whichever question you find yourself asking in response to the protests over SB 1070, “Why is my friend in jail?” or “Why is my friend *not* in jail?” asking the questions can be useful in casting your own moral vision.

What cause do you believe in deeply enough to engage in civil disobedience and risk arrest? What most compels you to act on behalf of your cause? What values are transgressed by unjust laws? What values are upheld by civil disobedience? What’s most at stake for you personally in choosing civil disobedience? What’s most at stake for you personally in complying with an unjust law? Is the breaking of laws, especially in a democracy, a moral response? Who determines that a law is unjust? What are the criteria? Are there other means of bringing about change? Are there individual circumstances that prevent you from engaging in civil disobedience? What UU principles and values guide your decisions? How do you stay in relationship with those with whom you disagree? Or do you?

Theodore Parker, also a friend of Emerson and Thoreau, said that the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

May the moral vision we cast today bend the arc even further.

Yours in faith,
Diane



Transforming Times is organized around theological themes. Each theme plays a part in the development of a well-grounded religious and spiritual life. The church's offerings are by no means limited to the themes. They do provide common ground for Community conversation, a way to gain more meaning and depth.

We want to hear many perspectives on each theme. You are invited to submit your original poetry, artwork, or short essays of 400 words or less.

Be warned: seriously engaging these themes could transform your life!

September: Vision

October: Trust

November: Community

December: Grace

January: Stewardship

February: Justice

March: Hope

April: Credo

May: Ritual

June: Beauty



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Label