From the Minister’s Study

Sacred space is inviolable space. That’s what makes it sacred.

When Terry Goddard came to speak at UUCT, someone attempting to air a grievance temporarily disrupted our worship service. Our ushers that day responded with grace and courage, respecting the dignity of the disruptive person while protecting the sanctity of our worship experience. They removed the disruptive person from the sanctuary and then took the additional step of calling the police.

For some in our congregation, the disruption was a painful and frightening reminder that our sacred spaces are not immune from violence. It hasn’t even been four years since the shooting at our UU congregation in Knoxville, Tennessee. It’s only been a little more than a year since the shooting at a political event here in Tucson.

Maintaining boundaries that are permeable and protective, welcoming and safe, is a delicate balance. We strive to be inclusive, making our religious community open to all who seek a liberal and liberating faith. At the same time, the promise of transformation that our faith offers requires a certain amount of vulnerability. We come to church with our guard down.

When sacred space is violated, there are choices to be made. Do we turn our boundaries into walls so that we can feel safe? Or, do we come together as a community to define the limits of acceptable behavior? And then, do the work of keeping our community safe enough for intimacy, trust, and love to flourish?

As I hold these questions in my heart, I feel an intense desire to protect this beloved congregation from harm. My ferocious wildcat instinct kicks in. At the same time, I realize the danger in building walls of protection. How easy it would be to let fear drag us all down a slippery slope toward exclusion and self-serving insularity.

Our history is filled with those who took risks and those who played it safe. There are no easy answers. But there is a path forward. We can find it together.

Yours,
Diane

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 4
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Come Dream a Dream With Me
Author and poet Meg Wheatley says, “There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” Let’s see how powerful we can be when we dream together!
Worship Associate: Leila Pine
Music: Front Porch

Sunday, March 11
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Out of the Garden: Original Sin or Original Blessing?
There are many ways of reading and interpreting the Bible. What do the creation stories in the book of Genesis have to say to Unitarian Universalists today?
Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan
Music: Desert Chorale
From Your Board of Trustees:

We are pleased to announce that Tom Macon has accepted the position as Chair of our Annual Canvass Committee. He is new to our Church but has been a lifelong UU’er and brings much experience to the position. Tom has already demonstrated his commitment to the future of UUCT as he is currently a YRUU adviser and a K-1 OWL instructor. He is a fresh face with new ideas and the enthusiasm to assist us in Dreaming Big in March! We are blessed to have Tom, Sandy his wife of 17 years, their daughters Dora, 12 and Gloria, 8 who are both enrolled in RE and OWL, amongst us. Please offer your help and support to him and to the Church as we celebrate our upcoming Annual Canvass.

Board of Trustees:
Charles ‘Chaz’ McBride, Pres., Linda Selsor, VP of Finance, Poonam Bhola, Sec., Peggy Smith, Communications, John Schaefer, Mickey Dowling, Mark Hansen

March is Catch a Dream Canvass Month

Greetings fellow UUCT’ers, my name is Tom Macon and I am your Canvass Chair. We are calling our annual pledge drive a Canvass this year because that is a more specific term pertaining to pledging, as opposed to Stewardship which is a more general term. It also fits in with Kay Crider’s recommendations, our UUA Congregational Stewardship Consultant. Besides the name there will be other, dare I say fun, aspects to our Canvass, like balloons and conversation. Be on the lookout for the pledge form coming to your mail box. You can also fill one out at church and either snail mail or turn in to Mary Wiese. The canvass this year is really just the beginning of a much grander process that will bring to our church a better understanding of who and what we are. Your participation is key to making it all happen. The generosity we show each other through our church brings to our community a sense of belonging and connectedness. In putting our vision and generosity together we can create a synergy that will pay us all back in ways we never dreamed of. I also want to thank all of you for your giving and for this opportunity to serve you.

Tom Macon

Registration for GA Opens March 1

Housing, registration and applications for volunteering at the Justice Assembly opens Thursday, March 1. Go to www.uua.org/GA/2012 and click on Registration or Housing. A link to the volunteer application is found on the registration page.

There are two GA headquarters hotels near the Convention Center--the Hyatt Regency and the Marriott Renaissance--where 1000 rooms have been blocked. Rooms at an Arizona State University dorm will also be available. This dorm is about 1/2 mile from the Convention Center and on the light rail line. Three Phoenix congregations are offering home hospitality.

Please contact me at c_saunders1@msn.com if you have questions. Note: that is c_saunders. Let’s set new records for the number of UUs from PSWD who attend this important event! See you in Phoenix!

Carolyn Saunders
District Coordinator GA 2012

OCCUPY TUCSON
99% MEET YOURSELF EXPOSITION
DOWNTOWN TUCSON

The 99% MEET YOURSELF EXPOSITION was organized by OCCUPY TUCSON and held in the plaza of the downtown Tucson library. In addition to UUCT there were approximately ten other organizations represented. The idea was to let the general public see who supports the work of OCCUPY TUCSON.

The UUCT table was set up by my wife Jan and myself Saturday morning. Harry Leumeau relieved us in the afternoon and it was Manda Gray who ended the day.

Most of the other organization’s representatives who visited our table were familiar with UUCT, and a number of them commented that they had been to functions at our church. Others took some of our literature and some commented about the need for a liberal religious voice in Tucson.

This was good exposure for UUCT! Future participation in OCCUPY TUCSON and other Social Action functions of this type can only help our reputation as a “congregation with a strong history of direct action in pursuit of peace and justice for all.”

Mickey Dowling, B.O.T.
**Annual Children’s Auction**

While the adults are enjoying their dinner and Auction on March 3rd, the kids are having an auction too. The children will have a chance to bid on new unwrapped toys. They will also be having snacks. Parents will bring their children to the Blackwell Room and sign them in. We request that no money be given to your child but when you pick them up you will receive a bill for up to $20.

Please donate new unwrapped items such as toys, games, books and gift cards by dropping them off at the LFD Office. For more information please contact khogue@uuctucson.org

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**Centennial TUUR now accepting registrations**

Registration is now open for an exciting trip to Northern Arizona October 13-20 to visit Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, and the Petrified Forest among other interesting sites. This trip is sponsored by and is a fundraiser for the UU Church of Tucson. You will travel on a comfortable tour bus and stay at moderate hotels such as Best Western and Holiday Inns.

The trip departs from Tucson on Oct. 13, but home hospitality will be available the evening before the trip and the evening we arrive back in Tucson for people who come from other locations.

We have space for 24, and the cost is $1099 per person for a double room. Single room rates are also available. If you register now, you can cancel until July 1st, but after that we are committed to paying the hotels, etc, so no refunds after that date. Payment must be made in full by August 19.

The prices are on the registration form and the bottom of the itinerary. Make checks (we can no longer do credit cards) to UUCT and mail to the church address, C/O Carolyn Saunders. Please mark Centennial TUUR on the check so it will go to the correct account. Sometimes we can find a roommate if you are traveling alone, but that cannot be guaranteed. Sign up soon to reserve your space!

The itinerary and registration form can be found at http://www.uuctucson.org/index.php/sponsored-tours/. Or contact Carolyn Saunders, c_saunders1@msn.com or Julia Mehrer, perujourney@gainbroadband.com for more information.

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**Annual UUCT Auction—March 3rd**

Spring is just around the corner, and so is the annual UUCT fundraising auction. Spring Picnic is the theme, and who doesn’t love the deviled eggs, the potato salad, the ants?? No ants are invited to this picnic, but YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN are! There’ll be picnic foods, exciting things to bid on*, a 50-50 raffle, and a grab basket of $5.00 mystery goodies. It all happens this Saturday, March 3rd at 5:30 pm.

*We will be accepting checks or cash ONLY. We are no longer accepting credit card payments. Tickets for the event are $10.

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**New UU Class:**

The next “New UU” Class of the year will be held beginning on Monday, March 12! The New UU is a Tapestry of Faith Curriculum from the UUA that is written by Jonalu Johnstone. 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.

**Newcomer Orientations** – Newcomer Orientations will be the first Sunday in March and the first Sunday in April after church. Free lunch and childcare are provided. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

**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

**Ceremony of Joining** – If you have signed the Membership Book with Reverend Diane but have not participated in a Ceremony of Joining during Sunday Service, we invite you to do so on Sunday April 22nd. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

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**Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:**

Submitted by Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life Administrator: mwiese@uuctucson.org
**Alliance Spring Outing**

If you would like to hear about the latest in heart research, plan to join us for a free tour of The Sarver Heart Center on **Thursday, March 29th** at 10:30 A.M. More information to follow.

- Marcia Schenck

**UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery: March Show**

Works by David Rowland Zaher and Lisa Scadron

The opening reception for artists, David Rowland Zaher and Lisa Scadron, will be on March 11th at 11:45 am in Holland Hall. The artists’ works include collage, oil and emotional landscapes. 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, April 1st (not fooling around).

**Need Home Hospitality**

Can you host a foreign student for a week? **Up With People**, an international singing group with members from 24 countries, will be in Tucson March 7-19, and they need home hospitality. If you can host one or more students, please call Sergio at (303) 993-9334.

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**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 March 6th at 5 pm and the publication date is March 14th.**

**The Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month in the Awareness Room at 7 PM. All are welcome. Free childcare is available if you request it in advance. For March we will be reading and discussing "The Grave-digger’s Daughter" by Joyce Carol Oates. Contact Lois Ellen Atkins for more information or to reserve childcare at 991-5350.**