The church year is winding down, changing gears for the summer months. It’s a good time to reflect on the past year. For the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson it has been a full one. There is good reason to feel proud.

During peak attendance season, our sanctuary was consistently filled to capacity. Attendance has continued at a high rate even now that our beloved winter visitors have returned to their summer homes. The Religious Education program for children and youth has grown from a registration of 42 to 67. Adult Faith Development classes and programs have attracted 192 people – nearly two-thirds of the congregation. Desert Chorale and Family Singers together have more than 50 participants. People of all ages are engaged in our transformative ministry of spiritual exploration, growth, and change.

People are also engaging opportunities for transformation through UUCT’s revitalized Social Justice program. Four working groups are busy planning ways to truly make a difference in the world. The four working groups are: Immigration Rights, Sustainable Living, Economic Justice, and Peace.

During a time when congregations of all denominations are experiencing a decline in financial pledges, our stewardship campaign realized an increase of nearly 5 percent. We reached our membership projection of 313 when 9 people became members in April. We had a hugely successful auction plus other special events that raised money for the church such as concerts and the Fabulous Finds Sale. A spirit of generosity and abundance is transforming the congregation!

The year ahead is full of promise and challenge. There is much momentum towards fulfillment of our mission of justice, compassion, and transformation. To keep moving forward will require involvement from all of our members. Even though pledging is up, we will be operating on a leaner budget. The leaner budget is due to a decrease in deficit financing, a decision growing out of current-day financial realities. A spirit of wise stewardship is also transforming the congregation. Stewardship involves the giving of gifts – time and talent as well as gifts of money.

May your summer months be full of rest, recreation, and renewal. The coming year beckons with the promise of fulfillment.

Yours in the spirit,

Diane
Music Notes
by Agnes Paulsen

3 Royal Tenors in Concert
Saturday, June 16, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.
Holland Sanctuary
A bouquet of well-known opera excerpts, operetta,
Broadway musicals, and Danish songs.

The Danish Club of Tucson is proud to sponsor the 3 Royal Tenors in concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson on Saturday, June 16. The 3 Royal Tenors are an intriguing musical group of three tenors and one soprano that perform music from the Royal Danish Opera. Their program comprises classical music from the world of opera, operetta, Broadway musicals and Danish folk songs, announced from the stage. They have been touring since 1999 and have traveled all over the world playing in U.S. cities as well as Dubai in the Middle East, Peking in China and all over Europe. They have been dubbed “Denmark’s Ambassadors of Music”.

Tickets are $15 per adult, $10 for students and children under 10 are free. There will be no child care provided as children as welcome at the concert. Tickets will be available at the door or you may call Annegrethe at 795-9816 or Mary at 325-2024. No credit cards will be accepted. Make checks payable to the Danish Club of Tucson.

Upcoming Sunday Sermons

Sunday, June 3
“Islam and the West: Rethinking Assumptions”
The 17th century philosopher Baruch Spinoza considered understanding to be the key to everything. This need is strong particularly with respect to Islam, where we must wrestle with the question: Is there a clash of civilizations or are we merely witnessing the dissolution of the old dominance/submission model imposed by the West for generations on large portions of the world?
Leader: Rev. Rosemarie Carnarius
Music: Agnes Paulsen & Brian Moon

Sunday, June 10
“Confessions of a Reluctant Theist”
UU’s are asked not to recite creedal statements of shared belief, but to work out a personal credo. In that spirit, I will share some personal reflections on how I have come to believe what I believe.
Leader: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Music: Desert Chorale, Agnes Paulsen & Brian Moon

Sunday, June 17
“One Father: Three Religious Families”
Islam, Christianity, and Judaism all trace their roots to a common ancestor, Abraham. Can the stories of Abraham, as found in these three traditions, illuminate a path to peace?
Leader: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Music: Carol Brubaker

Sunday, June 24
“Unitarians & Universalists Who Have Helped Change the World”
Unitarians and Universalists were better known in the 19th Century when their influence helped to achieve a number of progressive goals in our nation. This sermon will focus on the suffrage and abolitionist movements in the 19th Century but also reflect on a few stars in the 20th Century and current events, including possible stars that bring about change in our time.
Leader: Rev. Charles Gaines
Music: Carol Brubaker
Unofficial Summary of the May 8th Board

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.

Agreed To send out a two question email survey in order to gain a sense of the programmatic priorities expressed by the congregation and of the level of deficit spending that is acceptable to support the priorities.

Agreed The Finance Council and Board will meet on May 24th to discuss budget issues, and then will meet with the congregation at a Town Hall meeting on June 3rd. A Congregational meeting is scheduled for June 10th to vote on the FY07-08 budget.

Empowerment Team (E-T) report was presented by Reverend Dowgiert:

Finance Portfolio: An outcome of the large amount of effort that has gone into the recent budget process is the need to define more clearly the roles, responsibilities and driving forces for each step of the process among the E-T, Finance Council (FC), Board and congregation as we continue to function in a program-sized setting.

Agreed The first Sunday of each month is reserved on the church calendar for town hall-type discussions between leadership and the congregation about various pertinent issues. The Board, ET and FC will actively use these opportunities during the coming year to gather input and to report back to church community.

Agreed Board discussed the setting of Board priorities for next year. They include: Growth and outreach, Stewardship and developing a Planned Giving program, leadership development, internal communications, and implementation of monitoring reports. Reverend Diane’s expertise in the areas of redeveloping congregations and in guiding growth in program sized churches will greatly enhance Board priorities.

Reviewed Lisa presented the Covenant Statement between TUUYAN and the Tucson Area UU Congregations.

MSP Board voted to accept the Covenant Statement as presented.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy McDaniel Board of Trustees

Book Club

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. The Book Club will choose the books to read for the next 6 months during the July meeting. Those wanting to suggest books need to know the exact title, the author including the first and last name as well as the spelling, whether the book is available at the PCPL and in paperback, and the number of pages.

June 21 -- The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism by Megan Marshall. 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. To be led by Joan Gosnell.

The Bridging Ceremony—Creating Communities for Young Adults

By Rebecca Froom, Director of Religious Education

On Sunday May 20 our congregation participated in a Bridging Ceremony for senior youth Danica Davison, Jimmy Ranieri (and Ty Newhouse-Illige in absentee). The Bridging ceremony offers a wonderful opportunity for our community to support these senior youth as they begin their transition into adulthood. This ceremony also reminds us of the commitment we have made as a community to our youth, as well as campus and young adult ministries. During the Bridging Ceremony we joined together in a Congregational Affirmation for our bridgers:

We celebrate this new phase of your life’s journey. We encourage you to continue your own free and responsible search for truth and meaning. With both joy and sorrow, we let you go to spread your wings. This church community will always provide a spiritual home for you. Your roots are here. Wherever life takes you, may you make a place for yourself in a Unitarian Universalist congregation. It is up to you to show up, get involved, and give something back. It is up to us to build a bridge of support for youth and young adults. We pledge ourselves to make our congregation a haven for all who are walking the bridge from youth into adulthood.

May we as community continue to support Danica, Jimmy and Ty in their journeys, as well as the young adult and campus ministry groups in our Tucson community.

Summer in Religious Education, a Season of Discovery

Summer is here, and our families are preparing themselves and their children for vacations, adventures, travel, summer camp, days by the pool, summer jobs, and time together as family. During the summer our Religious Education Programming continues, but not in its usual fashion. Summer can be a time of wonder and discovery, of rest and reflection, and it is my hope that our summer programming for children and youth taps into this spirit.

Our summer programs will run from June 3 thru August 12. During this time snack will be available for all children and youth in Awareness room from 10:00 to 10:25 Am. Since the summer is also a time when many families go “church-shopping” information about our RE Program, church and religious experience will be available for visitors during this Religious Education fellowship time.

Our YRUU high school group will spend their summer redoing Emerson room – replacing carpeting with tiling, and repainting the walls. They will meet on Sundays at 10:30 AM in Emerson room to complete this project, and youth entering 9th grade through youth exciting 12th grade are welcome to participate. Questions about the YRUU Summer Program can be directed to youth advisor Tom Clowes at telowes@gmail.com or 319-0165 during June and August or to DRE Assistant Kathleen Hogue at Kathleen-hogue@qwestoffice.net or 312-0441 during July.

Children and junior youth entering kindergarten through 8th grade will participate in our summer program “You Can Do it Too! Sharing Your Talents,” where a different congregant shares a special talent or hobby with our children each week. These talents and hobbies will be connected to ideas of spiritual nourishment and our UU Principles and Sources through brief Chalice Chapel worships. “You Can do it Too” will run from 10:30 until 11:30 Am in Awareness room. Questions about our summer program for children and junior youth can be directed to our Summer Program Coordinator, Lisa Rice at larice53005@aol.com or 730-8460.

Continued on page 5
Our June topics in “You Can Do it Too!” are:

June 3, scrap booking and card making with Becky Keyes
June 10, beading with Margot Garcia
June 17, kaleidoscope making with Hinrich Bohn
June 24, hands on science with Erin Deely

11. I will be out on study leave June 11-17 and then away at General Assembly June 18-25. I will be off on study leave again June 29-July13, and will be on vacation July 19 thru 30.

May you all have a joyful and spirit filled summer!

Rebecca Froom, DRE
First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, June 1. 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 31.

Mary Wiese
Community Life Coordinator

Alliance News

A fun time was had by Alliance members at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 8. First we relished the delicious potluck lunch, then praised the services of our out-going Board, played musical chairs and elected our new Board.

President: Tom Warburton
Vice President: Marcia Schenck
Secretary: Elaine Knights
Treasurer: Tery Ross
Membership: Ann Schrader
Hospitality: Mary Beth Isom, Tery Ross, Mary Stadel
Ways & Means: Marcia Schenck & Ann Schrader

We will rest our jewelry and note card display for the summer, but will keep open the magazine display and collection of used aluminum cans. Do keep the recycling of magazines and cans going. Have a nice summer.

Marcia Schenck
Publicity

Joys & Sorrows

From the cards turned in on Sunday mornings during the candle lighting time at the beginning of the service.

Jan Dowling: my joy and sorrow is that my mother lived 90 good years but now is dying.

Kathy Liljequist: my husband, Stretch, was recently in Northwest Hospital having an angioplasty and subsequent surgery.

Inserted with permission

Artist of the Month

Gallery

Calling all photographers! Summer is the time to share your past year’s best photographs from near and far. Bring them, framed and ready to hang, to the Sanctuary on Tuesday, June 5, between 9:30 and 10:00. Please fill out and sign a release form, available in the Church office, to accompany your photographs.

Abby Root,
Gallery Committee
Get Involved!

Part II

In the last issue of the Tucsonitarian, I provided information from the UUA website about how to get involved in your congregation. But in order for UUism to survive and thrive in today’s world, you need to participate on a larger scale. Here is how you can become involved at the District and national levels.

Carolyn Saunders

In your UUA District:

• Find out -- from your district staff, president, or other volunteers -- what you can do to support district training events. You'll meet wonderful people from other congregations and share ideas and skills.

• Check out your district or regional Leadership School. There are many across the United States, each with its own unique character. All of them share a commitment to teach lay leaders new skills that will help them be more effective in their own faith communities and at the district, cluster, or national level.

• Focus on ways in which you can encourage the congregations in your district to become healthier by sharing resources, working together, and exchanging ideas that build energy and commitment!

• Go to UU University prior to the UUA's General Assembly. You can be guaranteed that the keynote speaker will be worth the trip and the workshop tracks exciting and fulfilling.

Don't wait to be asked: contact your District Nominating Committee and tell them you're willing to serve. They'll be glad to hear from you!

At the National Level:

• Go to General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, June 20-24. Whether you go as a delegate, alternate, or observer, you'll get a bird's eye view of how our Association of Congregations operates and how our policies and statements on important issues of the day are developed and enacted! (Pre-registration online is open until June 8. On-site registration is possible.)

• Make the commitment to yourself, for yourself and your congregation and district, to take home General Assembly. Think about how you can make the actions and statements passed at GA known to the general public.

Don't wait to be asked: contact the UUA's Committee on Committees or Nominating Committee and tell them you're willing to serve. They'll be glad to hear from you and will tell you how to get more deeply involved.
It is vital to the church that you continue to pay your pledge all summer. You will be gone on vacation, out of town visiting friends and family but your church family still depends upon your financial support to continue to pay bills. The work of the church does not stop during the months of June, July and August.

We encourage you to complete your 2006-07 pledge no later than June 30 and to begin paying your new pledge on July 1. One way of making this happen is to sign up for paying either by credit card or automatically from your banking account each month. Stop by the church office and ask for one of our “Authorization forms” to fill out, authorizing the withdrawal of your pledge amount automatically from your checking account or your credit card each and every month on the same date. Or go to the web site (www.uuctucson.org) and click on “Donations” and make those arrangements yourself.