From the Minister’s Study: Christiane’s Contemplations

Love is in the Air – it’s February. Valentine’s Day is approaching, and our theme for this month is Love, which will be addressed in sermons and covenant groups. As I am writing this, I am in the middle of preparing a sermon, a memorial service, and a wedding. All of them are about Love, and so is the rest of the work of this church.

Whether we honor our loved ones who died, or make a commitment to our loved ones here with us, whatever our connection with church staff or board or committees, we are here because we love. We love our UU principles that remind us to honor our worth and dignity, and that of those around us. We are reminded to love our planet and the interdependent web of all existence. As we work for justice, in so many diverse ways in this church, we let love for those who are disadvantaged be our guide.

I always look forward to Sundays, when I get to see so many of you coming to our service, because I love our worship services together. I have grown to love the staff and congregation in this church, and I love working with you and for you. Thank you for the many ways you have welcomed me.

With gratitude and love,
Christiane Heyde
Sabbatical Minister (January through March) 393-9960, csheyde@msn.com

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, February 17, 10:30 a.m.
Evolution as Our Sacred Story*
Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
Unitarian Universalists in general value education and the results of science as we wrestle with what we can authentically believe. Some say that evolution is the creation myth of our time… Could it be that evolution is our sacred story?
Worship Associate: Gilbert Moore
*This Sunday is Share the Plate Sunday. Half of all non-pledge income will be shared with Interfaith Community Services. Thank you for your generous support!

Last church year Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings served as ministerial intern at both the UU Church of Surprise and Arizona Interfaith Power & Light (AZIPL), an interfaith environmental ministry. In May she received her MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School. Presently Lisa is the Tucson Director for AZIPL. She will be ordained by our church (UUCT) on Sunday April 7th. All are invited!

Sunday, February 24, 10:30 a.m.
All Music Sunday: Ministering with Music
Brian Moon
Don’t miss our annual All Music Sunday. The musicians of the church are preparing a thoughtful service that examines how music can heal us, help us, and build community. The Desert Chorale, Front Porch, several instrumentalists and singers will provide music.
Worship Associate: Celeste Rogers

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.
Alternative Worship
In our alternative services, we explore a variety of ways to worship and celebrate different spiritual paths. This month, Christiane Heyde will teach us about mantra repetition and chanting in Sanskrit, as we gather in the Sanctuary. Please join us!
From the President of the Board of Trustees

Current Financial Status: Those who attended the January 26 Town Hall know that we are in a much better place than we were in October. During the fiscal quarter ending on December 31 the budget gap was greatly reduced, and a contingency plan was announced should the gap again increase to an unacceptable level. Following the October Called Meeting, at which the congregation was unable to vote on budget gap measures, the board, the staff, and a board ad hoc committee chaired by John Schaefer began implementing alternative measures. Income went up because members increased pledges by approximately $1,000 and made one-time contributions. Expenses in the budget were decreased, across the board, by staff. Some reduced expenses were realized in the music department because of Agnes’s unfortunate accident.

In addition, a long-time congregant, Jean Hanson, remembered the UUCT in her will and provided a bequest to be “used as needed.” The board decided that it would not be used to cover shortfall in the operating budget. It is being used to replace two HVAC units as well as some other repairs - all of which are seriously impacting rental income. Part of the bequest was also used to pay off the almost $15,000 debt on the line of credit, in large part incurred as a result of critical and unfunded maintenance costs. The savings in interest on the line of credit is approximately $100 per month. The remainder of the bequest has been placed in a restricted fund and we are currently formulating a policy to govern its future use.

The budget gap at the end of December was about $3,000, which the board considers within acceptable tolerance: about 1% of the total budget. If the gap should, for any reason, begin to increase, and if we project a gap of $6,000 or more by the end of the fiscal year, the board will, sometime during the last quarter (April, May, June), completely shut down the church for a period of two weeks. All on-campus activities except those required by contract with the church for the national and district UU organizations (UUA, PSWD) cannot be sustained into another year without lasting damage to the church. We know that all of us are “keepers of the dream” and take that solemn responsibility seriously. To define that dream, put a name to it, the board’s ad hoc committee for strategic planning needs your input. The new Strategic Plan presented at the annual meeting in May must reflect a dream that all of the membership have helped to define and all are excited to make happen. Additionally, the board is now at work planning next year’s budget. We must have a realistic idea of how much has been pledged to fund that budget before it is presented to the congregation. Please return your pledges as soon as you possibly can.

As you consider how much you will give, please reflect on the following:
1. The budget for the current fiscal year was already at austerity levels and was not fully funded.
2. That same budget, now with these additional cuts, most certainly cannot be sustained into another year without lasting damage to the health and growth of the church.
3. The Board of Trustees will present a balanced budget at the annual meeting in May.
4. The new budget, in the carefully considered opinion of your board, must at least include: an external audit of the church books, increased funding for campus maintenance, and full fair-share dues for the national and district UU organizations (UUA, PSWD).

From the President of the Board of Trustees Continued

In other words, we must increase pledging to sustain ourselves. This request is not made lightly. Please know that due diligence has been done to realistically and responsibly manage the costs of running this church. It is important that we not only increase pledging to pay utility bills, buy supplies, fix leaky faucets, but to grow the membership, programs, and outreach of this church.

As your president I would not ask you to follow if I were not leading. I have been increasing my pledge by small amounts for the last 5 years and this year have reached my goal of “Visionary.” I believe in this church community, its people, and its dream. The dream is the mission. The mission belongs to all of us. Please. Enthusiastically help with the new Strategic Plan. Just as enthusiastically contribute to its implementation. Be a dream keeper.

In faith,
Peg Smith, President
UUCT BOT

The Strategic Plan Committee wants to know about your wishes, dreams and goals for the next five years for our UUCT community. Please share your thoughts via the email or paper survey that you have received.

ITALIAN CARNIVAL-ANNUAL UUCT AUCTION
March 2, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

The annual UUCT Auction, our largest single fundraiser, themed around Italian Carnival this year, will be held on March 2, 2013 in Goddard. The auction committee has been hard at work on this event and all we need is your participation to make it our most successful yet. The evening promises to be the church social event of the year! Wondering what you can do?

- Most important: Buy a ticket, attend the auction and bid! There will be both a silent and a live auction, featuring our own Chaz McBride and Bill Keyes as auctioneers. Tickets are on sale at the auction table in Goddard each Sunday. The price is $10 per person or $15 per couple. While browsing the auction tables, you will nibble on Italian finger foods and dessert. Beer, wine and Italian soda will be available by donation. (Child care is available, along with activities for kids.) Tickets may also be purchased at the door before the auction.
- Buy raffle tickets for 2 Mata Ortiz pots (photos on UUCT web site) and/or the 50/50 raffle.
- Volunteer to help during or after the auction. Sign-up sheets for both set-up and volunteer needs the night of the auction can be found at the auction table each Sunday.
- Donate something…a service, a gift certificate from a business you patronize, a dinner, a tour, a hike, a work of art, a gift basket. The possibilities are endless! Donation forms are available at the Auction Table or you can access the donation form on the church web site. February 10 will be the deadline for items that can be published in the auction booklet. Any donations received after that point are welcome but cannot be included in the published booklet.

If you are too busy after church on Sundays to get to the Auction Table, you may contact Bob Gordon (bobgordon@66@gmail.com, or 329-8242) or Jan Dowling (rubytues98@hotmail.com, or 748-9503), co-chairs for this event for further information, to donate or to purchase tickets.
It’s Election Time at UUCT!

The Nominating Committee and Leadership Development Team (NCLDT) has begun its process of identifying and recruiting people to run for elected positions which will be voted on at the May 5th 2013 Annual Meeting. All terms begin July 1st. We seek the advice of our congregational President and appropriate staff before finalizing our nominations.

We are recruiting for Vice President of Finance (a board position), an additional member of the Board of Trustees, three positions for NCLDT, and two Committee on Ministry positions. If you have questions or are interested in serving in any of these important and rewarding elected positions please let us know soon.

Additional nominations by the congregation are allowed according to the bylaws using the following process: a petition with the signature of at least twenty members and the nominee’s agreement would need to be submitted to the NCLDT by April 18th so that the congregation could be notified by mail two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

NCLDT Committee
Chris Wallace (chair): lemmonhiker@gmail.com
Janet Moore: riverhawk@dakotacom.net
Pat McDaniel: pjmcdan1@yahoo.com
Sandy Cochran: mscochran@cox.net
Beth Britton: beth.britton@hotmail.com
Janie Foy: foyjanie@hotmail.com

Radical Hospitality Continues - Leadership Development Team

Our recent Radical Hospitality presentation/potluck was a success. The book, Radical Hospitality by Homan and Pratt, laid the spiritual groundwork for the event. We watched a DVD produced by the Jefferson UU Church in Colorado and discussed things we already do that are welcoming to newcomers and things we could do differently. The church has copies of both the book and DVD if you are interested.

What we do now:
Minister/worship associate welcome people entering sanctuary.
Greeting table in foyer with volunteers who make name tags for visitors. Welcome your neighbor and welcome newcomers stand to be recognized.
Yellow cards in hymnal for newcomers information.
Welcome table to front of Goddard Hall after service.
Sundays Together Lunch for socializing/free lunch to first-time visitors.
Well-defined Pathway to Membership outlined on website.

Some experiences of newcomers:
Nobody says hello or goodbye.
Newcomers are warmly greeted the first time but not beyond.
Lunch is good but people sit with friends and it’s difficult for visitors to join.

Ideas for Improvement:
Everyone’s responsibility to intentionally seek out newcomers.
Welcomers could wear an identifying item like a sash.
Need volunteers to do phone follow-ups.
Place yellow cards in other places such as foyer or back of chairs.
Have people in foyer to talk to fast exiters.
Encourage all to wear name badges.

Joy and Sorrow

Our long time church member Lois Putzier died in her sleep in the early morning hours of February 5. Her husband Jerry Wharton and Lois’ nieces asked our sabbatical minister Christiane Heyde to hold a memorial service at UUCT on Saturday, February 9th. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend. Lois lived a life of social activism and passion for justice. Before she died, Lois declared in the words of labor activist Joe Hill: “Don’t mourn, Organize!”

Save the Date:
Our very own Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings will be ordained by our congregation at UUCT on Sunday, April 7, in the afternoon. All are invited, and details will follow.

Lifespan Faith Development
Kathleen Hogue, Lifespan Faith Development Director
khogue@uuctucson.org

Wanted: Stage Hand, Costumer
To help with staging logistics, sound, props, curtain and set for the play in May. Costuming help needed for our play. If you are good at figuring out easy, low cost costuming, please let us know.

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

Please contact Kathleen to become involved.

Saturday, April 13, 2013
8:00a-5:00p in Goddard Hall
Mental Health First Aid Youth Workshop
Mental Health First Aid is a groundbreaking public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.
Youth Mental Health First Aid is a public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and most importantly – teaches individuals how to help a youth in crisis or experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

PLEASE SIGN UP at the LFD table in Goddard Hall.
Childcare provided. Please bring a bagged lunch.

Joys and Sorrows

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Save the Date:
Our very own Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings will be ordained by our congregation at UUCT on Sunday, April 7, in the afternoon. All are invited, and details will follow.
It's Pledge Time! Most of you received a year end statement and a new pledge form for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, in the mail a few weeks ago. Many of you have already returned your new pledge forms and we thank you! There is a box to drop off the completed forms at the Welcoming table in Goddard Hall. There are also extra forms available at the table. If you have any questions regarding the pledge drive, please feel free to contact the office and a member of the canvass team will contact you.

Photo Directory Volunteers Needed—It’s been several years since UUCT has had a photo directory made. We have been in contact with a company who will take individual and family portraits and put together a photo directory for the church. However, this is a big project and we’ll need 3 committed volunteers to form a Photo Directory Committee. If you are interested, please contact the office. If we don’t get 3 volunteers we will not be able to have the photo directory made.

Ushers Needed! UUCT needs volunteers to serve as ushers for services on the fifth Sunday of each month and as substitutes. These positions are a great opportunity to be more connected with the congregation and fill a very important and ongoing need. Please contact Mary Wiese in person after Sunday Services at the Welcoming Table or send an email to: mwiese@uuctucson.org.

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 February 19th at 5 pm and the publication date is February 27th.

Update from UUCT's Immigrant Rights Working Group: We are co-sponsoring the "National Day of Action to End Operation Streamline" and ask you to join us in attending a news conference at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, in front of the Federal Building at the NW corner of Congress and Granada. We will join No More Deaths, the Samaritans, Coalition of Derechos Humanos, the Quakers, the ACLU, Human Rights Watch and many more in this effort. Please just show up to join us, or contact Leila at sabinosanctary@gmail.com for more information.

Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 7PM in the Awareness Room. For March we’ll read “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers. It is her greatest work, just as timely today as when it was written in 1940. Call ahead for sitters or questions, LOIS 991-5350.