Christiane’s Contemplations

The new year has begun, and we may have engaged in a time of reviewing the last, and anticipating the new. In that process we get in touch with our dreams, our hopes, and — alas — our disappointments. As humans, we have a tendency to create expectations, and then we may get quite upset when these are not met. It is almost like building a beautiful box for the life we expect to come our way, and then feeling quite frustrated when life refuses to fit into our box, which we so lovingly and diligently prepared for it.

As we begin yet another new year, I am looking back and noticing that my expectations tend to set me up for disappointments, and those disappointments can set me up for long held resentments. And those can hurt. You may have heard the phrase, “Resentments are like drinking poison and expecting the other person to drop dead.” Yes, they can hurt us more than others, but have the potential of harming relationships, including church communities.

Before I made resolutions for the new year, I needed to review my old ones, and retire those which are no longer useful. This review always includes forgiving myself, and forgiving others for not meeting expectations I had, and even forgiving life for not cooperating with my well laid out plans. Once I have made peace with myself and others and with life as it happened, I can approach the coming year with openness and hope, allowing room for my dreams and hopes, but at the same time leaving space and acceptance for the surprises life is sure to hold for me and for us in the year 2013.

Once there is openness and acceptance, gratitude arises within. I am grateful for this amazing church community, and I am thankful that I get to spend more time with you this year. I look forward to many sweet connections and the inevitable surprises!

With Love and Blessings,
Christiane Heyde

Intern Minister and Sabbatical Minister
January 7-March 31, 2013
From the Minister’s Study

On January 6, 2013, Rev. Diane presented a sermon and shared the sabbatical covenant with our sabbatical minister Christiane Heyde and the congregation. She will be on sabbatical leave from 1/7/2013 to 4/1/2013.

Sabbatical Covenant

A covenant is a sacred agreement, an expression of how we intend to live out our highest hopes and best intentions. I invite Peg Smith, president of your Board of Trustees, and Christiane Heyde, your Sabbatical Minister, to come forward as we make a Sabbatical Covenant together.

Rev. Diane:

As I am leaving for my sabbatical leave, I pledge to the congregation to use the next three months for the pursuit of pastoral and spiritual renewal. I am very grateful for this opportunity and I promise that I will return in April to resume my ministerial obligations. I hope to return renewed and refreshed, and to share my new perspective with you after my sabbatical leave. Christiane, I covenant to place my full trust in you and to leave you in charge, without regret or checking up on you during my absence. I have provided you with all of the knowledge and resources you will need and now turn the spiritual and executive leadership of the congregation over to you.

Christiane:

I covenant with this congregation and with Rev. Diane to step in as the sabbatical minister of this congregation. I agree to be the spiritual leader and executive in this congregation for the next three months. I will lead worship services and give sermons, challenge and guide the congregation’s spiritual focus, provide pastoral care and counseling, conduct any special services as needed, and help represent Unitarian Universalism in our community. I covenant to be mindful of the congregation’s history and traditions, and the need for ongoing health and stability of this church. Diane, I promise to do my best to take care of your church in your absence. I will love and honor its congregants and staff. I look forward to handing back this wonderful congregation in good shape upon your return in April.

Peg:

Will the congregation please join me in reading our part of the covenant.

Congregation:

During this sabbatical time, we honor our letter of agreement with Rev. Diane by supporting her to take this sabbatical leave for pastoral and spiritual renewal. We trust her choice of sabbatical minister and will support this church to stay stable and healthy in Rev. Diane’s absence.

We grant Christiane the full authority of the ministry, which includes the freedom of the pulpit, as well as the right to healthy boundaries and ongoing self-care. We will honor our covenant of right relations and share any complaints only with the person it concerns, treating all congregants as well as our sabbatical minister and our settled minister with care and respect.

Italian Holiday March 2!

The annual UUCT Auction, our largest single fundraiser, is coming soon. Given our financial situation, the auction is especially important this year. You can help in a number of ways:

- **Volunteer** to help before, during, or after the auction.
- **Attend** the auction. $10 admission includes an Italian dinner. Child care available, and activities for kids.
- **Donate** something: can’t think of anything? Here are some ideas:
  - a MEAL – most often dinner, but how about a picnic, brunch, afternoon tea?
  - Can’t do a meal in your home? How about offering to COOK, or assist in cooking and serving a meal in someone else’s home for guests of their choice?
  - HOMEMADE jam, bread, dessert, etc. Offer your specialty. Buyer’s choice of when, with appropriate notice.
  - a RIDE to and from the AIRPORT
  - TRANSPORTATION for someone who can’t drive…to doctor’s appointments, for ex.
  - HOUSESITTING or PETSITTING for someone on vacation?
  - TUTORING
  - Several hours of WHATEVER YOU DO BEST, e.g. washing windows, garden work, house cleaning, massage, household repairs, auto repairs, closet or desk organizing, trip planning, shopping assistance, etc
  - An OUTING, such as a MOVIE NIGHT, including transportation, movie ticket, popcorn or other snack for 1, 2, or 3 others.
  - Or, a MOVIE NIGHT IN YOUR HOME – buyer’s choice of film. Or you pick a favorite, maybe Looney Tune cartoons, or Humphrey Bogart. Serve dessert.

The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination! Of course, we also welcome donations of gift certificates, artwork, etc. To volunteer, buy a ticket, or donate, come to the auction table in Goddard Hall after the Sunday service. Or contact Bob Gordon (bobgordonrg66@gmail.com, 329-8242) or Jan Dowling (rubytues98@hotmail.com, 748-9503.)
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Saturday- January 19th from 8 AM – 5 PM, Mental Health First Aid USA will offer an 8 hour course focused on helping youth (ages 12-18) who may be experiencing a mental health challenge or in a crisis.

The course is designed for adults whom regularly interact with adolescents, and older adolescents so as to encourage youth peer to peer interaction. Anyone who regularly works or interacts with youth – teachers, athletic coaches, mentors, juvenile justice professionals. For more information and to sign up, stop by the LFD table.

Radical Hospitality Event

Mark your calendar for January 26th, the date of an exciting new presentation/discussion on creating a welcoming and inclusive congregation. The family gathering will include a potluck, childcare and a lively dialogue about avoiding a revolving door for newcomers, from initial greeting to facilitation of church guests into engagement and participation that leads to eventual membership. Bring a dish, thoughts and experiences at 4:30 p.m., ending by 7:00 p.m., to this Saturday evening event which is being hosted by the Leadership and Membership Committees.

BUY THE NEW "BORDER SONGS" CD's, HELP SAVE LIVES!

The new "Border Songs" 2-CD set, with 30 border songs by Sweet Honey in the Rock, Pete Seeger and many others, is available for $20 at the No More Deaths table in Goddard Hall after the Sunday service. All funds will go to buy bottled water, food and medical supplies to save human lives in the desert.

UUCT IMMIGRANT RIGHTS GROUP TO MEET ON JANUARY 27

The Immigrant Rights Working Group will meet at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, January 27, in the Awareness Room. We will decide which issues to focus on this winter/spring. If you have anything you want on the agenda, please contact Leila Pine, chair, by Jan. 22 at sabinosanctuary@gmail.com

The Newest UUA Curriculum on Reproductive Justice will be presented at UUCT by our sabbatical minister Christiane Heyde on Monday evenings, 6 – 8 PM.

Class dates:
The class will be held at UU Church of Tucson, 4831 E. 22nd St, in the Awareness Room.

Please plan on attending all 6 classes.

Family and Friends Committee

We at UUCT are committed to being a true intergenerational community. In order to accomplish our goal of bringing “Generations Together” we are seeking to form a Family and Friends Committee. This committee will focus on:

• Building community within the church
• Advocating for the inclusion of families in the larger life of the church
• Developing social concerns activities for families and children
• Strengthening ties between younger children and older youth
• Building connections between older adults and families with children in the religious education program

During the church year, the Families Committee sponsors or co-sponsors various activities, which are designed in part to allow for the development of intergenerational connections between adults, children, youth and families. Information about sponsored events will be publicized in the church newsletter, "e-nnouncements," and on the church website.
Book Club

Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Awareness Room. For January we will be reading “The Greater Journey” by David McCullough, which is about Americas’ best and brightest seeking to learn in Paris during the years 1830-1900. Free childcare is available if requested in advance. Contact Lois Atkins 991-5351

To all you wonderful people who send get-well cards and encouragement, I say a big THANK YOU! Your caring means the world to me. I hope to see you soon.  
Marcia Schenck  
Alliance

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 January 15th at 5 pm and the publication date is January 23rd.

UUCT January Artist of the Month Gallery presents: Local Artists: Rand Carlson, Barbara Brandel and Sara Spanjers

The opening reception for artists, Rand Carlson, Barbara Brandel, and Sara Spanjers will be on January 13th at 11:45 am in Holland. These artists all work in mixed media, using recycled or found objects. Their work is colorful, unique and fun. Come meet Rand, Barbara and Sara 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, February 3rd.

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