From the Minister’s Study

Every once in a while, the world gives me a little nudge to practice what I preach.

My faith teaches that every person has worth and dignity and that no person is beyond redemption. My faith teaches the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

I’ve been nudged to live into these teachings in very real ways over the past few weeks.

The first nudge came when I received an email message from the Border Community Liaison Division of the Border Patrol requesting a meeting with me.

My faith teaches that I won’t close my door to any one based on who they are, so I said yes.

The meeting with Vivien McLoughlin and Steve Passement was cordial, respectful, and understandably a bit tense on both sides of the table. I’m in awe of the courage it took for them to approach me, as minister of the congregation that hosts No More Deaths as a ministry of the congregation. Tenseness aside, I felt that Vivien and Steve were genuine in seeking community input, especially from faith communities and humanitarian groups. They came seeking common ground, knowing that we won’t agree on all matters pertaining to border policies. The common ground we share is a commitment to ending deaths of migrants in our borderlands.

They offered a tour of their operations here in Tucson. I took their offer to our Board of Trustees who agreed that no harm could come from taking the tour and that we just might learn something in the process.

There are far too many details of what has ensued to include here. A brief synopsis is that a small contingent of the Board of Trustees and I took a tour of Border Patrol operations here in Tucson. After the tour, I had a follow-up conversation with the Border Community Liaisons.

For a more comprehensive understanding of what has transpired, please talk with Heather Lipsey, Chris Wallace, or me.

On that tour, we found another piece of common ground. Border Patrol agents want members of the community to see them as human persons with lives that are not unlike our own, with families and children who work and play and go to school along side all of us.

As a congregation providing humanitarian aid through our No More Deaths Ministry, we’ve been asking that those in charge of border enforcement see the humanity of migrants caught in a broken and oppressive immigration system.

One outcome of our interactions thus far is that the Border Community Liaison division representatives are open to exploring the use of language that humanizes migrants in place of dehumanizing terms like “illegal alien” when referring to undocumented immigrants and to ban the use of the term “dog run” to refer to the area where the property of detained migrants is inventoried and stored -- thanks to Heather Lipsey for her keen awareness on our tour, noting the use of the term “dog run”.

Relationships are built face-to-face and person-to-person. There are more tours and more conversations with the people who work for the Border Patrol to be had. That we stand on the common ground of ending death and suffering, the ground of our common humanity, is no small thing.

The second nudge to relationship building and finding common ground came from our state-wide UU justice advocacy network, UU Justice Arizona.

On President’s Day this year, I had the privilege of joining with 135 Unitarian Universalists from around the state of Arizona for a UU Day at the Legislature in Phoenix. I was one of five from UUCT, accompanied by Jim and Pamela Hannley, Walker Smith, and Chris Wallace. The UU Justice Arizona Network – UUJAZ for short, organized the event.
From the Minister’s Study…continued

Part of the day involved meetings with elected senators and representatives from each of our legislative districts. I was fortunate to meet with Representative Macario Saldate and Senator Olivia Cajero-Bedford, both representing District Three, where I live. I’m grateful to Vincent Pawlowski, a member of Mountain Vista UU for arranging these meetings. Representative Sally Ann Gonzales was not able to meet with us, but her aid gave us information about her office hours here in Tucson.

The intent of our meetings was to establish a relationship through the sharing of personal stories. Representative Saldate shared his memories of Sam Goddard’s campaigns for the office of governor, and how the roadrunner appeared in each of his television ads. (Former Arizona Governor, Sam Goddard donated the land that is now the campus of UUCT.)

Senator Cajero-Bedford was equally as engaging. She shared a story of witnessing age-based discrimination in hiring practices. She witnessed an accomplished and talented person being passed over for employment because of her white hair. Senator Cajero-Bedford is sponsoring a back-to-work bill that if passed, would help unemployed workers of all ages.

I live in a district where the current elected representatives share my values. It was relatively easy to establish a relationship and find common ground. The same isn’t true for many other UU’s who participated in Day at the Legislature – especially those living in Maricopa County. Still, there is value in face-to-face meetings, person-to-person, finding common ground, building relationship.

I’m forever grateful for my chosen faith of Unitarian Universalism. Within its ranks, I’ve learned how to trust. I’ve learned that when I am faithful to the principles we hold in common, when I trust in their wisdom and truth: doors open, thresholds are crossed, new insights emerge, I’m nudged into relationships that stretch the boundaries of inclusion that our faith proclaims.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Diane

Upcoming Services

Sunday, March 8 10:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Julia Nichols
Esperanza: Bringing Hope
Julia will be sharing her experience with a modern dance company that travels around Tucson to raise awareness of sexual violence. She will discuss the ways in which art builds community and can help people live their UU values.
Worship Associate: Steven Ballesteros
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, March 15 10:30 a.m.
All Music Sunday
The theme for this year’s All Music Sunday is Transformation. Through music, we’ll look at the ways our lives are continually being changed and transformed.
Worship Associate: Preston McMillan
Music: Leeza Beriyeva, Desert Chorale, and a variety of UUCT musicians

Sunday, March 22 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
The Unlived Lives of Our Parents
Psychologist Carl Jung wrote: “The greatest burden a child must bear is the unlived life of the parents.” To be human is to exist within the conflict of our internal desires and external demands. The earliest of those demands came from our parents. Whenever we find ourselves saying coulda, woulda, shoulda, we hear the echoes of an unlived life, our own or that of our parents. Within the conflict between desire and demand are seeds for growth.
Worship Associate: Steven Ballesteros
Music: Leeza Beriyeva and Michael Dues

Wednesday, March 22 7:00 p.m.
Mid-week Alternative Worship
Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Brian Moon, Kathleen Hogue, and Mary Wiese
We’ll gather on the patio for a celebration of the Spring equinox, a time of balance between light and dark.

Sunday, March 29, 10:30 am
Youth Led Service
Come to experience our annual youth-led worship service offered by our UU high schoolers. This service promises to be engaging, energetic, and an opportunity to glimpse the world through the eyes of teenagers.
Worship Associate: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Music: Leeza Beriyeva, Gabriel Martin & Brian Moon
Lifespan Faith Development News

Aging as a Spiritual Path

Join us March 15, 2015 at UUCT in the Servetus Room at 12:15 PM for this presentation that will help you to age well and grow happier, healthier and wiser. In our culture there is a prevailing belief in maintaining the appearance of youth as long as possible as an antidote to old age. Almost 3000 years ago, the Buddha taught a system for aging. This Buddhist point of view is fresh and useful and still applies today. Through the practice of The Four Noble Truths we learn to proactively engage with our changing state, thus attaining and maintaining personal dignity throughout our lives. Led by Ani Padma Dechok Tso, a Tibetan Buddhist nun.

UUCT Easter Egg Hunt!

This will be held following services on Sunday April 5th. We are collecting canned food for the Community Food Bank as an entry fee to participate. Children 12 and younger, bring your baskets! We are also taking donations of candy and plastic eggs. Please leave them in the LFD office through April 4th. SIGN UP FOR PSWD SUMMER CAMPS NOW!

It is time to sign up for your favorite PSWD summer camp. Log onto www.uucamp.org to click on the camp of your dreams!

July 5 - 11: Elementary Camp
July 5 - 11: Counselor In Training Camp
July 12 - 18: Junior High Camp
July 19 - 25: Senior High Camp
July 26 - August 1: Family Camp
Get a $50 discount when you sign up for the earlybird discount!

Annual Report

It’s that time of year again! Please submit your group/committee’s annual report info (final draft!) to the office by April 1st! If you have questions, or if you’d like the office manager to send you your group/committee’s report from last year, please contact the office ASAP. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any late submissions. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Artist of the Month’ March Gallery Show:
Western Landscapes in Watercolors
Paintings by Watercolorist, Loisanne Keller

Loisanne began her painting career after retirement and studied locally at The Drawing Studio and at workshops with nationally recognized artists. She’s intrigued by the way watercolors interact with the paper, how they flow, change, and mix together in unexpected ways. Her primary interest is landscape painting, especially skies. The opening reception for this show will be on Sunday, March 8th at 11:45 AM in Holland Sanctuary. Come greet Loisanne 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, April 5th.

Share the Plate

Half of all non-pledge income in the offering on March 15th will be shared with Read Between the Bars (RBtB), which focuses on getting free books directly into the hands of incarcerated women and men in the state of Arizona because they believe that a book can change a life by giving an escape from the tedium of prison, teaching new skills, and opening up interests in fields that can benefit the individual now and when they rejoin society.

As allies to people in prison, they work to provide educational and entertaining materials. Their collective strives to inform our community of the toll that the prison industrial complex imposes on the incarcerated, their families, and society as a whole. Locally, they serve as part of the global movement towards prison reform.

For more information about RBtB, including volunteer opportunities, visit their website: http://readbetweenthebars.com/ Thank you for your generous support!

Volunteer Recognition

Each May we recognize and honor our wonderful UUCT volunteers! Please submit your nominations by April 1, 2015 in the box in the church foyer. You may also submit your nominations via email (office@uuctucson.org) or snail mail.

office@uuctucson.org
**Save the Date:**
**Cabaret will be Saturday, April 4, 2015. More information coming soon!**

**SCRIP PROGRAM**
Don't forget to support our church at no cost to you. If you shop at Fry's, Sprouts, Safeway, Bashas or Albertson's, we have programs for you. For information, please talk to Frank or Carolyn at the table in Goddard after the service.

Did you know giving to UUCT can be as easy as going to the website [www.uuctucson.org](http://www.uuctucson.org), locating the ONLINE GIVING button on the opening page, and making a donation or paying your pledge there? You can set up a one-time payment or recurring payments through your bank using this option.

**Amazon Smile Program**
If you shop through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), please consider using this link: [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-6006433](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-6006433). UUCT will receive a rebate of .5% of all purchases made through their Amazon Smile program. There is no cost to you however, you must use this link to connect your purchases to our church. The link/icon is now on our website also.

**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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**District Assembly**
The Pacific SouthWest District and Camp de Benneville Pines are excited to invite you and yours to District Assembly 2015 at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Chandler, Arizona on April 24-25th. This beautiful city is bordered to the north by Tempe and Mesa, to the south by the Gila River Indian Community, to the east by Gilbert, and to the west by Phoenix.

In addition to the opportunity to connect and enjoy time in the beautiful Sonoran Desert with hundreds of Unitarian Universalists coming together for this event, there will be worship, workshops, bridging, annual business meeting, and inspiration from our keynote speaker, the Reverend Scott Tayler.

One of the newest and greenest improvements to DA for this year is our 100% paperless online registration process. We have a helpful information packet online that will remain available after registration is complete.

We look forward to welcoming you to Chandler, Arizona and we’re so glad you will be a part of this very special gathering. Registration is open at [http://www.pswduua.org/pages/district-assembly-2015.php](http://www.pswduua.org/pages/district-assembly-2015.php) Why not register today?

Any questions e-mail Maggie Yenoki at pswd.district.assembly@gmail.com.

**Missing Something?**
The Lost and Found box in the church foyer is overflowing! Please check the box at your earliest convenience. We will be cleaning it out and donating any left over items on Monday, March 16.

**Are you reading this?** We are trying to determine if people are getting their church news via the newsletter. In the past two months only 13 people confirmed that they read the newsletter. Please contact Ashley in the office (office@uuctucson.org or 748-1551) and let her know 1. Your name, and 2. If you are reading a hard copy of the newsletter or if you’re reading it online. Thank you!