



Tucsonitarian

December 15, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

Sunday Services at 9:15 and 11:00

www.uuctucson.org

From the Minister's Study

Every day I am grateful for Unitarian Universalism, but especially so during the winter holiday season. As the days grow short and the nights long, we light up our homes, neighborhoods, and towns with bright, twinkling lights.

Our liberal religious faith can be like a light in the night, a beam of hope in a world filled with too much despair. While much of the world is torn by religious difference, we celebrate the many festivals and traditions that make this season joyful.

Where the world has been torn by difference, we do the work of mending, weaving a tapestry of faith from religious truths, wherever they may be found. In this season, we are reminded of the miraculous – those events, small and large, that happen not through our will alone.

From the kindling of the light of the Hanukkah menorah to the return of the sun on the Winter Solstice to the birth of a child on Christmas, these holiday stories help us to remember that we are connected to life and each other – connected in mystery and miracle.

In this season, there is a deep yearning for peace on earth. The festivals and rituals of the holidays give us a glimpse of the peace that is possible. May we shine a beacon of hope into the world, bright with the glow of the peace that is possible when we join our hearts, hands, and minds in service of ever greater love and understanding among all people.

Yours in the spirit of the season,
Diane



Sunday Services

Sunday, December 19 Services at 9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Within the Dark, A Star of Hope

The stars in the sky are always present, even in the daylight. Only the darkness makes them visible. The Winter Solstice takes us deep into the magic of night and the wonder of stars.

Worship Associate: Walker Smith

Music: Donna DeHaan (9:15) Desert Chorale (11:00)

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Christmas Won't Be Christmas Without Any Presents

So said Unitarian author, Louisa May Alcott in her timeless classic, *Little Women*. The semi-autobiographical novel includes a Christmas celebration in times of deep hardship. We'll tell the story of Alcott's "little women," listening for the values of love, hope, and joy that permeate our holiday celebrations today. The 5:30 service will feature a Holiday Choir, directed by Agnes Paulsen for people of all ages – guests are welcome, too! The 7:00 service will feature Brian Moon and other acoustic musicians. Both services will end with the traditional lighting of candles and the singing of Silent Night.

Sunday, December 26

Gilbert Moore

The Good Samaritan 2010

A Call for Workshops

Proposals are requested for District Assembly 2011 workshops, to be held at Neighborhood Church in Pasadena, CA May 20-21.

This year's theme is: A Covenant for Our Future

Selection is based on varied topics with wide audience appeal that focus on our theme in one of 4 areas: personal/spiritual development, social action, church organization or District/UUA workings. Due to space limitations, only 20 workshops will be chosen this year. Workshops will be selected at the January 15, 2011 Planning Committee meeting.

DEADLINE is January 8, 2011

A flyer/application is available on the PSWD website: <http://www.pswduua.org/pages/district-assembly.php>. Please complete and return to us asap--deadline is approaching!

District Assembly Date Set

On May 20 and 21 of 2011 the Pacific Southwest District will be holding our 50th Anniversary District Assembly at Neighborhood Church in Pasadena, CA. We will be following the same format as in 2010's very successful DA in Santa Barbara, with opening, workshops, and business meeting all taking place in a Friday evening/Saturday day format. Our keynote speaker on Friday evening will be the president of the UUA, Rev. Peter Morales.



If you are considering an idea for a workshop, now is the time to be formulating a proposal. The deadline for proposals is January 8, 2011. Only 18-20 workshops will be presented this year so competition will be tight! You can download a Call for Workshops Flyer and Application from the PSWD website by clicking on <http://tinyurl.com/2ebetzi>

WOW! The Holidays Are Here Again. Already!!

Time to think about gifts to show appreciation to those who make your life easier. What better way to say thank you or Merry Christmas than to help provide some special food for their table (maybe even some basic food)? With grocery cards from your friendly UUCT rebate table you can do just that and those who receive them can enjoy getting whatever they want or need. Think of all the people who add to your life or your children's lives throughout the year, everyone from the teacher to the pool guy and add to their holidays thru our program. Now how thoughtful is that? See you soon.

PS: Thanks to everyone who purchased some "Back to School Program" products at Safeway, the rebate for September doubled. Thanks! They are again planning a new "Back to School Program" from January 2 thru January 25 so hope you will again look for the selected products and bring in 10% on those items.

*Marjorie Smith, Coordinator
Grocery Rebate Program*

Report from the treasurer

During the month of November, \$50,798.34 was deposited into the operations checking account. This includes the money generated from the service auction fund raising event. During that same period, \$43,197.90 was withdrawn for expenses. We are still operating with a \$10,000 loan from the line-of-credit from the bank.

Margot Garcia, acting treasurer

Hospitality for the Homeless 2010

Our church partners with the Salvation Army to provide 200 beds a night for homeless men, women and children during the coldest months of the year. We are a part of Operation Deep Freeze. I along with Beth Newhouse, coordinate a cadre of volunteers to provide and serve three meals during a series of overnight stays in Goddard Hall. Please consider donating an item, prepare or purchase a dish to share, work a dinner or breakfast shift or serve as an overnight chaperone.

The dates & details are (Wednesday evening thru Thursday morning):

Dec. 29 & Dec. 30

Jan. 19 & Jan. 20

Feb. 16 & Feb. 17

How can you help? Volunteer to serve and/or provide the following:

Dinner: main dish, side dish, dessert, fruit, beverages

Sack lunch: lunchmeat, bread, cheese, chips, cookies, fruit

Breakfast: main dish, side dish, breakfast meat, fruit, beverages

What to Donate: package of new socks, travel size soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Contact: Erin Deely at edeely@cox.net or at 520-320-7688
Visit our table, in Goddard Hall after the 11:00 am Sunday Services to sign-up

From the Finance Committee

As we come to the end of the calendar year, and for most of us the end of the financial year for tax purposes, please make sure you are up-to-date with your pledge. As of the end of October, we were behind in pledge donations by \$17,812.15 from what would be expected for this point in the budget year. This causes cash flow problems and has resulted in the church having to borrow \$10,000 from our line-of-credit with the bank. The cost is \$110 per month in interest on the loan. Thank you to all those who are paying regularly.

Margot Garcia, Finance Chair

Schulz Named UUSC President

Internationally recognized human-rights leader Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz has been named the new UUSC president and CEO. You can find the entire story at http://uuscs.org/content/uusc_names_bill_schulz_new_president_and_ceo

MEET A BOARD MEMBER

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

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

Solstice December 21: Our weekday service Annual Solstice celebration will be held on Tuesday, December 21, at 5:00 p.m. on the patio. We will celebrate the dark of winter with Music, drumming, prose, and fire! Cookies, hot cider, and hot chocolate will be served afterwards. Please contact Mary Wiese, mwiese@uuctucson.org, if you are interested in participating.

UUCT Empowerment Team

This is the fourth in a series of articles to introduce you to your Empowerment Team (ET). Previously, you heard from Peggy Smith, our Communications portfolio holder (Sept 15), Chris Wallace, our Finance portfolio holder (Oct 13), and Mary Wiese, our Facilities portfolio holder (Nov 24). Look for upcoming articles from Mary Wiese, who is also our Membership portfolio holder, and Rev. Diane Dowgiert, our Leadership portfolio holder.

The ET is appointed by the Board of Trustees (BOT) and charged with the management of the church. In a nutshell, the ET exists so that the BOT can focus on our Vision, while the ET ensures that we keep to our Mission and attain the goals laid out in our Strategic Plan. To efficiently address the many issues that arise, the ET meets twice a month and handles some matters via email. Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback of any kind – positive and negative – you may have.

I hold the Programs Portfolio, which includes all that falls under the Lifespan Faith Development (LFD) umbrella, namely, Childcare, Religious Education for Children and Youth (RE), Adult Faith Development (AFD), and our Social Justice groups. While I am the Assistant to the LFD Director, my duties in that position do not include my responsibilities on the ET. My role on the ET is as a volunteer member of UUCT. In this capacity, I serve on the RE Council and am the liaison to the AFD Team and Social Justice groups. I provide monthly reports to the ET on all that is happening in LFD as well as an annual report to the BOT on the progress made within LFD in meeting the applicable benchmarks in the Strategic Plan.

As the newest member of the ET, I have been impressed with the dedication of its members. I have also enjoyed the camaraderie of the group and feel honored to be serving our church in this capacity.

Heather T. Reed
Programs Portfolio
UUCT Empowerment Team
hreed@uuctucson.org

My name is Mickey Dowling, and I am a new member of the Church Board this year. I have been a member of UUCT for about four and a half years and have been active on the Buildings and Grounds Committee as well as having served on the Empowerment Team for two years. After living in Virginia for 35 years and my retirement, Jan, my wife, and I moved to Tucson in early 2006 to be closer to our daughter and her family.

We were members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke, VA for about 25 years where I was active with B & G and served on a number of committees. I have been asked many times why I joined a liberal religious community and how I got interested in our church. Having grown up in the Methodist Church, attended a Methodist affiliated college and married someone who is Jewish, some find it strange that I ended up in a UU community. To the contrary, I say, as many of our UU friends have followed a similar path to UUism. I have found over the years that our closest friends seem to come from the UU community, and friendships are probably the main reason for my association with UUCT. We live in a liberal household, so it's only natural to associate with liberal friends. I find it nice and comfortable to be around like minded people.

The thing I like best about UUCT is the great collection of intelligent, talented, unique, caring and friendly people. The thing I like least about UUCT (and my previous congregation) is the continuous frustration of never being able to have enough pledge income to support a complete liberal religious program. Maybe there is something to be said about Christian churches where some believe the devil will get you if you don't give.....Regardless of the negative, I feel I have found the right religious community at UUCT.

They're Here!

Two new patio heaters have arrived! Now we will be able to use our space much more creatively. Already, the heaters have inspired plans for a St. Patrick's Day event!

What other creative uses can be found for the patio heaters? We can have coffee and lunch outside on winter morning, hold evening alternative services, sponsor a reader's theater group, have a lion dance to celebrate Chinese New Year!

But most of all, we'd like to hear from you. Yes, you! So put on your thinking caps and send your ideas and suggestions to Mary Wiese (mwiese@uuctucson.org), Richard Brodesky (rmbrodesky@msn.com), or any other member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 4, at 7 PM, in the Awareness Room. Do join us!

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

We hold these potlucks as a way of introducing you who are new to UUTC or those of you who want to get to know some of our longer-term members. We hope to personally invite you to the new and interesting events that are happening here!

This is a great way to get to know members in a small, informal group. We look forward to you joining us!

We will hold a potluck four times this year on Sunday at 5:30 pm at the church, on the patio, weather permitting:

JANUARY 9

MARCH 13

MAY 8

Please bring food if your last name begins with the following letter:

SALADS A-D
APPETIZERS E-H
VEGGIE OR SIDE DISHES I-M
MAIN DISH N-R
DESSERTS S-Z

Please bring enough to serve 10 people. Lemonade and ice tea will be provided. Feel free to bring your favorite beverages, also

All **deadlines** for the Tucsonitarian are now on the **first and third Tuesday of every month.**

The next deadline for the Tucsonitarian and Transforming Times will be Tuesday, December 21 at 5 p.m.

On **Dec. 16 the Book Club** will meet in Awareness at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome and babysitting is available upon request.

We will discuss "Out Stealing Horses" by Per Petterson, a winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize. After a chance encounter with a neighbor, sixty-seven year old Trond is forced to reflect on a long ago incident that marked the beginning of a series of losses.

Please join us for the Artist of the Month Gallery "All Things Beautiful." The exhibit features mixed media paintings by members of the Southwestern League of Fine Arts.



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