“Green Card” Report

One hundred (!) green cards, some bearing pledges to undertake more than one additional step toward sustainable living, became green “leaves” on the bare branches on the stage at the January 27 service organized by the Green social action group. One pledge was even written on a symbolic torn half of a card!

Pledges fell into these categories: Recycling; Waste Reduction; Conservation of Water and other Resources; Do More Walking and Bike Riding; Adopt More Energy-Efficient Ways of Lighting; Find Ways to Conserve Gasoline; Investigate Ways to Go on a “Low Carbon Diet” Combat Consumerism and Evaluate Shopping Habits; Re-examine What I Eat, How Much, Where It Comes from, etc.; and Adopt More Earth-Friendly, Resource-Conserving Garden Practices. Other cards bore creative suggestions that defy easy categorization. The Green Group plans to continue to encourage UUCT folks to live more sustainably -- both at home and in how we can improve our church facilities. The complete list is posted in Goddard.

This past month, the Empowerment Team has been working collaboratively with the Finance Committee on a budget for fiscal year 2008-09, which begins on July 1. A proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees at special budget meeting on March 25. At the March 11 Board meeting, The Empowerment Team presented a proposal for mid-year revisions to the 2007-08 budget. The revisions don’t substantially change the budget, but more accurately reflect actual expenses and income flow. The good news is, barring unforeseen circumstances, and assuming pledges are fulfilled, we will finish the fiscal year right on target.

The Empowerment Team also considered a proposal from No More Deaths. The proposal is that UUCT adopt No More Deaths as a ministry of the church and that the church act as fiscal agent for No More Deaths. The Empowerment Team has been collecting information to aid the Board of Trustees in making a recommendation to the congregation about forming such a partnership.

Both the annual budget and the proposal from No More Deaths will be brought to the congregation for voting at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 4. The Board of Trustees will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, April 6, so you will have an opportunity to discuss the budget and the No More Deaths proposal.
The Transition Team provides Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings with support, challenge, and reflection on her journey to ordained ministry, while educating the congregation about the process.

Q. Why does Lisa go to Chicago every January?
A. Ha! She’s fooling us all! She’s really in Acapulco every January!

No, just kidding. This Q & A series is actually meant to dispel misunderstandings, so we had better be serious.

Lisa intends to become an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. In addition to her staff position at UUCT, she is enrolled at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago as a student in the Modified Residency Program. This program has two major components: 1) academic study, and 2) praxis (practical application of what she learns through her studies). The academic component includes independent study throughout the year that culminates in a one-month intensive during the month of January in Acapulco Chicago.

Q. Is UUCT paying for Lisa to go to Seminary?
A. No. Lisa is paying all of her ministerial study expenses. UUCT provides no financial support for Lisa’s education in the Meadville-Lombard Modified Residency Program.

Stay tuned for the next installment of the Transition Team Q & A Series. Until then, please feel free to approach any of the team with questions or comments you may have. In faith,

Carol Evans
Randy Springer
Kathy McDaniel
Michael D. Greenbaum
Rev. Rod Richards

First Annual Hunger Walk on Sat., March 29

TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK’S COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY CENTER PROGRAMS

Walk begins at 8:00am at Ramada 5 at Reid Park. No Sponsors needed, distance walked is up to you. Just register on-line by Friday, Mar. 21st: www.communityfoodbank.org. Registration fees: $20/adult; $10/child—both of which include a free event T-shirt. You can register, but not walk, and still receive an event T-shirt.

All Participants are encouraged to bring 2 cans of food for the event’s food drive. For more information, contact Kitty Ufford-Chase, kitty@communityfoodbank.org or call 622-0525, x251. Join us to support home gardens, farmers’ markets, farm production, family advocacy and gleaning programs in our community.

Book Club to Meet, March 20

The Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Awareness room. We will revue the follow-

Music Notes
by Agnes Paulsen, Minister of Music

Sounds of music will enhance our worship on Easter Sunday. Guest harpist Rebecca Foreman, Cellist Tom Clowes and Soprano Sheryl Holland will perform at both services and Family Singers will sing at the 10:30 service. Then on Sunday, March 30, we plan to have the congregation sing the African National Anthem (because the theme is about UUism in Africa) which is actually in our hymnal. A group of women from Desert Chorale are preparing to sing a song from Africa as well.

Mark your calendars now for Cabaret which will be Friday evening, January 30, 2009. Members and friends of the congregation are invited to participate in this talent show. Let me know if you are interested.
Moving towards a Covenant of Right Relations
Carolyn Saunders, President

Over the past two years the Board of Trustees has discussed implementing a Covenant of Right Relations at UUCT. This seems to be an important step in coping with the many changes in church life that can cause stress and unpleasantness within a congregation. I found the following definition of such a covenant on the UUA website:

*Developing a Covenant of Right Relations is an important step in clarifying expectations and creating a safe environment for congregations. “Covenant” is Latin for “come together” and means a “solemn agreement” or “promise from the heart” regarding a course of action between parties. Although the process of creating a covenant is unique for each group it may be helpful to review the sample found on the UUA website at [http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary](http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary).*

However, developing such a covenant is not a quick process. It would involve at least a year’s work to get to the point where we were ready to adopt the covenant that would be the best fit for our congregation. So what can we do in the meantime to help our church home be the peaceful environment we all want it to be?

Well, we can begin acting “as if” we already had such a covenant. That would require the following actions:

1. Begin every conversation about our church with a positive, affirming statement—not a negative, derogatory statement.
2. Be direct with one another. If you disagree with someone else about something that is occurring within the church, talk directly to that person about your differences in a calm, loving way.
3. If you have a complaint about the minister and don’t feel comfortable going directly to her, go to the Committee on Ministry.
4. People often say, “The church should do this, or the church should do that.” Consider, who is “the church” if not you and I? Think about what you can do as a part of the church.

Another important asset that we have as a church is the collective wisdom of past leaders of the church. The Rev. Dowgiert is interested in forming an advisory Presidents’ Council to capitalize on past leaders’ institutional memory. If you have been a president of the church in the past and would be interested in serving on such a council, please contact Rev. Dowgiert.

### Board Accepts DRE’s Letter of Resignation
Carolyn Saunders, President

It was with sadness for UUCT’s loss and gladness for the exciting future ahead for Rebecca Froom that the Board of Trustees accepted the letter of resignation of our Director of Religious Education at our March 11 meeting.

Rebecca has decided that she has a true calling for the ministry and will be attending seminary in the fall. At the present she has been accepted by one school and is waiting to hear from several others to which she has applied. She will be remaining at UUCT until the end of this church year on June 30.

The Board sincerely appreciates the work that Rebecca has done for the church during her two years with us and wishes her the greatest success and spiritual fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

### Nominations are in Order
Chris Wallace, Chair of Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team

The Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team has begun the process of identifying and recruiting leaders to run for the elected positions of President, members of the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, Committee on Ministry as well as Finance Committee Chair. All new terms begin July 1st. The election will be at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 4.

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself for any of these positions, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee/LDT: Chris Wallace, Erin Deely, Evan Keyes, Cynthia McDaniel or Larry Newhouse.
General Assembly 2008

You are invited to attend an exciting and enriching General Assembly (GA), centered on the theme of the “Common Threads” that weave together the fabric of our Unitarian Universalist faith and community. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. This year it will be held June 25-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Registration opened on March 1, and rates for the event will increase on May 1. To register online or to print a registration form, go to http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/registrationhousing/registration/index.shtml.

One of the exciting events to occur this year will be a Candidates’ Forum where you can meet and hear candidates for the UUA Presidency in the upcoming 2009 election. Special featured programs on Friday and Saturday will address the issues of civil liberties and immigration policies followed by Appreciative Inquiry sessions that offer a chance to explore and wrestle with these issues in depth with other UUs from across the country. These are only two of the many highlights of this year’s GA.

Make this your year to discover what General Assembly is all about. Also save the dates for future GAs!

June 24-28: 2009 Salt Lake City, UT
June 23-27: 2010 Minneapolis, MN
June: 2011 Charlotte, NC

Easter With Baskets & Bunnies
(chocolate that is)

Another super opportunity to supply you and/or your family with Easter goodies from your favorite store. Ham, yams, veggies, peeps, eggs, chocolate bunnies (I like to start with the ears) and other decadent edibles are available in any of our grocery program stores. Just use your card and UUCT will be hopping all over the place due to the boost in percentage of their rebate on your purchases. Don’t forget the basket for the goodies and flowers for the table as well.

When I was a kid (there were 7 of us) the weather was usually bad outside, so my dad would hide jelly beans around a couple of rooms for us to look for. The rule was to collect only those at eye level or above so the littler ones had a chance to find some at their level as well. There weren’t too many jelly beans but the memories are many. So make memories and have a Happy Easter!

April Town Hall Meeting

Yes, it is that time of year, AGAIN! The Empowerment Team, the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees are working on the 2008-2009 budget. This budget will determine the course of our church’s ministry for the coming year as we strive to fulfill our Strategic Plan.

So plan to attend the 2008-2009 budget hearing to be held on April 6 at 12:15 in Holland Sanctuary. This is your primary opportunity to provide input into the budget that will be voted on at the annual meeting on May 4.

Your input is of vital importance in this budget building process! The church’s ministry is your ministry and the Strategic Plan is your plan.

Bond-I-Con

From Friday, March 28, beginning at 7 pm, through Sunday, March 30, ending at 1 pm, the District-wide Bond-I-Con will be held at UUCT for young adults from 18 through 35. This conference will bring together UU young adults for a weekend to build intentional community, create worshipful spaces, and have fun while making connections that can be sustained in their home congregations, communities, and beyond.

Joys & Sorrows

Terry Sheridan requests more prayers for Rev. Laurel Sheridan. She has been moved to St Mary’s ICU and is still in fragile condition.

Gene Sacha’s 96 year old mother, Louise Sacha, passed away in Michigan.

Margot & J.D. Garcia are proud godparents and honorary grandparents of Xomara Rose Fulton Cota-Robles who was dedicated at the 1st Unitarian Church in Philadelphia recently.
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 4, 2007. 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 3.

Newcomers Orientation

On Sunday April 6, at 4pm, we will hold our next Newcomers Orientation. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to Mary Wiese: macbrude@cox.net or the church office.

Town Hall Feedback: Communication March 2

On Sunday March 2, a Town Hall was held to discuss various forms of communication within our church community. The forms that were talked about were the Unitarian Newsletter, the Transforming Times Journal, the Sunday Order of Service, and our website.

Three questions were asked:
1. What do you like about our current publications?
2. How can we make our current publications even better?
3. The best way to get information to me about church activities is_______?

The following is a summary of the answers we received:

♦ People liked the new format and design of all of the publications and added that they are very professional and consistent; they felt that this was important for newcomers. They also appreciated the map on the OOS, the calendar of events, and the shorter articles in the newsletter. Many of the participants were not aware of the new publication, Transforming Times. However, those that were expressed appreciation for the depth of the articles.

♦ Some people missed the different designs on the cover of the OOS but it was also noted that having the same cover saves valuable staff time. A few people thought that the deadlines for the publications were too complicated and the office staff provided handouts and will continue to address concerns and questions. Other suggestions included a help wanted column, a New Member profile, and a lost and found column for the newsletter.

♦ The current website is adequate but all agreed that we need a better one. Frank Valdes is heading up this project that will eventually be a better representation of our church community and should be easier to update and change. It will include podcasts of the church sermons and be easier to navigate.

♦ Multiple forms of communication worked best for most of the participants. They included all of our current publications as well as verbal announcements and e-mails.

Don’t Forget!

The All Church Cookout is April 12. Details will be in the next newsletter.

Peace And Social Justice Groups To Host
THE TUCSON RAGING GRANNIES
by Stuart Thomas, Peace Group Leader

On Sunday, March 30 the Peace and Social Justice Groups will hold their monthly meeting at 12:15 PM in the Servetus Room. There will be discussions on the direction those attending the Unitarian Church of Tucson want their peace, economic justice, and immigration rights groups to go followed by a guest performance of The Tucson Raging Grannies. Be sure to attend this lively and important meeting!

If you have never heard these Grannies perform, you are in for a treat! And if you have heard them, you know you are in for a treat!

If peace, economic justice, immigrant rights, and/or fun are important to you, come join us at this meeting!
ADVOCACY NEWS

Action Alert from the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy

Reintroducing Faithful America Faith in Public Life has just re-launched Faithful America, and is inviting you to become a part of it. Faithful America is an online community of tens of thousands of citizens motivated by faith to take action on the pressing moral issues of our time.

Their first action alert is a petition calling on media pollsters to stop stereotyping people of faith in their presidential primary exit polling. Right now the presidential primary exit polls are reinforcing false stereotypes about religious voters by asking Republican voters more religion questions than Democrats, and in some cases ignoring Democrats' religion entirely. Remind them that we exist and vote.

By signing, you'll join Faithful America and begin receiving email alerts at critical moments when you can take action to make a difference on issues like human rights, poverty and global warming—as well as other issues important to people of faith.

Saturday, April 26, 2008
1:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. –
“Why Do We Need to Keep Doing ‘Welcoming Congregation’ if We are Already One?”

This special workshop will be conducted at the UU Church in Surprise, AZ. The Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns will lead the workshop to explore and discuss the activities, programs and education we can continue or even start with, to ensure our Congregation is “Welcoming” to all. For additional information, contact Mary Anne Poggenburg at 623-398-8070 or the UU Church in Surprise.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Sleuthing in your Supermarket: Learning to Shop with a Conscience

Kitty Ufford-Chase, Faith Community Coordinator at the Community Food Bank, will be offering Sleuthing in your Supermarket: Learning to Shop with a Conscience on Monday evenings from April 7 through May 5 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Awareness meeting room. This is a course on issues surrounding food and faith and will explore the following--

- The history of supermarkets, current and future trends, and the food shopping experience.
- Supermarket advertising, marketing and consumption: understanding the corporate role, and the messages we get from supermarkets.
- Environmental impacts within the supermarket itself, in its supply chain, and in the household.
- Social justice in the food system and supermarkets from middle-class and low-income perspectives: accessibility, affordability, and food appropriateness.
- Looking at alternatives and options for action to support a more just food system.

The fee is $15 to cover supplies. Any money left over will go to the Community Food Bank as a donation from UUCT. Scholarships are always available and always given.

UUCT Hosts Two AFD-Related District Activities

UUCT will be playing host to two Pacific-Southwest District workshops related to Adult Faith Development in the coming weeks.

A district-wide AFD Facilitator Training Workshop will be held at UUCT on Saturday, April 5 from 10 am to 3 pm. If you’ve ever facilitated an AFD class or if you’ve ever wanted to, plan on attending this workshop. Bring your wisdom and experience to share with others from the District. Participants will develop their skills at engaging adult learners in a learning environment which is also a sacred space, incorporating UU identity and theology into classes, and setting class goals and evaluating whether those goals were met. There is no charge for the workshop, but you will have to provide your own lunch. You can brown-bag it if you’d like or for $8.25, we’ll be ordering box lunches for those who want them. Water, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided free.

More information is available about both of the district activities at http://www.pswduua.org and about all AFD programs at the AFD table in Goddard Hall after the service on Sunday. You can also email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net or call him at 326-8831.
Upcoming in Religious Education

Sunday March 22
Children, youth and their parents are invited to worship together for an Easter Extended Family Worship at 8:30 and 10:30. This service will explore Unitarian and Universalist themes of resurrection, and include our annual flower communion, so make sure to bring a flower with you! Our Spirit Play group will begin their morning in worship, and end in class which will include an opportunity for them to participate in the second portion of the flower communion ritual.

At 11:45, following the 2nd service, children are invited to the playground for our annual Easter Canned Food Hunt. Children search for canned goods which have been donated to our Food Bank, and exchange these items for Easter candy.

March 28 – 30
Our Coming of Age (CoA) Wilderness Journey takes place at Cochise Stronghold, with opportunities for reflection, worship, fellowship and service. Sojourners, mentors and guides, meet 4:30 in Awareness room on Friday March 28. Interested in hearing more about how this experience impacts our junior youth? Come to the CoA service on Sunday May 4. OWL (10-12) meets on Sunday March 30 from 1:00 to 4:00 in King.

Sunday, March 23
Easter Sunday Flower Communion
Extended Family Worship

We will celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring with a flower communion. We will explore the meaning Easter holds for Unitarian Universalists.

Sunday, March 30
Our Unitarian Universalist Brothers and Sisters in Africa
Speaker: Janice Brunson from Phoenix UU
Host: Margot Garcia

Did you know there are UU churches in Africa? On March 30 Janice Brunson will be our speaker for the Sunday services. She is working with UU churches (Kenya, Nigeria & Burundi) in Africa. She will talk about the projects to provide hands-up assistance and recount stories from their lives. She is asking for people to contribute any “books on tape” that you may have finished so she can send them to Africa. The blind people there love listening to them. There will be a box in the Lobby marked Audio Books for Africa where you can leave them.

Saturday April 5
OWL (10-12) holds their concluding workshop from 9:00 to 4:00 in King room.

Sunday April 6
Our 1st thru 5th graders participate in a Green Project Day, organized in collaboration with our Green Group, and likely including a field trip. Details to follow.

OWL (7-9) meets from 1:00 to 4:00 at the NW congregation.

Kudos Kathleen

February 29 thru March 2 Kathleen Hogue, our Assistant to the DRE and Assistant to the Membership and Community Life Coordinator, went to a district-wide training on Welcoming Children with Special Needs facilitated by author Sally Patton. Kathleen has put together a proposal for how our congregation can become a community that welcomes children for special needs, look for more on this project in the coming year.

Kathleen so impressed our District Program Consultant, Tera Little, that she has been hired as a congregational consultant to lead workshops on Welcoming Children with Special Needs throughout Arizona. Kudos Kathleen!

Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, March 23
Easter Sunday Flower Communion
Extended Family Worship

We will celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring with a flower communion. We will explore the meaning Easter holds for Unitarian Universalists.

Sunday, April 6
Faith Without Certainty
When our liberal religion asserts that revelation is not sealed, that truth is not given once and for all, what does it mean to have faith? What faith claims can we make? What convictions do we hold?

Sunday, April 13
“Themes of the Spirit in Long(hair) Music”
Speaker: Randall Springer
Spiritual reflection and musical appreciation are not completely distinct; music is sometimes intertwined with spiritual life. In this service we will consider, with excerpts from each of three great works of classical music, some of the spiritual themes that are prominent in human experience. The Desert Chorale will sing one of these selections at the 10:30 service.

Rev. Diane is filling the pulpit at the UU Congregation of Northwest Tucson on this day, as their minister, Rev. Susan Manker-Seale is away on sabbatical leave. This is a reciprocal arrangement among congregations in Southern Arizona. When it comes time for Rev. Diane to take a sabbatical in the coming years, other UU ministers in Southern Arizona will be available to help fill out the worship schedule.
Sunday, March 23
  8:30 a.m.  Worship, Holland
  9:00 a.m.  Exploring Spirituality as UU, Servetus
            Family Singers, Awareness
  10:30 a.m. Worship, Holland
  11:45 a.m. Lunch, Goddard
Monday, March 24
  12:00 p.m. Bridge Group, Awareness
            7:00 p.m.  SJ: Immigration Group, Awareness
Tuesday, March 25
  5:30 p.m.  HepSource, Servetus
            6:30 p.m.  Cov. Circle Facilitators, Awareness
Wednesday, March 26
  9:30 a.m.  Newsletter Folding, Foyer
            2:00 p.m.  QUUilters, Awareness
            5:30 p.m.  Desert Chorale, Holland
            6:30 p.m.  Nicotine Anonymous, Servetus
Thursday, March 27
  8:00 a.m.  Empowerment Team, Diane’s Office
            1:00 p.m.  Listening for the Spirit, Awareness
            7:00 p.m.  AFD: Profiling Arabs, Awareness
Friday, March 28
  4:00 p.m.  Coming of Age, Awareness
Sunday, March 30
  8:30 a.m.  Worship, Holland
  9:00 a.m.  Exploring Spirituality as UU, Servetus
            Family Singers, Awareness
  10:30 a.m. Worship, Holland
  11:45 a.m. Lunch, Goddard
  12:15 p.m. Social Justice Group, Servetus
            1:00 p.m.  OWL (10-12), King
Monday, March 31
  12:00 p.m. Bridge Group, Awareness
Tuesday, April 1
  7:00 p.m.  Committee on Ministry, Awareness
Wednesday, April 2
  2:00 p.m.  QUUilters, Awareness
  5:30 p.m.  Desert Chorale, Holland
            6:30 p.m.  Membership, Library
  7:00 p.m.  Covenant Circle, Emerson
Thursday, April 3
  1:00 p.m.  Listening for the Spirit, Awareness
            6:30 p.m.  Buildings & Grounds, Awareness
            7:00 p.m.  Transition Team, AFD Office
Friday, April 4
  6:00 p.m.  First Friday, Blackwell
Saturday, April 5
  9:00 a.m.  Dowsers, Goddard
            10:00 a.m.  District AFD Facilitators, Awareness
            11:00 a.m. Al-Anon, Servetus
            5:00 p.m.  Saturday Salon, Goddard