From the Minister’s Study

February brings thoughts of love. Standing on the Side of Love is a national campaign that arose in the wake of the violent shootings in our Knoxville, Tennessee congregation in 2008. The sign on their doors the Sunday after the shootings read, “our doors and our hearts remain open.” In the face of unspeakable tragedy, our best response is to summon even greater love and greater courage.

This year, February 13 and 14 have been declared National Standing on the Side of Love days. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson will take part by presenting Courageous Love awards, as are many Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country. Our Courageous Love awards are being given to Tierra y Libertad Organization, a grass-roots, community group working in the barrio against the effects of SB1070, and No More Deaths, for their on-going work to stop death and suffering of migrants and deportees in the borderlands of Arizona and Mexico.

In times such as these, our Unitarian Universalist principle of respect for human worth and dignity calls us to courageous love. Join us on Sunday, February 13, as we celebrate all that is good about UUCT. Worship is at 10:30, followed by an all-congregation party and the premier of a short movie – “UUCT: Our Home for Trust and Care,” produced by our own Craig McComb. It will truly be a red-carpet event, and our way of standing on the side of love, together.

Yours,
Diane

Sunday Services

Sunday, February 13 10:30 a.m.
Courageous Love: A Red Carpet Celebration
February 13 has been declared as National Standing on the Side of Love Day. The UUA sponsored Standing on the Side of Love campaign began in response to the shootings in our Knoxville, Tennessee congregation. This year, UU congregations all around the country are joining in a celebration of love. We’ll be giving “Courageous Love” awards to Tierra y Libertad Organization and No More Deaths for their collaboration in working to protect families affected by recent immigration laws. Following the service, there will be a special free luncheon, including the premier of the new motion picture “UUCT: Our Home for Care and Trust.” Truly a red carpet event!
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Worship Associate: Walker Smith

Sunday, February 20 10:30 a.m.
A Celebration of Love
All Music Sunday – Extended Family Worship
The Desert Chorale and Family Singers join with our terrific music staff – Brian Moon, Agnes Paulsen, and Donna DeHaan in bringing us a musical celebration of love.

Wednesday, February 23 7:00 p.m.
Beginnings
On this, the very first of our monthly, mid-week worship services, we’ll consider what it means to make a good beginning.
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Worship Associate: Cyndi Clements

Sunday, February 27 10:30 a.m.
Green Sanctuary
A lay-led service by UUCT’s Green Group
Worship Associate: Carolyn Saunders
Music: Donna DeHaan

CHURCH YARD SALE APRIL 30

Save the date and your gently used items for the gigantic, humongous, fantastic UUCT yard sale on Saturday, April 30th from 7:00AM-1:00.
Smaller items for the sale can be brought to church, and left in the northwest corner of Goddard, in front of the freeze (look for the poster). Large items (like furniture) will be happily accepted, but please hold those until Friday, April 29th. No electronics, please!!! Want to volunteer to help? Look for sign up sheets coming soon!
UUA BORDER TOUR A SUCCESS!

“This Borderlands tour was truly a transformative experience for us,” said Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board Chair Gini Courter just before 17 members of the UUA Board of Trustees and UUA staff members got into their vans in the UUCT parking lot to head up to Phoenix.

“We are so grateful to the UUCT congregation for organizing this tour, setting up all the meetings, events, tour guides and English-Spanish interpreters on both sides of the border for us, and opening up their homes to house us the past three nights. We want you to understand that everything you did for us has really made a huge difference in how we understand border enforcement and immigrant rights.”

The two-day border tour on Jan. 17 and 18 included a trip to Nogales, Sonora, to hear migrants’ and deported immigrants’ stories of forced family separation in the internment and deportation process, a campaign to prevent the force separation of immigrant parents from their U.S. born children in the deportation process, to learn about “Operation Streamline,” and to meet with UUCT congregation members to hear our views about what should happen at UUA General Assembly (GA) 2012, which will be held in Phoenix.

Do you have an interest in helping shape the future of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, a place where freedom of worship, thought, and dissemination of ideas are fostered?

The Nominating Committee will soon be recruiting candidates for leadership positions in our church. Positions will be open in the following areas:

1. Board of Trustees - to represent and lead the membership in determining UUCT’s mission, policies, and appropriate organizational performance.
2. Committee on Ministry – to enable the highest possible fulfillment of our congregational and professional ministry
3. Nominating Committee – to nominate candidates to the Board of Trustees and other leadership positions for election at the Annual Congregational Meeting

Please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee if you want to know more about one of these important positions.

In Faith,
The Nominating Committee,
Helen O’Brien hobrien@ultrasw.com 908-0996
Judy Dare jadare@q.com 624-9272
Darlene Matthews darmat@cox.net 326-0222
Sarah Nichols saraharnichols@gmail.com 398-4345

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REGISTER FOR “IMMIGRATION AS A MORAL ISSUE” CLASS BY FEB. 13

A six-session Adult Fait Development class on “Immigration as a Moral Issue,” based on the UUA curriculum for this Study/Action Issue (SAI), will begin on Feb. 24 and run every Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Holland Sanctuary at UUCT. To register or get more information, e-mail Leila Pine at sabinosanctuary@gmail.com or sign up in the table in Goddard Hall after each Sunday worship service.

The course fee is $10 and the deadline for registration is Sunday, Feb. 13. Space is limited to 40 people and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be two daytime field trips, one to witness “Operation Streamline” hearings at the Federal Courthouse and one tour of No More Deaths migrant and deportee aid sites in Nogales, Sonora (Mexico).

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No More Deaths 2011 Alternate Spring Break Program

No More Deaths, an award-winning national humanitarian group that is a social justice ministry of UUCT, has expanded the range of activities for its upcoming Alternate Spring Break Program, which is scheduled for any one week during March 5 - 25, 2001. You can volunteer at the desert camps, do grassroots community organizing, or work directly with deported Immigrants in Nogales, Sonora(Mexico) giving first aid and medical care, helping with property recovery, documenting physical and human rights abuses and helping reconnect families by phone. For more information contact volunteer@nomoredeaths.org or Leila Pine at sabinosanctuary@gmail.com. You must be at least 18 years old for the spring break program.

There are also many support roles that Tucsonans of all ages can play in No More Deaths, joining the "We Reject Racism" campaign in Tucson, doing abuse documentation or basic first aid or medical care, working in the Nogales project with Mexican partner agencies, buying food or cooking for the desert camp volunteers, going out to the desert on weekends in SUVs with experienced humanitarians, or organizing donation collections at UUCT for medical supplies, hygiene products, clothing, white socks, shoes and blankets. See www.nomoredeaths.org for ideas and then contact Leila at sabinosanctuary@gmail.com.

WANTED: YARD SALE EXPERT!!

Do you love to go to yard sales or host your own? UUCT’s upcoming yard sale (April 30th) can use your expertise. Contact Mary Wiese (mary@uuctucson.org) to volunteer.

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Sarah Nichols saraharnichols@gmail.com 398-4345
Community Life:

Alternative Mid-week Service and Pizza! On Wednesday February 23, at 7:00, we will hold our first once a month alternative service. The theme of the service will be “Beginnings”. We will have pizza available in Goddard beginning at 5:30 p.m. for $1 a slice. Please join us!

New Directories…really!!! New church directories will be available the second week in February. We have made every effort to update them with the information that we currently have available to us. We sincerely apologize for any mistakes that appear in this one or directories past. It is our hope that a password protected online directory will be available in the near future.

Membership News:

New Member Classes: If you have completed the Pathway to Membership and are ready to become a committed member of our church community, you are welcomed to come to a New Member class. These classes are held with the Minister on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. or on the second Sunday of the month, after service. You must RSVP to attend. Please contact Mary to RSVP or if you have questions.

New UU Class: The New UU Class will be held again this spring beginning in March. Please contact Mary Wiese for more details.

February’s Share the Plate
Chris Wallace, Empowerment Team

February 13 is Share-the-Plate Sunday. This month’s recipient is Beowulf Alley, a non-profit theater company dedicated to enhancing the arts and culture of Tucson while promoting a broader, deeper understanding of the human condition. Half of all non-pledge donations in Sunday’s collection will be shared with Beowulf Alley. For more information about this organization, check out their website: www.beowulfalley.org.

The Minister’s Roundtable on Congregational Vitality has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in Goddard Hall.

The roundtable is open to all. Bring a brown-bag dinner and we’ll continue the conversation about making UUCT a vital place now and into the future.

Lifespan Faith Development COMMUNITY Events
Kathleen Hogue, Lifespan Faith Development Director
khogue@uuctucson.org

Upcoming in the Life of the Church

Study Group: Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People’s Rights [Corporations v. Democracy]
10 sessions beginning Tuesday February 15, 2011
Want a heightened awareness of the evolution of corporate ascendancy? Want a greater understanding of the actual challenge to democracy we the people face? Want to find out what corporate-based factors have been influencing or controlling the political process? Then this group is for you! This group will be examining these issues from the perspective of our UU Identity and Beliefs. Contact Joyce Smith at joycetsmith@aol.com to find out how.

WE still need teachers, facilitators and advisors for all of our classes!
We need a teacher for the pre/K class, one for the 1st-5th grade class, and two YRUU advisors. We also need Coming of Age Guides for next year (beginning in the fall) and facilitators for adult classes. Please let us know how you can share your knowledge, skills and talents. Contact Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org.

Coming Soon:
A new UU Film series from PBS. More details can be found in the order of service announcements and on the LFD table beginning February 20th. Erin Deely will be facilitating and will need a co-facilitator. If you are interested please contact Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org.

We would like to offer more exciting programs to fit the needs of the congregation. We cannot do it alone. If you are interested in facilitating or co-facilitating a class or joining the Re Council please contact me at khogue@uuctucson.org.

A Gift to the Congregation: Stewardship Luncheon and Movie Premiere  By Chris Wallace, Stewardship Committee

You are cordially invited to a free luncheon with lasagna, salad, rolls and dessert on Sunday, February 13 after the service put on by the Stewardship Committee and the Covenant Circles. We will have musical entertainment and then directly after lunch we are premiering the movie, UUCT: Our Home of Care and Trust. It’s filled with inspiring stories of what the church means to different members of the congregation and the ministries that have touched them. Come and enjoy.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UUCT BOOK SALE
Start piling up those books now for the UUCT book sale to be held in October. You can bring them to Goddard anytime AFTER May 1st.
The Book Club selection for Feb 17 is "Netherland" by Joseph O'Neill, a Gatsby like novel set in post 9/11 New York. It concerns Hans, a Dutch banker seemingly defeated by a failed marriage who takes up residence at the Chelsea Hotel. He develops an unlikely friendship with Chuck, a charismatic Trinidian entrepeneur who introduces him to the outer boroughs and marginal cultures. Remember we will be choosing books for the next six months, so have your recomendations ready. We meet in Awareness at 7:00. Everyone is welcome and babysitting is available upon request.

Rev. Diane will be away from February 7 through February 11. She will be attending the Institute for Excellence in Ministry, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.
In case of a pastoral emergency, Rev. Dowgiert can be reached through the church office.

Artist of the Month Gallery presents "Images from Nature," new collages by our very own, Petey Periale, and pastels by Tucson artist, Barbara Delosier.

Think Global! Here’s an Opportunity!
The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) is looking for one UUCT member to participate in a webinar on emerging groups in Africa. Your commitment would be to be available for these discussions (1 hour, every few weeks) where you would talk to people from around the country and the world as well as to investigate the possibility of forming a partnership between UUCT and an emerging group.

If you are interested, please contact Richard Brodesky, in person, at 884 – 5522, or by email at rmbrodesky@msn.com.

All deadlines for the Tucsonitarian are now on the first and third Tuesday of every month.
The next deadline for the Tucsonitarian and Transforming Times will be Tuesday, February 15th at 5 p.m.