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 WWII.

**LOCAL SHOW TIMES**

**KUAT TV Channel 6**
- Tuesday, 9/20, 9 PM
- Thursday, 9/22, 2 PM

*(PBS World Channel 9/25 6 PM 10 PM)*

For more information about the film, see page 38 of the Fall copy of UU World or click on this [link here](#). After viewing the film, if you are interested in working on some type of
immigration justice work, email me at the address above. See the article on page 2 for ideas and examples of what kind of work is being done by other UU churches in Arizona. Photo Credit: Rahoul Ghose/PBS.

**President's Column**

by Frank Valdes

How is UUCT like an Indy race car? The answer is the car (UUCT) and the driver (your leaders) would be nothing without the team behind it. That team includes the investors (everyone who pledges) and the pit crew (the staff and volunteers) who keep the car running at peak performance and stand behind the car and driver.

You may wonder why this analogy? Our answer to bringing together the pit crew is the PIT crew. This is the People Involvement Team. It has been a concern of mine and many members who've talked with me that people have been uncertain about how to bring their energy and talents to UUCT. The PIT crew is the means to addressing these concerns.

**People Involvement Team (PIT)**

The People Involvement Team is charged with identifying the needs and processes for volunteering at UUCT. This includes focusing us on what groups are needed (a topic discussed by the Board of Trustees at their last meeting), how the system needs to work, providing volunteer training resources and support, and generally being the focal point for people-involvement in our church.

The first steps have been taken to form a PIT under the co-chairmanship of courtney boyden and Carolyn Saunders. This brings a look to the future and to the past (Carolyn was active in the PIT concept a few years ago). You can reach the PIT crew at pitcrew@uuctucson.org with your thoughts about committees, groups, and volunteerism.

**Volunteering as a Spiritual Practice**

by Carolyn Saunders

One central tenet of the theology of Unitarian Universalism is the concept of interdependence—the interdependent web of all existence. Often we UUs are so busy asserting and protecting our independence as individual members and individual congregations, we overlook the strength we have collectively to achieve great good in the world.

As is true in most congregations and non-profit organizations, here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson there are never enough funds to hire enough staff to do everything we would like to see done. This is where interconnectedness comes in. We, members and staff, are all in this together. If we want to see UUCT thrive, grow and survive—if we want it to be the force for good that we know it can be—we all must share the work to make this happen.

That is why volunteers are greatly needed in many areas—social justice, religious education, fundraising and governance to
There are two things I’ve learned over the years to be quite true about being involved and volunteering. The first is that to really become connected to UUCT is to be involved in at least one, if not more, areas of the church. When I came to UUCT 26 years ago my avenue was through Religious Education (R.E.), where I was a teacher, R.E. committee member, secretary, and chair. I am still involved in R.E. through OWL, but have also volunteered in other areas. The second is that volunteering is a “spiritual practice.”

People sometimes ask why they should volunteer because they don’t feel recognized as much as they think they should be. UUCT tries, and will try harder, to provide recognition. But the answer for me is that, even without recognition, I feel spiritual satisfaction and fulfillment in volunteering and making a difference.

As noted earlier, an important step in people-involvement is understanding how the race car is built, how the engine works, and what jobs are needed in the pit and garage. Many members have been concerned about problems at the church and laid the blame on the engine, particularly “Policy Governance” and “Executive Team,” without actually understanding how this engine works. To clear this matter up, we are having a Congregational Forum on Sunday, September 18th after the service.

**Congregational Forum September 18**

The Congregational Governance Forum is a very important meeting. This meeting is intended to educate us on our current governance structure, dispel the many misconceptions about it, and open a discussion about changes that might be made. Also, we will look at the larger organizational structures of committees and teams that are name a few. We are called to offer our time and our talents to the service of this church as an expression of our UU faith and principles.

One of the broadest and perhaps most meaningful definitions of volunteering is this, “Doing more than you have to because you want to in a cause you consider good.” The mission statement of this church says we pledge energy and resources to transform ourselves, our community and the world around us. This is our cause. It is easy to complain about the state of the world or of the congregation. But it’s much harder to stop venting and do something about it.

By seeking out ways to be of service and use your talents to benefit others, you are working on a spiritual practice. Volunteering becomes transformative. The simple act of helping others brings powerful benefits to one’s own wellbeing.

Gandhi said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” If we truly want to see the world change for the better, the first step is to realize that change starts with us. Volunteering in this congregation gives you a platform to help those in need and reach the world that is suffering right in your own backyard. Volunteering is transformative. Volunteering your time and talent is a spiritual practice.

**Lifespan Faith Development**

This year we are bringing back our Awareness Theater Curriculum. This is the fun and engaging class that culminates in a play at the end of the year. 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
needed to keep our race car moving forward. Please attend.

In Other News

The Board and other leaders are meeting with our Pacific Western Region Ministerial Transition Team representative, the Rev. Anne Hines, to start the process leading to a new settled minister. This will eventually involve every member of UUCT starting with the interim transition “Meet & Greet” groups. The next “Call to the Congregation” gathering after service with your leaders is September 11th. Come for further updates and discussion. Your Board is also meeting with other Baja 4 Boards in a retreat later this month.

There will be a Teacher Training on September 11, 2016. Come right on over (12:00) after the service to the Servetus Room. Learn all about what it takes to lead or assist in a Sunday school class. Find out what we mean by “teaching as a spiritual act.” Learn our policies and tricks for classroom management. Get to know others in the congregation by being part of a teaching team! We provide childcare! Contact khogue@uuctucson.org

Time to register your children for the RE Program! Our budget and staffing hours are based on registered participants so it is important to keep your registrations up to date. Please register your child as soon as possible. Forms available at the LFD Table, or email khogue@uuctucson.org for an electronic version.

Covenant Circles begin the second week of October. Sign up at the LFD table. We need facilitators! If you have enjoyed this small group ministry in the past, please consider facilitating a group. We provide training and a once-per-month meeting just for our facilitators that includes guidance for each session and ongoing support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Services (10:30 AM)

September 4 - Poetry Sunday will Bill Keyes: Worship Associates: Randy Springer and
Brian Moon. Join us for a beloved UUCT tradition, our annual poetry service. We will celebrate poetry with UUCT poets Margo Weaver Garcia, Rebecca Easley, Liz Ravenwood, Lisa Martin, and Bill Keyes. **Music:** Desert Chorale.

**September 11 - TBA**

**September 18 - Sunday worship:** *In The Interim - A Call to Community* with Steve Kraynak, the Transition Team and Carolyn Saunders, worship associate. The interim period is a time to build beloved community, and a time to tell stories. Whether you are a current member or friend, a lapsed member or friend, a former member or friend, or a potential member or friend of this congregation, or just curious about our church or our faith, this service is intended for you. Please come and be part of the story. Preparation: 1. Review the five tasks of the interim period ([click here](#)); 2. Listen to and sing along with the Beatles' *We Can Work It Out:* ([click here](#)) and Carly Simon's *Let The River Run* as performed by Conspirare ([click here](#)); and 3. On September 18 arrive early, introduce yourself to one person whom you do not know or have not seen in a while, and sit with that person during the worship service.

**September 25 - TBA**

**Congregational Forum - September 18th**

*(A discussion of our current governance structure - See above article by Frank Valdes.)*

**Yard Sale - September 23-24**

Our annual church yard sale is this month, September 23 and 24. We need your gently used items. Also, volunteers are needed for set up, sale days, and clean-up. Please contact Beth Britton if you can help: [beth.britton@hotmail.com](mailto:beth.britton@hotmail.com)

**Our New Minister, October 16**

Sunday, October 16: Interim minister, Rev. Lyn Oglesby preaches in our pulpit.

**Interim Start-up Workshop in November**

Friday & Saturday, November 11 - 12: Interim Start-Up weekend workshop, for our congregation in its transition period, facilitated by Rev. Sarah Millspaugh of the UUA Congregational Life Staff.

**Volunteers Needed: Woodworking and Construction**
We are starting a project to refurbish or replace the mounting boards for the memorial plaques on the back of the Church. While we are doing this, we are planning to move the plaques to the inside of the sanctuary. We are looking for volunteers with some woodworking or construction experience to help with this. If you could help, please call Tom Warburton at 624-9008, or e-mail twarburton@cox.net

Donate to UUCT by Shopping at Amazon

You shop. Amazon gives. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, and select Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases is donated at no cost to you to UUCT. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. Be sure to select “Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson” as your designated charity. (Click here)

Save the Date - 2017 District Assembly

Please save the dates of March 30 to April 2, 2017 for our next District Assembly for the Pacific Southwest District and Camp deBenneville Pines. District Assembly will be held in Tucson, AZ. This will be a Justice Assembly with a range of activities dealing with immigration and border issues available. For those who wish to do so, there will be educational trips across the border or other opportunities in the Tucson area. More details to follow.
Finance Committee Attacks Debt

by Margot Garcia (Chair, Finance Committee)

The big picture for the month of July was that the church had income of $39,804.17 and expenses of $46,209.49, thereby creating a deficit of $6,405.32. That is not in line with our plan to live within our means. However, it is a manifestation of trying to get past the mountain of unpaid bills. We ended the 2015-2016 fiscal year $33,035.53 in deficit. That is what we are challenged to make up.

Actions taken to handle these problems:

1. We have taken out a loan of $15,200 to pay off the credit reserve, freeing that up for the normal swings in income. The loan is for 4 years at 5% interest with a monthly payment of about $850.
2. We are working to consolidate our three loans with Bank of the West so that they are at a lower interest rate and can be paid off over 4 years. That would help cash flow as the monthly payments would be about $700 instead of the current $1354 now being paid.
3. We paid off what we owed for last year’s pension obligation for Rev. Diane. That was done before her last day with us.
4. We are working to pay off back pensions for the rest of the staff. We owe now a lump sum of about $4,000 for Ashley Davis, office manager, who resigned.
5. We have moved from about $10,000 in unpaid bills to closer to $2,500.

On the positive side of income, we have continued to get more pledges. We now have 105 pledging units who have pledged $202,875. We are closing in on making up the match to $5,000 for the special “Meet the Budget” challenge. We have about $355 to go, so matching donations big or small are most welcome.

The next Finance Committee meeting is on Tuesday, September 6 at 7 in Servetus room. You are all most welcome. Our approved minutes, written by Rick Meyer, are posted on the church website.

The Finance Committee has scheduled a Church Forum on October 2 after church to discuss with you our debt reduction plan and ask for your input.

Margot Garcia
Chair, Finance Committee
For thousands of years the people have acquiesced and followed have bowed and curtsied and prostrated themselves before idols and tyrants and dwarfs. For thousands of years they have trembled at the threat of the bully shrinking themselves to escape being seen but ending up sheep for exploits and slaughter.

For thousands of years the human race has been ruled by the power-obsessed the ruthless, the cunning craving to remake the world in their image—a grand playground for their whims and their will.

For thousands of years the people sleepwalking have obeyed and followed have lied and spied and died for the despots—groveling slaves walled in by fear.

And although intermittently some rose and revolted in wild outbursts of despair and disgust in the end the hapless masses merely exchanged one dictator for another for their gaze remained fixed on the outside, on someone to save them—a rescuer from their insufferable chains.

Thus the people continued to trudge on driven like cattle by herders and hunger...

But now, behold, a new spirit has risen calling souls out of their trance!
And suddenly individuals with their eyes newly opened are seeing the fetters constricting their motions and minds.

Human Rights:
a Personal Manifesto

Do not ask me to remain silent in the face of atrocities. There are no excuses for crimes against humanity. Though you were once horribly mistreated, you have no right to do wrong now to others. This is a new millennium a new world. You must not be allowed to choke the emerging newness with your ancient stories of conquest and claims. This is the age of the oneness of all

Immigration Action Team (IAT) is a working group of UUJAZ, our statewide network for Unitarian Universalists in Arizona. IAT started out with members from 7 Arizona congregations, but it welcomes new members.

To give you an idea of some of the possible actions we can support here in Tucson, I’ve briefly described some of the actions IAT suggests that are both practicable for UU congregations and at the same time meaningful in relieving suffering and improving living conditions for those immigrants affected by a broken immigration system. Some of these actions are already being worked on by UU congregations in Arizona. I’ve included some of our local groups in Tucson.

Project Summaries

1. Work with Restoration Phoenix and related Tucson groups that support immigrants who are dropped off at Greyhound stations by immigration authorities without supplies or assistance. Some released detainees have won their case, but most are out either on bond or their own recognizance and have been granted permission to remain in the U.S. while pursuing their cases. Temporary housing and travel arrangements have to be made by contacting family members, friends, or various agencies in the United States. (IAT)

2. Start an ELL class. One UU Congregation’s Experience): Granite Peaks UU (Prescott) started an adult English Language Learner (ELL) class in response to a need expressed by a nearby low income community school. Currently they teach one class of 6 to 12 students twice a week for 1-1/2 hours. The class starts after parents drop off children for school. They meet in a family resource room at the school, using existing tables, seats, and a whiteboard. Two people with experience teaching ELL along with one assistant alternate teaching the sessions. When childcare for children under school-age has been needed, six UU volunteers take turns stepping in. Though the volunteer numbers shrink and grow and teaching strategies vary, they have carried on through a change of schools and spaces, expanding from one to two classes a week. (IAT)

3. Work with Borderlinks and Mariposas Sin Fronteras (Butterflies Without Borders) which address the isolation of LGBT undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers. See story below.

4. Volunteer to distribute water and supplies on trails used by lost border-crossers. No More Deaths and the Samaritans are two local groups involved in this effort.

5. Start a Plaza Comunitaria program, an adult basic education program in your community. (IAT)

6. Join the Sanctuary Movement at your church or assist churches that have a program.

7. Gather stories of those subjected to ‘crimmigration.’ (IAT)

8. Monitor legislative action on immigration justice issues at the state level. (IAT)

9. Organize educational opportunities at your site using UU College of Social Justice materials. (IAT)

10. Participate individually or as a congregation in public witness actions (such as marches or protests), announced through UUJAZ, UUCT, or other groups.

For a more complete description of the UUJAZ IAT suggestions, click here. For more information about UUJAZ log on to www.uujaz.org
the end of us versus them
of collective punishment, getting even.
This is the dawn of a new kind of relating:
all people are chosen
to sit together
at the Roundtable of Life
each one unique, precious—everyone
a designated player
in the creative process
of unity in diversity.
There is none who is less
none who is more—all are
endowed with equal rights and freedoms
all are the children of life!

Therefore, do not ask me to remain
silent in the face of violations against
any of them.
I have no intention
of being blackmailed by labels
or closeted by fear.

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UUJAZ Youth Program

UUJAZ was recently awarded a grant to work with young adult Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings and Allison Wood will be meeting with all AZ UU churches to see what their young adults would like to see us take action on and what kind of commitment, as UUs, young adults can make. They will be coming to see us on October 2 at 12:30 after church services. Please email Sam Meyer, if you are a member or friend of UUCT and are in the 18 to 35 age range and would like to come. Sam's email is: sammeyer13@gmail.com

Help Wanted at Borderlinks

At BorderLinks, we challenge ourselves to better witness and grapple with the painful realities of our inhumane and deadly immigrant enforcement and mass incarceration systems. (Pictured here is a group from the Leadership Now Academy from Lancaster Theological Seminary. They participated in a Borderlinks program to learn more about immigration and the border. This
We are an organization with over 26 years of doing work in these U.S./Mexico borderlands. Each year we open our doors to groups from around the country: youth, seminaries, schools, churches and colleges. These delegations make their way to the border with open minds and hearts. They are eager to listen, to learn, and to build a more just and loving world. They bring hope into our lives, and for the future.

This year, BorderLinks has been blessed with the participation of a record number of (10) youth groups. The “Leadership Now” youth delegation, a program from Lancaster Theological Seminary, arrived here with heavy hearts just a couple weeks after the devastating shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Together with their BorderLinks leader, they explored how struggles for humanity and justice in the borderlands are connected to struggles against violence and oppression everywhere.

Their week started off by learning that the Orlando shooter had previously worked for G4S, the world’s largest global security firm responsible for providing the transportation to detain and deport migrants. Consequently, they decided to make their way up to Florence, AZ to visit LGBTQ folks in immigration detention. There they heard how many incarcerated LGBTQ migrants are fleeing discrimination, persecution and death in their countries of origin due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Lastly, they concluded their week by attending a local art exhibit, where they saw artwork made by and highlighting the experiences of LGBTQ migrants proudly on display. These opportunities were facilitated through BorderLinks’ new immigrant detention visitation program, a partnership with Tucson-based Mariposas Sin Fronteras (Butterflies Without Borders). One delegate commented:

“My experience with Mariposas Sin Fronteras’ visitation program is one I will never forget. The people that I met have impacted my life in a way that is hard to explain. I’ve made lifelong friends who I learn something new about and from each time we speak.”

As Unitarian Universalists here in Tucson and around the country, we know that justice in the borderlands is something incredibly important to you as well. We would love to hear from you. Visit us on our website. Consider joining us in a delegation. Share your experiences and passion with us. We look forward to working together.

For more information, please contact us at (520) 628-8263 or visit us at www.borderlinks.org.