From the Minister’s Study:
Christiane’s Contemplations

As I am writing this article, I am filled with gratitude. It is spring in Tucson, I have my sermon written for Sunday, and I actually had a Sunday off last weekend. Who could ask for anything more?

Well, actually, I could: I cannot wait for Rev. Diane Dowgiert to come back! This has been a very long three months of sabbatical leave. Yes, I love a challenge, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being the sabbatical minister. Still, I miss her every day. She has such wisdom and experience, and she works a lot more than I am willing to. Many tasks that come to her intuitively are a conscious effort for me, and I am so grateful that she will be back in a few days! I will once again be the ministerial intern, and she will be in charge. Yeah!!!

Internships are a time of learning and practicing, and they are only as effective as the intern supervisor. Rev. Diane has been amazing at that. She has clear boundaries, high expectations, and much to teach me. At the same time, she sees and affirms my strengths, while pushing me into areas where I need to grow more and explore ministry in a different way.

Things have gone well in her absence, to a large degree because she prepared me, as well as her staff and our church committees so well for this sabbatical time. In the fall, she encouraged me to emphasize pastoral care. I visited about 40 congregants within my first three months here. It has so helpful during my sabbatical ministry time to have met and gotten to know these congregation members, especially when some of them had challenges and needed support in her absence. I am so grateful for the way Diane empowered me in my ministry, and I am sure glad she will be back real soon.

I will continue as intern minister for another 3 months, so I will see you around. This is not a good bye, this is a blessed relief and a grateful handing over of the responsibility of this wonderful church to its settled minister.

Thanks to all of you who have been patient and supporting in these months! See you in church!

With Love and Gratitude,
Christiane Heyde, Sabbatical Minister
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Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday
Christiane Heyde
There are many ways to celebrate Easter, and in this family friendly Sunday morning we will explore most of them. Come for a joyful, inspiring, and thought provoking service for all ages. Michelle Maliniak and Agnes Paulson as well as the Desert Chorale and our talented pianist Leeza Beriyeva will provide special music. Kathleen Hogue will lead a couple of activities with our young people, and Christiane will deliver an inspiring Easter sermon.
Worship Associate: Stephen Kraynak

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Pre-forgiven
Our Universalist heritage teaches that we are pre-forgiven. What role then does forgiveness play in our daily lives? What does it mean to forgive and be forgiven?
Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan

Sunday, April 14, 10:30 am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Truth and Reconciliation
To heal the wounds of Apartheid, South Africa established a process for truth and reconciliation. Forgiveness is at the heart of the process. Can the experiences of South Africa serve as a guide for healing our nation? Our world? What would it take?
Worship Associate: Walker Smith
From the President of the Board
Welcome home Rev. Diane!

I am so delighted that spring is here! Even though the winter was relatively mild, I’m glad that now it is finally getting warmer. It seems only yesterday that we were sending Reverend Diane on her way and wishing her well for the first part of her long-postponed sabbatical. She is returning to us the first week in April, and will be in the pulpit on April 7. It is not unusual, during an extended absence of its minister, for a congregation to become lethargic and disjointed. We are so grateful to Rev. Diane that during her absence she provided us with the stabilizing presence of our wonderful intern minister, Christiane. Diane’s creative use of the sabbatical funds not only provided for us in her absence, but allowed us to again host an intern not otherwise funded in our budget. So, please join me and the rest of the Board of Trustees as we happily welcome Rev. Diane home, we gratefully thank Christiane, and we look forward to 3 more months of enjoying the enrichment, inspiration, and excitement of having 2 wonderful, unique spiritual leaders. Some “food for thought” during this time of rebirth and recommitment: Wouldn’t it be amazing if we were to budget for interns every year, and hire a part-time assistant minister? We’ve had a little taste of how energizing that can be...

In faith and gratitude,
Peg Smith, President
Board of Trustees

Regional Assembly and General Assembly News:

It is great to connect with UUs from other churches, and we have two wonderful opportunities to do so this year. Replacing this year’s District Assembly, the first ever Regional Assembly in the UUA will be April 26-28 in San Jose, CA. This gathering of the four western districts includes our Pacific Southwest District. In addition to worship and celebration; opportunities to connect to Unitarian Universalists from across the west; share skills and practices in workshops and leadership tracks, we will hold the annual meeting for the PSWD and Camp deBenneville Pines. There will also be programs for children and youth and we are committed to making this RA open to all. This event promises to be the largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists outside of General Assembly (and less costly). If you are planning to attend I encourage you to make your hotel reservation now and register as soon as possible. If you have any questions contact Ken Brow at uurev@aol.com or Tera Little at tlittle@uua.org. For registration and general information, please check the Pacific Western Region Website.

General Assembly this year will be in Louisville, Kentucky, June 19-23. The theme this year's GA is "From Promise to Commitment." Most events are at the Kentucky International Convention Center. Information about General Assembly is available now at the UUA Website. More importantly, registration and hotel reservations are already open. As many of you know, hotel reservations go fast, so if you want a choice of your hotel and type of room getting on line early on Friday is important. The link to the GA site is http://www.uua.org/ga/ . Let’s have a great UUCT presence at both of these events. If you are a delegate, please contact the church office to confirm and get your delegate credentials before you leave.

Arizona Legislative Ministry

After our successful presence at the UU Day at the Legislature last months, congregations are connecting to work together further to have a voice with the Arizona Legislature from now on. Efforts are on the way to create an organized legislative ministry for the UU’s in the state. At this point, we are connecting more casually to speak out. Our current emphasis is the health care options for Arizona. The UU churches are doing a letter writing campaign to support the federal option, which Gov. Brewer is actually favors, due to the financial incentives, but many representative and senators oppose at this time. Please check out the table in Goddard Hall after the service on Sunday to write a letter. Thank you!
Annual Report- It’s that time of year again! Please submit the completed, final draft of your committee/group’s report by April 1, 2013. Late submissions cannot be accepted and will not be included in the Annual Report. Please contact the office if you need assistance or have questions.

We encourage you to take a look at the new exhibits around the No More Deaths Migrant Altar in the front lobby of the Holland sanctuary, and to help yourself to a yellow flyer to learn all the ways you can support our No More Deaths humanitarian aid ministry, including who to contact to volunteer, meeting dates, etc.

New Tucsonitarian Deadline
We have extended the newsletter deadline to the 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. (previously it was Tuesday at 5 p.m.). We hope this will allow people who work until 5 pm to get their articles and announcements submitted before the deadline. Late submissions will go into the next newsletter.

April’s Share the Plate Recipient
Half of all non-pledge income on the third Sunday this month will be shared with Casa de los Ninos, whose programs are designed to help parents prevent child abuse before it takes place and help children who have been victims of abuse or neglect. For more information about Casa de los Ninos, including volunteer opportunities, visit their website http://www.casadelosninos.org/.

Photo Directory Opportunity – Volunteers Needed – Photo directories are always a wonderful means of learning names and remembering faces, but they take time to assemble. A company has been chosen that could assemble the directory, but it would take at least three volunteers to help make sure as many people as possible showed up in their Sunday best and smiled for the cameras. Contact Ashley in the office if you are interested. If no one volunteers, we’ll wait a few more years and try again.

The deadline for the Tucsonitarian is the first and third Wednesday of each month with publication on the second and fourth Wednesday. The next deadline is April 3rd at 8 am and the publication date is April 10th.