

September 28, 2011



Tucsonitarian

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson
Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

www.uuctucson.org

From the Minister's Study

The season of autumn is traditionally associated with change. In more northern climes, turning leaves are a visible metaphor for change. Here in the desert, seasonal changes are subtle, yet each season brings something different.

Change and loss are different sides of the same coin. Both are integral parts of life. Each is inherent in the other. Loss inevitably brings about change, and change inevitably creates loss.

The thing about change is that when it's over, things are different. Old ways give over to new ways, and in the end, something is lost. Change, when it happens, can feel like a judgment of the past, like the new is somehow better than the old, giving a double sting to the loss.

Theodore Parker, an eminent Unitarian minister of the mid-nineteenth century, delivered a landmark sermon titled *The Transient and Permanent in Christianity*. It spoke to a Unitarian audience of the time, to whom Christianity was central.

Unitarian Universalism today has moved away from the centrality of Christianity, though it is still a vital part of who we are. Today we embrace a wide variety of expressions of truth and wisdom. For some, this is a welcome change, for others, a painful loss.

Rituals, and practices change over time, adapting to current-day needs. These are transient. What's permanent is intangible, but very real, and worth holding on to, values that endure: love, hope, compassion, justice, and peace.

Knowing what is transient and what is permanent can help ease the pain that comes with change, letting go of what must be let go and holding onto what endures.

May the turning of this season be a blessing.

Yours,
Diane



Upcoming Services:

Sunday, October 2

Blessing of the Animals

Extended Family Worship

Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Kathleen Hogue, and Patty Willis

On this day of animal blessing, we'll begin with everyone together in the sanctuary. Those with pets may then bring them to the patio for a blessing, and others may remain in the sanctuary for storytelling with our ministerial intern, who happens to be a professional storyteller. It promises to be a fun and meaningful day for all.

Dogs should be leashed. Cats and other small animals should be caged. A volunteer from Pima Animal Care Center will be on hand with information about pet adoption and to accept your donations of cat and dog food.

Worship Associate: Cyndi Clements

Music: Brian Moon

Sunday, October 9

Living in a Multi-Religious World

Religion is more than a set of beliefs. It's also an embodied experience. For example, a growing number of people describe themselves as culturally Jewish or culturally Christian, while not actively practicing the faith. In achieving inter-faith understanding, could it be that cultural differences are harder to overcome than matters of belief?

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Worship Associate: Celeste Rogers

Music: Family Singers

Sunday, October 16

Faith in Pink

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. You're invited to wear pink to church as a way to remember and honor those who have died and those who have survived breast cancer. The sermon will explore the intersections between health, gender, and faith.

Worship Associate: Carolyn Saunders

Music: Desert Chorale, joined by the choir from the UU Congregation of Northwest Tucson

Scholarship and Volunteer Opportunities for GA 2012

With General Assembly being held in Phoenix in 2012, we have a rare opportunity to attend an event which promises to be an historic occasion for our religion. Because of the passage of Arizona SB 1070 last year, many in the UUA wanted to boycott our state. But the delegates at GA 2010 voted to show up and speak out against the injustices. Our goal is to go to Phoenix and put our principles into action.

Attending GA is often a financial burden for many. A scholarship fund has been created at UUCT, and has a current balance of \$285. If you would like to donate to the fund, write "GA Scholarship" in the memo line of your check.

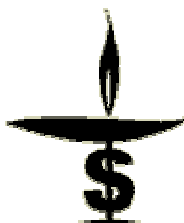
Information and updates about GA 2012 are posted on the UUA website. Registration rates and related information for General Assembly 2012 are currently being determined.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Carolyn Saunders, GA 2012 District Coordinator, at 299-3854.

If you are interested in finding out about the Best Selling Books at GA 2011—Check the UUCT website or pick up a list at the UUCT office.

UUA Fair Share amount is \$58

From Carolyn Saunders,
Financial Secretary



People often wonder what the fair share contribution is all about when we plan the yearly budget for UUCT. The UUA Fair Share contribution requested from congregations for the fiscal year just started is \$58 per certified member, an increase of \$2. Congregations with 550 or more members have the option of contributing 4.2 percent of their budget instead.

Fair Share contributions to the Annual Program Fund enable the UUA to support congregations with programming and other resources, including books, *UU World*, *InterConnections*, lifespan faith development curricula, stewardship services, worship materials, and ministries to young adults. Contributions to the APF make up nearly half of the UUA's undesignated funding. A PDF of a brochure explaining the Annual Program Fund is available online.

From the UUCT Board of Trustees Update on 2011-2012 Board Members

Following the annual meeting last spring, the board was left with two vacant seats. Those seats were filled over the summer, however we have since accepted the resignation of member Kim Rogan and we gratefully thank her for her service. The board is presently working to fill her position. Your board members are: Chaz McBride, President; Poonam Bhola, secretary; Peg Smith, communications; Mickey Dowling; John Schaefer; and Linda Sellsor. The Board of Trustees meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Approved minutes are posted to the website, and regular newsletter items will be submitted to keep the congregation informed.

BOARD UPDATE

At a retreat on August 28th, the UUCT board set priorities for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. These include:

1. Financial Stewardship—working to assure a balanced budget by year end and conducting an assessment of our fund raising potential. At the board's direction, the Empowerment Team is identifying potential consultants to provide an independent assessment of factors that may be impacting financial giving among the congregation and help assess future income potential. This is also foundational work that would need to be done for any potential capital campaign. This cost was included in the budget.
2. Membership—conducting a thorough review of the membership list to get a clear picture of UUCT's true membership so as to aid in future planning and decision making.
3. Policy Governance—presenting a proposal to the congregation for review and consideration to fully implement policy governance specifically as it relates to church finance.

In addition to these priorities, the board will be exploring ways of encouraging congregational support and involvement in the upcoming Justice General Assembly June 2012 in Phoenix. Our own Carolyn Saunders is District Chair for GA and is involved in the planning helping with local support and volunteers. Please check in with any board member if you have questions or input.

From our Sister Congregation:

You are invited to a fun-filled Luunitarian Weekend in Rocky Point, Mexico, Friday, October 14th- Sunday, October 16th. Come join other UU families as we soak up the sun, and enjoy friendship and relaxation at the beach. Some families camp, and others stay at a local hotel. For more info, please call UUCNWT member, Jan Hatunen (520-622-2812).

Lifespan Faith Development Opportunities
Kathleen Hogue, Lifespan Faith Development Director
khogue@uuctucson.org

Coming UP in LFD

October 8 - Church Picnic: join us for our ALL Church Picnic from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm at Freedom Park, Ramada # 1. More details to come. Contact Kathleen khogue@uuctucson.org



October 22, 2011 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM- Courage & Renewal Retreat Series Open House: Anyone who wants to live and work with greater awareness of how who we are intersects with what we do will want to attend this introduction to a series of retreats, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church. Facilitated by Jaimie Leopold, founder and director of Tucson's Desert Center for Renewal, these day-long retreats combine rich insights from poets, storytellers, wisdom traditions, and participants' own life stories. Attendees leave refreshed in spirit, opening the door to a deep appreciation of the vital connections between soul and role. Each retreat takes place on a Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 4831 E. 22nd St. in Tucson. Childcare is available if requested. Register at the Lifespan Faith Development Table in Goddard Hall after Sunday service. For more information, contact Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org.

Unitarian Universalists Reaching Out
Chris Wallace

The Gateway Project is funded by a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association to link congregations through electronic technology and expand the outreach of Unitarian Universalism. It was initiated by the UU Congregation of Northwest Tucson. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson put up \$250 which was matched by the UUA to fund a four-page, color flyer about Unitarian Universalism in southeastern Arizona. Over 800 of them were recently mailed to our neighbors. We have approximately 60 remaining flyers for distribution by YOU. Give one to a friend, leave one in the doctor's office or your favorite neighborhood hangout. Spread our good news. Look for the attractive flyers in the foyer.

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:

Membership News:



The Pathway to Membership:

'Get To Know us' Newcomers Orientation: The first orientation of the year will be held on the first Sunday in October after church. Free lunch and childcare will be provided. Orientations will be held the first Sunday of the month, except in January, through May 2012. Please contact Mary Wiese for more details.

New UU Class: The first New UU Class of the year will be held beginning on Monday October 3rd. The class will begin at 6:30 p.m. and run until approximately 8:30 p.m. The class will run for 5 weeks but we will skip Halloween. Childcare is available. Please contact Mary Wiese to sign up or for more details.

New Member Classes: If you have completed the *Pathway to Membership* and are ready to become a committed member of our church community, you are welcomed to come to a New Member class. These classes are held with the Minister on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. or on the second Sunday of the month, after services. ***You must RSVP to attend.*** Please contact Mary to RSVP or if you have questions.

Book/Media Festival Activities



The three-day Book/Media Festival offers many opportunities for UUCT members and friends to participate. We need your donations to have a successful event. Then, volunteers are needed for set-up, sales and clean-up, so watch for the sign-up table. A sale pre-view on October 21 for members and guests, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm, will feature a book signing, pizza dinner (\$5), family activities and lots of sales!! Books can be purchased from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday October 22 and again after church the next day (11:30 – 2:00). Call Beth at 881-0633 to help.



JOIN THE UUCT DINING CLUB FOR OUR OCTOBER OUTING!

No coupons, reservations, hidden costs or pre-payments needed! Just bring a flyer (available at church the Sunday prior to the event, or on the UUCT website) and stuff your face at **BJ's** on Broadway and Craycroft on **Tuesday, October 11th** anytime between 5:00 and midnight (for you late night diners!). UUCT will receive 15% of the total we spend. Invite family and friends to join you, and UUCT will earn even more!!!

Thank you to all those who participated in our Wine Tasting at Cata Vinos on September 25th. We raised \$280 for UUCT while enjoying wine, cheese, and conversation with friends.



Book Club meets October 20 at 7PM in the Awareness Room. We will be choosing books for the next six months. Stop by at our table next Sunday, see what we have read, and suggest books of interest. This month's read is David Sedaris's "Dress Your Family in Corduroy" Call ahead for sitters and questions, Lois Ellen Atkins 991-5350.

The deadline for the Tucsonarian is the first and third Tuesday of each month with publication on the second and fourth Wednesday. The next deadline is October 4th at 5 pm and the publication date is October 12th.



Music Notes from Agnes

On Sunday, September 18th, Family Singers sang the song "One Small World" (We're All in This Together) composed by UU Lucy Holstedt who is an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. I found out about this song when she shared it on the list serve of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN). She gave me permission to copy her song at no charge and introduce it to Family Singers so I would like to express thanks here for her generosity. Lucy Holstedt is a songwriter, choral arranger, playwright director and performer in theater, music theater, improv comedy, clubs, and choral groups.

In Harmony,
Agnes Paulsen
Minister of Music



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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