From the Minister’s Study

It’s late October as I write. I’ve just left Borderlinks and a delegation of Unitarian Universalist clergy from all across the country, come to learn about immigration here in the borderlands. The newly formed Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice has entered into a partnership with Borderlinks. Their plan is to bring delegations of Unitarian Universalists twice a year for immersion learning experiences within the context of UU faith values. Visit http://uucsj.org/ to learn more about the College of Social Justice.

I was there to talk with them about our congregation’s role in the work of No More Deaths. Our own Emrys Walt Staton, plus Ricky Cheney who heads up the Abuse Documentation program and Tyler Espinoza the Volunteer Coordinator joined me. I have to tell you, the delegation was blown away by what they heard - - blown away and proud of our congregation for making the work of No More Deaths possible.

I’m reminded of how interconnected we are with our sibling congregations across the country. Here in Arizona we’ve been more intentional about collaboration among our congregations. At the last cluster meeting it was decided that November would be a month of pulpit exchanges, a pulpit-palooza! The pulpit exchange is a time-honored tradition that affirms the interdependent nature of our congregations. On Sunday November 23, the Rev. Ron Phares will be in the pulpit at UUCT and I’ll be at Mountain Vista in Northwest Tucson. I hope you’ll all be on hand that day to make Rev. Phares feel welcome and to hear his words of inspiration.

Be watching for news of an exciting collaborative event happening here at UUCT on January 16 and 17. Four southern Arizona congregations will gather for a Mission/Vision workshop led by the Rev. David Miller, minister of the UU Fellowship of Sandieguito, California. Rev. Miller is an energetic facilitator and is ready to lead us through a process of clarifying our purpose. You’ll want to be on hand to help shape the future of UUCT and Unitarian Universalism in southern Arizona.

Each clergy person who was part of the Borderlinks delegation will be taking stories of the borderlands back to their congregations. Many of them spoke of the ways their congregations could support No More Deaths: everything from collecting socks and first aid and sanitary supplies to sending delegations of volunteers to work with No More Deaths or to take Borderlinks trips.

It’s quite exciting to have the UU College of Social Justice, a national ministry of the UUA, right here in our back yard, expanding the work we’ve been doing for years. The program is fledgling and just beginning to take shape. I’m looking forward to discovering the ways our congregations in southern Arizona can be an ongoing part of their work for dignity and human rights for migrants.

The monthly theme for November is democracy. I’m grateful to be part of a movement of self-sustaining, self-governing congregations. As the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson and the work of No More Deaths gain national prominence, may we always strive to be worthy stewards of this democratic faith.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Diane
Update to Denominational Dues Donations  
Chris Wallace - VP Finances, Board of Trustees

Because we are part of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) structure, our congregation is asked to pay denominational dues to both entities based on our membership total. We are smarter, healthier and stronger because of these support structures. This was particularly evident last month when PSWD gave our church $2,000 to help with the clean up from the flooding in the sanctuary.

Last March in an effort to have our congregation pay its full Fair Share, the Canvass Committee requested that congregants give $84 to help us get to that goal. Our full Fair Share would total $22,000. The Board of Trustees reluctantly budgeted and the congregation reluctantly approved half that amount, $11,000. All the while members and friends came forward with $3,224. Thank you! That money has been set aside in a restricted (savings) account.

The Board would like to publicize this special fund and the need for another $7,776 in order to pay our full Fair Share to the UUA and PSWD by the end of the fiscal year (June 2015). If 93 more members would pay the $84 to this fund, we would get there (put “denominational dues” in your check’s memo line). Whatever we collect before the end of the fiscal year will be sent to the UUA and PSWD regardless.

MATA ORTIZ POTTERY SALE

Once again we have the opportunity to add to our collection of Mata Ortiz pots, purchase one or two for Christmas presents or just help the community of potters in this border area rife with problems. November 16th, after the service Ana Trillo and Julio Mora will be selling pots for 35 potters in the Mata Ortiz community. Prices usually start at $10 and go up from there. There is something for everyone! Especially for your Christmas list! NO POTS WILL BE SOLD BEFORE THE END OF THE SERVICE, to be fair to those who are attending. Both Cash and Checks will be accepted—no credit cards.

Upcoming Services:

November 9, 10:30 am  
Guest Speaker: Pamela Powers Hannley  
Lessons from the Town 10 Miles from Sin: Oberlin, Ohio

Following up her grandfather's stories of Powers family history, Pamela Powers Hannley made a trip to the Oberlin Heritage Center this past summer and found her activist roots in the anti-slavery movement. In this lay led service, Pamela will talk about the Oberlin Rescuers and her Great Great Uncle's role in ending slavery. She will tie these stories of past struggles to the civil rights struggles of today.

Worship Associate: Brian Moon  
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

November 16, 10:30 am  
Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Michael Herman  
Roots, Branches, and Wings

Where do we come from? Who are we now? What will the future be? The health of the roots affects the health of the whole tree. What wisdom can we pull from the past to carry into the future?

Worship Associate: Randall Springer  
Music: Desert Chorale

November 23, 10:30 am  
Rev. Ron Phares

All You Need Is Love.... seriously?


Worship Associate: Wendy Weeks  
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

We will NOT be having Mid-week Alternative Worship in November.

November 30, 10:30 am  
Guest Speakers: Jessica Erickson and Gary Luce

Food

Worship Associate: Michelle Maliniak  
Music: Leeza Beriyeva
Artist of the Month’s November Gallery Show: Quilts by the UUCT Quililters

The QUUILTERS of the UU Church of Tucson have been making quilts together for more than fifteen years. They are a group of about twelve women who meet once a week at the church and create their quilts, mostly by hand, with machine piecing. Most are hand quilted, everything from bed quilts to wall hangings, table runners, and other pieces. Many are for sale, and are reasonably priced. The opening reception for this show will be on Sunday, November 9th 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, December 7th.

Annual UUCT Auction – January 31, 2015

The annual fundraising auction is an important event in our church life for several reasons. First of all, we raise a lot of money for the church – last year’s sales topped $10,000. Pre-recession figures were even higher, and we would like to be back up around $15,000 this year.

Secondly, the auction is a great community-building event. The auction itself, with a delicious meal, is always enjoyable, whether you buy a little, a lot, or nothing at all. Many of us buy meals and excursions that occur throughout the year. These provide further opportunity to gather for fun and fellowship with church members and friends.

You can contribute in many ways – donating items or events to be sold, buying something at the auction, and/or volunteering to help. We have jobs of all sizes, but most of all, we need some “new blood” on the Auction Committee. For the 4th year in a row, the committee will be composed of the same seven people. If the auction is to continue much longer, we need some new folks to step up.

For questions, or to volunteer, contact Bob Gordon, bobgordonrg66@gmail, or 329-8242.

November Share the Plate

Half of all non-pledge income in the offering on November 16th will be shared with BICUS (Bicycle Inter-Community Art and Salvage), which provides affordable transportation options and resources for everyone, including their Earn-A-Bike Program for youth and work trade and community service opportunities. BICAS is known as a leader among community bicycle organizations, both nationally and internationally.

BICAS also enriches the community by contributing to the vibrant Tucson art culture and community festivities, participating in the national Weed and Seed neighborhood development program, and collaborating with a diverse group of community organizations such as: El Grupo, City High School, Davis Elementary, Iron Horse Neighborhood, Dunbar Spring Community Garden, All Souls Procession, Parade of Lights, Ghost Bike Project, etc.

For more information about BICUS, including volunteer opportunities, visit their website: http://bicas.org/

Thanksgiving Dim Sum

Please join us for a fun, lively (and non-traditional!) UU Thanksgiving Brunch at Gee's Garden Restaurant on Thanksgiving Day, 12:30 PM. Gee's Garden will be serving their special Dim Sum as well as menu standards – including vegetarian/vegan; meal cost is between $10- $20 with many menu offerings below $10.00.

Gee's Garden is located in midtown Tucson, NW corner of Speedway and Alvernon. There is plenty of parking, and transportation is also available -- just check with Rosemary Axelrod, 520-954-4524. Upon arriving, look for a large table and a colorful Thanksgiving centerpiece with a UUCT sign attached.

Soooo..... join us for a different but terrific Thanksgiving!! Singles, couples, families, kids, relatives -- and their lovely friends -- ALL WELCOME!! Please RSVP to Rosemary @ rax150xyz@hotmail.com by 11/24 as we will need to give the restaurant a headcount in advance.
**District Assembly 2015**

Save the dates of April 24-25, 2015 for the annual District Assembly, to be held this year at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Chandler, AZ. While we do not have a definite theme as yet, we do have an exciting keynote speaker. The Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life, will bring a vision of the future of Unitarian Universalism. Scott will share his perspective on the importance of our interdependence as we move forward in sharing our Unitarian Universalist faith.

**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.

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**Gifts of Love**

Each year UUCT participates in Interfaith Community Service’s Gifts of Love program. This year we are sponsoring 2 families for the holidays. Please watch for flyers and other announcements for more info. For questions or to volunteer, contact Ashley in the office (748-1551 or office@uuctucson.org).

**Book Club**

meets the 3rd Thursday of month at 7pm. Come for a lively discussion of “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven” by Sherman Alexie. The movie “Smoke Signals” was based on the book. Both are well worth looking into. Free sitters, questions, call Lois 991-5350.

**Poinsettias = Holiday cheer**

Now is the time to order poinsettias from Our Family Services, one of our Share the Plate recipients this year.

This is the 13th year they have been selling these beautiful holiday flowers. Plants are $13.00 each (of which $6.50 is tax-deductible). All proceeds to benefit the people served by Our Family Services. Orders of 15 or more can be delivered to a home or business in Tucson at no additional cost! Orders of 15 or less will need to be picked up at Green Things at 3235 E. Allen Road.

For more information or for order forms or to order online, go to [www.ourfamilyservices.org](http://www.ourfamilyservices.org). November 26 is the deadline for orders.

**Sunday Greeters Needed**

Volunteers are needed to greet visitors before the service one Sunday morning per month. Contact Cary White to volunteer, 825-2235 or caryw09090@aol.com.