From the Minister’s Study

Have you thanked a volunteer this week? Have you ever stopped to consider how many volunteers it takes to create this wonderful community of UUCT?

Start with Sunday, for example. There are at least 15-20 volunteers involved, a number that doubles when one of the choirs is singing. Greeters, ushers, worship associates, sound technicians, the kitchen crew, teachers, advisors, child-care providers, OWL facilitators, Covenant Circle facilitators, people to staff informational tables in Goddard Hall, people who facilitate things like film series, book groups, adult educational classes, and the Artist of the Month Gallery.

Then there’s all those elected to leadership and governance positions: nineteen in all serving on the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry, and the Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team. There are numerous volunteers working on church finance, stewardship, and fundraising.

Many more volunteer their time and labor to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds. Others work behind the scenes to keep our church web-site up-to-date, our email system functioning, and our old computer system limping along. Others volunteer to help out in the office, answering phones, greeting visitors, and stuffing envelopes.

Others give of themselves by helping our members during times of need with friendly visits, phone calls, cards, meals, and rides. Others work at making sure newcomers to our church feel welcomed. And, of course, there are those who serve on the Life-span Faith Development Council, guiding and supporting religious education for people of all ages. And those who organize events that get UUCT out in the community at marches, rallies, and fairs. There are those who work on making justice in the world thru everything from humanitarian aid to making our facilities “greener,” and those who serve our larger Unitarian Universalist movement at the district and national levels.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who make UUCT a vibrant community of faith!

Gratefully yours,
Diane

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 18, 2012
Bringing Justice to Phoenix
Carolyn Saunders, UUCT member and District Coordinator for the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Pacific Southwest District Board of Trustees, will speak on “Bringing Justice to Phoenix.” She will be discussing the annual national gathering of Unitarian Universalists to be held in Phoenix on June 20-24, 2012. This Justice Assembly will focus on the injustices and human rights abuses immigrants face in our country.

Sunday, March 25
Shared Ministry
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Ministry is everything we do together in service of our mission. It’s clergy and laity working together, sharing gifts, skills, and passions in a way that grows beloved community. We’ll explore the ways that sharing the ministry can work to deepen a sense of purpose and belonging.
Worship Associate: Cyndi Clements
Music: Family Singers
We're doing our part...

The Board of trustees began this fiscal year with Stewardship as our top priority. This makes sense since we are ultimately responsible for the Financial Management of our Church. I assure you that with every change in Governance, bylaws, policies and streamlining of process, communication, and staff duties was to ensure the future fiscal well-being of UUCT. We have given Executive authority to our Minister to professionally manage our Church and have installed a V.P. of Finance on the Board to oversee financial alignments in practice and procedures. Also, staff and volunteers are keeping expenditures down while still providing full comprehensive programs to meet our congregational and community needs. Please keep all this in mind during our March Canvass as you do your part... by pledging generously.

Dreaming Big,
Chaz, Pres. B.O.T.

Update from the Canvass

The Canvass is proceeding very well. We have gotten in several of your filled out forms. Thank all of you who have sent in your pledge. A gentle reminder that your portion makes a difference to us all, so if you haven't filled in and returned your form yet please do. It is too early to put out any results but they will be forthcoming as soon as we can provide them.

Peace
Tom Macon
Canvass Chair

Annual Report - It's that time of the year! Please submit your information for the annual report by the deadline - April 9th at 5pm. Any submissions received after the deadline WILL NOT be published in the Annual Report. Thank you!

Volunteer Recognition Nominations- Here at UUCT we are fortunate to have dozens of wonderful volunteers! Each year we recognize volunteers who have shared their time and energy again and again. Please submit your nominations in the box located in the church foyer. The deadline is April 15th.

Arizona Centennial TUUR

Have you been to the Ancient Puebloan village of Casa Malpais? How about in the depths of Canyon de Chelly? Have you taken a Navajo guided tour through Monument Valley? Our space is selling out, so sign up now! Registrations forms are in the office, on our website or available by e-mail from Julia (after March 17th) at perujourney@gainbroadband.com.

General Assembly Update

Housing, registration and applications for volunteering at the Justice Assembly opened Thursday, March 1. Go to www.uua.org/GA/2012<http://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 Carolyn Saunders 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!

District Assembly Information

The Reverend Tera Little, PSWD

We are gearing up for an awesome and inspiring District Assembly, April 27-28, at First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles. Think: gourmet food trucks, celebratory opening featuring Ruben Martinez, Saturday workshops focusing on many aspects of justice ministry, the deeply moving Bridging Ceremony for high school seniors, a fun Friday afternoon reception hosted by de Benneville Pines, and the opportunity on Saturday morning to volunteer with the First Church Food Distribution program, which feeds hundreds of hungry people. And of course - the annual business meeting, get your voting cards ready!

You can register online now for District Assembly: http://www.pswduua.org/pages/district-assembly.php. If you are ready to make your hotel plans, please use the following link for online hotel registration. http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1202032920&key=E3FCB

This will be a special District Assembly, at a church with a long, rich history. Join us! It won't be as much fun without you.

Book Club’s next meeting is Thursday, April 19th at 7pm in the Awareness Room. We will be discussing Charles C. Mann’s “1491(Second Edition): New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus.” Challenging and surprising, this a transformative new look at a rich and fascinating world we only thought we knew. For questions and childcare (call ahead to reserve childcare), 991-5350.
**Sharing Space (Be nice to one another!)**
*Submitted by Mary Wiese, Administrator*

I remember when I was young (in the 60’s), going on family vacations in the paneled station wagon, and fighting with my sister over the occupancy of the back seat. Both of my parents, one of the dogs, lots of luggage and a beach ball or two had to share the space. My sister and I had an invisible line drawn down the middle of the bench seat in the back. If either one of us ventured to cross that invisible line, screams would erupt: “Mom! Patty’s on my side!”

On a typical Sunday after church, during our peak season which is approximately October – April, I may have up to 12 room usage requests...however, we only have seven designated meeting spaces.

We need to learn to share. I know, I sound like my Mom. Well, I am a mother. I am also the administrator of this congregation. Often, the roles are not that far apart. I am the staff person responsible for scheduling the rooms for various church events. I also schedule events for outside room rental requests. It is definitely a juggling act. All of these requests have merit. Just take for example, the requests I have for a typical Sunday: 1.) OWL –Our Whole Lives sexuality education (Usually 2 or 3 on a given Sunday); 2.) Covenant Circles, (at least two requests a month); 3.) Newcomers events: 4.) Artist Gallery openings that feature local artists; 5.) Film series highlighting current social justice events; 6.) Various meeting requests from church committees such as Nominating Committee, Religious Education, Buildings and Grounds, Social Justice, and space for childcare! Just look at the church calendar! (I am not making it up. It is available on our church website).

The staff would like to accommodate everyone and honor every request. However, that is impossible given our current space restrictions. Rooms are given by priority and on a first come, first serve basis. There is a process in place that does the best it can to serve everyone given our space constraints. Really, this is a happy problem. We have so many incredible programs happening at the church that we do not have space to accommodate them all during the most requested times. So, until we are able to raise more revenue to build more meeting space, we must learn to share the space. No more screams of, “She’s in my room! I got here first!” Be respectful. We are all here to do the work that embraces our Unitarian Universalist Principles… together.

In faith of our shared ministry,

Mary

---

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

**Newcomer Orientations** – The final Newcomer Orientation of the fiscal year, will be on 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 22. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

**Annual Rummage Sale**—Mark your calendars! Our UUCT Rummage Sale will be April 27 and 28. Please start bringing your donations to Goddard hall.

*“What good is sitting alone in your room, Come, hear the music play.”*

The annual Cabaret Fundraiser will be on Saturday, April 7th!

Come hear the musical (and occasionally comedic, or dramatic) talents of your fellow church members. Finger foods, deserts and beverages (including wine/beer for extra cost) will be served, during the show. Live entertainment starts at 7:00PM!

If you are interested in participating in the show, please contact Brian Moon by April 1st. If you need help to present something (e.g., musical accompaniment), please ask for help ASAP, and before April 1st. The show’s length will be kept reasonable, which could limit the number of people that can perform.

If you’d like to volunteer to help sell tickets, coordinate the food, sell glasses of wine, or publicize the event, please send me an email soon.

Thank you,

Brian Moon
bmoon@email.arizona.edu
**Alliance Spring Tour**

On Thursday, March 29th, at 10:30 A.M., we will go on a tour of the local Sarver Heart Research Center. Car-pooling from church at 10:00 A.M. sharp, we will all meet at their research lab by 10:15. Directions: From Speedway and Cherry, go north on Cherry just one block to Helen St. and park in the lot on the S.W. corner. Go cat-a-corner to the N.E. corner, to the 2nd building. Wheelchairs will be furnished upon request. Come to our table in Goddard the next 3 Sundays (March 11, 18, and 25) to sign up for 1. attendance, 2. carpool or meet us there, 3. wheelchair request, and 4. lunch afterwards at the Golden Corral (22nd St., east of Columbus). We will include our usual Annual Meeting at the lunch. Call Janet Boice (790-2749) or Marcia Schenck (326-1102) for questions or late sign-up. Everyone is most welcome.

Marcia Schenck

---

**Auction News!**

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped make the Spring Picnic Auction a success! Preliminary figures indicate that the auction raised approximately $10,000 for the church!

---

**From Our Sister Congregation:**

The Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Church of Northwest Tucson, 3601 Cromwell Dr., Tucson, AZ is having a Fund Raiser to benefit the Interweave Chapter to enable us to get ready for Pride in the Desert for 2012.

The Theme is "Star Night" - our Pastor the Rev Joy Atkinson is interested in Astronomy and will show us the different Stars on March 17, 2012 at 7PM - until 8:30 PM

Dinner is from 6-7 - Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots and of course Vegetarian and Vegan dishes will be available for those who do not eat meat. Suggested donation is $5.00, but no hungry person will be turned away.

For contact information, please call Roberta Price @ 520-406-2259 or berta194366@yahoo.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 March 20th at 5 pm and the publication date is March 28th.**