From the Minister’s Study

I wish there was a way to prevent the good stuff from happening all at once. Apparently, this is the season the universe has chosen to shower me with overwhelming goodness. My schedule is now officially on overdrive. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding.

April 26-29 I will be in California for the spring Ministers Meeting and the Pacific Southwest District Assembly.

May 3 and 4 I will be in Phoenix to celebrate the retirement of Walt Wieder, minister of our UU congregation in Surprise, AZ.

May 6 is the UUCT Annual Meeting.

On May 11, I leave for Boston to participate in the ordination of Rebecca Froom (UUCT’s former DRE.)

From Boston I will travel to Cedar Grove, New Jersey for my son’s wedding on May 20 (pictures to follow!)

I return to UUCT on May 23.

On June 17, I will be the guest preacher at the UU Congregation of Phoenix (fulfilling a pulpit exchange with their minister, Susan Frederick-Gray, who preached at UUCT in January).

June 18 – June 24 I will be in Phoenix for Ministry Days and General Assembly.

I return to UUCT on June 26.

July 3 – August 14 I will be on vacation/study leave.

Grateful for the ministry we share,
Diane

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, April 15
Standing on the Side of Fear: How can we stop bullying before it is too late?
Patty Willis
I will be talking about understanding all aspects of bullying and its connection with genocide. My reading will be from Etty Hillesum's diary and letters from Westerbork. A brilliant woman and Jew in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, she exemplifies how we can "stand on the side of love" even in the face of unimaginable cruelty.
Worship Associate: Leila Pine
Music: Front Porch

Sunday, April 22
A Question of Worth and Dignity
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
The first Unitarian Universalist principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Many find this to be a challenging principle. Do we really mean everyone? Even those who commit atrocities?
Worship Associate: Walker Smith
Music: Desert Chorale

Wednesday, April 25
Mid-week alternative worship
Led by Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Mary Wiese, Kathleen Hogue, and Brian Moon.

Sunday, April 29
Guest Speaker: Rev. John Fife
Worship Associate: Leila Pine
Music: Family Singers
Helping Others Attend General Assembly

Thanks to the generosity of all who donated to our share the plate for the Pacific Southwest District Scholarships, UUCT was able to send $356.00 to the fund. In order to be eligible for a District scholarship, a person must be a member of a local congregation or the Church of the Larger Fellowship. In addition, preference is given to those who also receive scholarship funds from their congregation. We have begun a UUCT scholarship fund, and donations to that fund would enable our youth or others in our own congregation to apply for a scholarship from us as well as apply for matching funds from PSWD.

If you are planning to attend GA, won't you please consider making a small, additional contribution to help someone else attend as well? If you are unable to attend GA, also consider making a contribution to the UUCT GA scholarship fund. A donation in any amount would be a concrete demonstration of your commitment to justice and to the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

And if you want to attend, but need some financial help to do so, be sure to apply for some of the scholarships that are available. Information about scholarship opportunities and tips for "GA on a Budget" are found at http://uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/index.shtml. The application form for the PSWD scholarship fund is at http://www.pswduua.org/media/docs2/GA2012ScholarshipsRevA.pdf.

To make a donation to the UUCT GA Scholarship Fund, write checks to UUCT with GA scholarship fund in the memo line.

Donna DeHaan resigned as accompanist. We thank her for her service to UUCT and wish her well in her future endeavors. A search is underway for a replacement. In the interim, Brian Moon, Music Director, has secured the services of several musicians to provide accompaniment on Sunday mornings.

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Sharing the love

Submitted by Mary Wiese, Administrator

“If I had the power to issue an edict that all UUs would immediately obey (what a delicious fantasy!), I would command everyone to smile and say hello to people they do not know at church. It would transform our movement in one fell swoop.” Peter Morales, UUA President

It is a symptom of every Unitarian Universalist congregation. We think of ourselves as friendly but the reality is a bit different. In the recent UU World, Peter Morales opens the issue with an article titled, “Religious hospitality.” He shares familiar stories from visitors he has spoken to about standing “awkwardly alone during coffee hour,” and how often they are ignored.

It is something we have struggled with as long as I have been a member here at UUCT. Other denominations seem to reach out better than we do, but then, they are not afraid to evangelize. We UU’s dislike, and have usually at one time in our lives been offended by religious sales persons. You know, the ones that knock on your door or, if you have visited another religious institution at some time in your lifetime, the ones that greet you more than once during your visit selling their brand of religion. Many of us find that approach so distasteful that we go to the extreme and just let people be when they are new to the church.

Well, the extreme approach is not working and it never has. Diane and I have heard it repeated many times from newcomers and new members: it is difficult to connect here at UUCT.

When Peter Morales was a parish minister, he worked with the congregation to change their approach to hospitality. They “worked [together] to create a culture of religious hospitality,” … [so it wasn’t] “just the job of the membership committee or the staff.” The change was transformational. Their congregation grew from 400 members to 750. Peter also says that it transformed the older members as well. They made new friends, felt less isolated, and that the “practice of reaching out made [them] more open, more sensitive.”

The world is a scary place right now. Many of the freedoms that we now enjoy, and are reflected in our UU principles, are being threatened. It is a very good time to evangelize our brand of religion. Try to remember the first time you walked through the doors to our sanctuary and the first time you stood alone in coffee hour. As Peter Morales says, “Smile. Say good morning. Start a conversation. You are about to meet some wonderful people.”
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, or by appointment. 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.

Lifespan Faith Development Happenings

Religious Education Orientation: Sunday, April 29 at 12:15 beginning at 12:15 PM in the Awareness Room. Come explore with other UU families what it means to raise a UU child, learn about exciting events in our church year, hear from our Lifespan Faith Development Director and your child(ren)'s teachers. We will be introducing next year's program which is based on Way Cool Sunday School. It is essential that we as a congregation come and discover what is going on and how to become involved.

UUCT YARD SALE

A UUCT yard sale will be held on April 27 & 28 (Fri. & Sat.) and your participation is needed to make this a successful event. Think about cleaning out your pots and pans, household items, yard and pool equipment, closets, sheds (do we have attics here?) etc. as we need any saleable items you may be able to part with. Donations of large ticket items are desired. Please no old computers or technology! They can be brought to Goddard Hall at any time prior to April 25. We also need more people who can help with the set up and sale (a sign-up sheet is in Goddard). Any and all help to make this a success will be very much appreciated. If you have questions please contact Margi Magruder by phone (628-9911) or e-mail (mftern46@earthlink.net.)

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.

Margaret Regan, author of The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands, will be our featured speaker after the service on Sunday, April 22. Through highly readable human stories, the author gives us insight into what is happening at the Arizona-Sonora border. Ms. Regan writes for the Tucson Weekly and has won a dozen journalism awards for her writings about border issues. Copies of her book will be available for purchase. UUCT Book Club will be discussing this book at its May meeting.
FUUN-raiser’s Corner

CELEBRATE MOMS ON 5/14 & UUCT WILL BENEFIT

Bring your mom to Sweet Tomatoes on Monday, May 14th for a belated Mother’s Day celebration and UUCT will get 20% of what you spend on dinner. You’ll just need to bring the flyer (available at church or on our website) and purchase a dinner and a beverage for each member of your group. Broadway and Wilmot location from 5-8 PM.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF KITT PEAK

Join Dr. Frank Valdes on Saturday, May 12th, for a behind the scenes tour of some of the observatories on Kitt Peak. You’ll get to see places off limits to visitors and learn about some of the different telescopes and the research astronomers are doing. Frank will provide transportation and a picnic lunch and you’ll have the bonus of escaping the Tucson heat! The tour lasts from 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM. Frank can accommodate 3 people. Cost is $50 per person, payable by check to UUCT. Contact Frank at fvaldes@cox.net or 318-8219.

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 April 17th at 5 pm and the publication date is April 25th.

Call to UUCT Members and Friends Artists:

UUCT Members and Friends Artists may submit work in any two-dimensional media (Except Photography) to be exhibited in the All Member and Friends Show from Sunday, May 13th through Sunday, June 3rd in Holland Hall. Bring artwork to church Sanctuary on May 8th at 9:30. For any additional information, email Margot Garcia at mgarcia@vcu.edu or Carolyn Cooper at cacoop@comcast.net.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson
4831 East Twenty-second Street
Tucson, AZ 85711
www.uuctucson.org
office@uuctucson.org
520-748-1551