Here We Go Again

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson voted to become a Welcoming Congregation in 1994. The vote came after an intentional process of learning to become a place that truly is open and inviting to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered. It is one way we practice what William Schulz calls, “the fragile art of hospitality.”

Holding that open and inviting place means that sometimes we are called into public witness with and on behalf of our LGBT brothers and sisters. Once again, there is a ballot initiative (Proposition 102) on the ballot that would define marriage as being between one man and one woman, period. If passed, the Constitution of the State of Arizona will be changed to reflect this definition of marriage. A similar initiative was voted down in 2006.

So here we go again.

If you feel moved to speak out against this proposition, research shows that the following questions and statements are most likely to sway voters:

- Why aren’t we dealing with more important issues?
- Why are we voting on this again?
- Why are we amending the constitution?
- Vote NO again: trust the people
- Vote NO, keep politicians out of marriage.

Hospitality is indeed a fragile art. Too many doors are closed to too many people in our society today. When we open our doors wide and say “Come on in!” it is an affirmation of our first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Hospitality is a fragile art because it stretches us beyond our comfort zones. In the stretching, we grow.

Yours in the spirit,
Diane

Sunday Services in October

Sunday, October 5: Welcoming the Stranger, Rev. Diane Dowgiert
An open, inclusive spirit shapes our Unitarian Universalist way. It is the spirit of hospitality. Hospitality creates a relationship between host and guest. Host and guest alike are transformed when true hospitality is enacted.

Sunday, October 12: The Case Against Proposition 102, Pam Squires, a social worker and eloquent speaker, makes the case against the anti-gay marriage amendment on November's Arizona ballot.

Sunday, October 19: Seasons of Life, Seasons of Loss, Extended Family Worship led by Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings. To be alive is to experience loss. Autumn is a time of letting go – a good time for learning the lessons of loss.

Sunday, October 26: Growing in Spirit, Rev. Diane Dowgiert
We’ll celebrate Association Sunday, an event occurring across the country in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Last year, Association Sunday’s fund-raising made it possible to make the face of Unitarian Universalism visible on a national scale through an advertising partnership through Time Magazine. Truly, we are growing in spirit!
Alliance Group

Planning is underway for our Alliance activities for the coming year. The Alliance group usually meets on the second Tuesday of every other month. Our first meeting will feature a speaker and a pot-luck lunch on October 14, starting at 10:00 am.

Our guest speaker’s topic is: “Who are the American Indians?”

For more information stop by the Alliance table in Goddard Hall after the Sunday service and sign up for the pot-luck.

We will continue our on-going projects to collect aluminum cans for recycling. We also collect copies of recent magazines to be re-sold in Goddard Hall every Sunday. All members are urged to bring these items to donate every week.

We will also continue to sell jewelry and craft items made by members of our church. Look for these in Goddard Hall every Sunday.

We look forward to the coming year's activities and to meeting old friends and new. We invite all men and women of the church to join with us in service to the church.

Tom Warburton, President

Artist of the Month Gallery

How People Look will be the focus of the Gallery’s next exhibit. People look starkly different when seen through the eyes of a movie camera, as in "Movie Images," watercolors by Gloria McMillan, or when seen as though pared down to their essential forms, as in "Beneath the Skin," oil paintings by Ann Barr.

An opening reception for the two artists will take place on Sunday, October 12, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The exhibit runs from October 8 through November 3.

It's not too soon to consider an original piece of art as a possible holiday gift. A portion of the sales price goes to the Church, making your purchase two gifts in one!

Abby Root, for the Gallery Committee

Membership/ Community Life Bulletin Board:

Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life Administrator

Newcomers Orientation: The next Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for Sunday, October 19 after church. If you are new to the church and would like to find out more, this is your opportunity. Free lunch and childcare are provided. RSVP to Mary Wiese at macbrude@cox.net or call the church office, 748-1551.

Save This Date! Queer On Their Feet is coming to UUCT, Friday, November 14. The troupe features Jennie McNulty, Jason Dudey, and Diana Yanez. Queer On Their Feet is a refreshing and hilarious show that has each comic doing about 15 minutes of fabulous stand up that is followed by the 3 together onstage playing improvisation games with suggestions from the audience. Every show is unique, fun, and totally hysterical. This will be a combined fundraiser for the church and Wingspan. Tickets will be on sale soon and cost $15 a piece. Please speak to Mary Wiese if you are interested in helping. Stay tuned for more details in upcoming newsletters.

New Directory to Be Printed Soon: A draft church directory will be available for review by Sunday, October 5. It will be in the church foyer on Sundays so please check to make sure that all of your information is correct. If you do not want your information to appear in the directory, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Also, we are in need of people to help organize and schedule appointments for our upcoming photo directory in the New Year. If you are available to assist with this, please contact me at macbrude@cox.net or 349-4521.

Attention All Groups and Committees: I am in the process of updating our Church Ministries brochure for this year. If the contact information has changed from last year, or if you have new information to add, please let me know.

Yours in community spirit,
Mary
Who's Who at UU: The Office Administrator
by Helen O’Brien

On Sunday mornings, the most visible member of our staff is Diane Dowgiert, the minister. During the rest of the week, the person who is the face and voice of the UUCT for you and me and anyone else who calls or drops by is the Office Administrator. The position is filled at this time by Helen Cohn who works for us 20 hours per week until a permanent hire is completed to replace our long-time, full-time office administrator Jean Griffiths who has recently retired.

The official job duties of the Acting Office Administrator are to:

- Manage Church e-mail
- Produce Order of Service (weekly)
- Produce Newsletter (bi-weekly)
- Prepare Bank Deposit (weekly)
- Prepare Invoices for Bookkeeper (weekly)
- Answer phone and greet visitors

But what does the Office Administrator really do all day? Helen ranks her duties in order of time spent every week, like this:

1. Producing the order of service – several hours Thursday and Friday are spent on this task
2. Producing the Newsletter every other week – newsletter articles are due by Tuesday, but often arrive a little late, pushing this task into Thursday and Friday, running into the time allotted to the Order of Service.
3. Opening and sorting the mail and preparing financial items that arrive for the bookkeeper.
4. Responding to unexpected phone calls and incidents that arise on average several times a day. These might take 10 minutes, an hour, or extend over several days before being resolved.
5. Preparing the Bank Deposit. This is done on a weekly basis at a time when the office is closed.
6. Managing Church email
7. Responding to requests for special printed items such as flyers for the trip to Mata Ortiz or coyote paw prints to be put into the Order of Service.
8. Producing the “Transforming Times” once a month. Naturally, this takes up more time in the week that it is published than the other weeks of the month.
9. Then there is the intangible but crucial job of knowing everything that is going on at UUCT, the whereabouts of the staff, the special needs of various members, and other random information that makes the Office Administrator the “message central” of the church.

All of these tasks take a serious level of concentration and attention, and Helen has been able to complete them in only 20 hours a week because she has the support of many volunteers. Office volunteers at the front desk answer the phone and greet visitors during office hours. Other volunteers help with making name tags, keeping on inventory of office supplies and folding newsletters and orders of service. Without those volunteers she would hardly be able to focus on the editing and production that must happen every week.

Several other major duties that had been assigned to this position until Jean Griffiths retired have recently been transferred to another staff position. Look for the article in the next issue to find out what the Membership and Community Life Administrator does.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Quilters</td>
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<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>OWL 4 - 5</td>
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*Outside groups
LI FESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Religious Education (RE)

Beginning September 28, the primary through high school groups will begin a four-session curriculum called *The Lessons of Loss* which was developed by Carol Galginaitis, a member of a Massachusetts congregation, who felt the need to encourage congregants and their children to more openly discuss the difficult issues of loss, death, and dying within the supportive context of a religious community.

This curriculum offers age-appropriate lessons for children from grades 1-12. While this lifespan curriculum has several general learning objectives, each of the separate age levels is designed to address issues of particular relevance and importance to that age group.

Our teaching teams look forward to having productive and meaningful conversations with our children. On October 19th there will be an extended family worship on *Seasons of Life, Seasons of Loss*. By teaching *The Lessons of Loss* as a lifespan curriculum, and joining together as a community of all ages to worship around this topic, we hope to foster conversations within our entire church family around loss, death, and dying.

Adult Faith Development (AFD)

**Adult Lessons of Loss**

As a companion to the work the children will be doing in their RE classes on Lessons of Loss, a four-week adult component will be offered to members of the congregation in late October and early November. More information will be forthcoming. Watch this space for more details.

**Words That Endure: Writing Your Values Legacy**

Have you wondered how to share your heritage and life story with those you love? This possibility exists in a focused, written values legacy, also known as an ethical will, which can be offered to those you love while you are still alive. With roots in biblical times, legacy-writing is a reflective and expressive process for communicating: (1) rich ancestral heritage, (2) values, life lessons and wisdom gathered by the writer during his/her life-time, and (3) blessings for descendants.

Come taste what this meaningful writing experience offers, and begin the pleasure of creating this special gift for those you love with an introductory workshop on Thursday evening, October 16 from 7 - 9 pm in the Servetus Room. The facilitator is Edna C. Groves, MS, a long-time member of DuPage Unitarian-Universalist Church, Naperville, Illinois. She is a former psychotherapist (22 years) and has led retreats, groups and workshops since 1975. The fee is $8.50. For additional information, please email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net or phone him at 326-8831.

**Covenant Circle Registration**

Covenant Circle registration is ongoing. Even though some groups have begun meeting, there are still openings available. Sign up at the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard after the service. Or, for more information, please email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net or phone him at 326-8831.

**Exploring Spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist**

This is a drop-in group which meets every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 am in the Servetus room before the service. Everyone is welcome for a stimulating hour of conversation. Sally Masteller facilitates the group. During October, the group will be discussing the "exploring" aspect of Exploring Spirituality.

Spiritual exploration is one aspect of the free and responsible search for truth and meaning that we Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote. It involves seeking one's own answers to the larger spiritual questions of who are we, where do we come from, how should we live, what do we know, what happens after we die, and what are the natures of good and evil, right and wrong.

*continues on page 6*
Announcements

B-I-N-G-O!
Fun for all ages! Prizes! Bring a pot-luck dish to share. Oct. 17 at 6:00pm in Goddard Hall. For questions, call Becky Keyes at 881-7227.

The Book Club
The next meeting is Thursday Oct.16, 2008 in the Awareness Room at 7:00 pm. We will be reviewing Lamb, The Gospel According to Biff. This novel is based on the concept that Biff was the childhood friend of Jesus of Nazareth. We welcome all visitors

Exploring Spirituality: continued from page 5

On October 5, the group will consider the following: Are you still seeking your own answers to the larger spiritual questions or have you arrived at answers that work for you? If you’re still exploring, how do you explore? If you feel you have answers that satisfy you, why do you attend this group?

On October 12, the group will consider: In what ways do new intellectual and scientific discoveries or international and domestic social and political events affect one's exploration for answers to the larger spiritual questions?