This March, Rev. Diane appointed a Share the Plate Task Force, comprised of Judy Dare, John Schaefer, and myself, to provide recommendations on a process and selection criteria for future “share the plate” recipients.

The task force also consulted with Mark Henson, a long-standing leader in social action in our church, and eventually agreed to the following:

1. We limit our giving to those who are working in the four issue areas: 1) border and immigration, 2) environment and sustainability, 3) peace and conflict resolution, and 4) social justice and economic equity. The church will rotate donations among groups in these four areas.

2. We will only give to organizations or groups that: 1) have activities in southern Arizona or northern Sonora (our broader community); 2) have been in existence at least two years (a track-record of accomplishments); and 3) are established as a non-profit organization or have a non-profit as their fiscal agent (some level of accountability for how they spend their funds).

3. We agreed to ask the congregation to suggest candidate groups and submit these to the Board for selection as an interim solution and subsequently to vest responsibility for the nominations process with a newly constituted Social Action committee. A request for nominations will be done once a year and a 12-month calendar of recipients organized.

We are now soliciting recommendations from the congregation for organizations with whom we will share the plate, beginning July 2007 through June 2008. These should be forwarded by email to me at jshepard54@cox.net, no later than May 25th.

Recommendations must demonstrate that the organization or group works in one of the four areas identified above and meet the three additional qualifications. We suggest two ways of doing this. First, go to the organization or group’s Web site, and cut and paste the relevant information into an email submission forwarded to me. Second, send an email to the organization or group explaining that we want them to be a recipient of the “share the plate” funds, and have them forward a response to me, affirming their area of work and that they meet the qualifications. An email recommendation without the necessary information will not be considered.

Thank you in advance for your suggestions!
E-mail: blessing or curse?

Electronic communication has changed our lives. At the touch of a finger, we can be in communication with friends and loved ones hundreds, even thousands of miles away. We can share information, make arrangements, even have discussions about deep and meaningful issues.

The use of e-mail has changed church communication. Boards and committees within the church community use e-mail to share information—everything from schedules to financial data to reports. Arrangements for meeting times and places are made by e-mail. Sometimes, discussions about pertinent issues are conducted via e-mail. These are all good things! Right?

Certainly, it is easier to send one e-mail to multiple recipients than it is to make a bunch of phone calls or to mail the same information via the U.S. postal system. It saves both time and money. Sending reports via e-mail is an easy way to get information out to people in advance of meetings, which gives people a chance to arrive better prepared. E-mail allows for decisions to be made without waiting for the next regularly scheduled meeting, which expedites getting things done. These are all good things! Right?

Well . . . yes, but there are some down sides to consider. Relying solely on electronic communication can make the work of our various boards and committees less visible, even invisible to the congregation as a whole. Reports and decisions that fly through cyberspace at lightning speed often don’t make it out of individual computers and into public spaces, like bulletin boards (not the electronic ones, but the old-fashioned ones made of cork), and hard copies of newsletters and flyers. Committee meetings are supposed to be open to all church members. When meeting times and places are only publicized via e-mail to the current committee members, de facto, the meeting is closed. Likewise cyber-meetings.

Not everyone has the same e-mail habits. Some people check it daily, some check hourly. Others check weekly, if they get around to it! Hard drives crash. Internet service providers crash. Every once in a while, e-mail goes off into cyberspace, undelivered for unknown reasons. E-mail technology is less than reliable. Yet, we behave as if it is foolproof. What do you mean you didn’t know about the meeting? I sent you an e-mail!

Not everyone uses e-mail. I know that is hard for those of you who check your e-mail hourly to believe. Some people don’t like e-mail, and therefore, simply don’t use it. Others don’t have the financial resources to invest in computer equipment and internet access fees.

When we rely exclusively on electronic communication, we exclude people. Our Unitarian Universalist faith asks more of us. We strive to make our religious society inclusive. We strive to include people from all walks of life in our congregation, to include as many voices as possible in our democratic process, and to include as many people as possible in carrying out our congregation’s mission.

Please be mindful of your e-mail use. Make it into a blessing. In faith,

Diane

Upcoming Sundays

May 6, 2007 “Treasures” by Rev. Diane Dowgiert — We will honor the many volunteers who keep our church home functioning, vital and alive — truly treasures in our midst.

May 13, 2007 “Reflections on Motherhood: What I Learned from My Children” by Margot Garcia — On this Mother’s Day, we honor our mothers, grandmothers, and the women who have been influential in our lives. Without children—by birth, choice, or adoption — we would not be mothers. So I honor my children and hold up what I have learned from them.

May 20, 2007 “Our UU Promises—A Service of Rituals” An Extended Family Worship
Join us as we explore the promises we make as a faith community, when we engage our UU principles throughout the many stages of human life. This service will feature a Child Dedication, Bridging Ceremony and service elements lead by participants from our LifeSpan Faith Development classes.
Our four Social Justice work groups have been hard at work! Join them by getting in touch with the contact person listed for each group.

**Immigrant Rights.**

**First Steps:**

Members of this group, carrying the UUCT church banner, were present at the Cesar Chavez March for workers’ rights on March 30; at the bi-national Border Fiesta in Naco on April 14 - where compassion, justice, and volleyball crossed all borders; at the Samaritan training on April 15 where people were trained to offer trash cleanup, food, water, and medical care to people in the desert; and at the “Immigrant Rights Are Human Rights” march on May 1.

**Next Steps:**

Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21 from 7:00 to 8:15 in Awareness. For more information about this group, contact Harry Loumeau (harryhiker@aol.com) or Kelly Taylor (ktayloruuct@gmail.com).

**Green Sustainable Living.**

**First Steps:**

In an effort to make the congregation aware of the need to reduce/reuse/recycle, the group has eliminated the use of styrofoam from the coffee hour service: Paper cups are now available, and members are encouraged to bring their own mugs: “You won’t burn your hands, and you’ll always know where you left your mug. They have also set up recycling boxes at the sanctuary exits for the Sunday Order of Service.

**Next Steps:**

Their next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 6 in Goddard during lunch after the service. Look for the Green table. For more information about the group, contact Carolyn Saunders (bcsaunders@cybertrails.com) or Gene Sacha (gene-jeanne@juno.com).

**Economic Justice**

**First Steps:**

This has discussed project criteria and is gathering more information about possible projects: volunteering as tutors for children in the public schools or through GAP Ministries, a faith-based, non-profit organization which runs group homes for school-age children in Tucson; participating with other UU churches in a Habitat for Humanity project; participating in BanComun, a non-profit microcredit institution based in Nogales, Sonora.

**Next Steps:**

Their next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 27, at 12:15 in Awareness. For more information about this group, contact Gordon McCormick (gordon@mccormick.net)

**Peace**

**First Steps:**

This group is still organizing. A meeting is planned for Sunday, May 13 at 12:15 after the service. For more information, contact Kelly Taylor (ktayloruuct@gmail.com).

“Peace has to be created, in order to be maintained. It is the product of Faith, Strength, Energy, Will, Sympathy, Justice, Imagination, and the triumph of principle. It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism.” Dorothy Thompson
Our CoA Taskforce has put together an exciting new roadmap for a revised Coming of Age Program (CoA) which will begin in fall of 2007. Our new CoA Program will keep the events and experiences that have become tradition in our congregation: opportunities for youth to form relationships with adults, overnights, a vision quest, and a worship service. The revised program also includes elements that will strengthen the Coming of Age journey such as covenant circles, an increased emphasis on UU theology, history and heritage, a more articulated credo writing process and clearer roles for all program participants.

My participation in the Coming of Age revisioning process has affirmed for me the extent to which the CoA journey really involves our whole church community. This year, our CoA Taskforce has included members from youth, young adult, parent and grandparent generations. Next year we will likely have between seven and ten 8th and 9th grade sojourners involved in CoA, supported by just as many families and mentors. Our YRUU group and the whole congregation will be invited to participate in special activities, particularly social action projects. A score of congregants will be asked to guest lead one Sunday morning session as a “Specialist.” Chaperones and drivers will be needed to assist with the four overnight retreat experiences.

There are many ways that you can be involved in the Coming of Age journey as we support our junior youth in the process of developing and articulating their beliefs, and their place within our community. Yes we need volunteers to make this happen, but we also need to approach our own faith journey with the same openness of heart and courage of spirit, as our junior youth enrolled in Coming of Age. We need to be capable of doing the same spiritual work as our 14 year olds. Do you have a credo statement? Do you know what you believe? Would you be comfortable sharing your personal faith statement in front of a group of 200 people? We call Coming of Age a journey, because it comes with real spiritual challenges, challenges that are worth returning to at other thresholds along this path called life.

If you are interested in enrolling your 8th or 9th grader in our CoA Program, or in taking on the role of mentor, specialist, or chaperone please contact Rebecca at Rebecca-froom@qwestoffice.net or 748-1551.

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May in Religious Education

Friday May 4: 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 May 6: On Sunday morning our 2nd thru 8th graders participate in this month’s Project Day: a Spiritual Practice Sampler. Each of our RE groups will experience two of the following spiritual practices: walking meditation labyrinth, drumming mediation and yoga. Children should wear comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes so they may safely experience these practices. Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality classes meet in Emerson room for their last day of classes: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30.

Saturday May 19: Children and junior youth in 4th thru 8th grades meet at 4:30 in Holland Sanctuary with Rev. Diane to rehearse their RE class’ service elements for the next day’s extended family worship service.

Sunday May 20: Children in 2nd and 3rd grade please meet at 9:45 in Holland Sanctuary for a worship service rehearsal. Children in 2nd thru 8th grade please meet at 10:00 Am on the patio to line up for our UU Prayer Flag procession! Families are invited to worship together in Holland Sanctuary during this month’s Extended Family Worship: Our UU Promises - a Service of Rituals. During this service our primary, elementary and middle school RE classes will each lead a worship element, and the ser-
vice will also include a Child Dedication ceremony and a Bridging Ceremony. The nursery will be available in Blackwell room for our youngest children who may need a rest or play setting.

Sunday May 27: For our annual game day children of all ages will meet in Awareness room at 10:30 for a morning of fun and play.

Volunteers are still needed
Our RE Program depends on the energy and commitment of volunteers. Spaces are still available for congregants to guest teach in our Summer Program one Sunday from June 3 thru August 12, or to team teach in our RE Program in 2007-2008. Stop by the RE table in Goddard Hall or contact Rebecca Froom, DRE, at Rebecca-froom@qwestoffice.net or 748-1551 for more information or to sign up.

Adult Faith Development Programs
Continue through the summer

The AFD program will continue through the summer with several offerings currently scheduled.

Exploring Spirituality, which meets from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. each Sunday before the service, will continue with guest facilitators. In May, the facilitator will be Sally Masteller; in June, Chuck Gould; and in July, Marilyn Smith. The facilitator for August will be announced shortly.

The first month’s topics are:

May 6: What does it mean when you ‘worship’?
May 13: Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
May 20: Components of self, ego, shadow, and collective unconscious
May 27: Ralph Waldo Emerson’s relevance today

Watch future newsletters and your order of service for the announcement of topics in the following months.

A new class, Choices for Sustainable Living, will be offered on Monday evenings from July 23 through August 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lisa McDaniel Hutchings will facilitate this class which will provide an introduction to the principles of sustainable living and ecology and then discuss those concepts in areas such as communities, business and economy, food, buying, home, health, and leisure. There is no fee for the class itself, but each participant will need to purchase the text to be used. The cost for that is $17. The class will be held only if we get a minimum of eight paid-up participants, and there will be a maximum class size of 12. Registration will be on a first-paid, first-served basis. If you’re interested in signing up, please email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net. Payment may be made with check, cash, or credit card at the AFD table in Goddard Hall after the service. You may also pay with a credit card by calling the office at 748-1551. Registration closes as soon as the maximum number is reached or by May 27, whichever comes first.

We are in the process of planning a Social Justice Film Festival in cooperation with the Social Justice work groups which were formed at the workshop in March. Each of the four groups, Immigrant Rights, Economic Justice, Green Sustainable Living, and Peace, will be asked to select two films in their area, either documentaries or popular Hollywood films with a social justice theme, for a screening and discussion following. The program is currently planned for late June, July, and August on Sunday afternoons after the service, with the possibility of lunch being offered. If you wish to suggest a film related to one of our social justice areas which you think is worth being shown, please email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net.
First Friday
First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, May 4. 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, May 3.

New Members
Please join me in welcoming our newest members:

- **Sean and Kelly Taylor** - Sean is a facilities engineer at Canyon Ranch and Kelly is a 5th grade math and science teacher at Manzanita Elementary School. Kelly is our new Social Justice Coordinator and they are both active in RYUDON. The have a 14 year old son, Zach who will be attending Sabino High School next year.

- **Rick Meyer** - has resided in Tucson for the last 30 years. He is a quality engineer and lives with his wife Suzi. They enjoy pretending to be rock stars in their music room at home! He is happy to be part of a church community that shares his values.

- **Heather Reed** - Heather wanted everyone to know that although she has been active in 3 UU churches, this is the first one she decided to join. She said “I was extremely impressed with how Chris Wallace, Kathleen Hogue, and Mary Wiese greeted my family and me ... and it has only gotten better since.” Heather has two daughters that are active in the RE program and she is our new OWL chair.

- **Caitlin Glass** - Caitlin is a therapist for Jewish Family and Children’s Service. She has lived in Portland and New Orleans. She enjoys hiking and traveling.

- **Cindy Cowell** - Cindy grew up in Atlanta and has lived in San Diego and Wisconsin. She has two daughters aged 16 and 20. She will be completing a degree in Women’s Studies at the U of A this autumn.

- **Dick and Gloria Epperson** - Dick and Gloria have two grown children and six grandchildren. They are originally from Northern Virginia but moved to Tucson to be near their grandchildren. They love the values and the fun that our church community embraces.

Yours in Community Spirit,

Mary

Artist of the Month

**Gallery**

By Abby Root

In the month of May the artists of the month are YOU, the members and friends of the UU Church. Look around and enjoy the creations of our congregation and its friends. Plan to attend the reception in honor of this creativity on Sunday, May 13, after the service.

Alliance

On April 10, we received a guided tour of the U. S. Post Office. This is a very complicated operation. As much as we like to complain about the mail, it’s amazing that they do as much as they do.

On May 8th, we will have our annual business meeting to elect new officers for the coming year. We’ll start at 11:30 with a potluck salad luncheon in Goddard Hall. Please sign up at the Alliance table during coffee hour this coming Sunday.

Don’t forget to bring in aluminum cans and recent used magazines for our recycling projects.

Marcia Schenck
Unofficial Summary of the April 10th Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting of April 22, 2007.

Note: This summary is provided to inform the congregation of Board discussion and actions. These are not the official, complete, or approved minutes. MSP = Motion made, seconded and passed.

Empowerment Team (ET) report was presented by Reverend Dowgiert:
E-T requested more clarity and guidance from the Board regarding membership growth, specifically:

1) Establish explicit membership growth goals,
2) Identify barriers to growth and how to overcome them, and
3) Identify an entity that will be responsible for auditing membership rolls and for attending to outreach goals that are set forth in the Strategic Plan. Board agreed that a major focus for next year’s Board should be articulating a clear vision and developing an integrated strategy and benchmarks for tracking, nurturing and supporting membership growth. A process for yearly membership audits also needs to be implemented.

Informed Three members of the Endowment Board have submitted resignation letters to President John Shepard: JD Garcia, Jim Logan and Peg Sutherland-Jones. Joyce Hardin will remain on the Endowment Board. Authentication of official membership of additional members on the Endowment Board cannot be verified.

Agreed Using the Endowment Board Bylaws that are currently in effect, the Board of Trustees will appoint one new member to the Endowment Board to fill one of the three vacancies, and Finance Council will appoint two new members. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary are ex-officio members of the Endowment Board.

MSP Resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson Board of Trustees hereby appoints Carol Evans (Treasurer) and Marya Wheeler (Finance Committee) as its signatories on the Certificate of Deposit held by M&I Bank as collateral for the outstanding loan, effective immediately.

MSP (In two separate motions) Resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby appoints Carol Evans (Treasurer) and Marya Wheeler (Finance Committee) as its signatories on the (Vanguard and Schwab) accounts, effective immediately.

Discussed Board reviewed the budget timeline and current issues related to the FY07-08 budget. Three budget scenarios prepared by the Finance Council and Staff will be presented to the Annual Meeting on May 6th, 2007, for voting.

MSP Board approved bringing the three FY07-08 budget scenarios to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on May 6th, 2007.

MSP Board authorized an absentee ballot process which will include the three FY07-08 budget scenarios and a proposal for a Committee on Ministry pilot program.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McDaniel,
Board of Trustees
The Book Club

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

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.” Three holds on first copy returned of 29 copies as of April 22, 2007. 29 copies in the PCPL. Approx. 500 pages. Available in PB.

From the Publisher: “Elizabeth, Mary and Sophia Peabody were in many ways our American Brontës. The story of these remarkable sisters — and their central role in shaping the thinking of their day — has never before been fully told. Twenty years in the making, Megan Marshall’s monumental biography brings to new life the era of creative ferment known as the American Renaissance.” 6 copies in the PCPL. Approx. 600 pages. Available in PB.