President's Column

by Frank Valdes

Let’s talk! I know, I know, UUs are supposed to be all about talk. But more seriously, communication within our beloved community is one of our most important responsibilities. I have had many people recently tell me how happy they are to hear and be heard.

Before telling you about the many different ways we have to communicate at UUCT, let’s be mindful that there is good and bad communication. In particular, communication has to be respectful, not hurtful, not accusatory, and said with thoughtfulness. One of the worst problems in our age of electronic media, particularly email and messaging, is firing off something without thought and hurting people, intentionally or not. Gossiping or bossing (especially of staff) are also not productive. We have agreed to avoid such practices through our Covenant of Right Relations and we have to always think about the proper uses of email and messaging within our beloved community.

Site Contents

Page 1 – President's Column, Justice Digest, New Ken Burn’s film on UUs during Nazi era, Office Manager resignation, Announcements.


Page 3 – Tippett’s Art & Mystery of Living, No More Deaths, Sewing Cooperative in Aqua Prieta.

JUSTICE DIGEST

by Craig Rock

The Inherent Dignity of All People
Our first UU Principle

During the last few months we heard stories about so many atrocities. We became enraged, or depressed, and/or almost numb from news reports of continued police shootings of Black Americans, of a few taking revenge on police, of
We, your leaders, hope to engage you in discussions this fall through forums after church on Sundays. Topics on the radar are how UUCT is governed, what changes might be considered, and how UUCT will address its debt. There will also be occasional workshops, including the one announced by our Interim Transition Team in this newsletter (page 2). The leadership holds ongoing meetings, announced in email and the Order of Service. If you are interested in any topic, please attend to receive updates, bring concerns forward, and discuss issues. These are the “Call to the Congregation” meetings (normally the Sunday before Board of Trustees meetings now scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month) which include members of the Board, the Executive Team, the Finance Committee, and other leaders.

Our UUCT website, uuctucson.org, is a primary medium for communication and contains a wealth of information. One recent addition is the Annual Report for the past church year (2015-2016). Of special importance, if you really want to know what is happening in your congregation, are the meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team. They meet regularly and are committed to publishing minutes. The minutes are available on our website under the Members menu. This menu, whose content is only visible to members and friends when they log in using the box at the right, contains our minutes, governance documents, reports and other important information. If you need the login information, contact the office or webmaster (see the Contact Us menu item). The Board has taken the action of posting minutes as soon as the secretary has prepared them, even before their next meeting. But keep in mind, it is hard work being the secretary, so the timeliness can vary.

We hope to continue to add information to our website. One new development will be adding a document for our key committees and teams that describes their Charge (what they are about) and Covenant (how they agree to do the work for the church). These will be published so that you may understand, “What does the Executive Team or Finance Committee do and not do?”

Email is one of the forms of communication most used today. UUCT uses a subscription email system to send weekly and important email notices. If you are a member or friend of UUCT who uses email, you should subscribe and make sure you read them and that they are not automatically sent to junk mail. You can subscribe via the church website, through phone or email to our office (office@uuctucson.org), or via the yellow card in the back of each hymnal.

On the subject of email, you will have noticed the importance of remembering uuctucson.org. Email addresses are available for all staff and various groups at this domain. Many of these can be found on the Home/Contact Us item on our website. One new email to bring to your attention is questions@uuctucson.org - an electronic question and suggestion box.

Another form of communication is our Facebook page suicide bombings, of people dying on the desert or drowning in the Mediterranean Sea while fleeing despotic regimes. Was it the same numbness felt by previous generations when they heard, for example, about the massacres of American Indian villages, the inhumanity of slavery, the lives lost in the U.S. Civil War, and the people murdered in Nazi concentration camps? Will atrocities continue forever?

As members of a Unitarian Universalist church, how do we respond? Stories in this issue attempt to address this topic. We focus on Ken Burns’ new film about Unitarians in WWll Europe, UUCT’s No More Deaths ministry, Krista Tippett’s presentation at the UUA General Assembly, and seven women working for their community in an Agua Prieta sewing collective.

Ken Burns’ new film Defying the Nazis, the Sharp’s War (Unitarians in Action, PBS Showing September 20)

Defying the Nazis, the Sharp’s War
(Unitarians in Action, PBS Showing September 20)

Ken Burns’ new film Defying the Nazis, the Sharp’s War (and the related book from UUA’s Beacon Press) tells the story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp, two young Unitarians who stood up boldly against injustice to defy the Nazis and rescue Jews, dissidents, and other refugees during WWll.

These past few years have been life-threatening to many refugees who approach our borders and are turned back or deported to neighboring countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and even Mexico, where they face uncertain futures because of civil strife or gang warfare. Many die crossing our desert.

More recently, there also been a rise in Islamophobic rhetoric with various politicians calling for a religious test for refugees, a “ban” on Muslim immigrants, and the surveillance and profiling of Muslim neighborhoods. In this time of rising bigotry and scapegoating, Unitarian Universalists are called to stand in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors.

If you are interested in joining a UUCT social justice group to address these concerns, contact Michelle Maliniak (mjmtucsonaz@aol.com) or Craig Rock (duniterock@gmail.com) for more information.
(Unitarian Universalist Church-Tucson). If you Facebook, you should definitely connect with us there. You can find announcements and interesting social posts on our Facebook page.

Please come to service regularly to enjoy the variety of UU worship forms. There are always announcements in the Order of Service. Then you can also avail yourself of the old-fashioned form of communication, “talking”! I would be happy to talk with you on Sunday or by phone, as I believe all our leaders would be.

And finally, this newsletter is appearing in a new format. I covenant with you that your President or another member of the Board of Trustees will write a monthly column.

I conclude with an item of special symbolic significance: after more than a decade of talk, planning, retrenching, and fundraising, we have a new sign for our church, one that will be more visible and let us communicate with the Tucson community that drives by. Yay!

Let’s talk -- openly and respectfully.

Yours in faith, Frank Valdes

The above information is partially taken from a UUA/UUSC press release.

Office Manager Resignation

Our Office Manager, Ashley Davis, has resigned effective August 5, 2016. She served UUCT faithfully for 5 years and is now moving on to other endeavors. The Church is grateful for her years of service through the good times and the bad times. Please wish her well when you see, phone, or email her, and cards of congratulations and good wishes would be appropriate, but honor her privacy as well. She was a beloved member of our staff and congregation.

The remaining staff and the Executive Team are working on a transition plan to insure the most important duties of the Office Manager are covered. It is our duty as members of our beloved community to understand that things will change and that some things will take longer or even be eliminated. Also please wait to volunteer to help, which I’m sure many of you will consider, until the transition plan is determined and announcements are made.

With a fond farewell,

Frank Valdes for the Congregation

Announcements

Newcomer Orientation August 14

Orientation for those wishing to explore membership at UUCT has been scheduled for Sunday, August 14, at noon in the sanctuary. This session will include an overview of church philosophy and history while giving potential members an opportunity to explore the many opportunities for service and engagement in the church. Please contact Mary Weise at (520) 748-1551, ext. 17 to be part of this group.

Sunday Services - August

August 7 TBA

August 14 - Moving Prayer - Join Celeste Rogers and Brian Moon in this experiential worship service exploring how spirituality can be expressed through music and movement. Leela Beriyeva joins Celeste and Brian for music.


August 28 - TBA

Call for Greeters and Ushers

We are in need of new greeters to welcome members and guests, as well as ushers to distribute orders of service and collect and count the offering on Sundays. If you would like to serve in either capacity, please contact Cary White at caryw09090@aol.com or Gary Luce at gary.a.luce@gmail.com.

UU Church Quilters

UU Church Quilters will be taking a vacation during July and August and not gathering again until August 31. We meet every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Servetus Room and would be more than delighted to have more folks join our group.
If you have any interest in learning about quilting or participating in creating projects from fabric, feel free to contact either Jackie Barnes at 792-8021 or Susan Call at 886-2281 for more information.

UU Choir Camp

"Singing in the Pines" - Saturday, August 13 to Wednesday August 17, 2016. If you enjoy choir music old and new, and if you like to gather with other UUs from across the district to sing, sing, sing...then choir camp at de Benneville Pines is for you! Sessions will focus on music suitable for use in UU worship. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite songs to share with the group (original music welcome!) Team up with others to create new music! Perform in concert on the final evening in camp. For more information click here.

A Walk in the Woods with John Muir

A Retreat Designed for Adults
Saturday, August 13 - Wednesday, August 17, 2016
For more information click here.
Lifespan Faith Development

Our lifespan learning community seeks to nurture and stimulate the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of people of all ages, stages of faith, and levels of religious experience. This is part of our vision statement. Beginning September 4th 2016, we are bringing back our Awareness Theater Curriculum which was created in 2012 by Kathleen Hogue. This is the fun and engaging class that culminates in a play at the end of the year.

Our goals are:

- To help children, youth, and adults become their best selves and be effective in community
- To develop a positive Unitarian Universalist identity
- To draw spiritual meaning from life experiences
- To form intergenerational connections
- To develop and provide a participatory program
- To experience a variety of spiritual practices

Throughout the year on Sunday mornings and periodically at other times, participants will be working on a play. They will be working on lines, sets, props, costumes, music and dance as they choose. At the same time they will be learning about how the play connects to our UU principles and beliefs.

Preschool through middle school grades will be participating in the class each Sunday. Coming of Age will be involved periodically as schedule allows. YRUU will be participating and assisting in class periodically.

Please consider helping out in the program as often as you are able. You can sign up at any time at the LFD table or by emailing Kathleen at khogue@uuctucson.org

Coming of Age (COA) Program

Our (CoA) Program honors an important life transition through an intense and exciting year of activities, and as such it requires a tremendous amount of time, energy and creativity.

Our CoA Program offers many exciting opportunities for our junior high sojourners and adults to form connections. We need volunteers! Please consider becoming a guide or a mentor. You can sign up at any time at the LFD table or by emailing Kathleen at khogue@uuctucson.org

Open House!!!!!
Religious Education for Children and Youth
Sunday, August 21 at 12:00 PM

The LFD Committee and our wonderful teachers invite you to come and find out what RE will look like over the next year. Come meet the teachers, learn about the programs, and find out how you can help.

All about the Finance Committee
By Margot Garcia, PhD, FAICP

For many years we had a Finance Committee (FC) at UUCT. It met monthly to go over the financial reports and present them in a more digestible manner to the Board of Trustees. The FC developed the budget with input from the staff and other working committees at the church. The budget was presented to the Board of Trustees (BOT) for their massaging and approval before presenting it to the Congregation for their approval at the Annual Meeting. The FC has also done internal audits, managed the endowment funds, and kept track of the restricted funds and any special funds like the capital campaign money raised to change the sign, re-landscape the church for flood protection, and improve

Report from the Transition Team
UUCT in the Interim
August 1, 2016 - July 30, 2018

As of August 1, 2016 and continuing until July 30, 2018 the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson is in the interim, the period between the departure of one settled minister and the calling of another.

Beginning October 15, 2016 our interim minister, the Rev. Madeline (Lyn) Oglesby will be with us. She will carry out the normal responsibilities of congregational ministry, including worship and pastoral care, and assist us in addressing the following five interim tasks:
With the advent of policy governance and the creation of an Executive Team (ET), the overlap between the FC and the ET led to conflicts over budgeting and monitoring of finances. To solve this, a Vice President for Finance was appointed, a lay person assigned to oversee all finances and with a vote on the BOT. The FC was essentially dissolved, and the staff took over monitoring finances and creating the budget for the BOT.

Frank Valdes, president of the Congregation and BOT, asked me to create a new FC and wrote a charter for us that we have edited and negotiated with the ET. Essentially, the FC has been charged with financial planning and recommendations to the BOT regarding budgets, income sources, policies and bylaws, savings mechanisms, loan mechanisms, financial reporting methods, monitoring finances, and methods for auditing finances. We are charged with involving the congregation in questions and decisions about planning for the financial health of the congregation. We liaise with Liz Ravenwood, the Vice President for Finance, Byron Skinner, the Treasurer, and Cary White, the leader of the ET. They all have valuable information to share with us.

When Frank asked me to form the committee, I thought about a number of people in the church who have spoken up at congregational meetings about finances, who I know have been involved on a FC in the past, who had served as treasurer, or held some other leadership position in the church. I asked a number of people to join; not all wanted to get involved in this often thankless and stressful task. Six people agreed to serve and I introduce them to you:

Jim Periale: Jim has served on the BOT and as Financial Secretary. He was the first finance person on the ET when it was started in 2006-2009 and was responsible for the budget. He has chaired pledge drives. He is a chemist and worked in large companies before starting his own business with two partners. They were bought out by Rustoleum and he headed up one of their divisions before retirement.

Rick Meyer: Rick was on the FC with me before and was our faithful and wonderful secretary, taking great minutes. You may also know him as a guitar-playing singer at worship services and as an usher.

Beth Britton: Beth has been studying the church finances for the past few years out of her concern that the church was heading into insolvency. She has spoken up at annual meetings and at Board meetings to share her findings. She brings a wealth of experience in financial management, including developing and managing grants at NAU. In addition, she served on the Arizona State Board of Education for 5 years and the Arizona State Community College Board for 7 years.

Larry Newhouse: Larry was Treasurer for three years. He is an instructor in computers and IT for Pima College and before that worked for Honeywell as a software specialist in telephone service and wireless connections.

- Claiming and honoring our past and engaging and acknowledging our grief and conflicts.
- Recognizing our unique identity and our strengths, needs, and challenges.
- Understanding the appropriate leadership roles of the minister, church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition.
- Making appropriate use of regional, UUA, and other outside resources.
- Renewing our vision, strengthening our stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

To assist the congregation with the above tasks the Transition Team will schedule focus groups for UUCT members and friends beginning after Rev. Lyn’s arrival. Please watch for more information about these groups.

The weekend of Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12, the Rev. Sarah Millspaugh of the UUA Congregational Life Staff of the Pacific Western Region will lead us through an Interim Start-Up Workshop.

Rev. Sarah notes the following: “Start-Up Workshops have long been part of our best practices in the Pacific Western Region. We know that there is nothing like a good beginning to help things go right during a ministry. All professional ministries are huge emotional and financial investments, whether they are called ministries, interim ministries or contract ministries. A Start-Up Workshop is an important way to protect that investment by

- Examining the myths and values at work in the congregation,
- Recognizing the stories that are still influencing the congregation,
- Clarifying roles and expectations, and
- Setting some initial goals.

This is work that will help congregations begin a healthy new chapter with their minister.”

Please plan to attend and participate in the Interim Start-Up Workshop and the focus groups.

The UUCT Transition Team, (Carolyn Saunders, Gary Luce, Janet Moore, Steve Kraynak, and Susan Call)

"Justice is what love sounds like when it speaks in public.”
Martin Luther King Jr.
large computer systems, trouble shooting and international training. You may recognize him helping out in the kitchen where his wife Margo is in charge of the Kitchen Ministry.

Rhonda Walker: Rhonda is past president of the congregation. She is new to the church finances, but brings experience from the business world.

Bill Hoffmann: Bill is a former BOT member with a deep interest in finances, staffing patterns, and bylaws. He has spoken up at annual meetings on finances, advocating for balanced budgets. He is a retired astronomer who still participates at the University of Arizona.

Margot Garcia: Margot chaired the FC from 2009 to 2011 and before that was Treasurer for a year. She has been involved in finances of the church off and on for over 30 years and is a former president of the congregation. She has worked on stewardship campaigns in the 1980s, and 2000s. She is a retired professor of urban planning and chaired the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. She has dealt with big budgets as a city council member in the 1970s and president of a social service agency with a budget in the millions.

We are working on a debt-reduction plan that we hope to bring to a congregational forum in September for input and comments.

And now you know about the FC and its members. Please feel free to ask us any questions you have. You are welcome at our meetings. They are posted on the church calendar. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please see Margot Garcia or Frank Valdes.

A Work of Art

Courtney Boyden stands next to her masterpiece after the July 17th Sunday Service. Letting the art flow naturally, she participated in Kathy Wilczek’s workshop which was offered as an auction item (Watercolor and Wine). Courtney is on the Executive Team and participates in the Covenant Circles. Kathy is a YRUU teacher, a Covenant Circle facilitator, and a member of the Lifespan Faith Development Committee.

Photo by Katherine Conover.

Farewell Celebration for the Dowgierts

On June 17, nearly 100 people attended a farewell celebration for Reverend Diane and AJ Dowgiert. Goddard Hall was festively decorated, food and drinks were delicious and plentiful, and many had the opportunity to express their appreciation for Diane’s ten-year ministry and for AJ’s various contributions, and to offer their best wishes as the Dowgierts move on.

John Schaefer donated two beautiful framed photographs of Sonoran Desert blooms, which we presented to the Dowgierts, appropriately inscribed. Guests also signed a memory book.

Thanks to many generous unsolicited donations, both cash and in-kind, we were able to do this at no cost to UUCT, and in fact will have a balance of $300-$400 to donate to the church, in Diane’s honor. The following all helped to make the evening possible, either with financial or in-kind donations, providing services such as music, artwork and cooking, by helping with setup or cleanup, and so forth: Mark Henson, Janet Moore, Ellie Nelson, Frank and Carolyn Valdes, Becky and Bill Keyes, Beth Britton, Steve Kraynak and Bob Gordon, Celeste Rogers, John Schaefer, Samantha Meyer, Gilbert Moore, Julie Omar, Brian Moon, Byron Skinner, Mary Wiese, Ashley Davis, Carrie Kali, Courtney Boyden, Kathleen Hogue, Judy Dare, and probably others we may have missed.

Planning Committee: Telin Ghigliotty Diaz, Becky Keyes, Barb Ricca, Sandy Ongley, Steve Kraynak, and Bob Gordon, Chair.
Wanted: prose, poems, photos & other art

Share your UU experiences, values, and reflections through art!

If you have UU-related art to share send a digital copy to Craig Rock at duniterock@gmail.com

Photo courtesy of the Left of Center Art Gallery, Las Vegas, NV.

What would life be?

Just what would my life be?  
So lonely, silent, still  
Without community  
Of many hugs and smiles,  
That always welcomes me.

It is here that I find  
A cheerful place to serve,  
Words so thoughtful and kind,  
Music to stir the soul,  
Thoughts to waken the mind.

We welcome all who search  
To find their place on earth  
Seeking to understand,  
Just who it is I am,  
In this our blessed church.

Margot Weaver Garcia

With Pen and Blank Paper

a poet  
sitting for hours  
wondering  
about wise words  
for the next poem  

like a fisherman
in a calm breeze
at peace
no fish in the pail
throwing back the little ones

But having a good day!

Craig Rock
Krista Tippett: The Art and Mystery of Living

In reviewing the videos from this year’s UU General Assembly, I was most impressed by the Ware Lecture presented by author Krista Tippett, best known for hosting the radio show ON BEING. I strongly recommend listening to her full one-hour talk by linking to the video selections below. But, to focus on what seems to be the declining state of our political and social institutions, I find particularly interesting her idea that our communities and institutions are both dying and being reborn at the same time. Tippett points out that we often do not have faith that this rebirth will occur, but she offers three “encouragements” to help us get beyond the discouragements we all have from time to time.

First, Tippett cautions us against using words such as tolerance and common ground unless we are truly willing to engage in meaningful conversation with those holding opposing views.

Second, she points out that the art of listening and questioning is so much more than patiently (or not so patiently) waiting our turn just so we can then “advocate for what we care about.”

Third, she encourages us to stand on the side of love and justice, claiming that “love can be a public good.” She asks the listener what love is. She advises that individuals should answer that question by reflecting on their personal stories.

Krista Tippett’s presentation and other talks at the General Assembly can be viewed on the UUA website. Please click here.

12th Year on the Desert for No More Deaths Volunteers

A personal view and photos by Craig Rock

On June 26, fifty No More Deaths (NMD) volunteers attended the 12th annual blessing of Byrd Camp near Arivaca, a short distance from the Mexican border. A dozen migrant guests --from Mexico and Honduras -- were also present, people in need of medical help after crossing parts of the Sonoran desert. They were some of the lucky ones; 75 bodies were found in June on the Arizona side of the border alone. It was only my second visit to the camp over the last two years, but it was a vivid reminder of the risks migrants take when attempting to cross the Sonoran desert.

Some migrants are fleeing from communities controlled by thugs or corrupt officials. In Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala alone, hundreds of journalists, mayors, labor leaders, human rights activists and others have been killed while working for reforms in their communities. Other migrants are trying to improve their family’s financial situation back home because the local economy has been severely degraded by the NAFTA trade agreement.

In this photo guest migrants talk to a NMD medical volunteer.
In many ways the arrest and deportation of these migrants reminds me of World War II when the ship SS St. Louis was denied entry to Cuba and the United States and its 900 Jewish passengers were returned to Europe where 254 later died in Nazi occupied Europe. (Read more about event.)

Some NMD volunteers live locally; others travel here while on school breaks or vacations. In addition to providing medical care at Byrd Camp, volunteers leave jugs of water on key trails, and search for missing migrants, sometimes after receiving a phone call from loved ones or perhaps a message indicating that some migrant group had to leave an injured person behind on the trail. Other volunteers try to ensure legal rights and humane conditions for migrants after their arrest by the Border Patrol, their detention in private or public prisons, and sometimes their deportation under dangerous conditions if returned to their native country.

This 24-foot high dome serves a field medical tent. It was recently donated by Pacific Domes of Ashland, Oregon.

Last year, No More Deaths and the La Coalicion de Derechos received $10,000 from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to research and report on how border enforcement policies and practices cause people to disappear in the desert after crossing the U.S.-Mexican border. We’ll be covering these reports as they are published in the coming months. Or you can more closely follow their work by linking to www.nomoredeaths.org.

I’ve been attending NMD’s bimonthly meetings now for six months or so. Every program or project is voted upon by consensus. There is never any discussion of personal motivations for helping these migrants. Volunteers are from all faiths and political persuasions. Many of us believe that families come first and should be kept together, not divided by artificial walls. We all do share the belief in dignity for all people. NMD is a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson.

Nogales on the Border

Dignity Bags

These bags are provided to deportees who often have no way to carry their few personal possessions except in plastic bags. See story below “Sewn Together.” You can support the effort in providing these free bags by purchasing your own through NMD or through the Gloo Factory.
No More Death volunteers join with other groups to help people who are deported from the U.S. to the Mexican side of the Nogales border. NMD reports that families are frequently separated and their belongings and money are either stolen or lost in the criminal justice process. To read more see page 4 in NMD's Fall 2015 Newsletter.

In the coming months we’ll also be reporting on other groups that work for humanitarian causes in and around Tucson and the Borderlands. If you have a story to share about your group, send it to me at duniterock@gmail.com

---

**Sewn Together**

*Story and Photos by Ray Younghans*

*(story originally appeared on www.foodconspiracy.coop)*

The Women’s Sewing Cooperative of DouglasPrieta Works (DPW) is the longest running and closest fair trade sewing project in our region. The women of DPW make quality hand-sewn products and support a community center that teaches self-sufficiency and promotes food security in the community of Agua Prieta, Sonora. The women are agents for change in this post-colonized town, and the project demonstrates how our consumer choices can make radical differences in peoples’ lives, while countering the global capitalist paradigm that takes the means of production away from individuals — for everything from the clothes we wear to the food we eat.

The name DouglasPrieta describes the mission of the group to dissolve the border between Agua Prieta, México, and contiguous Douglas, Arizona, where an artificial wall creates real divides between those who have material prosperity and those who don’t. Thus, DouglasPrieta Works is a resistance group that fills in the barren holes left in communities by worker exploitation. In previous decades, many people from Agua Prieta were employed by NAFTA factories, where they made products (including sewn goods) for export. Since 2000, over two-thirds of the factories have moved to lower-wage zones in Asia. This has left more and more people un- or underemployed. Since 1990, the population of Agua Prieta has risen from 37,000 to 200,000, and dozens of migrants are deported daily from the United States into Agua Prieta.

DouglasPrieta Works embraces a system where people can apply their skills to receive fair wages to support their families, and can pass their skills on to others, thus securing a livelihood for future generations. DPW has been collectively raising capital for infrastructure, equipment, and training to expand their program. Members make decisions together with the progress of all in mind. The women’s sewing group is a function of the whole cooperative, which also trains members in growing healthy food, building trades, and computer skills. Through perseverance, they have developed a community center with productive gardens and hand-made adobe structures. All members work in the garden, which contains food crops, fruit trees, herbs, and medicinal plants. Chickens are raised for eggs and rabbits for meat. The gardening supports improved nutrition and growth in self-esteem. The gardening program teaches water-harvesting, desert irrigation, erosion control, and use of beneficial bugs for control of other pests. The resources generated from sewing and food production benefit the members and also go back to support the center for all. Committed to a self-sufficiency that lives
through future generations, DPW also teaches classes. Co-op member Trini Anguamea says “We’ve had about 26 children come for sewing classes. They also come see the vegetables we grow. I know they’re going to learn something good.” Churches, service clubs, and border aid groups order bags, aprons, hot pads, and bandanas to sell at fundraisers. DPW also partners with humanitarian group No More Deaths to provide “dignity bags” — bags which are given to migrant deportees who have had all of their possessions taken in the deportation process. Local Tucson businesses and organizations such as Tap & Bottle and Make Way For Books order custom-printed tote bags from the DPW Co-op. Food Conspiracy Co-op has printed on tote bags and other items from DouglaPrieta Works, consistent with its mission to source locally and ethically, as well as to cooperate amongst other sister co-ops.

The DPW sewing Co-op is currently comprised of about seven women. As sewing orders increase, the Co-op trains new women. “Each member also becomes an active gardener and participates in the group’s governance” said Rosalinda Chavez. The collective meets with buyers to negotiate a wage that is fair and agreeable to the cooperative. This process elevates the concept of “Fair Trade” to an even higher standard as it gives more power to the workers themselves. DPW exports their products with the help of U.S. volunteers who courier them over the border, where they find their way to Tucson and elsewhere. Since the current export and import system is not designed for production of this human scale, the volunteers based in Douglas, Arizona are critical in helping the cooperative provide logistics, such as materials transfer, delivery and ordering.

Not only is the purchase of fair trade DPW sewn products a major benefit to the women who make them, but it supports a true local alternative to a global problem. In Tucson the products are available through the Gloo Factory, a union print shop and DPW’s main customer, where they may be embellished with custom designs. DPW products are well made and produced in a manner increasingly hard to find in an industry that has raced to the bottom to get the cheapest source of labor. This same industry maximizes profits from American consumers, who are often thoughtless about the source and subsequent impacts of the products they buy.

Through 13 years of sewing, growing, and building economic self-reliance, DouglaPrieta Works has taught and inspired many. Despite the challenge of living in a town with a rapidly increasing population of deportees, unemployment, and health problems, the women of DouglaPrieta Works demonstrate how to rebuild solid community and self-sufficiency in a climate of challenge. Through the struggle, Trini says, “One of things we have learned is we don’t give up easy.”

DPW is seeking to expand their network of customers, as well as donations of fabric, machines, and sewing supplies. To donate these materials, purchase DPW fair trade products, or order them with custom sewing or printing, contact the Gloo Factory at: www.thegloofactory.com.