From the Minister’s Study

There’s something magical about indigo skies the color of eventide, sparkling with jewels of moon and stars and planets, a mystery made more intense by winter’s crystalline cold and deep dark nights. Who would ask for a more perfect setting to these holidays and holy days, times of wonder and awe at the sheer majesty of life?

Miracles abound in this season: miracles of light and life and love. When darkness falls, a star appears to light the way. When death numbers our days, a child is born, reminding us to count our lives as precious. When despair descends to numb our souls, love arrives in unexpected packages, filled with gifts of hope and promise.

My wish for you this holiday season is that you turn your vision toward mystery and miracle, knowing that your very life is bound in this great gift: to be alive while being aware that we all must die. We come from mystery and mystery waits for us at the end. In the meanwhile, we can choose to live our lives as if we are miraculous gifts to life and our lives are miraculous gifts to us.

Wrapped in the magic of this season, may you find peace, and may joy find you.

Holiday blessings,
Diane

From the Board of Trustees

Positive momentum going into 2012

Thank You for your generous support on Miracle Sunday. This small miracle of hope keeps our UU Mission moving forward in spite of a stalled Economy and Government cutbacks. We can expect to see a fully implemented Policy Style Governance, Solar Powered Energy, UUA Stewardship Consultant and our support and involvement in General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix. Your pledges of energy and resources WILL continue to 'transform our community and the world around us.'

To all our Congregation, Friends, Volunteers, Staff, Vendors and committed UU's throughout the world...HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
- Chaz McBride, Poonam Bholu, Peg Smith, John Shaefer, Mickey Dowling, Linda Selsor

Upcoming Services:

Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 pm Solstice:
We will celebrate the dark of winter with music, prose, and fire! Cookies, hot cider, and hot chocolate will be served afterwards. Please contact Mary to RSVP.

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve 5:30 and 7pm
Rev. Diane Dowgier
5:30 service—“Mary Did You Know?” Traditional family-friendly service with music by the Holiday Choir. We will also have the Child Dedication ceremony.
7:00 service—“Acoustic Christmas”, featuring traditional favorites played on guitar and harp.
Both services will end with the traditional lighting of candles and the singing of Silent Night.

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day 10:30 AM*
Pulpit: Gilbert Moore with Kathleen Hogue
Traditional Christmas story and a reading of Louisa May Alcott’s “Christmas Wouldn’t be Christmas Without any Presents.”
*Please note, that in order to give volunteers time off, we will NOT be having childcare or RE classes during the service, nor will we be offering coffee hour or lunch after the service.
Dash My Way!
'Tis weeks before Christmas and neither me nor my spouse
Have come up with a gift for help at the house.
Now a gift card from Sunflower would just hit the spot
For many of those who help me a lot.
The gardener, the sitters, the pool guy for some,
Plus those that I call on when I am undone.
Then there's Uncle Tim, Aunt Nellie and grandpa this year
And so many in need who would just like to hear.
Say thank you, I care, though I really don't show it
With a gift card from Sunflower and a note - Now don't blow it!
I'll stand by the door each week after service,
Hope you will stop but don't get all nervous
If I may ask you how many you choose,
There are many in need so please don't refuse.
The people and church will thank you for caring
'Tis the season we all know is special for sharing.

Sunflower gift cards of $25 and $50 are available and if I know
in advance I will be sure to have enough. Of course, Fry's and
Bashas' cards can also be purchased for $5 and you can load
them at the store for as much as you would like to give as a
gift.

Marjorie Smith - Grocery Rebate Coordinator

Poinsettias With Purpose
In addition to decorating the sanctuary, the poinsettia sale
made it possible for UUCT to make a donation of $138 to New Beginnings for Women and Children. The poinsettias
decorating the sanctuary for the holiday season were given
by the following people in memory of their loved ones:

Reah Barrows for her parents Ted and Margaret Ferkinhoff
Deanna Bland for her husband Bill
Beth Britton for her grandson Ben and her sister Barbara
Susan Call for her husband Rick
John and Linda Garrett
Jackie Goldman
Cosette and Keith Hutton
Elaine Knights for Carlton Lemke
Margie Magruder for her parents Betty and Gordon Magruder
Janet Moore for her parents, Jim and Juanita Moore
Agnes Paulsen for her husband Lyle, from his family
Bargie Robson for her husband John
Bid Romans for her husband Ed
Carolyn and Bruce Saunders for Bernice Pease

Silent Worship: Waiting in Silence
Patty Willis, Ministerial Intern
Part I

During the three years I studied at a Quaker seminary in Indiana, a small group gathered each morning
at 7:30 a.m. in the meeting room for worship. During the first fifteen minutes, the burdens of my
current worries lifted from my shoulders and I began to be aware of the present. Sometimes snow or
rain was hitting the window or sunshine began to flood a corner of the room, its warmth reaching my
arms or legs. In that moment, I was not quieting myself in the sense of reining myself in. I was listening
deply to what that moment had to offer. This is the time when Quakers commune with God.
The silence, they search for the Light within.
This silent search for the Light within is a deeply
personal as well as communal experience. The
Light within connects with the greater Light of the
universe and the Light of other human beings.
Quaker friends told me that this form of worship
was better described as “waiting” rather than
“silent” worship. Sometimes, it was not silent at
all. If the Light within urged people to speak or
sing, they did so. But most often, the Light seemed
to call people to sit in silent communion. After
around 40 minutes, the leader ended our worship
by holding out his hand in fellowship to someone
seated near him. We shook each other’s hands in
community and then moved back into the world.

(In the next issue, I’ll write about how this practice of
“silence” could relate to UUs.)

General Assembly Information Meeting
January 8

There will be a 45 minute information meeting about
the June Unitarian Universalist annual General As-
sembly in Phoenix at 12:15pm after church on Sun-
day, January 8. The meeting will be in Servetus.

Carolyn Saunders will provide an update on plans for
the General Assembly (GA) to be held in Phoenix June 20-24, 2012. Through Carolyn and Reverend
Diane, our church is playing an active role. The GA
in Phoenix provides an opportunity for UUCT mem-
ers and friends who may want to attend all or part of
the event.
December 16—On this very special Friday Family Ministry Night, all are invited to Kathleen Hogue’s home for a Holiday party. We will be playing some holiday games and have punch and other yummy items to feast on. Dress in holiday style so we can take some family photos. No need to bring anything except your enthusiasm!

Girls’ Night Out will be on Tuesday, December 27th at Govinda’s, 711 E. Blacklidge Dr., 6 – 8 pm. Please RSVP to Radka Hart, radka75@earthlink.net. If you need childcare, please contact Heather Reed, hreed@uuctucson.org.

Coming in January—Anti-Oppression Course: Examining Whiteness—One of the ways that racism affects us is by shaping our identity. This is also true for white people, not just people of color. This curriculum is designed to help Unitarian Universalists, particularly white people, interested in exploring the complex history of white identity. Watch for more details from your facilitators Rev. Patty Willis & Kathleen Hogue.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Do you have a child or grandchild in grades K-1 or 4-6 this year? If so, then this is his or her year to participate in the OWL program! Our Whole Lives (OWL) is an amazing sex and sexuality curriculum that teaches kids about their bodies and relationships in an age-appropriate manner that builds self-confidence. For the youngest children, topics include "healthy bodies, safe bodies" and "families and feelings." With the 4th-6th graders, additional topics such as puberty and gender identity are addressed. Please stop by the LFD table in Goddard Hall this Sunday to learn more about this nationally recognized program. You can also contact Melissa Brosanders at mbrosanders@live.com.

Parent orientation for grades K-1 will be 1/29/12 and for grades 4-6 will be 2/5/12. Both classes will then be held on Sundays from 12:30-2:00 starting 2/12/12 and ending 4/1/12. OWL for junior high and high school will be offered again in spring 2013.

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

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:
Submitted by Mary Wiese,
Membership and Community Life Administrator:
mwiese@uuctucson.org

New Member Class — If you have completed the Pathway to Membership and you are ready to become a member, you are welcomed and encouraged to attend a New Member meeting with Reverend Diane. The meetings are held in the Ministers office on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., or second Sunday of the month, after service. You must RSVP ahead of time to Mary Wiese: mwiese@uuctucson.org.

Newcomer Orientations — A Newcomer Orientation will resume the first Sunday in February after church. Free lunch and childcare are provided. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

Community Life:
Come Join us at the Loft Sing-a-Long Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.!

Every holiday season, the Loft Cinema hosts a Very Merry Sing-a-long that features wonderful, and not so wonderful, Christmas hits. There is also a bad holiday sweater contest, free candy canes, and eggnog. Admission is $8 per person but if you bring an unwrapped toy for Casa De Los Ninos, admission is half price. I will hold a row of seats for anyone who would like to join me for this very fun evening. Please contact Mary Wiese if you are interested or for more information go to: www.loftcinema.com.

Sunday Coffee Hour: Please help make our Sunday Coffee Hour a continued success. Please remember to donate money so we can keep the goodies coming. Also, we always welcome and appreciate baked goods.

UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery:
Mixed Media, Oils, Watercolors, and Acrylics by the Pima Painting Club
This month the gallery is featuring the Pima Painting Club. The gallery is open during church office hours, 9am—1 pm Tuesday through Friday. The show runs through Sunday, January 1st.
Home Hospitality Needed!

Through an ad in the current UU World, UUCT is offering home hospitality (bed and breakfast) during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, January 29 to February 13. If you have a spare bedroom and would be willing to put up out-of-town guests, please contact Margo Newhouse, 745-2990, or MargoNewhouse25@hotmail.com, to provide her with the details of the space available. The rate charged will be up to the host/hostess, beginning at $75, with a three-night minimum suggested. All proceeds are to support UUCT.

Book Club

Meets the third Thursday of each month in the Awareness Room at 7pm. All are welcome. Call ahead for sitters. If you have questions, call Lois Ellen Atkins at 991-5350. For January, we will be reading "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman.

Mata Ortriz Pottery Sale at UUCT

Sunday, December 18, after church on the patio, there will be a demonstration and sale of pottery by Ana Trillo, from Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua, Mexico. The villagers of Mata Ortiz have become world famous for their fine work, and they are now suffering greatly from the lack of tourists and buyers, due to the border violence. This is an opportunity for us to help them and at the same time to acquire some exquisite works at reasonable prices.

The deadline for the Tucsonitarian is the first and third Tuesday of each month with publication on the second and fourth Wednesday. The next deadline is December 20th at 5 pm and the publication date is December 28th.