From the Minister’s Study:  
Christiane’s Contemplations

When we attend our Unitarian Universalist Church, and even when we work here, it is easy to get the feeling that we are all alone out here—a liberal religious island in the wilderness. As I am writing this, the last 48 hours proved me wrong in many ways. I and we have done more connecting in a short period of time than I imagined possible.

The UU day at the legislature has been revived, and 10 AZ congregations sent 144 people, including at least 7 ministers, to Phoenix on February 18th, to meet with our state representatives and senators and address issues of health care, education, and immigration. Afterwards, we met at UU Church of Phoenix and shared our experiences while getting closer to establishing an Arizona Legislative Ministry together. It was a powerful event, and I am not only grateful for the many UUs with whom I connected, but some of our amazing and inspiring politicians.

The next day I faced a dilemma. I had long scheduled to meet with our cluster group of AZ UU staff and clergy in Chandler, which was meaningful and supportive, but that meant that I missed the press conference downtown to End Operation Streamline, the current immigration policy which causes dozens of immigrants a day to be arrested and detained. I am glad that many from our congregation participated, and I am proud that not just one but two of our ministries sponsored this event, the Immigrant Rights Working Group as well as No More Deaths. I was also touched that many UU churches from as far away as Phoenix and Prescott as well as countless human rights organizations joined us in our protest by co-sponsoring the event.

We are connected, part of a dynamic community, and we cannot afford to give in to our illusion of isolation and separateness. We are most effective in our ministry when we nurture the external connections while strengthening our own congregation internally. The latter is easy to do as well, since we just started our pledge drive for the year. While our fiscal year does not start until July 1, we will firm up our budget within a few weeks, so we need to know what you are willing to contribute.

My dream is that this congregation will have a balanced budget that includes enough money for an audit, an intern, paying our fair share to the UUA and district, and continuing our many church programs. Please pledge generously and return your pledge forms quickly. In addition, one of the most entertaining ways to support our congregation is to attend our “Carnevale in Venice” auction on March 2nd. I won’t miss it, and I hope to see you there! Thank you so much for all you do and are at UU Church of Tucson. You continue to amaze and inspire me.

With much Love and Gratitude,

Christiane Heyde, Sabbatical Minister
esheyde@msn.com, 393-9960

Upcoming Services:

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!

Sunday, March 3, 10:30 a.m.
The Paradox of Powerlessness
Christiane Heyde

In the month of March, we begin to explore the theme of brokenness. Christiane is starting us out by exploring how to face our human limitations and do so in an empowering way. Walker Smith will be worship associate.

Sunday, March 10, 10:30 a.m.
The Beauty of Brokenness
Ron Phares

Ron Phares, the minister of the Northwest congregation Mountain Vista UU, will share a sermon with us. He will address the pressing questions: How does one reconcile the inherent worth and dignity that we each possess with the all too undignified aspects of our lives? What is the promise and the problem with divesting ourselves from the concept of Original Sin? How might vulnerability empower us?

Worship Associate: Carolyn Saunders
From Your Canvass Chair:

Together we are changing the world. The transformations are happening right before our eyes. The shock waves from our social action programs range far and wide in our communities. Our solar array has reduced our carbon footprint and slowed global climate change. This past year, 80 of us were able to participate in, make contributions to, and receive national recognition for our social justice work at our national General Assembly in Phoenix. At home we have a vibrant, engaging religious education program that empowers us all to live our UU values. We must all participate to perpetuate these synergistic forces. Once again our annual pledge drive provides us the opportunity to take part, be involved, and make a difference.

The UUCT 2013/14 Pledge drive Goal is: $295,000 by April 6th

Sounds big, but we do it every year. All we have to do is fill out our pledge form and turn it in by April 6th. Everyone has received the form in the mail with your 2012 statement. If you don’t have one and need one, they can be found in Goddard at the Welcome Table next to the front door. You can pick one up in the office during weekly business hours. We can email one to you if you wish, or you can call me and I will fill it out for you over the phone. Once it is completed, please get it back to the office via email, snail mail, put it in the box next to the front door in Goddard, or give it to any of the pledge drive committee members or staff. Any questions – joys or concerns – you might have, feel free to ask them of our committee members.

Pledge Drive Committee members:
Tom Macon (520) 306-7675
David Burks
Craig McComb
Jim Hannley
Gary Luce

Share the Plate

Half of all non-pledge income on March 17th will be shared with Native Seeds/SEARCH. Native Seeds/SEARCH conserves, distributes and documents the adapted and diverse varieties of agricultural seeds, their wild relatives and the role these seeds play in cultures of the American Southwest and northwest Mexico. They promote the use of these ancient crops and their wild relatives by gathering, safeguarding, and distributing their seeds to farming and gardening communities. For more information about Native Seeds/SEARCH, including how to support them in their work, visit their website http://www.nativeseeds.org/ or come to service on March 17th to hear a brief talk on their organization.

In Honor of Jeri Dwyer and Heidi Parish

The Board of Trustees has acknowledged on behalf of the UUCT congregation a $500 Grant from the Dravenstott Family Charitable Fund of Centennial, Colorado. The designated purpose of the grant is General Operating Expenses.

Italian Carnevale on March 2 at 5:30pm

Don’t miss an exciting evening of fun, food and lots of interesting items available for bid either in the silent or live auction. There will also be a 50/50 drawing—you get 50% of whatever amount has been raised by that evening with the other 50% going to the church—and the raffle of a beautiful black Mata Ortiz pot.

A complete catalog of the items in the auction is available online at www.uuctucson.org. Among the many things available are handyman services, many delicious dinners, transportation services, a Rand Carlson tin collage on wood, wine baskets and multi-media packages to name a few.

In keeping with the Italian theme, you’ll be able to enjoy Italian food, Italian sodas and Italian wines. Tickets, $10 per person or $15 per couple, will be available at the door. Vieni al carnevale italiano e buon divertimento!

Strategic Planning Survey

The strategic planning committee is currently in the process of writing the UUCT 2014 to 2019 Strategic Plan. While we have received worthwhile and important feedback from some of you, we are still interested in hearing from those of you who have not yet responded to the survey. The electronic survey will be closing on March 5th, 2013.

Again, here is the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VFLK8MK

Please note, the survey results are used for strategic planning purposes only. All responses are anonymous unless you would prefer to sign the survey. Paper copies are still available as well in the church office.

Thank you for your time.
The Strategic Planning Committee
Fran Brazzell
Jessica Erickson
Mark Henson
Janet Moore

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!
Town Hall Meeting
March 24th, 2013
12:15pm in Holland Sanctuary

The strategic planning committee will be hosting a town hall meeting on March 24, at 12:15 pm in Holland Sanctuary. We will be presenting the 2014-2019 drafted strategic plan and will be available to answer questions and take comments. The final plan will be voted on at the annual meeting in May.

Alternate worship service?
Try it; you'll like it.
By Gilbert Moore

Should I attend the Wednesday evening alternative worship service at UUCT? Hey, I'm usually a fuddy-duddy at trying new things. And sad to say I'd never been to an alternative service. But I would already be at church for choir practice. So why not?

The service was highly informal, relaxed, thought-provoking, inspiring, and intimate. Our small group sat in a circle, without a podium. Our intern minister, Christiane Heyde, shared an idea-rich, wide-ranging talk that touched on the Devil, the Greek mythological character Pan and spiritual concepts far beyond the bounds of Christianity. Brian Moon sang an old Carter Family country favorite, "Keep on the Sunny Side." And to salute Martin Luther King we walked about the circle singing "We Shall Overcome." Each of us contributed a verse. All in all, time well and delightfully spent. And we were done in 45 minutes.

So my advice is: Try a Wednesday service. You'll probably be as pleased as I was.

(The Alternative Service is the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm.)

UUCT designs and logos needed!

UUCT has a new online store on CafePress! If you're looking for a mousepad or button or shirt or water bottle that supports our congregation, here's the place!

The store just opened, so our design options are limited. We're looking for people who want to donate a design or slogan to the church. We're looking for slogans and designs that represent our congregation, our mission, and our sense of humor. If you're artistically inclined and want to donate some design work, please contact Michael Herman (herman_14@msn.com).
**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.

**Book Club** - March 21 at 7PM in the Awareness Room. We will be reading Michael Cunningham's “The Hours,” a Pulitzer winning novel and film. The story is about three women, at different times, influenced by the novel “Mrs. Dalloway” by Virginia Woolf. Call ahead to request free childcare, Lois 991-5350.

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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 5th at 5 pm and the publication date is March 13th.

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**UU CT Artist of the Month Gallery Show presents:**

**Paintings by Dee Bates**

The opening reception for Dee Bates will be on March 17th at 11:45 AM in Holland Hall. Landscape and abstract artist, she will be displaying paintings, focusing on stillness, intensity of color and exploring shapes and textures. Come meet Dee 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, April 7th.