Social justice often involves communicating with members of other faith groups with whom we may not always agree theologically but with whom we need to work if justice is to be done. One of the challenges of interfaith social action is learning how to communicate with those who use words that don't always resonate with Unitarian Universalists—words like sacred, redemption, sin, salvation, and evangelical.

On Saturday, April 14, Rev. Diane Dowgiert will lead an important congregation-wide workshop, one of whose goals is to develop the language skills necessary to engage in interfaith work. It will also explore religious language that describes our own personal experience of the sacred.

Sign up now for this workshop which will be held on April 14 from 8:30 to 3:30 in Holland Sanctuary with lunch included. The cost is $20, and all participants must be registered by April 8. You can pay with cash, check, or credit card. For more information, visit the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard Hall after the service or email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net.
The other day I learned that Gabriel Martin, one of the children of the congregation, has come up with a title for me: Ministress. “Of course,” I thought, “a ministrress is a female minister.” Then I had a moment of despair, thinking, “We’ve worked so hard to remove gender from occupational titles, and here we go again.” Then I took a child’s eye view of the situation and realized the amount of thought that went into the new title.

Here is a child whose experience in this church has been with male ministers. I marveled at Gabriel’s creativity in negotiating a new kind of relationship. Truth is, there are differences between men and women, and I imagine Gabriel was working out in himself how it was he would relate not only to a new minister, but one who is a woman.

While the duties and responsibilities of professional ministry are the same regardless of gender, men and women often have different approaches to ministry.

In the 1970’s, researchers into differences in child development between boys and girls observed the playground behavior of children. They noted that boys’ play tends to focus on mastery -- of equipment, of their own bodies, of specific skills. Girls’ play tends to focus on the maintenance of relationships. Of course, through their play, boys do develop relationships and girls do gain skills of mastery. Their priorities are different. And, there are always exceptions.

Now that women outnumber men in Unitarian Universalist ministry by a slight margin, a shift has been noted. My colleagues who have been in the ministry for far longer than I have, men and women alike, notice that there seems to be less competitiveness among ministers and more collegiality. There is more of an intentional focus on relationship building.

So, for those of you, who like Gabriel, have been wondering how things will be different with your newly installed minister who happens to be female, rest assured. I do everything a male minister does: lead worship, deliver sermons, perform weddings and memorial services, comfort the bereaved, teach about Unitarian Universalism, offer spiritual counseling, and guide the congregation in the fulfillment of its mission.

Whether by virtue of nature or nurture, my approach to life and therefore to ministry is shaped around relationship and connection. In that sense, I like the title, Ministress, because it implies relationship. In my graduation speech when I was awarded the degree Master of Divinity, I asked the question, “Is it possible to master divinity?” I don’t think so. But to be in relationship with the divine nature of life is something I can embrace.

Yours in relationship,  
Diane Dowgiert

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**Womens Spirit Circle**

Join the growing number of women coming together for a lovely session of sharing, listening and connecting on a deeper level. The atmosphere of acceptance, understanding and support is amazing and rejuvenating! Much like the covenant circles, this is an opportunity to build stronger relationships within our UU community of women. Although regular attendance is encouraged, you are welcome to drop-in when you can.

We meet on the 4th Friday of every month. This month the **Women’s Circle will meet** Friday, March 23, from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm in the **Awareness Room**. If you’ve been meaning to attend, but keep forgetting when we meet, feel free to contact me, Erin Deely, at 320-7688 or at edeely@cox.net for a reminder call or email the week of the meeting.

This is an opportunity to you to take some time for yourself, away from all your responsibilities and endless list of “things to do” to connect with and support the women of our congregation. **Childcare is provided.** Simply let me know how many children you will have with you, the week of the meeting, so we have enough childcare staff on hand.

Erin Deely
** The HarpFusion Concert on March 3rd was a real crowd pleaser. Director of the group, Dr. Carrol McLaughlin, is Professor of Harp at the University of Arizona and has attracted harp students from all over the world to come here to study with her. Not only was the concert outstanding, but after paying expenses, we realized a profit of nearly $1300 which has been added to our church treasury.

** So far I have received monies for four additional Hymnal Supplements. Last week a check for $30 came from a friend in Ohio. Anyone else? In order to get the discount price, I need to order in quantities of 10 or more.

** Have you noticed the delightful pieces of piano music Anne Roberts has been playing at our services? Many thanks to Anne for sharing her talents with us.

** Hats off to Georgeann Weaver who directed her own composition, “The Prayer” as Desert Chorale sang it on Sunday, March 11th. Georgie is a published composer who lives in Oro Valley with her husband, Dave, and daughter, Tonisha. Dave is a member of Desert Chorale.

** Don’t forget the Jeni Foster program at 7:30 on Saturday night, March 24th. Jeni is a folk singer from Grant’s Pass, Oregon who specializes in songs related to history and literature. Her program that evening is “Mother Jones, the Miners’ Angel.” Tickets will be available at the door – $10 for adults and $5 for students. Don’t miss it!

** Upcoming Sunday Sermons **

** Sunday, March 25 ** “Letting Go: The Heart of Forgiveness”
Forgiveness is a difficult and necessary task of living. To forgive is to let go of the past in order to move into a future of hope and promise. To learn to let go is at the heart of forgiveness.

Leader: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Music: Desert Chorale, Anne Roberts, Agnes Paulsen, Brian Moon

** Sunday, April 1 ** “Volunteering”
Our annual youth-led service. This year’s theme is volunteering and how we can donate our time to help out our church and community.

Leaders: Youth of the Church
Music: YRUU performers

** Sunday, April 8 ** “Rising”
What is rising in you this Easter? Hope? Trust? Compassion? Freedom? Joy? We’ll look at some different religious traditions of Spring to help us explore the idea of rising.

Leader: Rev. Diane Dowgiert

** Sunday, April 15 ** “The Tyranny of Structurelessness” by Rev. Rod Richards
The UU ministers of Southern Arizona will be exchanging pulpits on this Sunday. Rev. Richards serves the UU Church of Southeast Arizona, located in Sierra Vista. Rev. Dowgiert will be filling the pulpit at the UU Congregation of Northwest Tucson.

** Sunday, April 22 ** “Celebrate the Web of Life”
In springtime we share our gratitude for the gifts of nature and the relationships we have with one another. Symbolically we celebrate this through our Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion ritual, which we mark this year in April, the time that the Sonoran Desert is in bloom. Bring a flower and join us for a special Earth Day celebration in which we will express our reverence for the interconnected web of all existence.

Leaders: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca Froom, Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
Music: Family Singers, Agnes Paulsen and Brian Moon
Giving Life the Shape of Justice

What do you love about our Tucson home? What is most important to you about your “good life”? What most pains you about how the world is today? These were the kinds of questions Rev. Katherine Jesch used to entice participants at the March 10th Social Justice Workshop into envisioning the world we dream of living in 25 years from now. After a morning filled with a multi-layered visioning process, we had a delicious “sustainable” lunch prepared by Becky Keyes and her crew (Please see related article)

The afternoon brought opportunities to reflect upon barriers to social justice and our own gifts and commitment that we bring to the work. We brainstormed all social justice issues and concerns, then through a multiple voting process narrowed these to four areas our members feel passionate about: War & Peace, Immigration, Green Sustainable Living, and Economic Justice. Groups formed around these four areas and scheduled follow-up meetings to start developing ways for people of all ages to get involved and to start putting plans into place. See the Social Justice Invitations to the Congregation article for dates, times and locations of these important meetings. All interested congregants are invited to participate!

Social Justice Invitations to the Congregation

At the Social Justice Workshop members of our congregation identified four issues they passionately wanted to address. Below you will find the areas of concern and the details about their next meetings.

You are invited to join in any of these that speak to your heart.

- **Immigration**: Planning meeting: Tuesday March 20th at 7PM in Servetus Room. Refreshments will be provided.
- **Green Sustainable Living**: Planning meeting over lunch under the sunshade on Goddard Patio: Sunday March 25th following the worship service.
- **Economic Justice**: Planning meeting: Sunday April 1st at 12:15 in the Awareness Room.
- **War & Peace**: To be announced.

Ideas for Green Sustainable Living

Participants at the Social Justice Workshop so enjoyed Becky Keyes’ tasty food that they asked her for her sources! Becky purchased many of her ingredients (some in bulk) from a market where they carry organic foods and buy direct from producers, eliminating the middlemen. She served lunch using recycled paper goods and used tortillas produced right here in Tucson. She found locally grown produce and offered Fair Trade coffee and iced tea for our drinking pleasure. (Since we get a special non-profit mailing rate, we cannot give specific stores and locations in the newsletter, but Ask for the Green Sheet in the church office on Sundays to get full details.)

Organic foods and recycled paper products are good for the planet, and purchasing food grown or produced locally improves the freshness of food and cuts down on the fossil fuels used by avoiding long-distance shipping. Buying local produce supports southeast Arizona farmers who provide good food right in our neighborhood. Fair trade products insure that the growers, pickers and packagers of our food were paid a fair, living wage for producing it. You may want to try some of these options and let your purchasing dollars speak your values loudly!

*Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings*
April in Religious Education

Sunday April 1
Our high school youth have a reputation for leading amazing worship, and they continue their tradition on this day with exploring the idea of Volunteering, as part of the annual youth led worship. Our middle school youth are invited to worship with adults for this special service.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality classes meet in Emerson room: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30.

Friday April 6
Parents, enjoy First Friday Parent’s Night Out from 6:00-10:00 pm while children have a great time with their friends in Emerson. Contact Kathleen Hogue, Childcare Supervisor, at 312-0441 for details or to reserve a space for your child.

Sunday April 8
For Easter Sunday children in preschool (age 3) thru 8th grade meet in Awareness for a special Religious Education worship exploring the story of the Phoenix. YRIU high school youth will join with adults to worship in Holland.

Following worship will be our annual Easter Canned food hunt where children search for canned food donations to be given to our own UUCT food bank and then exchange them for Easter candy. There will be no OWL classes.

Wednesday April 11
The April RE Council meeting will be held at 6:30 pm in Emerson. Anyone interested in joining the Council or learning more about it is welcome to attend. Contact Natasha Warner, RE Council chair for details.

Sunday April 15
OWL classes meet in Emerson room: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30.

Sunday April 22
Families are invited to worship together in Holland Sanctuary during this month’s Extended Family Worship as we honor the interconnected web of existence and participate in our annual Flower Communion. The nursery will be available in Blackwell room for our youngest children who may need a rest or play setting.

OWL classes meet in Emerson room: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30.

Are you interested in being involved in our church’s Coming of Age (CoA) Program? Do you have a child that will be in eighth or ninth grade next year? Then come to the Awareness room at 12:15 for a Coming of Age Booster to learn more about UUCT’s CoA Program and how you can be involved!

Friday April 27 - Sunday April 29
Members of our YRIU youth group head off to Riverside, CA to participate in District Assembly. Ask them about it when they return! Youth remaining at church are invited to attend service this day.

OWL classes meet in Emerson room: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30.

Annual R. E. Easter Canned Food Drive

Please share your good fortune and donate canned goods and to our UUCT food bank as part of the annual RE Easter Canned Food Hunt. Collection boxes will be available in the back of Goddard Hall March 18 thru April 1. On Sunday April 8, children in the RE Program will then search for hidden canned goods on the church playground, and turn them in for a special Easter treat. The UUCT Food bank is especially in need of pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter and jelly. Please do not bring in dented, damaged, or expired items (a tip: if you wouldn’t eat, why would anyone else?).

Position Open

The Church Office is needing an office assistant, 5 hours per week, 3 hours on Tuesday and 2 hours on Wednesday. Rate of pay: $9 per hour. Qualifications include: computer skills, telephone skills, general office knowledge. See Jean in church office for application if interested.
Community Life Information
By Mary Wiese, Community Life Coordinator

First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, April 6. It is held in the Awareness room from 6pm until 10pm and provided for a nominal fee. If you would like to reserve a space for your child, you must RSVP to Kathleen Hogue, 312-0441, by Thursday, April 5.

Rummage and Book Sale

The Rummage sale that was originally scheduled for March 23 and 24, has been rescheduled until the last weekend in April, the 27 and 28. This decision was made because Mary Wiese has doctor’s orders to take it easy. This will probably be our last Rummage/Book sale due to waning interest and available storage space. Please contact Mary Wiese if you can help in any way-514-5483 or macbrude@cox.net.

Ceremony of Joining

If you are new to the congregation but have been visiting with us for some time, you may feel that it is time to join the church. Becoming part of the church community is a spiritual commitment and we welcome you to join us on the journey. If you are ready to make that commitment, we invite you to participate in the Ceremony of Joining taking place during our regular service on Sunday, March 25. If you are interested, please send Mary Wiese a short three sentence biography about yourself. You may send it by email to macbrude@cox.net or mail it to the church. If you have any questions concerning the joining process, please feel free to contact me.

Pastoral Care Workshop

During the weekend of March 10, Rebecca Froom and I attended a district sponsored workshop on pastoral care. Some of the most valuable information I got from the workshop was through networking with the facilitators and participants. One of the facilitators shared that their congregation holds a bi-annual Listening Campaign. This is set up very much like the Stewardship Campaign where there are captains and team leaders responsible for contacting members of the congregation. The purpose of the Listening Campaign is to find out what the individual needs and concerns of members are. This also has a pastoral aspect; because of our size it would be impossible to assess the needs of individual congregants through a survey for instance. Unfortunately, in the past when we have not heard from someone for some time, we only find out that we have not met their needs or that they have had some difficulty in their lives when we call to ask them for money. This is a concept we should consider sometime in the next year or two. If you are interested in this idea, please contact me at your convenience.

Thanks!

Many thanks for all of the warm get well wishes I received from many of you. While I am not up running marathons yet, I am walking better. Thank you so much for all of the support.

Yours in Community Spirit,
Mary

Artist of the Month Gallery

Prints from members of The Drawing Studio are on exhibit until April 9. Oil stick and reverse glass paintings, and monoprints, will be featured in the Gallery’s April exhibit of works by Mary Theresa Dietz. An opening reception will be on Sunday, April 15 from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Members and Friends! It’s not too soon to begin gathering together your own artistic creations for the annual Members and Friends exhibit in May. Have your art ready to hang, Tuesday, May 8 and celebrate your creativity with an Opening Reception on Mother’s Day, May 13.

Abby Root
District Assembly Registration Underway

By Carolyn Saunders

District Assembly registration brochures are available now at http://www.pswduua.org/pages/district-assembly.php and some printed copies are available in the church office. It is important to get your registration in before April 2 when the price goes up! Registration forms must be mailed to the PSWD Office, 2052 Norma St., Oxnard, CA 93036. This year’s District Assembly will be held in Riverside, California, on April 27-29.

DA offers a great program for families. There is programming for children of all ages and this year’s keynote speaker, Dr. William Doherty, is Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. According to Dr. Doherty, many of today’s families suffer from time famine, scheduled hyperactivity, and parental anxiety about how to combine love and limits. "We have lost control of our time, and our family activities such as dinner, weekend outings, and vacations have suffered. Many of us have also lost confidence in our own leadership with our children, treating them as entitled consumers of parental services who must be catered to." Doherty focuses attention on what is happening in the frenetic, anxious culture of parenting. He encourages families to consider how "we can reclaim family time, revive family relationships, regain leadership as parents, and take back our kids."

In addition to hearing Dr. Doherty’s dynamic perspective on family issues, adults and youth have the opportunity to be part of the UUA Consultation on Youth Ministry to help expand PSWD Youth Ministry programs. This series of exciting conversations will review data from the UUA national survey, go in depth on issues on spiritual needs of youth, needs of junior high youth, congregational involvement, racial and sexual identity of youth and provide tools for creating exciting intergenerational worship services.

Other exciting aspects of DA are the opportunities it provides for celebration, fellowship and networking for young adults, Christian UUs, Board members, lay leaders, Green activists, other social justice activists, conservative UUs, poets—in other words, everyone!

So take a mini-vacation in April. Drive (about 6-7 hours), carpool (even better) or fly (Ontario is the nearest airport), to Riverside where an exciting experience awaits you. Activities begin with the banner parade on Friday evening and end with worship on Sunday. If you’ve never been to a District Assembly, gather in Riverside to see what you’ve been missing!

Book Club Selections For April -May 2007

The Book Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in Awareness at 7:00 PM. For more information one may contact Cheryl Mennel at 760-4915 or CandJ_Mennel@msn.com.

April 19 -- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time: A Novel by Mark Haddon. From the PCPL: “Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor’s dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.” Over 30 copies in the PCPL. Approx. 230 pages. Available in PB.

May 17 -- The Hummingbird’s Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea. From the Publisher: “Miracles and passion abound in this mesmerizing novel—hailed everywhere as a masterwork—the story of a remarkable young woman’s sudden sainthood in the revolutionary-era Mexico of the late 19th century.” 2 holds on first copy returned of 28 copies as of March 11, 2007. 28 copies in the PCPL. Approx. 500 pages. Available in PB.
April Saturday Salon

The next Saturday Salon will be held at 6 pm on April 14. It will be hosted by Mary and Lyman Grover at the Clubhouse of Park West Mobile Home Estates at 3003 West Broadway Boulevard, Tucson 85745. Directions to the Estates are available by picking up a map from the office. There is a serious staircase in front of the clubhouse and for those handicapped it is suggested you drive to the back of the club-house where there are a few parking places so that you can have direct access to the clubhouse. The program will consist of a slide show about Ecuador including the Andes, the Amazon area and the Galapagos islands. It will be presented by Julia Mehrer who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador back in 1964 and has continued to visit the country over the years. Her last visit was in 2006. QUESTIONS AND RSVP: Call Barbara Tegethoff at 749-2029 or Rick De Roeck at 743-9959.

Food Assignments:
A-F: Salads or Vegetable Dishes  
G-L: Main Dishes  
M-R: Desserts  
S-Z: Hors d’Oeuvres  
Also, don’t forget: BYOB