The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson
Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.
www.uuctucson.org

From the Minister’s Study

The monthly theme for October is **Covenant**. Following September’s theme of **Freedom**, we are moving from the unbound into the bound, finding ourselves at the heart of paradox. To paraphrase Harvard Law professor John MacArthur Maguire, covenants are “the wise restraints that set us free.”

A covenant is a special kind of promise or agreement. It has a sacred quality. The intent is to uphold and uplift that which is inviolable. It protects and strengthens that which we hold as most precious in our lives. The making of a covenant is a life-affirming act.

The role of covenant is central in Unitarian Universalist heritage and tradition. In a non-creedal faith such as ours, it is the spirit of covenant that holds us together. Without commonly held beliefs among us, it is our mutual agreements that form the connective threads of community.

When covenants are broken, relationships can be repaired and restored. As Jewish theologian Martin Buber once said, “the human being, as such, is the promise-making, promise-keeping, promise-breaking, promise-renewing creature.”

Covenants live and grow and breathe just as we do. Covenants do not demand perfection. They invite us to begin again, even when we have failed. A broken covenant is an opportunity for renegotiation. A renegotiated covenant can recognize the ways we have grown and changed. The process of renegotiation can establish an even firmer foundation than what existed before – more honest, more realistic.

A covenant is always mutual. Each person who enters the covenant has equal responsibility and accountability for upholding the agreements. When two people enter into a marriage or committed relationship, vows are exchanged. This is probably the most universally recognized form of covenant. In order for a loving partnership to endure over time, we must consider not only our own well-being, but the well-being of another person. And so it is with all covenants.

A covenant always invites us to live from the best of who we are. It holds our highest ideals and deepest values. There is a transcendent quality that stretches us beyond our own self-interest in order to engage with life more fully. A covenant, wholly embraced as a way of life, engenders certain virtues that add to the quality of life: patience, forgiveness, generosity, and humility, to name just a few.

In the spirit of covenant, Diane

From the Board of Trustees

Mark your calendars for October 28 at 12:15pm. The quarterly informational meeting scheduled by the Board of Trustees on that date will be a called Congregational Meeting. The agenda will include items requiring a vote, so please plan to attend.

Peg Smith, President
UUCT Board of Trustees

Upcoming Services:

**Sunday, October 14**
**Promises**
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Unitarian Universalism is rooted in a theology of covenant. A covenant is a sacred promise. What promises do we make to each other? How do we respond when promises are inevitably broken? What strength can we find in the renewal of covenant from a place of honest expectations?
Worship Associate: Steve Kraynak
Music: Desert Chorale

**Sunday, October 21**
**The Challenge of Covenants**
Christiane Heyde
As UUs and members of this congregation, our connections to each other are based on covenants. Covenants have been the historical foundation of Unitarians in this country for centuries, and they are a vital part of our religious community. They can be empowering as well as challenging.
Worship Associate: Steve Kraynak
Music: Leeza Beryeva

**Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00pm**
**Midweek Alternative Worship—Samhain**

**Sunday, October 28**
**Lay-led**
Worship Associate: Gilbert Moore
Music: Desert Chorale
Intern Contemplations

The first half of October is a time of advocacy and community connection. There are many events I usually participate in: Pride in the Desert involves a Multi-faith service, a Pride parade, and a Pride Festival. As a lesbian UU, I enjoy walking with my UU friends in the parade and help staff the UU booth. Please consider joining your fellow UUs from Mountain Vista UU (Northwest Tucson) in the parade and at the booth this year.

The annual AIDS Walk is one my family and I have participated in for a couple of decades now. We used to walk with our oldest daughter, Hanna, who was born HIV positive in the 1970s, and whom I adopted in the mid 80s. After she passed away in the year 2000, we have been walking in her memory and visit her AIDS quilt there each October.

This year, both the AIDS Walk and the Pride events have changed drastically. They used to be separate, almost secluded events. The AIDS walk was held at the Rillito Raceway location for years, quite invisible to the rest of Tucson. Even when they changed their location to the U of A mall, even that space was almost abandoned on Sunday mornings by anyone but the AIDS walk participants. They have now scheduled themselves to coincide with Tucson Meet Yourself in downtown Tucson.

The Pride Festival has done the same. Rather than meet in an enclosed area in Reid Park or more recently at the GE park, where admission was required to see the booths and participate in activities, they also scheduled themselves to be downtown at Tucson Meet Yourself. It appears that those affected by HIV and AIDS are no longer separate, and neither is the LBGTQ community. We are joining the main stream of Tucson quite visibly. AIDS issues and LGBTQ issues are everyone’s issues. They belong smack downtown, with everyone else. No separate venues, no fences, but inclusion.

That is our goal as a Welcoming congregation as well, right? LGBTQ issues are not just relevant for Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people. They are important to straight people as well. If any of us get discriminated against, all of us suffer. If anyone is not welcomed in our congregation, none of us are in integrity.

I want to invite everyone at UUCT to participate in witness and support. Please let me know if you want to meet me at the AIDS Walk on October 14, or sponsor me at http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/christiane-s-heyde/aidswalk-tucson-2012. If you want to see a 2 minute video about Pride, please check out this link: https://www.tucsonpride.org/2012. UU minister Rev. Karla Brockie briefly speaks in it, and yes, that is me next to her holding a UU banner.

Please let me know if you would like to walk in the Pride Parade or staff the booth. Mountain Vista UU has already paid the registration and booth fees, and they would love it if we would join them. You do not need to be part of the LGBTQ community to do so. The whole idea is to be ONE community and support one another.

Thanks for being such an amazing and welcoming church!

Love and Blessings,
Christiane Heyde, ministerial intern
csheyde@msn.com, 393-9960

Music Volunteer Recognition:

Today, I’d like to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of Helen Koenig as the Desert Chorale’s music librarian. She arrives to every practice or church service early, often leaves after everyone else, and spends another day or two each year just making sure that the choir’s music is in order. I would estimate that she saves the church several $100 a year by ensuring that we don’t lose music, but what she does to increase the fellowship of the members of the choir is even more valuable. She helps to make sure that everyone has their own music when they sing; that is, her volunteering helps for choir members, new and old, to know they belong. Thank you, Helen!

Brian Moon
Music Director, UUCT

UUCT Annual Yard/Book Sale

Donations to the November 2 & 3, 2012 combined book and yard sale are needed. As you clean out, please save jewelry, collectibles/antiques, small appliances in working order, kitchen/bathroom items, plants/pots, garden tools, camping supplies, clean clothing and especially, books, books, books. Large ticket donations, such as furniture for inside and outdoors sell well. You may bring boxes, marked “Yard Sale,” to the church on Sundays and place them in Goddard Hall. Or, kindly store items until the week of the sale.

A truck and car will be available to help with picking up items for the sale. To ensure you are on the schedule, call Beth (881-0633). Volunteer in Goddard after church, or call Beth. Set-up will start on Tuesday, October 30 and continue on October 31 and November 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ATTENTION!!!!

Starting Sunday November 4, there will no longer be ANY announcements printed in the Order of Service (OOS). The OOS will only be for the worship service from that point forward. This decision was not made lightly and has been talked about for many years. There are several good reasons for this but the main one is: it has become impossible to grant everyone’s request for announcements to be printed on the back of the OOS, even with severe editing. It is a really a happy problem because, we have so many exciting things happening! (Also, the Power Point announcements will be shortened as well for clarity. There will be more about the Power Point guidelines in the next newsletter.)

*How do we do this?* Well, you are welcome to make your own flyers and have them available in Goddard Hall after service. You may also come in early on Sunday to set up an information table in Goddard Hall. And, you may use the information kiosk that is outside of Goddard and Holland on Sundays. If you have questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Executive Team.

Reverend Diane Dowgiert, Mary Wiese, Heather Reed, and Thelma Ghigliotty-Diaz

### October Share the Plate Recipient: ProMex Group

**Sunday, October 14th is Share the Plate Sunday.** Half of all non-pledge income in the plate will be shared with ProMex Group. ProMex Group is a sustainable non-profit organization that strives to alleviate poverty and economically forced migration by providing disadvantaged Mexicans with access to capital and education to grow businesses in northern border cities of Mexico.

Small loans (both group and individual), free health services, and savings, business, and health education are provided to enable people to grow sustainable businesses and improve the lives of participants, their families, and communities.

*ProMex Group is offering small group tours of up to 11 people each.* Groups will carpool from Tucson one Saturday a month departing at 10:00am with an estimated return time of 5:00pm. Each group will visit the ProMex Group Nogales, Sonora, office and staff and visit several borrowers. The cost is $25 per person to cover van rental and lunch. You will need a valid passport to return to the USA. Please contact ProMex Group ([www.promexgroup.org](http://www.promexgroup.org); 520-979-2213) if you would like to sign up.

Parking

Reserved staff parking, to the west of the Awareness building, will be used Monday – Friday only. On Saturday and Sunday, those spaces will be granted on a first come first served basis.

### Buildings and Grounds

**Saturday, Oct. 13th, 8 am-Noon**

The B&G Committee has been meeting recently to discuss a variety of issues on our Campus. One idea that has come up is to revitalize our once-a-month Saturday “Work-Morning.” In the past we have enjoyed some coffee and donuts together—AND the fun of sprucing up areas around the church from 8-Noon or so. We will get started on Saturday, October 13. If interested, call Judy Dare, B&G Committee Member at 624-9272.

**Simple Steps to Happiness**

Our intern Minister Christiane Heyde has beginning her adult education course Tuesdays 7 – 8:30 PM. The class will continue for 6 consecutive Tuesdays (Oct. 9-Nov. 13). While it is recommended to attend all 6 classes, please feel free to come when you can. If you contact Christiane ahead of time, she can e-mail you what you missed. ([csheyde@msn.com](mailto:csheyde@msn.com))

The course will be held in the Awareness Room, and the suggested donation for each class is $5. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Please feel free to connect with Christiane if you have any questions.

**Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board:**

Submitted by Mary Wiese,
Membership and Community Life Administrator:

mwiese@uuctucson.org

Please join us at Interfaith Solar Day. Our congregation will be represented as one the local houses of worship that have gone solar. The event will be held on Sunday October 14, at Temple Emanu-El, 225 N Country Club Rd. The time for the event is 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information about the event, please contact Mary Wiese. Flyers will be available at church.

**New UU Class:**

The New UU program addresses the needs of newcomers who want to know more about whom we are and what we believe. It gives newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. The first session will begin Sunday November 4, 11:45 - 1:00. Classes will continue until Sunday November 25. The second session will be offered on Tuesday evenings beginning January, 8 and continuing until January, 29. Childcare is available. Please contact Mary Wiese to sign up or for more details. mwiese@uuctucson.org

**Girls Night Out** –This group provides an opportunity for women to share issues, concerns, and celebrations, allowing everyone to engage in supportive conversation about what is most central in their lives. It is open to any adult (18+) who identifies as female. Join us for our next Girl's Night Out October 26 6:30-8:30 PM. at Bison Witches Bar and Grill. 326 N 4th Ave Tucson, AZ 85705. RSVP to khogue@uuctucson.org and hreed@uuctucson.org for childcare.
FUUN-raiser’s Corner

SWEET TOMATOES OCTOBER 29th

No tricks about this deal, only treats as you, your family & friends enjoy a healthy and delicious meal at the Broadway location of Sweet Tomatoes, and UUCT earns 20% of whatever is spent that night. Just present a flyer (available at church Sunday October 28th or on the UUCT website), and purchase dinner and a beverage for each person in your party. Monday night October 29th from 5-8 PM!

The Book Club is reading, "Things I've Been Silent About" By Azar Nafisi, which spans the time of the Shah and later Ayatollah Khomeini and his successors. It’s also a story of mothers and daughters. All are welcome. Thursday Oct. 18 at 7PM, in the Awareness Room. Call Lois 991-5350 for questions and to reserve free childcare.

UUCT October Artist of the Month Gallery
Southwest images by Deb Bagoy Skinner

The opening reception for local artist, Deb Bagoy Skinner, will be on October 14th at 11:45 am in Holland Hall. Deb is a multi-media artist, focusing on regional southwest themes. She paints on canvas, using acrylics and watercolors, as well as wall murals, hand painted furniture, glass, and glass pendants. Come meet Deb and enjoy the show. Refreshments will be served. The Gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 pm Wednesday through Friday, on Tuesday, by appointment only, and Sunday, 11:30-1 pm. The show runs through Sunday, November 4.