Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT

A great time was had by all at the Queer On Their Feet comedy night.

We raised money for the church and Wingspan, and laughed ourselves silly!

Holiday Hospitality: Helping the Stranger
A Family Project for UUCT and No More Deaths

As we celebrate the blessings in our life over the coming weeks, we are called to give thanks in memory of a group of migrants who landed on the eastern shores of North America centuries ago. Since the time of those early pilgrims, many millions more have made the journey to the Americas - some willingly, some not.

We invite you to engage with a new activity called Holiday Hospitality. In the packet you will receive, you will find a question for each day from November 23 to December 13. The questions are designed to help us understand a complex situation that is playing out on our southern border with Mexico. Every day and night, hundreds of people embark on a journey to enter the United States in the hopes of finding better jobs, providing children with better educations, sleeping in safer homes, building more promising futures.

While politics, trade policies, enforcement strategies and national security all play a key part in this story of migration, we want to focus on the moral and spiritual aspects. How do we welcome the strangers in our land? How do we treat others as we wish to be treated? How do we make sure that justice and compassion cross all borders?

We hope this activity will spark interesting conversations in all our UUCT families and lead us to consider things that we may not have thought about before. An open conversation is planned for Sunday, November 30, at 12:30 in Servetus Room so we can discuss these issues, ask questions, or voice concerns. We also hope this activity will help generate some funds that will go to support our ministry of No More Deaths, whose volunteers are working year-round to provide humanitarian aid with the ultimate goal of ending the death and suffering in our backyard.

Volunteering and More - Family Meeting Sunday, Dec. 7 at 12:30

Since our second service has a new time, our Family meeting will start later to give people time for our great lunch.

More: We will add a new element to this Family Meeting. We will start the meeting with an open forum where attendees can speak on any topic they desire. There will be minimum rules of decorum and, I hope, the statements will relate to our identities as UUs and/or part of the UUCT family. There will be staff and leadership present that will take wishes and concerns forward for action.

Volunteering: This topic should be called “participation” since Unitarian Universalism is not a spectator religion. Lots of us already participate in one or more activities at UUCT. Many activities are listed in the Order of Service. Tables during coffee and lunch have “job” descriptions and sign-up sheets for activities and committees. You may be asked to join someone's favorite group.

What we would like at this Family Meeting is your ideas and suggestions for expanding participation in new and existing activities. Ultimately, the strength of UUCT can be measured by the variety of and participation in those things beyond our Sunday Services. Ideally, every member and friend would be participating in multiple UUCT activities!
Membership/Community Life
Bulletin Board:

Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life
Administrator

Growth Workshop Follow up Continued: The worship for Growth group made a goal of offering two services, of equal quality, from November – April.

These are the highlights from their work group:
Benchmarks - Attendance of 50 or more at each service; special music is part of each service; quality speakers are featured at each lay-led service; a Celebration will occur during the early services when attendance reaches 50.
Obstacles - Difficulty finding consensus on a time that works best for families; getting the choirs to commit and possibly shift rehearsal schedules; finding enough volunteer support for two services; funding for extra staffing.

There were five participants in this group and each one agreed to an assignment to address each of the obstacles. One of the participants was hoping to get a commitment from members of the Board of Trustees to attend the early service. I guess we shall see how many of them agree to this commitment as of November 30?

Next time: Policies Related to Growth.

First Sunday Newcomer Introductions: Beginning the first Sunday in December, we will be holding Newcomer Introduction classes after church. The class will begin in the Holland Sanctuary after service, includes a short tour, a free lunch, a fifteen minute film, and informational materials. Please plan on joining us if you would like to learn more. Contact Mary Wiese at macbrude@cox.net for more information.

Coffee Hour Donations Needed: As I am sure many of you have noticed, food prices have gone up. Therefore, we would like to encourage folks to donate goodies to Coffee Hour and consider putting a bit more in the donation basket. Leftover goodies, cheese, crackers, cookies, etc, from your holiday gatherings are always welcome! Please contact Mary Wiese if you have questions.

Food Bank: We have seen an increased demand for food bags from the needy in our community this year. Therefore, we encourage you to give generously at our annual Food Bank offering during our Christmas Eve service. The money we receive from this collection supports this social justice ministry throughout the year. Of course donations of canned goods are also always welcome. The donation box for the Food Bank is at the back of Goddard Hall.

Hanging of the Greens: Our annual holiday decorating event will take place on Wednesday, December 3 beginning at 4 pm. We will begin in Goddard Hall and finish in Holland after Desert Chorale finishes their rehearsal. Hot cider, hot chocolate, and goodies will be provided. Come join us for all, or part of the time. Contact Carrie Arbiter for more information; 319-0193.

Craft & Bake Sale: Mark your calendars: the Gallery Committee and the Religious Education classes will be holding a Craft & Bake sale on Sunday December 7. Plan on purchasing lovely gifts and holiday goodies here! Please contact Linda Garret, 290-2645 for the craft sale, or Kathy McDaniel, 323-6356 for the bake sale.

Homeless Hospitality: We need overnight chaperones for Thursday nights: Dec 4 and 18, Jan. 8 and 22, Feb 5 and 19. You can volunteer for one or more of those nights. Because of liability issues, we need to have two chaperones for each of these nights. Also, toiletries and warm clothing are needed. Please contact Erin Deely, edeely@cox.net, or Mary Wiese, macbrude@cox.net ASAP if you are available to help with set-up, preparing meals, or can spend the night.

Yours in community spirit,
Mary

Financial Report

The church treasurer, Marya Wheeler, reports that as of the end of October when we should have taken in 33% of our budgeted income and expended 33%, we are ahead in income by 34.92% and below budget in expenses at 31.10%! In addition, based on an appeal by the Board of Trustees, we raised $4,000 for air conditioning repairs. Thanks to all for your generous support of UUCT.

Next month, at the end of the second quarter of the church year, you will receive your quarterly statement showing your pledge status. To help keep our budget on track, please make sure your pledge payments are up-to-date. If the statement you receive does not match your records, contact the Financial Secretary, Carolyn Saunders. But to ensure that pledge payments are correctly credited to your account, always indicate “pledge” on the memo line of your check.

Remember, pledges can be paid automatically by electronic transfer from your bank account or by credit card. Contact the church office for more information.
Religious Education and Two Services
When our congregation begins offering two services on November 30, Religious Education for children and youth will be available at both services. Our current program configuration will begin at 10:45 am in conjunction with the second service, with Spirit Play (preschool-kindergarten), Chalice Chapel (1st-8th grades), and YRUU (youth group for 9th-12th grades).

A new multi-age program will occur during the first service from 9:15-10:15 am (see details below). The New Good Works, a social-service-oriented offering, is for children in first through eighth grades. During the 9:15 service, our nursery will be available for younger children; older youth are invited to attend the adult worship service.

The New Good Works: A Multi-age RE Program
The New Good Works will be offered during the first service from 9:15 to 10:15 am for children from the first through the eighth grades. It will begin with a 15-minute worship service featuring familiar songs, a participatory chalice lighting, brief conversations about Unitarian Universalist identity or social justice issues of importance to our children, and a closing affirmation.

For the next forty minutes, the children and their adult and high school youth leaders will engage in a social service project in the style of the Good Works Program developed by Rev. Susan Roberts. Activities will include such things as picking up trash around our campus, sorting and bagging donations for No More Deaths, or preparing lunches for Casa Maria. Each session will end with a brief closing circle. This type of program has historically been very popular with active, justice-oriented children and youth in our congregation.

Participate in an Important Two-Services Survey
In order to find out how families with children will adapt to this new schedule, we have developed a very short, four-question online survey which we would like all families to complete. Any information received in the survey is confidential.

Most families should already have received an email about this survey, but if you haven’t or if you haven’t yet gotten around to completing the survey, you can access it from UUCT’s new, updated web page at www.uuctucson.org. Taking the two or three minutes it will require to complete the survey will help us determine the most helpful schedule of activities for UUCT’s religious education program.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT (AFD)

Special Sunday Speaker Series
A special Sunday Speaker Series will be presented on November 30. Chaz McBride will continue his series on deaf culture with a presentation and discussion of the film Sound and Fury which was an Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary and has been shown on PBS. It documents one family’s struggle over whether or not to provide two deaf children with cochlear implants, devices that can stimulate hearing. Although hearing people might consider this a sign of positive progress, it turns out to be one of the most controversial issues affecting the deaf community today. The film explores the basis of that controversy and attempts to discover whether durable bridges can be built between the deaf and hearing worlds. Chaz, as the hearing child of deaf parents, is particularly able to help us understand both sides of the issue.

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 November, the group will be discussing aspects of some of the large spiritual questions. For each one, they will consider not only their personal answer to the question but also how their own spiritual experience, either as a Unitarian Universalist, or as a person from another religious or non-religious tradition, influences or affects the way they answer the question. On November 30, they will consider the question: How Shall I Live?

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Quilters Awareness</td>
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<td>Desert Chorale</td>
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<td>Covenant Circle</td>
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<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>Men's Group Awareness</td>
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* outside group
Sunday Services

November 30 — Services at 9:15 and 11:00
*Where Justice and Compassion Cross All Borders* -- Rev. Diane Dowgiert
This bold declaration is contained within the Mission/Covenant of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. When No More Deaths was adopted as a ministry of the congregation, we began living more fully into spirit of who we are together as a people. I spent a day at one of the No More Deaths camps in order to learn more about this ministry of humanitarian aid to migrants. I’ll share some of my experience with you.

December 7 — Services at 9:15 and 11:00
*Find a Stillness* -- Rev. Diane Dowgiert
With the coming winter lengthening over us, holidays and holy days beckon: times of mystery, wonder, and awe. Days of deepening darkness invite rest and repose: times of stillness and silence, times of prayer.

December 14 — Services at 9:15 and 11:00
*The Spirit of the Christmas Tree* -- Extended Family Worship
The meaning of Christmas comes to life through stories and songs. Come join in the festivities of our annual holiday pageant.

December 21 — Services at 9:15 and 11:00
*Light One Candle* -- Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Hannukah and Winter Solstice arrive on the same day this year, truly a time to celebrate the miracle of light.

December 24 — Service at 5:30 pm
*A Holy Night* -- Extended Family Worship
Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service invites us to realize that each night a child is born is a holy night.

December 28 — Services at 9:15 and 11:00
*New Beginnings* -- Rabbi Joseph Weizenbaum

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Alliance News

Our most joyous program of the year is fast approaching, for on Tuesday, December 9, we will once again welcome our young friends, the Sahuaro High School Singers as they continue our long tradition of Christmas concerts in Holland, at 11:15 am. Following the concert we will enjoy our tasty Christmas pot-luck luncheon. Please sign up on November 30 or December 9 (by 11:15). Everyone is most welcome to join us.

**Adult Faith Development — continued from page 3**

Volunteers Still Needed
We still need volunteers to help staff the Adult Faith Development table in Goddard Hall. Once we move to two services on November 30, we’ll need people during the coffee hour before the second service (10:15 - 11:00) and during lunch after the second service (12:00 - 12:30). Stop by the AFD table for more information or email Janet Moore at JEMoore@carondelet.org.

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Holiday Pageant

As we approach Christmas join us on Sunday December 14 for an *Extended Family Worship*, featuring our holiday pageant “*Spirit of the Christmas Tree.*” Our morning will be filled with music and theater as we celebrate the story of the Nativity, and what Christmas means to each of us.

We can’t do it without all of our characters including our Friendly Beasts, Wise Ones and Stars. There is a part for everyone who would like to participate. Please consider volunteering to help make this a very special celebration.

The *rehearsal for our Holiday Pageant* “Spirit of the Christmas Tree” runs from 9:00-11:30 am on Saturday December 13 in Holland Sanctuary. To sign up as a pageant participant or for more information please contact Kathleen Hogue at (520) 312-0441 or Kathleen-hogue@qwestoffice.net.
Music Notes

“Where’d you come up with that?”

I am sometimes asked about how we choose repertoire that the Desert Chorale sings, so I thought I’d explain the process. Before the music, there is a theme for the service, month, homily, etc. This theme generally guides the text that the choir sings, and in some cases, the music chosen. For example, while October’s theme of Hospitality led me to music whose texts spoke to the theme of hospitality, September’s theme of Diversity led Agnes and me to select world music (Desert Chorale sang a Nigerian and a Caribbean folksong).

For any month or specific Sunday I try to find several possible pieces of music, which I then show to Rev. Diane. In addition to being a gifted speaker, pastor, and musician, Diane is also a joy to plan services with. As she communicates her preferences for particular pieces, I try to balance my idea of what the choir can manage within our fairly limited amount of practice. [Reason to join Desert Chorale #47: they have shorter rehearsal sessions than most church choirs!] For instance, we often sing a challenging number in alternation with an easier anthem. If we have a more difficult piece or service approaching, we might re-sing an older piece that some in the choir already know. In general, we try to stay at least two or three months ahead with the plans for music. Less than two months’ time wouldn’t allow for me to use the choir’s rehearsal time wisely, and if we planned everything all at once, it wouldn’t allow for enough flexibility when opportunities arise, or changes in the service become necessary.

During the holiday season, we have planned to sing some wonderful music. On Nov. 30th, we are singing an introit composed by Alice Damon (one of our altos) entitled “Rejoice: Fanfare to the Mystery” and Mozart’s “Ave Verum Corpus.” The first piece’s subtitle draws attention to the theme of Reflection which originally guided its choice, and the Latin text of the Christian communion anthem by Mozart may be understood as a hymn of thanksgiving. Later in December, we will sing traditional Advent carols, a Hannukah song, as well as a piece whose text highlights the themes of Winter Solstice.

I hope your experience at the UUCT will be enriched by our music.

Brian Moon

Bridges Into Africa

The following email was recently received from Janice Brunson, one of our guest speakers last winter who told us about the budding UU congregations in Africa. A number of people from UUCT purchased items that Sunday made by the African UUs.

Janice writes:

In six weeks I leave for two months in Africa with Bridges Into Africa, visiting Kenya, Nigeria, Burundi and Uganda. I will be assessing existing projects and starting new ones, based on interest and advice from local UU leaders. I will be taking with me all the money that has been contributed, either directly or for the purchase of items made by African UUs.

I will meet with the tour group on January 16 in Nairobi. There are nine guests, including UUs from around the U.S. and the executive director of International UUs. This is one of the businesses maintained by African UUs. Other businesses include making cooking oil from dates, fishing ponds, milling, transportation, milk cows and gardening. Each of these projects has helped improve life for a handful of Africans.

Final word. If anyone wants to make a last minute contribution, please do so. For tax deduction, make checks to UUCP/Africa and mail to 4745 East Charles Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253. Advanced thanks.

I'll write periodically from Africa.

Love, Janice Brunson
Bridges Into Africa

Remember!

New Sunday service times begin this week (Dec 30)

Worship is at 9:15 and 11:00 am

See page 3 for new Religious Education schedule.
Trip to Mata Ortiz—November 8 to 10, 2008

A group of twenty folks from our church set out early on Saturday to travel by bus to Mexico, with the primary intention of visiting the small village of Mata Ortiz. On the way we had many adventures, which included visiting a museum in Deming, NM, and a museum and an archeological ruin/restoration at Paquime, Chihuahua.

One of the best things about our trip (aside from the camaraderie and new friendships) was hearing about the archeological work on a ruin which dates from the 1100’s or so, as told by Gloria Fenner, a personal friend of our leader, Julia Mehler. Gloria is the only archeologist who was involved with the work who is still alive, and she had lots to share about this ruin of the Casas Grandes culture, as well as the Amerind Foundation where she worked.

Another high point was hearing the first-hand story from Spencer MacCallum of the discovery and encouragement of Juan Quezada, who has become the premier potter of Mata Ortiz—maybe even of all of Mexico. Spencer began his story with his discovery in 1976 of some possibly ancient pots that he found in New Mexico, and whose maker he located in Mata Ortiz, a dying lumber town near Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. If you don’t already know the story of the “miracle of Mata Ortiz,” suffice it to say here that this miracle began with Juan Quezada’s discovery and reproduction of ancient pottery in the 1950’s and has continued to this day, transforming a sleepy, poverty-stricken village in Chihuahua into a thriving community. Mata Ortiz today has modern houses, people who own pick-up trucks, a blossoming local economy, and families who have the money to send their children to school. And Juan Quezada has become world famous as a potter whose work is proudly displayed in museums and shops throughout our country.

This miracle is spreading to the nearby countryside as well. An old hacienda from 1902 is slowly being restored into first a restaurant and soon, it is hoped, to a bed and breakfast. It is a home where Pancho Villa visited the owner, Don Luis Terrazas, and bullet holes can still be seen in some of the walls of the house to attest to the history made there. Our group had one of our several delicious meals there.

Julia and Carolyn Saunders were wonderful guides and organizers of the trip, and before we returned to Tucson many of us agreed that we should do more of these trips. Now that we have learned that the trip also brought $1000 in profit to the church, we are even more enthusiastic about following up with another road trip someday. Stay tuned!

UU Civil Rights Pilgrimage

The Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Pilgrimage is planned for February 11-18. It will begin and end in Birmingham, Alabama, and include stops in Marion, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, and Meridian and Philadelphia, Mississippi. The hope of those organizing this pilgrimage is to move from “living on our legacy” to “creating a living legacy” by translating some of the positive energy of 45-50 years ago into contemporary programs and entities.

This Living Legacy Pilgrimage is intended to bring together people who can create a vision that will connect our Unitarian Universalist legacy of work in the Civil Rights Movement to the UUA’s current commitment to becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural institution and to understanding the responsibility of the UUA and our congregations in doing the important work of racial reconciliation where it is indicated and necessary.

Full details, including itinerary, resource list, on-line registration, and contact information for the planning team are available at www.uulivinglegacy.org.
Fun Holiday Craft Night
Join in making Holiday Crafts and enjoying spaghetti. All ages craft activities, painting ornaments, making cards, decorating cookies, etc. If you have other craft ideas bring them to share. There is a $5.00 per person donation request for dinner. Dec. 5, 6:30 pm in Goddard Hall. Questions? Contact, Becky Keyes, scrapkeyes@yahoo.com or 881-7227.

No More Deaths Help Still Needed
Many thanks to all who donated food for No More Deaths. Our children proudly and enthusiastically packed 131 emergency food packs. They also did artwork on over 60 cards to be used as thank-you notes for No More Deaths to send. Thank you, as well, to our wonderful, caring UUCT children!!!

You have another opportunity to help with the work of No More Deaths. For the winter months they are asking for new or gently used sweaters, jackets, socks and tennis shoes. They also need cans of soup with pull-tab tops, granola bars and small packets of crackers. You’ll find boxes for your donations in Goddard and the foyer of Holland.

Linda Selsor would like to thank members of the congregation for all the well wishes, cards, e-mails, and visits during her recent surgery and recuperation. Linda said, “I truly believe that all the support has been a big help in my recovery—I know it has certainly lifted my spirits.”

Saturday Salon
The Saturday Salon for December 13 will be a no-host social hour/dinner at Fronimo's Greek Cafe, 3242 E Speedway St, from 6 to 8 pm.

Although we don't have a speaker, there will be an opportunity for socializing and perhaps a surprise or two. Fronimo's offers tasty food and beer and wine at reasonable prices. They do have a private room for our use. Please sign up at church or call Barbara at 749-2029.

Coming January 10, Brian Moon, UU associate music director and musicologist, with an interesting history of Capitol Records in the 1950's.

Artist of the Month Gallery
Last chance! The UU QUUilters exhibit of hand-sewn quilts will come down on Monday, Dec 8. Now is the time to give a one-of-a-kind gift to a very special person. Your gift gives twice, as a portion of the purchase price goes to the Church.

The Holiday Faire on December 7, after each service, provides still another opportunity for the purchase of art. Several members of the Gallery Committee will be on hand with their art (note-cards, collages, pins, prints, and hand-knitted clothing).

The Gallery's next exhibit, with an opening reception on December 14, will feature oil-stick paintings by Mary Theresa Dietz and her students.