Please consider supporting our congregation’s efforts to provide a warm safe place for the homeless to eat and sleep this winter. For the months of December, January and February, we offer dinner, a bed, breakfast and sack lunch for up to 14 homeless people a few nights each month.

We recruit volunteers to help prepare and serve meals, set-up sleeping mats, prepare sack lunches, clean-up & one or more volunteers to spend the night. **We are providing the main course for the meals, but would eagerly welcome donations of salads, desserts, fruit, lunch meat & beverages for each date.**

Below are the dates, we are providing this most basic necessity.

December 6th & 20th  January 3rd, 24th & 31st  February 28th

We have many volunteers able to work dinners, but **need more folks willing to come in to prepare breakfast** as well as more **chaperones to sleep over**. Dinner shifts begin at 4:15 pm and breakfast shifts begin at 5:30 am.

We also provide basic toiletries to send with our guests when they leave to go back out on the streets. Donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, new socks, and wipes would be greatly appreciated. **Donations can be dropped off in a collection box, labeled “Homeless Hospitality” in Goddard Hall during coffee hour.**

For more information or to volunteer to work, please contact Erin Deely at 320-7688 or at edeely@cox.net. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

Erin Deely
First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, January 4, 2008. 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, January 3.

Christmas Eve Fellowship

Please join us for fellowship before our annual Christmas Eve service in Goddard Hall at 4:45 p.m. (This is a change from previous years) Please bring a plate of cookies to share. We will provide the beverages. We are having fellowship before the service this year so that congregants can join with family and friends for holiday gatherings afterwards. Please call Mary Wiese if you have any questions. 748-1551.

Volunteer Fair

JAN. 13TH, 2008

FACT: Parents who volunteer have children who volunteer.

Please plan to attend & participate in our UUCT Volunteer Fair. All participating groups and committees will have tables set up in Goddard with goodies for Coffee Hour between the 1st and 2nd services. Then after the 2nd service a Free Lunch will be available to all by visiting the tables and learning about the opportunities to volunteer. For questions call Becky Keyes – 881-7227.

Go Green!

Real Simple magazine reports “Household waste increases 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day. In the US, trash from wrapping paper and shopping bags totals 4 million tons.” Contributor Cindy in Minneapolis suggests: “For holiday gift giving, we make cloth re-usable gift bags from festive material. Most of it is recycled — the non-stained part of a holiday table cloth, mismatched cloth napkins, etc. Some of the fabric we got at a thrift shop, which makes for some great retro gift bags. I make them in all sizes and sew in a drawstring so they can be tied tightly until its time to open them. If you’re not a sewer, you could make them with no-sew fabric glue or iron-on hem tape. No paper is wasted and gift wrapping is FAST! Even faster because my young kids can help wrap too.”

From Whole Foods market’s The Whole Green Blog
http://wholefoodsmarket.com/

Auction Alert!

Mark your calendars! March 15, 2008 is the date for our annual auction — also known as a “Great Party”! We will kick off all activity in early January so please be thinking of which talent you can share when a committee person contacts you. Last year we had wonderfully creative collections of parties, gift baskets, homemade delectable’s, art work, gift certificates, and personal contributions such as gardening, handyman services, dog sitting, seamstress service, computer help, and much, much more. This all-church effort is fun and, better than that, profitable!

Anne Roberts
Music Notes

Did you know?

♦ That a Unitarian wrote “Jingle Bells” and New England Unitarian ministers wrote “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” and “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day?”
♦ That a brief article about Family Singers will soon be published in the online edition of the UU World magazine?
♦ That we welcome children and their parents to join Family Singers any time? Our rehearsals continue to be held at 9:00 on Sunday mornings.
♦ That new singers are always invited to join Desert Chorale? Rehearsals are from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday nights.
♦ That our accompanist for Family Singers, Terry Polowy, just returned from a trip to Moscow, Russia where she presented a paper? She is head of the Russian Department at the University of Arizona and spent a year there when she was working on her Ph.D. degree several years ago.
♦ That on Christmas Eve a Holiday Choir made up of singers from Desert Chorale, Family Singers, and Alums will sing special anthems? A warm-up rehearsal is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and the service itself begins at 5:30 p.m.
♦ That we’re already practicing and preparing for All Music Sunday scheduled for Sunday, February 17th?

Agnes Paulsen

Worship Services Upcoming

Sunday, December 16
Would You Like to Hold the Baby?
Our annual holiday pageant led by Rebecca Froom, DRE & Kathleen Hogue, Asst. to DRE
This pageant, written by Joyce Poley, explores some of the human themes of love and family surrounding the Christmas story. Children, youth and adults will help us tell the story.

Friday, December 21
Come celebrate the rebirth of the Sun and the beginning of longer days with us on Friday December 21st at 6:30PM. Winter Solstice is the darkest night of the year. This holiday teaches us to embrace the night and look within ourselves for insight. It is also a holiday of hope because more sun and longer days are ahead. We’ll begin in Holland Sanctuary, but bring your warm coat because we will end our celebration around the firelight on the patio.

Sunday, December 23
The Way of Enough
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Deep within the faith of our UU heritage is the idea that “you are enough”. Call if universal salvation in the way of our Universalist ancestors or call it the inherent worth and dignity of every person: we affirm an abundant goodness in life.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 p.m. - The Gifts of Christmas
Worship Leaders: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca Froom, and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
Come celebrate the grace and beauty of the season with the traditional songs and stories of the season. You may be surprised to learn how much Unitarian Universalists have contributed to the “canon” of Christmas literature! This Extended Family Worship service will delight people of all ages. As always, we’ll end with the lighting of candles and the singing of Silent Night.

Sunday, December 30
To Be and to Have
by Ed Savard, Speaker
In a materialistic world of “having”, is it possible to retain an authentic “being” of the self and avoid losing our selves in the state of “I am what I have?”
Pardon the salacious headline, but this topic is so important, I wanted to make sure that I got everyone’s attention. We’re about to kick off another round of classes from the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education curriculum, and we need you all to know that it takes a whole congregation to teach OWL. Our Whole Lives is an age and developmentally appropriate fact- and faith-based comprehensive sexuality education program that focuses on self worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusivity.

Today’s children and youth face difficult and sometimes dangerous situations unprecedented in our history. The Our Whole Lives classes offer our children and youth a safe environment in which they can learn the facts and discuss their thoughts and feelings with caring, trained adults. In addition, the curriculum is infused with our UU values of respect and justice for all. Parents are their children’s most important sexuality educators; however, the larger community also influences our children’s sexual health, so it seems natural that our children’s religious community take a proactive role in the process.

How can you help? Teaching OWL on a regular basis requires many volunteers. While parents are usually called on to help chaperone or provide food for overnight sessions, the program is enriched when members from the greater congregation are willing to get involved. Also, we must have a pool of adults trained as facilitators to keep the program going. If you’d like to get involved, please contact Rebecca Froom or Heather Reed at 398-4345 or heather-reed@gmail.com.

**OWL 10-12**  January 12 – April 5 or 13 2008

OWL comprehensive sexuality education will be offered for 10th through 12th graders here at UUCT. There will be two Parent Orientations, one on Saturday, January 12 and the other on Tuesday evening January 15, in the hopes of accommodating families’ busy schedules. For more information contact Heather Reed.

**OWL 7-9**  February 1 – April 12, 2008

OWL 7-9 will be offered jointly by UUCNWT and at UUCT. It will be held alternately at the two congregations. There will be two Parent Orientations, one after Sunday service at the UUCNWT location and the other on a weekday evening at the UUCT location (specific dates TBA). For the youth, there will be 3 overnights, one at the beginning, one in the middle, and one at the end. In between will be 5 Sunday afternoon sessions. Several Sundays have to be skipped because of conflicts with camp, COA, and school holidays. For more information contact Margaret Fleming at 888-7059 or margefleming@earthlink.net.

Youth from the UUCT and UUCNWT congregations as well as the community at large are welcome to attend the classes being offered this spring, so please invite any friends (and their parents) that you feel may be interested. **Parents must attend an orientation for their child(ren) to attend the class.**

There will be a fee for OWL participation. Scholarships will be available upon request. Please contact Rebecca Froom, Director of Religious Education, if you would like to request a scholarship for your child.
I have sympathy for the innkeeper in the traditional Christmas story. What do you do when someone arrives at the door – hungry and tired, looking for a friendly place to rest -- and there's no room? You turn them away, right?

Then, you come to find out that the person you turned away, that night, gave birth to a child who would be remembered 2000 years later.

The story need not be literally true or historically accurate to hold a kernel of truth.

Hospitality meets a deep human need. We all, have at times, been in need of a place to be taken in and cared for. How fortunate we are if we find one.

Last year, the two-services task force surveyed the congregation. You said the space-crunch is felt most in the parking lot and in Goddard Hall. In order to make room for newcomers, we have to do something. There is no perfect solution.

For three months – from January 13 thru April 13, we will add a second service on Sunday. These are the months when the need for our hospitality is great. Since it’s only for three months, we’ll keep things close to usual at 10:30. RE for children and youth will not change. The added service will be at 8:30 -- childcare will be available for children kindergarten age and younger. All others will be welcome in the service. Coffee hour will be at 9:30 and Sundays Together Lunch will be at 11:30.

Like I said, I have sympathy for that innkeeper of old. Things are comfortable and familiar the way they are. How easy to say, “Sorry, the inn is full.” And yet, whom would we be turning away? Adding a service is an expression of hospitality. It’s an opportunity to learn and grow. With an experimental, adventurous attitude, we can discover what works and what doesn’t. We can figure out how to do it even better in the coming years.

My hope for a hospitality-filled holiday season is this:

May we have:
   eyes to see beauty
   ears to hear wisdom
   tongues to speak truth
   hands to touch living flesh with kindness
   and hearts to feel gladness.

Yours in the spirit of peace,

Diane
Attention, Everyone!
by Carolyn Cooper, Finance Chairperson

The last days of 2007 are fast approaching, and on behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to thank our members and friends for their continued financial support of UUCT. This has been a fantastic year for our church, with great growth in programming and participation in all the ministries. There’s a strong commitment on the part of both Staff and Leadership in working towards making this church an exciting community, one of which we are proud to be a part.

If you are considering gifting appreciated stocks to the church, please do so before Dec. 31st. Another option you have for payment is electronically through Vanco. Many find this a great way to accrue points on your credit cards.

As always, your financial contributions are critical for keeping this work moving forward. We’re almost halfway through our fiscal year, so it’s important to stay current with your pledge commitments.

Hope you all have a healthy, happy and safe holiday season.

Carolyn

For Your Information

PSWD NOTE

Thanks to the generosity of UUs across the country PSWD has raised a little over $63,400 to help those affected by the recent wildfires in Southern California. For an update on this work, go to http://www.pswduua.org/pages/southern-ca-fires-updates.php.

ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Church of the Larger Fellowship brings Unitarian Universalism to isolated UUs all over the world; offers Unitarian Universalism to people who are housebound; supports incarcerated UUs through its Prison Ministry; provides worship materials 24/7, especially valuable to people who work on Sunday mornings; and augments religious education resources for existing UU churches, fellowships, and small groups.

Support the CLF at the holiday season by buying from their gift shop at http://clf.uua.org/catalog/. Each year the Gustavus Myers Center in Boston sells the Sheroes Calendar. Each day of each month, the Sheroes Womyn Warriors 2008 Calendar presents a thumbnail sketch and photo/drawing of a womyn from around the globe, and across the centuries, who rebelled against the powers-that-be.

A wonderful present for someone in your life. For more information go to http://www.sheroescalendar.org/. The center is affiliated with Simmons College; it is an educational resource on anti-racism and anti-oppression programs and projects.
Food and Faith
Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Adult Faith Development Director

What do Unitarian Universalist values have to do with issues of food? That’s what we explored with Kitty Ufford-Chase, Faith Community Coordinator for Tucson’s Community Food Bank, at our Sunday Speaker Series in November. Working in small groups focused on social justice, environmental, and health issues related to food participants brainstormed problems related to our food supply and possible solutions. It was amazing how much overlap there was in our thinking! Solutions included organic farming, eating more locally grown foods, and more equitable distribution of food, to name a few.

Our Unitarian Universalist values call us to consider these issues. The First Principle, “the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” calls us to consider the economic justice issues operating that keep some people from getting the life-giving food they need. The Seventh Principle, “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” speaks to our need to make more responsible choices about how we grow and transport food, and the impact these have on our Earth.

Kitty explained that the Food Bank is focusing on increasing food security for members of our community. Most of us know where our next meal is coming from, but some within our community do not. The Food Bank offers a variety of programs (Food Plus boxes for seniors, a grocery store that helps people stretch their food dollars, a community garden & training for home gardeners, and more).

How can we support these efforts? There are as many ways to get involved as there are members of the congregation! We can pack emergency food boxes at the warehouse. We can help set up for the Santa Cruz River Farmers’ Market (sponsored by the Food Bank) on Thursday afternoons. We can support gardening initiatives by working in the garden, training others how to grow vegetables in Tucson, composting, or interning at the new Marana Farm. We can interact with people by educating about food stamps and other food programs. Computer skills are needed for data entry and tracking with the food pantry computer system. Childcare/teaching skills are needed to help kids learn during the garden workshops or to teach nutrition or food preparation after school. To learn more see the Food Bank flyer in the church foyer, or contact Kristen, Food Bank Volunteer Coordinator, at 622-0525 x 204 or khershberger@communityfoodbank.org.

Lisa

New Adult Faith Development Schedule of Programs
by Michael Greenbaum, Assistant to the AFD Director

If you've been looking for the Adult Faith Development booklets describing our offerings, you may have noticed that they've been replaced with a new, streamlined four-page Schedule of Programs issued every two months. The new format is less expensive to produce and much easier to keep up-to-date as our Adult Faith Development offerings change to reflect the needs and interests of the congregation. It's a more effective way of providing the information you need to participate fully in our programs as part of a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The bright yellow November-December schedule is available now. You'll find it at the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard after the service, and the programs are also listed on the web page at http://www.uuctucson.org.

Mike
The Nominating Committee has undergone some fundamental changes this year that will be of great benefit to the congregation. It involves a shift in attitude, a shift in our focus. The Nominating Committee is now also known as the Leadership Development Team which clearly shows that we are working on developing leadership, not just twisting arms.

Previously, the Nominating Committee met every year from February through April, put their heads together to come up with nominees to run for elected positions (Board, President, Nominating Committee, Finance Committee Chair and Committee on Ministry) and then heaved a sigh of relief after the annual meeting/election in May. This year's Leadership Development Team, Chris Wallace, chair, Erin Deely, Cynthia McDaniel, Larry Newhouse, and Evan Keyes, meet once a month, year-round. This last summer we set four main goals for our work: identify, recruit, train and support all lay leaders.

These are the things we have set out to do this year:
• Develop a gifts/interest survey, interview and database to hold the information we receive during the interviews with all congregants.
• Use the information from the survey/interview to recruit leaders/volunteers for positions.
• Help put on a volunteer fair on Sunday, January 13, 2008 to show off all the committees of the church and opportunities available.
• Display a poster of church leaders in Goddard Hall and in the spring a poster of nominees.
• Promote attendance at District Assembly April 25-27, 2008 in San Diego.
• Participate in planning and conducting leadership training workshops in May and September.
Support leaders by sending out personal thank you notes to those accepting or leaving a leadership position.

There are many other things we would like to do such as offering a class on discovering your gifts, developing a lending library on leadership topics, putting on a volunteer recognition dinner, awarding scholarships to those wanting to attend District and General Assemblies (no money this year). Perhaps some of those projects will be taken on by next year's Leadership Development Team. Interested in joining the Team?

Chris
Carolyn Saunders, UUCT President, presented the Policy Governance (PG) method and how it is being used at UUCT. Discussion groups considered four questions: (1) How does PG affect you as an individual member of the congregation; (2) What positive aspects of policy governance do you see?; (3) What questions or concerns do you still have about policy governance?; and (4) What else do you want the leadership of the church to know about?

At their November 13 meeting, your Board discussed the Town Hall and the feedback. A few observations from the general conduct of the meeting led to some decisions:

- The presentation portion was too long and too detailed! We will attempt to keep the presentations to thirty minutes.
- Discussions were hampered by not knowing the questions in advance! Note: the fourth question is always the same. We are considering providing all questions in advance. We could also allow questions to be addressed in any order by each group.

Feedback included comments about how visitors, new members, and the public are provided information about UUCT. These concerns will be forwarded through the new Membership member of the Empowerment Team to appropriate committees. Note: our activities relative to new members and retaining current members is getting a lot of attention. We are getting better but there is always room for improvement.

A couple of responses directed at specific Policy Governance concerns:

- While the general effect of PG is to make it easier to start new programs and update existing programs, finances are handled very carefully. The board is regularly updated on the status of our income, expenses and progress of the Stewardship campaign. Policies and responsibility charts are being developed that will enhance financial management in coming years.
- There is a new Policy Governance page on the UUCT website (uuctucson.org) to provide more information about the topic.
- Although official Board positions on topics require discussion and votes, individual Trustees are available and approachable members of our congregation. My experience is that we are each human but serious and committed to the advancement of UUCT. Come to any of us with questions, problems, or proposals. We will either point you to the best person to respond or carry your need to the right person.
- You may receive faster response if you direct requests to the responsible area of UUCT. There will soon be a booklet available with contact information for all the various organizations. Of course, Rev. Dowgiert is available as needed.

I probably left things out but the Board intends to have a newsletter article as part of the follow-up of each Town Hall. Town Halls are an important part of the interface between your Board and our members and help keep UUCT the place we cherish.

Marion Leonard
Book Club

Book Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in Awareness at 7:00 PM. In January the Book Club will be choosing books for the next 6 months beginning in February. 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, the number of copies in the PCPL, whether the book is available in paperback, the number of pages and the number of holds. One is more apt to get accurate results if one checks online, however the personnel at the PCPL are gracious enough to answer even such questions as how many pages there are in their particular copies of the book. They even have a few books that are in large print.

Dec. 20  Montana 1948 by Larry Watson
From the PCPL: “A series of events in a small western town changes the lives of David Hayden, his sheriff father, his mother, and their Sioux housekeeper, as they discover the truth about family loyalty.” The PCPL has 7 copies, none on hold with one lost and paid. Available in PB. Approx. 175 p.

Jan. 17  Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid  by Jimmy Carter