From the Minister’s Study
Yes, there is life beyond General Assembly (GA)
June 20-23, 2012

Years from now, people will be saying, “I was in Phoenix for Justice GA 2012, were you?” I plan to answer, “Yes!”

Will you join me?

Whenever thousands of Unitarian Universalists from around the country gather, the experience is memorable. Only a handful of cities have the necessary facilities for such a large gathering. Phoenix is among those cities. Truly, it’s a privilege to host the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in our home state.

Every GA is memorable. This one has the earmark of something historic. In life beyond this GA, we may find ourselves quoting Churchill: “This was our finest hour.”

GA this year will be focused on Justice. Though the impetus for this focus came in response to Arizona’s immigration laws and policies, GA will be about much more than immigration. It will be a time of learning, worshiping, singing, and networking with UU’s from all across the country. It will be a time of growing and deepening into sources of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Memorable as this GA will be, the real work happens when we’re all back home. There are many opportunities here at UUCT to prepare for GA and beyond. Whether you plan to go to GA or not (though I can’t imagine not going) choose one or two activities to get involved with.

One activity I hope you will give serious consideration is the Pacific Southwest District Human Rights at the Border Trip, March 15-18. I co-led this trip last year, and will do so again this year. This time, my husband AJ will be coming. I hope you will consider joining us. Contact me for more information or visit the PSWD website: www.pswduua.org.

Through your involvement, Arizona UU’s will be able to say of GA 2012, “this was our finest hour.”

Yours,
Diane

Please look inside the newsletter for a list of events and activities in which you can participate to prepare for GA!

Upcoming Services:

January 29, 2012
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Reality Television and Interfaith Dialogue Advertisers threatening to pull out from the reality television show, All-American Muslim, put a spotlight on interfaith relations. Can we learn to have true interfaith dialogue? Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan
Music: Agnes Paulsen and Michelle Maliniak

Sunday, February 5
Human Nature
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Unitarian Universalism holds an optimistic view of human nature, a rejection of the strict Calvinist doctrine of human depravity. We seek to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. How then do we account for human behaviors that are mean, hateful, or harmful? Worship Associate: Bid Romans
Music: Donna DeHaan

Sunday, February 12
Personality and Spirituality
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
What can your personality tell you about finding a fulfilling spiritual path? We’ll look to the theories of Carl Jung and the Myers-Briggs personality profile for pointers on the journey. Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan
Music: Desert Chorale
It’s Election Time at UUCT!

The Nominating Committee and Leadership Development Team (NCLDT) is beginning its process of identifying and recruiting people to run for elected positions at the May 6, 2012 Annual Meeting. All terms begin July 1. According to the Bylaws (Article VII, Section 2) the NC/LDT "shall seek advice and counsel of the President and appropriate staff before finalizing nominations" for inclusion on the Annual Meeting agenda.

We are recruiting for President, Board of Trustees (2), Nominating Committee and Leadership Development Team (3), Committee on Ministry (2). We are required to notify the congregation by mail of the slate of candidates at least 28 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations by the congregation are allowed according to the Bylaws (Article VII, Section 4). These additional nominations require a petition with signatures of at least twenty members and the nominee’s agreement. In order to notify the congregation by mail at least fourteen days prior to the Annual Meeting, petitions for additional nominations must be received by the NCLDT by April 14. No nominations for office or position under the auspices of the NCLDT shall be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting (Bylaws, Article VII, Section 5).

Nominating Committee and Leadership Development Team

Chris Wallace, Chair: lemmonhiker@gmail.com
Deanna Bland: dblandest@msn.com
Pat McDaniel: PJMCDAN1@yahoo.com
Walker Smith: caminante2@aol.com
Janet Moore: riverhawk@dakotacom.net
Judy Dare: jadare@q.com

WANTED: AUCTION DONATIONS!

The UUCT auction is Saturday, March 3rd, and YOUR auction item will make it a success! You could donate a dinner, a service (handyman, ride to the airport, pet sitter, tutor, etc.), an item, a gift basket (coffee or tea lovers’, spa), handmade item (jewelry, scarf, pottery), home made goodies (breads, jams, cookies), or art. NEW THIS YEAR: Grab basket of small items ($5.00 value or more), like gift cards, movie passes, etc. Look for the auction table in Goddard after church to get an auction donation form, or download one from the UUCT website.
LFD Happenings
Unitarian Universalist RE Middle School and YRUU March for Peace and Racial Justice

On March 16, 2012 following a sleepover at the church full of fun activities and a civil rights film, the Middle school joined by the YRUU youth participated in Tucson’s Annual MLK march.

Also present were other UUs including members of our sister church, Mountain Vista UU. This, as always, is a good reminder that we have come a long way in our fight for civil rights and freedom, but our journey is not yet over.

Want to know more about racial justice and equality? Sign up for the six session workshop “Building the World We Dream About!”

In this workshop, we will seek to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. Facilitated by Ministerial Intern Patty Willis, Reverend Diane Dowgiert, and LFD Director Kathleen Hogue, the program creates opportunities for participants to practice dreaming our world otherwise, and committing to new, intentional ways of being.

How can we make our congregation more racially and culturally diverse? By beginning with ourselves—as individuals, congregations, and members of diverse communities. Transformation takes place when we develop antiracist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills which lead us to build the multicultural world of beloved community we dream about.

Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, beginning February 14th. A $25 fee will cover all six sessions. Childcare will be provided for those who RSVP.

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.

New UU Class: The next New UU Class of the year will be held beginning on Monday, March 12. The class will begin at 6:30 p.m. and run until approximately 8:30 p.m. The class will run for 5 weeks. Childcare is available.

Please contact Mary Wiese to sign up or for more details.

Community Life:

Buildings and Grounds: The Buildings and Grounds Team will meet on Tuesday February 7, at 6:30 p.m. We are beginning to compile an extensive list of campus improvements and we need suggestions.

Share the Plate—Interfaith Community Services

February’s recipient for Share-the-Plate is Interfaith Community Services. Half of all non-pledge income collected on February 19th will go to this wonderful organization that helps thousands of Tucsonans each year.

Did you know that UUCT is in partnership with Interfaith Community Services (ICS)? With a network of 58 member faith communities and more than 600 volunteers, ICS often "fills the gaps" for services in Pima County. ICS provides more than 45,000 services a year to over 20,000 disadvantaged people, disabled individuals, and seniors. Some of their programs include the ICS Food Bank, Mobile Meals, Health Advocacy home visits, Emergency Financial Assistance, and the Gifts of Love program (which UUCT participated in by adopting a family for the holidays).

For more information about ICS and the work that they do, visit icstucson.org or contact the UUCT representative, Ashley Davis at office@uuctucson.org.
LET YOUR LITTLE LIGHT SHINE: CHARLIE KING AND KAREN BRANDOW AT THE UUCT FEB 4

Been wondering how to support OCCUPY in Tucson? One way is to attend the February 4th annual concert with Charlie King and Karen Brandow.

They start singing at 8 PM, preceded by a delicious free vegetarian meal catered by Maria García of La Indita Restaurant at 6 PM in Goddard. And at 7pm, there will be a huge raffle with dozens of donated prizes – some things to wear, to eat, to attend, to read, to plant, etc. Everything that comes in that night will be given to OCCUPY on a need by need basis.

Pete Seeger has called Charlie one of the finest singer songwriters of our time. And Karen's divine harmonies and guitar stylings are known to stop the show. Everyone who's attended their previous performances here at the UUCT know to expect abundant good humor, insightful heartfelt songs with an uplifting spirit fueling the faith in the ordinary person to accomplish extraordinary things in perilous times.

One can find more about them at www.charlieking.org For other information about the concert and raffle fundraiser, contact Ted Warmbrand of the non profit ITZABOUTIME at 623-1688 or its@theriver.com.

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 February 7th at 5 pm and the publication date is February 15th.

UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery: February Show
Local Artists, Marie Miller and Doreen Graver

The opening reception for artists, Marie Miller and Doreen Graver, will be on February 12th at 11:45 am in Holland Sanctuary. The artists' works include collage, watercolor and oil. Come meet the artists and enjoy the show. Refreshments will be served. The gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 pm Tuesday through Friday. The show runs through Sunday, March 4th.