Social Justice Film Festival

All films will be shown on the large screen in Holland Sanctuary on Sundays, after the service, at 12:15. A brown-bag lunch will be available for $5.00 to anyone wanting to attend the film. Please sign up outside Holland BEFORE the service since we will need to know how many lunches to prepare.

Afterwards, those who wish to remain are invited to discuss the film, with a special emphasis on positive actions which individuals and organizations can take to help deal with the problems or situations raised in the films.

SUNDAY, JULY 8

The air conditioning in Holland has been fixed, and we will show the film originally scheduled for last week, "A Day without a Mexican."

This mockumentary, half-comic, half-serious, explores what might happen if the residents of California awoke one day to discover all the Hispanics in the state had mysteriously vanished overnight.

A discussion will follow led by Sean Taylor from the social justice immigrant rights work group.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

We will screen the documentary "Relocalization and the SmallMart Revolution" in which author Michael Shuman discusses why and how we need to support and strengthen a more locally based economy as we face a decline in oil supply and much higher oil and gas prices.

The film will be followed by a discussion led by long-time Tucsonan, Bob Cook, a member of Sustainable Tucson, a network to facilitate and accelerate Tucson's transition to sustainability through community-wide education and action.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

The film will be "De Nadie" (No One) which shows the plight of impoverished Central Americans who leave their countries in hopes of a better life in the United States. Mexican filmmaker Tin Dirdal follows refugees on their 2500-mile journey through Mexico as they put their money, dignity, health, and life on the line. This film won the audience award for best world cinema documentary at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006.

The film will be followed by a discussion led by Lynda Cruz, the office coordinator for BorderLinks, a bi-national non-profit organization focusing on the issues of global economics, militarization, immigration, and popular resistance to oppression and violence.

We hope you can make plans to attend all three showings. Additional films are planned with more information to follow.

Mike Greenbaum
Assistant to Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Director Adult Faith Development Program
Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, UUCT was able to donate 50 emergency food packs to No More Deaths on July 1st, along with medical and hygiene supplies. Great job, everyone and thank you!

We will continue to collect food and sports drink donations throughout July, as that is the hottest, most deadly time of the year in our desert. You can drop off your donations in the Social Justice corner of Goddard Hall. Thank you.

Kelly Taylor,
Social Justice Coordinator

Good Thoughts

Send your good thoughts to Bill & Deanna Bland at this sorrowful time of their lives. Cards and letters are being encouraged for Elder James to send good thoughts because of his daughter’s recent death.

Hiking Opportunity

Miles Lemmon is the next UUCT Hikers trip followed by a potluck late lunch/early dinner at Carolyn Cooper’s cabin Saturday, July 28. We will hike Marshall Gulch Trail to the Wilderness of Rocks Trail to a large rock outcropping for a snack/lunch (approx. 3.5 miles roundtrip). Then we will head back to Carolyn’s for our potluck meal. This is monsoon season so bring a rain jacket or poncho. Meet at the church at 9 a.m. for carpooling. Eastsiders: meet at Safeway, Tanque Verde & Catalina Hwy at 9:25 a.m. Any questions, call Chris Wallace (236-6043) or email: lemoonhiker@att.net.

Exciting Time In The Book Club

The Book Club will choose the books to read August, 2007, through January, 2008, at the next meeting, July 19, at 7:00 P.M. in Awareness. It is a good time to join so that one may help select the books. Those wishing to suggest a book need to have read the book, know the exact title including the subtitle if any, the spelling of the author’s first and last name, whether the book is available at the PCPL and in paperback as well as the number of pages. One is more apt to get accurate results if one checks online, however the personnel are gracious enough to answer even such questions as how many pages are in their particular copies of the book. The PCPL even has a few books that are in large print.


From The PCPL: “The influential scientist presents a collection of essays exploring such topics as religion, mysticism, modern educational methods, pseudoscience, Africa, and his late colleagues Douglas Adams and Stephen Jay Gould.” 5 copies in the library. Approx. 270 pages. Available in PB.
Music Notes
by Agnes Paulsen

I have copies of four hymnals that have been published by The Beacon Press, the printing arm of the Unitarian Universalist Church. The first is titled “Services of Religion for use in the Churches of The Free Spirit” – a book with a red cover published in 1947. It’s interesting to note that “Battle Hymn of the Republic” is included in this edition.

The next hymnbook, published in 1964 by the Unitarian Universalist Association, is titled “Hymns for the Celebration of Life”. The copy with a blue cover in my possession has a bookplate which says: “This Hymnal presented to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson in honor of those whose broader vision and dedication founded this church.” “Battle Hymn of the Republic” did not make it into this edition.

“Singing the Living Tradition,” our present hymnal, had its first printing in May of 1993 and also does not include “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” And now we have the recently published supplement, “Singing the Journey,” which features hymns of a more contemporary style and thought.

I find it interesting that Julia Ward Howe, the author of the words for “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” was raised in an Episcopalian family but became an ardent Unitarian. She was born on May 27, 1819 and died in 1910 at the age of 91. During the Civil War, Julia Howe visited a Union Army camp on the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. She heard the soldiers singing “John Brown’s Body” and the strong marching beat in the tune motivated her to write new words the next day. “I awoke in the grey of the morning, and as I lay waiting for dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to entwine themselves in my mind, and I said to myself, ‘I must get up and write these verses, lest I fall asleep and forget them!’ So I sprang out of bed and in the dimness found an old stump of a pen, which I remembered using the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper.”

The hymn was published in the Atlantic Monthly in 1862 and was sung at the funerals of Winston Churchill, Robert Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Richard Nixon. Julia W. Howe was paid $4 for publication rights. The song, “John Brown’s Body,” is a tribute to John Brown who was an American abolitionist and led a short insurrection to free the slaves.

In 1870, Julia Ward Howe had become disturbed by the realities of war and became determined to promote peace as one of the two most important causes of the world. The other was equality in its many forms. While she failed in her attempt to get formal recognition of a Mother’s Day for Peace, her idea influenced Anna Jarvis whose daughter started a crusade to found a memorial day for women. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother’s Day.

I am indebted to “Google” and Singing Our History by Eugene B. Navias for some of the information in this article.

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, July 22  “The American West: Geography of Hope” by John Shepard  
Join John Shepard for this service on the changing West and its implications for the West in forging a regional identity and emerging political leadership on the national scene. Is the West really ready to grow up? Music and poetry provided by Front Porch, Bill & Blair Keyes and special musical guests.
Speaker: John Shepard  Pulpit Host: Randy Springer  Music: Front Porch

Sunday, July 29
Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Speaker  Music: David Prouty
Creating Beloved Community
Reflections on General Assembly
By Rebecca Froom, Director of Religious Education

This week I have spent a lot of time reflecting on my experience at this year’s General Assembly. GA 2007 took some time to celebrate the rich, and living, history of our faith, including successes such as the remarkable strides we’ve made towards gender equity since the 1977 resolution on “Women in Religion,” the role that the UUA and Beacon Press played in the anti-war movement during the Vietnam era by publishing the “Pentagon Papers,” and the stand the UUs are currently making against Global Warming.

Yet what has stayed with me the most from my experience at General Assembly, is that we can and must do more as a religious people to become an anti-racist, anti-oppressive organization. This theme was found in the Opening Celebration when we were reminded how much more work still needs to be done on the 1997 resolution “Toward an Anti-Racist UUA”, and echoed again the next morning when President Sinkford called us to create a vision for a our faith that would allow us, “to move toward the Beloved Community that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., envisioned.” The Youth Caucus hosted a series of anti-racism / anti-oppression workshops titled “Dismantling Chaos,” which two of our UUCT youth, Rebecca McDaniel-Hutchings and Aja Newhouse-Illige attended. I attended workshops on “Creating Community for People of Color in UUism,” creating culturally inclusive and culturally respectful worship, and the interconnection of social justice and religious education.

While listening to workshops, lectures, and worships, that explored ideas of oppression and injustice and strategies and theologies for engaging in social justice work, themes began to form in my mind. Our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to do the work of social justice because our respect for the inherent worth and dignity of ALL people does not end when Sunday worship gets out, but extends to the whole of our community, the whole of our world. Indeed, as Martin Luther King said, “injustice everywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” I began to see the social justice work we do, as a way of being in relationship with the people, places, histories, and struggles of our world. This idea of relationship seemed key to our ability to do social justice work, to create open communities, to have inclusive worship, and to share these experiences and ideas with our children and youth.

Since returning to Tucson I’ve taken the time to read Martin Luther King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” Reading this powerful piece of writing, I am struck not only by the fact that we can and must do more in the struggle against injustice, but that this wonderful letter and the movement it was part of is part of our history. Rev. Dr. King was writing as a religious leader to other religious leaders. He was, and is, writing to us.

My time at General Assembly reminded me how much of the world I am in relationship with — past and ongoing struggles for social justice, innovation and creativity in the work of religious education, a movement for environmentally sustainable living, wonderful worship, and a beloved community of all ages. I encourage you to read more about GA at http://uua.org/events/generalassembly/2007/, and to ask yourself, where you are in relationship to this most amazing UU faith and the work that we are called to do as religious people.
Adult Faith Development
by Mike Greenbaum
Assistant to Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Director

Exploring Spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist

This class will continue to meet throughout July from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Servetus meeting room with Marilyn Smith as guest facilitator. Upcoming topics are:

- July 15 - The cost of peace (self-sacrifice)
- July 22 - Hope and expectation
- July 29 - Is God too big for one religion?

Adult Faith Development Social Justice Film Festival

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Additional films are planned. Title suggestions and, most importantly, discussion leaders are still needed. Talk with Mike Greenbaum (the non-financial one) or email him at mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net.

Thank You’s

Adult Faith Development wants to thank Kelly and Sean Taylor, Chris Wallace, and Harry Loumeau who helped with the first three films; Byron Skinner who provided the cable and expertise to allow us to connect the film audio to the sound system; Kathy McDaniel who developed, organized, and carried out the brown-bag lunch program; Jo Roberts who is always there for us with the lunch sign-ups; and Chuck Gould who came up with the design for darkening Holland, cut and hung the material, and also projects the films each week.
In the life of the church . . .

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, August 3. 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, July 26.

Mark your calendars

Our annual Safe Sitter training will be held on Saturday, July 28 from 9-3. This is a nationally accredited training program designed for 11-13 year olds. (Children must be entering the 6th grade if they are not yet 11). Please contact Mary Wiese, 748-1551, or Kathleen Hogue, 312-0441.

Complete Your Pledge

Although the fiscal year of 2006-07 is now over, the church office will still receive pledge payments and recording them to the last fiscal year until July 31, 2007. Please mark your check, in the memo line, with the pledge year of 2006-07 when you make a payment so that we can keep your records correct. We still have about $32,000 in pledge income outstanding for 06-07. Letters have been sent out informing you of the balances due. We will be extremely grateful if you can fulfill your pledge by the end of July. After July 31 all monies collected will be credited to the new fiscal year of 2007-08 on your records.

Final statements for the 06-07 year will be sent out before the end of July from the church office. If you find any discrepancies, please contact Jean in the church office and they will be corrected.

If you will be out of town on vacation during the balance of the summer, we urge you to send in your pledge payments before leaving town. The church has expenses all summer and needs your assistance.

Don’t forget the church during the summer months.

We also want to remind you that you can arrange to pay your pledge either online at our web site (www.uuctucson.org) or you can now sign an authorization form to automatically withdraw the payment each month from your bank account and it will be deposited into the church’s bank account for you. If you would like to do this, please let the office know that you need an authorization form.

Barbara Lundstrom
Financial Secretary
UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF the June 12th Board Meeting.

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:

Finance Portfolio:
- Items that appears as over budget are being separated out as fixed costs and administrative costs to better identify areas of concern
- Cash flow issues are being addressed by temporarily restricting all spending except for salaries and absolute costs
- A revised management plan for rollover (restricted) accounts will need to be developed in the next few months by the ET and the Finance Council (FC).

A proposal by YRUU to undertake a much needed renovation project in Emerson was approved.

Discussed Rev. Diane outlined a month-by-month flow chart for preparing the annual budget in which the various steps that need to be accomplished, and the time frame in which they need to be done, are mapped out. The goal is to have a systematic and transparent annual budgeting process.

Leadership Portfolio:
- Staff job descriptions are being rewritten to create structures of accountability that monitor staff priorities and hours worked.

John Shepard will serve on the ET, responsible for the Facilities Portfolio. Orientation for new ET members will be held in June.

MSP Board approved a change in the wording of UUCT Governance Policies, page 8, Section IV, A. 1. From there are two professional members: the Parish Minister and the Adult Faith Development Director to There are two professional staff members: the Parish Minister and a Religious Educator.

Informed Empowerment Team duties are being shifted from the Adult Faith Development Director to the Director of Religious Education; AFD hours are being reduced from 26 to 23, and DRE hours are being increased from 38 to 32.

MSP Board of Trustees appointed Becky Keyes, Chuck Lundstrom and Roger Schrader to serve as Trustees for FY2007-08. These appointments fill the three outstanding vacancies on the Board.

Discussed Setting Board priorities for next year, which focus on implementation of congregational vision.

Committee on Ministry (COM) Priorities for the coming year include developing lines of communication between COM and other entities, and establishing a grievance procedure.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy McDaniel
Board of Trustees
Life Is An Echo

A man and his young son were walking on a mountain trail when the boy tripped on a rock and twisted his ankle. "Ahhhh!" he screamed in pain.

"Ahhhh!" came a distant reply from the mountain.

The startled boy shouted back, "Who are you?"

"Who are you?" replied the voice from the mountain.

The puzzled boy looked at his father and asked, "Dad, what's going on?"

"Son," the father replied, "listen to this." He then shouted "I admire you."

"I admire you!" answered the voice.

"You are wonderful!" shouted the dad.

And the voice replied, "You are wonderful!"

The father turned to his son and explained, "People call that an echo, but it's really life. Life always gives back to you what you give to it. Life is a mirror of all your actions. If you want to be loved, give love. If you want respect, give respect. If you want people to be patient with you, be patient with them. This rule of nature applies to every part of our lives."

"I admire you."