From the Minister’s Study

Autumn is a time of relinquishment and letting go, a time of harvest, when Earth’s bounty is given up as nourishment so that life may continue. Death and loss are woven into the fabric of the season. The deepest mysteries of life are present at this time of year. Each loss holds the seeds of a new beginning. In this season we are beckoned to contemplate the cycles of birth, death, and rebirth.

One of the tasks of religious community is to mark life transitions with ritual and ceremony, making meaning of our shared journey on this small, finite planet. People have been doing so for a very long time, maybe even for as long as humans have inhabited the planet.

Rites of passage are part of human culture, worldwide. There’s a universal recognition of life passages that mark and define our lives: birth, coming of age, partnering (or not), and death. Across cultures, rites of passage include an ordeal or a test.

A caterpillar must give up its caterpillar existence in order to become a butterfly. The transition includes struggle. Tender butterfly wings must beat their way beyond the chrysalis. The struggle strengthens their wings for what comes next.

One of the great privileges of ministry is to be present with people during the final passage of life into death. What I’ve observed is that our western, death-denying culture has a romanticized vision of death: peaceful, pain-free, and surrounded by loved ones.

Not to be the bearer of bad news my friends, but rarely, if ever, is it so. Death is messy, unpredictable, inconvenient, and beyond our control. There’s no escaping the inevitable pain of loss.

All rites of passage mark a transition from one state of being to another: the bigger the transition, the bigger the ordeal. The most mysterious and profound transitions are birth and death. Birth is never an easy process. Mother and child struggle together to bring it about. Death is never an easy process. The living and the dying struggle, sometimes together and sometimes alone. Pain is the faithful attendant of birth and death.

One of the gifts of religious community is that we never bear our pain alone. During the month of October, we’ll explore the tender and tough terrain of death and loss.

From mystery we come and to mystery we return. Our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition teaches that we come from goodness and to goodness we shall return. That we live between these great mysteries is a miracle.

May we fill our days with goodness,

Rev. Diane
Upcoming Services:

Sunday, October 5, 10:30 am
Marianne Schloss, RN, M. Div., Registered Yoga Therapist
The Wind and the Stillness: Breath as a Tool for connecting Body, Mind, Heart, and Spirit
A brief exploration of the power of breath to provide ease and sense of deeper connection to life.
Worship Associate: Celeste Rogers
Music: Desert Chorale

Sunday, October 12
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Letting Go
One of life’s most persistent lessons is letting go. Change is the only constant in life and change means loss, even when the change is positive. Each small loss is a chance to practice letting go, so that when the inevitable and ultimate loss comes, we know how to do what we must do.
Worship Associate: Brian Moon
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, October 19
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
No Storm Can Shake My Inmost Calm
Last Sunday we talked about letting go. This Sunday is about holding on.
Answer this one question and you will have found your faith: What do you hold on to when life shakes you to the core?
Worship Associate: Wendy Weeks
Music: Desert Chorale

Wednesday, October 22, 7:00pm
Mid-week Alternative Worship

Sunday, October 26, 10:30 am
Reveille Men’s Chorus
Worship Associate: Brian Moon

Artist of the Month’s October Gallery Show:
Artists Kyle Johnston and Nadia Hlibka

The October Gallery show is the eclectic artwork of Kyle Johnston and Nadia Hlibka. Kyle’s outsider artwork is a complex assemblage of found objects and painting in elaborate collages. Nadia is also a collage artist often collaborating with Kyle. The opening reception for this show will be on Sunday, October 12th at 11:45 AM in Holland Sanctuary. Come greet the artists and enjoy the show. Refreshments will be served. The Gallery is open during church office hours, 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Friday and Sunday, 11:30-1 pm. The show runs through Sunday, November 2nd.

2015 Auction
UUCT's biggest fundraiser, the annual auction, will be Saturday, January 31 this year. Our first committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 21, at 7 p.m. at the church, and we're looking for some folks who would like to help make this great event a reality. We will only have 4 or 5 meetings, and this is a great way to meet a lot of people. For further information contact Bob Gordon, bobgordonrg66@gmail.com, or 520-329-8242.

Reveille Men's Chorus, Tucson's gay men's chorus, will provide a half hour of music for the Sunday, October 26 worship service. These guys are inspiring, talented, and great fun, and the worship center was full for their performance last year. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear one of southern Arizona's top musical groups.

Share the Plate – October 26

One Sunday a month, we donate half of the collection plate (not including pledge payments) to a community organization whose mission we support. Our October recipient will be Reveille Men's Chorus on October 26. In its 20th season, Reveille is dedicated to musical excellence and performs worldwide to promote human rights, diversity, and a world free of AIDS. This year the chorus has nearly 60 singing members, as well as a large group of non-singers who help in a variety of ways. In addition to making great music, Reveille provides a safe and supportive social outlet for gay men of all ages.
If you write a check for Share the Plate, please make it out to "UUCT" and write "STP" in the memo line.

To learn more about Reveille Men’s Chorus, please visit their website: http://reveillemenschorus.org
From the Board of Trustees

In a continuing effort to more effectively manage the funds of the church, the Board of Trustees has reallocated the money in our Operating Reserve Fund. The Board of Trustees would like to thank member Jim Hannley for offering to manage the fund pro bono. The account was previously earning 0.005% interest annually. Jim is managing the account with the goal of keeping it liquid while earning a much higher rate of return. Thanks also to Mary Wiese and Larry Newhouse who worked with Jim to establish this account with forethought and planning.

Michael Herman, President

Photo Directory Coming Soon!

Get your calendars out and mark 1-8:30 p.m. Thursday, October 30, and Friday, October 31, and 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday, November 1, 2014.

A photographer from LifeTouch will be taking photographs for the new picture directory. We will begin scheduling the appointments soon. All participating families and individuals will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait of their choice of poses. Additional portraits may be purchased.

Kay Deely and Mary Swing

LFD Announcements

Time to sign up for Covenant Circles! This is a fun and fulfilling way to live the third UU principle: affirm and promote acceptance of one another and the encouragement to spiritual grown within our congregations. Find more info at the LFD table and sign up for an orientation by contacting Kathleen.

khogue@uuctucson.org

Coming in October: A small group ministry to broaden your Unitarian Universalist spiritual outlook. The Horizons program includes Spiritual practice, UU History and Theology, and Small group participation. To sign up or find out more, visit the LFD Table in Goddard Hall or email Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org

Putting Our Principles in Action
By Kathleen Hogue

Social justice is defined as "... promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity." It exists when "all people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment, support for their human rights, and a fair allocation of community resources." (Toowoomba Catholic Education, 2006).

As UUs we affirm and promote seven principles, including the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. These are our core beliefs and we not only need to speak them, we need to do them!

We are called to action because we wish to live in a world where everyone has food, shelter, clothing, clean water, health care and we live in peace. We all know that this is an enormous task and we can only do so much. So some times, we need to tackle the issues one step at a time.

We can do this with this year’s CROP Hunger Walk. Unitarian Universalists in and around Tucson are joining together for this year’s Tucson CROP Hunger Walk and I'd like to invite you to join our team as a Walker.

If you join our team, Unitarian Universalists in Tucson, proceeds will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Tucson Food Bank, and Casa Maria. Each year nearly 2 million CROP Walkers, volunteers and sponsors put their caring into action, raising funds to help end hunger and poverty at home and around the world. This is your chance to fight hunger- to show the world you care. Contact Kathleen Hogue khogue@uuctucson.org or stop by the LFD table in Goddard Hall.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit an announcement is the 24th day of the month and the newsletter will be printed and available online the first week of the following month.