Town Hall focuses on No More Deaths

UUCT hosted representatives from the humanitarian aid group No More Deaths for our town hall meeting on April 20. More than 70 people attended the meeting and voiced support for a proposal to adopt the work of No More Deaths as a ministry of the church. While the exact language is still being hashed out, the proposal is to merge the humanitarian work of No More Deaths into the social justice ministry of our church.

Rick Ufford-Chase, Margo Cowan and Walt Staton from No More Deaths outlined the group’s history and current work, and addressed the legal implications of the proposal.

Some financial and legal concerns have been raised. No More Deaths will not add any financial burden to the church. The group fundraises over $50,000 per year to cover its own costs. Some members pointed out that by having No More Deaths as a part of the church, we may get a boost in membership and funds for UUCT as well!

As the May 4 vote is approaching, we want to make sure that everyone’s questions are addressed. Please contact members of the Empowerment Team with your questions, and look for more information coming in the mail.

Sixty Years of Liberal Religion in Tucson

Join the celebration of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson’s 60th Anniversary on Sunday, May 11.

A special service will be followed by a gala birthday luncheon and celebration. Share your memories of when you first came to UUCT by sending or bringing a paragraph for a “Remembering When” booklet to the church office. And what would a birthday party be without gifts? The following list is suggested gifts you might want to give to the church in honor of the 60 years our church has provided a “liberal light in the desert.”

- New Sturdy Card Tables for Goddard
- Pull-Down Screen for Awareness
- PowerPoint Projector
- New Steel-framed Rolling Boards
- Solar Screens for AFD Office
- DVD Player
- Good Portable Stereo System
- Tape Duplicator
- Reams of white paper, 8½ x 11
- New Vertical Blinds for Church Office
- New, Extra Large Key Box
- Large Paper Shredder

Look at What's Happening!

Youth, Advisors, Members of the Church and Staff attended the District Meeting in San Diego this past weekend.

More than $6500 has been raised for the YRUU’s trip to Nicaragua.

On May 11 we celebrate being a church here in Tucson for 60 years.

Sunday Services

May 4: Bonding, Friendship & Fun—Rev. Diane Dowgiert and the Coming of Age Youth
May 11: The Liberal Light in the Desert - our 60th Anniversary Celebration - Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Book Club for May

The Book Club will meet the third Thursday of May (May 15) at 7:00 p.m. in the Awareness Room. We will review “March” by Geraldine Brooks.

June’s book will be “Hitler’s Pope” by John Cromwell.

Everyone and anyone is invited to join us.

Artist Of The Month Gallery

REMINDER to UU Artists and Friends: Bring your creations to the Sanctuary Tuesday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m. with a signed release form, available in the Church office. On Sunday, May 11, we’ll have a reception in your honor.

And PHOTOGRAPHERS, remember that with summer comes your turn to show off your creativity. Bring your best shots, framed and ready to hang, on Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., June 3. You, too, will have a reception and our thanks.

Green Piece

Did you know... 14 plastic bags equal enough oil to travel one mile? Many supermarkets now sell inexpensive reusable totes, often made from recycled material. Or check out sustainablebags.net (520-298-2650).

Unwanted or broken electronics? ... RISE, Inc., 791-6812, 119 E. Toole, will repair them and find suitable recipients or salvage recyclable components and safely dispose of unusable remnants. RISE is an umbrella agency that includes Pima Computer Recycling (PCR).

Local Day Trips Raise Money

Many thanks to the following people who each donated $15 to UUCT by participating in local day-trips!

Joyce Hardin, Alice Ageloff and Guest
Barbara Rhodes, Tery Ross, Sherry Mann
Mary McKinnon, Ellis Nelson, Cynthia McDaniels
Kathy McDaniels

Thanks

Terence Sheridan and family would like to thank all those who offered prayers and cards during Rev. Laurel Sheridan’s recent sickness. She continues to get well at Cornerstone Hospital.

TV/Radio/New Reporters Offered Insider Tips

On How to Improve News Coverage of Social Justice Issues

A panel of reporters from local TV, radio and newspapers gave useful tips and information on Saturday, April 19, at a UUCT sponsored workshop on “Media Savvy: How to Work More Effectively with the Mainstream News Media.”

“This was the most useful workshop I’ve ever attended on this topic,” said one of the people in the audience who had registered for the event. “I’ve never had the opportunity before to speak directly to reporters or editors like this, and I never knew why my news releases just kept getting lost in the pile. Now I know who I should speak with and how to build ongoing working relationships with them.”

The panel of speakers, which was organized and moderated by UUCT member Leila Pine for Adult Faith Development, included Cara Rene, Senior Editor of the Tucson Citizen; Keith Bembenak, Assignment Editor for KVOA-Channel 4; Tony Paniagua, reporter for KUAT’s Channel 6 (a PBS affiliate) “Arizona Illustrated” show and KUAT/KUAZ Arizona Public Media; and Amanda Shauger, the first News Director ever at KXCI-FM Community Radio (91.3 FM). Church members Margo Newhouse, Kelly Taylor and Craig McComb graciously handled the set-up, fees, food and clean-up.

Those attending the workshop heard speakers talk about the most common mistakes made with press releases, how to pitch a story to an editor or reporter (focus on those impacted most by what you do), who to line up for interviews, how to develop and stick to just 2-3 talking points, what kinds of visuals TV stations look for, the necessity of following through with reporters and editors to check whether they’ll cover the story, providing sources, supportive data and correct spellings to reporters in advance, plus tips about guest commentaries, how to use newspaper and TV websites, national websites, appropriate listserves and blogs to spread your message.

Alliance

Our last meeting of this year will be Tuesday, May 13, 11:30 a.m. in Goddard. A salad potluck luncheon will be featured and we will elect next year’s Board. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Alliance table on May 4 & 11 for you to indicate what salad you would like to bring. Join us!
Sunday Worship Services

**Sunday, May 4**  
*Bonding, Friendship, and Fun*  
Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Coming of Age Youth

**Sunday, May 11**  
*A Liberal Light in the Desert*  
Rev. Diane Dowgiert  
Come celebrate 60 years of liberal religion in Tucson! We'll tell the story of how this beloved community came to be what it is today. We'll also recognize outstanding volunteers with Excellence in Ministry awards. To top it all off, we'll have a 60th Birthday Party in Goddard Hall following the service.

**Sunday, May 18**  
*Service of Rituals*  
Extended Family Worship

**Sunday, May 25**  
Worship Committee

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**UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF the April 8th 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.*

- **MSP** Minutes from the March 11, 2008 Board Meeting were approved.
- **MSP** Minutes from the March 28, 2008 Board Meeting were approved.

**Committee on the Ministry** - presented by Mark Henson (COM)  
- Second round focused on younger adults.

**Bylaws revision report** - presented by Carolyn Saunders  
- Next month, can we set up a meeting just to talk about bylaws? May 13th is the May BOT. May 15th @ 7:00pm for the special bylaw meeting.

**Empowerment Team (ET) report** - presented by Diane Dowgiert  
- Sunday, April 12th, is the last of the 8:30am services.  
- Next year we will start earlier.  
- Quinn Free is donating a piano for Goddard Hall.

**No more deaths** - presented by Rebecca Froom  
- Partnering with "No More Deaths" (NMD)  
- At April 20th Town hall there will be NMD members and their lawyers.

**Budget** - Carolyn Saunders  
- At the Town Hall we heard some that weren't happy with deficit spending  
- Also; Keep the staff  
- Also; Keep the programs  
- We've got to have more income!  
- One message out of the meeting was to look at the strategic plan.

- **MSP** – The board is committed to staying with the goal set during the 2007 annual meeting of borrowing $0 from the CRF for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Lundstrom  
Board of Trustees
Job Opportunity

The UU Congregation of Northwest Tucson is seeking a part-time Congregational Administrator. This a 20-hour per week position, with a yearly salary of $13,850 plus benefits. The administrator will be responsible for a variety of functions such as managing office procedures, purchasing, preparation of budgets, bookkeeping services, preparing reports and recommendations to the governing board and minister.

Qualifications are:
. Adequate education or equivalent experience to have the ability to manage an office and supervise personnel and volunteers;
. Competency in accounting;
. Experience with word processing, spreadsheet programs, accounting software, and other appropriate software;
. Personal demeanor to interact with church members and non-members in a professional and caring manner.

For more information and a full job description, call 520-579-7094 or email uuoffice@yahoo.com.

Lunitarian Weekend, Oct 10-12

This year the annual Lunitarian Weekend in Rocky Point will be Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008. It will be held at The Reef, Puerto Penasco, Mexico. Go to http://www.thereefrvpark.com/ for more information and to reserve your space. Visit http://music.net/lunitarian08/ for more information.

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 2, 2008. It is held in the Blackwell 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 1.

New Blood Needed for the Important Ministry of Membership!

Volunteers to this ministry are often the first people newcomers interact with on any given Sunday! These positions only require a small amount of time; Therefore, anyone with a positive, and willing attitude is encouraged to apply! There will be a meeting of the Membership Committee on Wednesday May 7, in Goddard Hall at 6:00 pm (note the time change). We will have sign ups for vacant slots and we will also discuss some of the recommendations from the Membership Assessment. If you would like to be a part of this very important ministry or if you have questions, please email me, macbrude@cox.net, or call me, Mary: 349-4521.