Walking Together: 
A Year of Hope and Renewal

Some ask how Unitarian Universalism is a religion. We don’t have a set of shared beliefs. The answer is simple. Western religion is rooted in covenant, not belief. The ancient Israelites were called to a relationship of covenant with each other and their God. Religion, at root, means to bind together again. A covenant is an agreement to walk together in service of shared ideals and values. Covenant, not belief, binds us together.

Fall begins a new cycle in the life of the congregation. We come together again to renew our bond. In troubled times, a covenant acts as a source of hope, something in which we can place our trust. It is an antidote to loneliness. The storms of life are weathered more easily in the shelter of each other.

This church year, I foresee both promise and challenge. Our hope is in the strength of our covenant, the ways we walk together in justice, compassion, and respect.

Meet the Membership Team: I am blessed and overjoyed to have a fabulous team to work with this year: Judy Dare will continue as Membership Chair. She holds the Membership Artist of the Month Gallery

A new year of art for the Church begins this month! Celebrate our Native American heritage as our next artist, Wes Jernigan, has celebrated his. Enjoy his poster-sized silk-screen hand-printed images of Native American icons and totemic figures, many of them culled from his experiences as an archeologist and art historian of the American Southwest and Southeast.

An opening reception for Wes will be held in Holland Sunday, August 24, after the service. The exhibit will run through October 7.

Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT

Fifteen people were in attendance at the August 17 Newcomers’ Orientation.

The spirit and the response was enthusiastic, and the conversations among the participants continued even after the conclusion of the orientation.

As one participant exclaimed, “It was a very positive and informative experience!”

Membership/ Community Life Bulletin Board

Newcomers News: If you are a new or first time visitor to our church, we invite you to meet with us after any Sunday service for a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalism. Get yourself a cup of coffee or some lunch and join us in the Welcoming Center inside Goddard Hall at 11:45. Included in the Intro is a 15 minute DVD, a Welcoming Packet, and a question and answer period. Free childcare is provided until noon every Sunday. If you have questions, please contact me by email: macbrude@cox.net.

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Sunday Services
August 24 — Deep Like the Rivers, Extended Family Worship
August 31 — Citizens of the World: Reflections from Nicaragua
Portfolio on the Empowerment Team and is also the point person for the Membership Sub-committees which include the Greeters, Scribes, Ushers, and Goddard Welcoming Team. Jan Dowling holds the Membership Portfolio for the Board and the Community Life Pod on the Program Steering Committee. Becky Keyes holds the Family Ministry Portfolio on the Religious Education Council and is the RE liaison to the Membership Team. Go team!

Gracious Stewards Please Apply: The Membership Team is looking for a few energetic and knowledgeable people to meet and greet guests after Sunday service. If you have the gift of gab, a decent listening ear, and know your way around the church, we could really use your expertise for about 15 minutes once a month. This job entails meeting new people when service is finished and taking the time to guide them around campus, introduce them to folks with similar interests, and showing them where they can obtain informational materials. If you have these skills (I know many of you do), please speak with a Member of the Membership Team.

Growth Workshop: Plans are well underway for the Saturday, October 4 “Yes We Can” Growth Workshop. In the morning session, Charles Gaines, the author of the Growth Assessment, will guide us as we review the report and answer questions we may have should we decide to adopt the Growth Assessment recommendations. During the afternoon session, we will break into individual focus groups. These groups will develop action plans for their given recommendations. Participants must agree to read the assessment, which is available online or hard copy by request, and complete a random sampling form that must be returned to me before September 28th. Registration will begin August 17, at the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard Hall after church. The workshop and childcare are free but an optional lunch will be provided for a fee. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in community spirit,
Mary Wiese,
Membership and Community Life Coordinator

Music notes

Music and Morality

Ancient Greek theorists postulated that music affected the morality of listeners and performers, an idea that has gained much purchase over time. Here in America, a cottage industry of “Music Appreciation” has developed because, in part, it was assumed that knowledge of good music (i.e., classical music) would make one a better person. People had to acquire that knowledge to improve their character. [Historical tangent: the Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight of Boston was one of the most influential voices in shaping this idea during the nineteenth century.]

America during the twentieth century slowly lost its unquestioned awe of high culture, but reactions to popular music have suggested that on some level people still believe music and morality have some connection. The outrage over rap, heavy metal, rhythm and blues, rock ‘n roll, jazz, ragtime, etc. reflect not only a predominantly white society’s racist reaction to black-inspired music, but often a generational reaction of older people decrying “what those darned kids are listening to today!” They complain that kids are going to “hell in a hand-basket” because of their musical tastes. In other words, the way people speak about music and moral character suggests an underlying belief that there is some connection between the two ideas.

I’m not sure that I believe a moral life requires music, but I strongly believe that making music makes one a better person. I’d like to invite you to test my belief by joining one of the choirs.

Desert Chorale meets on Wed. at 5:30 p.m.
Family Singers meets on Sun. at 9:00 a.m.

Brian Moon, Choir Director

Beowulf Alley Theatre: “Wait Until Dark”

Our own David Sewell will be directing the season opening production of WAIT UNTIL DARK at the Beowulf Alley Theatre in downtown Tucson. I am reserving a block of tickets (12) for anyone interested in the Sunday, September 28 performance at 1:30. Tickets are $16. You can let me know if you can join us, and I will reserve a ticket for you. Following the performance, I would like to invite you to an informal happy hour at my apartment downtown. Hope you can make it. Call Judy Dare at 624-9272.
Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, August 24

Deep Like the Rivers — Extended Family Worship
Just as rivers search out the sea, we seek to be together in community. The Water Communion is distinctively a UU ceremony, celebrated as we gather again after summer travels. Remember to bring a small amount of water representing where you’ve been this summer.

Sunday, August 31

Citizens of the World: Reflections from Nicaragua
Members of the group that went to Nicaragua, both youth and adults, will join Rev. Diane in bringing something of their experience to you.

The Grocery Program

Safeway’s “Back to School Program” (items designated with a little yellow school bus) ends September 9. Until then UUCT will receive a 10% rebate on 3000 designated items which can be found in beverages, breakfast items, lunch/dinner & snack items, frozen/refrigerated foods, household/cleaning products and for personal care. A list of the items can be found at the grocery table in Goddard. As Safeway rebates are relatively low, please take advantage of this once-a-year program.

Fry’s reminder: If a card has had a zero balance for 90 days it will become deactivated and a new card will need to be purchased. If you purchased a card for $5.00, however, but have never used it (you know who you are) then it still has that $5.00 on it and is considered active. I was hoping to hear the results of our six month rebate prior to this writing but as of yet, have not heard.

For New Members: The Grocery Program is a program whereby a percentage of your grocery purchases is given to the church at no extra cost to you. These stores include, A3’s, Bash’a, Fry’s, Safeway and Sunflower. Albertsons is also involved to a very minor degree. Please stop at the Grocery Table following services for more information as to how this all works and to get involved. It will only take a minute. You cannot become involved by going directly to any of the stores.

Marj Smith, Grocery Program Coordinator

A Miracle UUs Can Believe

When it comes to miracles, most UUs are pretty skeptical. But the miracle of Mata Ortiz is one that you can see as well as believe by traveling to that Northern Chihuahua village with a group of UUs and friends on November 8-10, 2008. In Mata Ortiz you will be able to buy the pottery and learn about the ancient culture that inspired the ceramic revival that has become an economic miracle for this once struggling town.

The cost for this three day trip is $375, which includes 2 nights in the Hacienda Hotel (double room) in Nuevo Casas Grandes, two breakfasts, two lunches, two museum tours, a guide and transportation, as well as a tax deductible donation to UUCT. We have 14 double rooms reserved at the present, but need a minimum of 18 participants in order for the trip to occur. Contact Julia Mehrer, 762-4035, or Carolyn Saunders, 299-3854, for information about triple or single rooms.

Bookings for the trip are on a “first-come” basis with a $100 deposit due no later than September 30 and complete payment due by Oct. 12. Reservations may be cancelled up until Oct. 8 with a full refund of deposit. Cancellations after that date will result in a forfeit of the deposit. Registration forms are available in the Church office.

Carolyn Saunders

Road Trip for Justice

UU Legislative Ministry of California and PSWD are sponsoring a "Road Trip for Justice: Climate Change and California Water" for young adults. Fourteen of us are making our way all the way up to McCloud, CA, and we are going to follow the water down down down to the central valley. We’ll learn how water issues are affecting farming, people, animals, industry, and housing, and how what we are learning impacts our faith (and how our faith impacts what we are learning). Follow us on our trip! We are blogging at http://uuroadtrip.blogspot.com.

Tera Little, Director of Lifespan Programs, PSWD, UU Legislative Ministry of California
UUCT Social Justice Groups host Nagasaki Day event

The UUCT Social Justice Groups co-sponsored a program on Saturday, August 9, 2008 (Nagasaki Day) that commemorated the lives lost 63 years ago in the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Nearly 70 community residents gathered at Goddard Hall for the evening program, “Nuclear Disarmament NOW! A Forum with our Representatives.”

Representative Raul Grijalva was the keynote speaker. He expressed support for world nuclear disarmament and the greater use of diplomacy, rather than continued use of military threats to achieve foreign policy goals. Rep. Grijalva is an original co-sponsor of House Resolution 68 calling for U.S. leadership in nuclear weapons disarmament.

Following the showing of the DVD of “Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future” by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, attendees were invited to sign petitions and pick up post cards to our Representatives and Senators advocating support for H. Res. 68 or S. 1914 which urge the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and implementation of the U.S. agreement to work toward complete nuclear disarmament via the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The event was organized by Pat Birnie, Facilitator of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) - Tucson

Stuart Thomas, UUCT Peace Group Leader

Scholarship Money available to UUCT Nursing Students

In 1999, UUCT received a $10,000 gift from Alma Steyrman to be used for scholarships to nursing students in the memory of her daughter, Nellie Hamilton Cooper. Any UUCT member currently enrolled in nursing school is eligible to apply for this scholarship and could be awarded $1000 per semester to approved applicants. The current value of her gift is $7000. This money will be available each semester until the gift has been used for this purpose.

Last year, we were pleased to award these funds to two UUCT nursing students, Beth Newhouse and Lisa Rice. If any member is interested in an application for this scholarship, please contact Carolyn Cooper at (cacoop@comcast.net).

No More Deaths Ministry Musings

Camp Report Back

Five youth and four adults from UUCT committed to four days at the No More Deaths camp in Arivaca in July to volunteer and learn more about humanitarian aid. On our first afternoon patrol, we met three migrants who had already been walking for four days and were without their original group and guide. One had an upset stomach. After giving them food, fresh water, clean socks and some Pepto-Bismol pills, we parted ways as they continued their journey north and we continued re-stocking some supply boxes.

The next few days brought more adventures, including meeting more migrants, watching thousands of bats come out of an abandoned mine, enjoying a jam session of local musicians, a painful encounter with a stinging nettle, and many other memories and moments.

We saw first hand that the day-to-day field work of our No More Deaths ministry requires a huge amount of support and resources both there in here in town. We would like to encourage you to swing by the No More Deaths table which will be set up in Goddard Hall after Sunday services to learn more about how you can lend some time and talent to this life-saving work.

Walt Staton, Fran Brazzell, Kelly Taylor, Evan Keyes, Rebecca McDaniels-Hutchings, Patrice and Danica Davidson, Zach Taylor, Amanda and Maryada Vallet on a morning patrol in the rugged Sonoran desert.

Host a Border Studies Student

Earlham College’s Border Studies program is looking for hoststays in Tucson to host their students for 6 weeks beginning August 22. If you are interested, please contact Riley Merline at: 520-425-7559; rmerline@gmail.com.
Social Justice Groups to Meet Again on Sunday, August 24

All are invited and encouraged to attend the next monthly meeting of the UUCT Social Justice Groups (Peace Group, Immigration Rights Group, and the Economic Justice Group) on Sunday, August 24th, at 12:15 p.m. in the Awareness Room. (You do not have to be active in these groups to attend. We encourage you to attend if you are either interested or at least curious.)

We will start the meeting with a brief discussion and decision of a proposal to change the name of these groups to the Social Action Groups.

Then we will briefly consider what programming we would like to plan.

The main part of the program will be the showing of the movie *Hearts and Minds,* “controversial winner of the 1974 Academy Award for best documentary.”

*Hearts and Minds* unflinchingly confronts the United States’ involvement in Viet Nam, using a wealth of sources - from interviews to newsreels to documentary footage of the conflict at home and abroad - (Peter) Davis constructs a powerfully affecting portrait of the disastrous effects of war. *Hearts and Minds* is an overwhelming emotional experience....”

Please join us!!

Stuart Thomas, UUCT Peace Group Leader

A Green Sanctuary

A Green Sanctuary committee is forming and we will have a meeting on Tuesday, September 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Awareness. A Green Sanctuary is a congregation which works to create a sustainable life style for its members as individuals as well as the congregation.

The goals of working towards becoming a Green Sanctuary congregation are:

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs.
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues.
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

If you are interested in planning and implementing an action plan to accomplish these goals, please plan to attend this important meeting.

For questions, please call Chris Wallace at 326-6043 or via email at lemmohiker@att.net.

Chalice Lighters

First Call for 2008-09

With school starting and planning for fall activities underway, it is time once again for a donation to our PSWD Chalice Lighters' Program. This program raised $15,000 last spring which was given to the Sepulveda UU Society in North Hills, CA. The current call is hoping to raise as much for the Conejo Valley UU Fellowship, also in California. If we can get more members of our church to join the Chalice Lighters, maybe the next time we could be on the receiving end of a grant.

On Sundays after church someone will be in Goddard Hall with information and forms about Chalice Lighters. We are aiming for 15% of our membership, and we need about ten more members. Membership only requires that you be a member of the church and that you commit to donating $20 or more for each call. Please consider this worthy cause which helps our congregations grow and prosper.

Susan Call and Byron Skinner, UUCT Chalice Lighter Representatives
Responding to the Violence in Knoxville

Currently there are two separate fundraising efforts in response to the violence in Knoxville, TN, last month.

The Knoxville Relief Fund was established by the UUA in collaboration with the Thomas Jefferson District to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected – in its immediate aftermath – by the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee.

And in the wake of these events, the UUA launched a separate fund, the Knoxville New York Times Ad Fund to support full page ads in several publications—including the New York Times, USA Today, and the Knoxville News Sentinel—which invite their readers to stand in solidarity with those affected, and proclaim what we stand for as a people of faith.

You can access both of these funds through the UUA web site: uua.org. Click the tab “Giving” to donate.

Thank you for your exceptional generosity in support of both of these funds – to support those affected and to share their story with the world.

Please contact campaign@uua.org with any questions you might have.

Office Hours:
The office will be open Tuesday—Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
The office is closed Saturday—Monday until further notice

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