This month and last, Unitarian Universalists around the country are commemorating the beginnings of Universalism in America. Rev. John Murray was a Calvinist preacher in Ireland. He heard that a small group of religious heretics were forming in London, led by Rev. John Relly, centering their belief around the idea that Jesus' love extended to all people, not just a chosen few.

Rev. Murray was dismayed by this idea and went to London to convince a young female convert, Eliza, of the errors of her ways. But, the more he listened to this woman (who soon became his wife) and Rev. Relly, the more Rev. Murray began to accept Universalism into his heart: God does not choose who God loves...God's loves all. This crisis of faith led to some serious depression and compelled him to flee Europe for America.

As the legend goes, in September 1770, Rev. Murray's ship, bound for New York City, landed unexpectedly on the shores of New Jersey. After landing, Rev. Murray met Thomas Potter, an American Universalist who had built a church in anticipation of a Universalist preacher filling its pulpit. To Mr. Potter, Rev. Murray's arrival was some sort of fate.

Rev. Murray was skeptical, but agreed to preach the following Sunday if the winds did not shift enough for his boat to move. The winds did not shift, and so on September 30th 1770, Rev. John Murray preached the first message of Universalism from Potter's church in New Jersey. From there, Universalism grew throughout the United States, and is part of our religious foundation today.

To be clear, this story is legend: an embellished truth to capture our imaginations. Modern historians have uncovered the actual name of the young woman Rev. Murray tried to “rescue” in London, Eliza, and written her back into the story. And others have questioned why we credit Rev. Murray with bringing Universalism to America, while there were clearly people with Universalist beliefs present in Mr. Potter’s town. Needless to say, this focus on Universalism feels particularly potent in these times of societal tumult, racial inequity, income inequality, and the rising tide of fascism.

A Universalist theology teaches that all are worthy of life and love – whether that be God’s love, or the love of community. The First Principle of Unitarian Universalism – that all beings have inherent worth and dignity – arises directly out of Universalist theology.
When I speak or preach on Universalism, an inevitable brand of question arises: What about Hitler? What about the person who abused me? What about the family who abandoned me? What about…? You can fill in the blank.

It’s true. Universalism challenges us to see that these people are all worthy of love. Personally, I find some comfort in knowing that someone loves those who I cannot yet love. I tell myself, “God loves them, I don’t have to try so hard. I can focus elsewhere.” This allows me to focus on how to love the stranger, the immigrant, the cash-poor neighbor, my trans siblings, the unhoused, folks who identify as BIPOC, etc.

Loving those who have been marginalized encourages me to not just tolerate or accept, but to actually love all people. Universalism asks us to consider who has been pushed to the margins, and to direct our love there, where it can make the biggest impact.

So, who are you called to love in this time? What is keeping you from loving them already? How will you become Love’s hands in the world?

See you on Zoom,
- Rev. Bethany

Vespers on Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Every Thursday at 6:30 (please note time change!), Rev. Bethany, guest speakers, and Worship Associates will lead a 30-40 minute vespers service on Zoom. This is a live service with songs, readings, and a short reflection from Rev. Bethany or another speaker. Join us!

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7025890260, password: 483148

Vespers Services after Election Day

Anticipating that the days after Election Day will be tumultuous, Baja 4 ministers are planning to offer daily evening vespers services in the days after November 3rd. This will be a space for you to bring your whole self – worries, fears, hopes, and all – and be held through music, word, and silence. Vespers will be at 6 PM on November 4th – 6th and 10AM on November 7th.

Mark your calendars!
More details forthcoming.

Welcome Rylee Uhrich, 2020-21 Shared Ministerial Intern!

Starting September 1st Rylee Uhrich will be joining UUCT and Borderlands UU as a shared Ministerial Intern. Rylee is currently a student at Starr King School for the Ministry and just drove to Tucson from the Pacific Northwest. Learn more about Rylee by watching this video:

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuWJGfxeyXA)

And read the e-blast to learn about opportunities to get to know her.

6. UU the Vote with UUJAZ (ages 12+). This November, we have an opportunity to reflect our UU values in local policy more than ever. Can we ensure free and safe elections? End cash bail and contracts with private prisons? Hold police accountable? Empower those most vulnerable to pandemic and racism? Fund education? None of this will happen without you. We have just over a week before ballots drop, so NOW is the time to have conversations with people you know, or join a phone or text bank. Don't wake up in November wishing you had done more. Find out more at this session.

October 11, 2020

November 8, 2020 / December 13, 2020
January 10, 2020 / February 14, 2020
March 14, 2020 / April 11, 2020
May 9, 2020

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**Seeking Workshop Leaders**

I'm building a schedule of workshops and would love to include you in the line up. What do you have to share with the world? Bring me an idea and we'll work together to develop it! No need to worry about technical support. I'll have assistants available to manage the Zoom, so you can simply lead.

If you have any questions or want to lead a workshop, please contact Jamili at DRE.UUCT@gmail.com.

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Family Faith Development

The folder is available to everyone! You'll find activities that take 5 minutes and ones that take 5 days, so you're in control of how much time you spend on RE.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18E0X5KLfOY6tpGu-74PmWEW9N2lqDrq?usp=sharing

Worship Services with the Baja 4

UUCT Fall Services Worship Calendar

October 4 Gather the Spirit!: MVUU Rev. Sam

October 11 Won’t You Be My
FINANCES
Submitted for the Finance Committee
By Heather T Reed, VP of Finance

Now that the PPP loan funds have been spent, the Finance Committee is working hard on a full report of the impact of the pandemic and the PPP Loan on the church's finances, as well as a plan for how best to use the PPP loan funds once the loan is forgiven. The plan is to provide the report to the congregation in early November. In the meantime, rest assured that our finances continue to be sound thanks, in large part, to your support.

In the last month, the FC has continued its work to create better practices to track spending and easy-to-read reports that provide a useful snapshot of our finances. We have also identified a Chair for the committee and are working on recruiting new members to fill their ranks. While life at church, and everywhere else, is far from what we're used to, know that the FC is committed to keeping our church fiscally sound.

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UUCT Board approves small, in-person outdoor gatherings on campus.

UUCT Gathering Policy
Stage 1

The UUCT board has approved a policy designed to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, while permitting small outdoor gatherings and meetings on our campus under specific safety conditions.

The policy, which is effective Sept. 2, 2020 until further notice incorporates CDC, state and local guidelines, recommendations, and best practices.

This Stage 1 policy will relate to the first of 4 stages in UUCT's eventual return to normalcy:

- Stage 1 – effective Sept. 2 relates to small-group outdoor gatherings on campus.
- Stage 2* – Small, limited-seating Sunday worship services on the patio.
- Stage 3* - Limited-seating Sunday services inside Holland Hall.
- Stage 4* (post-vaccine) Near-normal, possibly including hybrid arrangements.

(*) Policies for Stages 2-4 have not yet been developed.

You can read the entire document at: UUCTUCSON.ORG

Welcoming and Membership

Yes, you can still join the church during the pandemic.

To connect to Rev. Bethany who will facilitate the process click here.

Know folks new to UUCT? Encourage newcomers to complete the Guest Information Card here or on line at UUCTucson.org. Alma Byrd will contact them to help them get engaged in the many distancing activities of the church.

The Directory has been updated. Please print it from the web page.

SAZCUUPS
EJ Millstone

What is Waning?
We held an Ask-A-Pagan class with many different faiths represented and we all had one thing in common, a lot of book recommendations! We also held a beautiful Fall Equinox ritual focused on panantheism and the web of interconnectivity.

What Is Waxing?
Our Second Sunday offering will be Stitch and Witch. Bring any art or craft you’re working on and join us for witchy talk and creation! Show and tell and questions highly encouraged. Join us on Sunday, October 11th at 12:15 pm in our zoom room. ID: 823 936 4868

Our Samhain Ritual will be held Sunday, November 1st at 6:15 pm. Ana Ortiz will be leading us in celebration. Ritual will also be held in our zoom room—it’s been really nice to see everyone during these gatherings! ID: 823 936 4868
Attend a meeting!
(You can find the Zoom information below AND on
the homepage of the Church website)

The SJC, chaired by Aston Bloom, meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9am. All are invited to participate.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82319798034?pwd=N3NoaUVLczdacjF4b2c3QVZWOGZUZz09
Meeting ID: 823 1979 8034
Passcode: 483148
Join by telephone (voice only): +1 669 900 6833,
Meeting ID: 823 1979 8034

As noted previously we are now providing two organizations per month the Share the Plate proceeds.

Our Share the Plate donations for October:

Cafe Justo - This project benefits small-scale, shade-grown organic coffee growers in Chiapas, Mexico. (Love coffee? See information below for purchasing and delivery.)

Mass Liberation Front - Mass Liberation Arizona seeks to DE-CARCERATE and DIVEST from the criminal (in)justice system - we need people & resources IN our communities NOT in prisons.

How to donate
Checks with “Share the Plate” in the memo line can be mailed to the office. Online donations can be made at https://uuctucson.org/donate. On that donation page you will find an option for Share the Plate as well as designations for pledge fulfillment, general donation, and Minister’s Discretionary Fund.

UUCT ‘Surrogate Shoppers’
Helping medically at-risk UUCT members

UUCT Surrogate Shoppers can pick up medicines and deliver groceries for UUCT members.

To place a grocery order, contact one of the surrogate shopper volunteers:
- Vail and East Tucson – Marsha Newcomb, marshanewcomb@gmail.com
- Vail and East Tucson – Cathy Dinsmore, cjdgate@gmail.com
- Northwest Tucson – Terry Spinelli, terryspinelli@gmail.com
- Green Valley – Bonita Mott, bonmott@hotmail.com
- Midtown Tucson – Rex Graham, AZSocialJustice@gmail.com

Deliveries will be made within 1-3 days.

UUCT’s Coffee and Clothes Drive
Sales and delivery - Kate Schleinkofer and Judy Dare lead this project. The delivered-price is $10 per pound bag of Arabica beans and ground, and Robusta beans and ground.

Pagan Tip of the Month
It’s the time of year when the veil thins and our ancestors are closer to us than ever. Creating an ancestor shrine is a great way to honor those who came before us and influence and guide us even today. Carve out a small space in your home for pictures, items that belonged to them, their favorite foods, colors and candles. You can even add ancestors not related by blood. This year, I plan to include Gene Roddenberry in mine, a big inspiration for my (nerdy) ethical and moral center!

Report from Facilities Team - Margot Garcia

The good news is that the roofs of Goddard, Thoreau and Lincoln (click for aerial view, thanks to Chuck Gould) have been repaired and painted with 2 coats of elastomeric paint. That should keep the rain out for several years. This work was paid for from the savings UUCT realized from getting a PPP loan/grant from the Federal Government to pay for staff and utilities for 2 ½ months.

Thanks to Barbara Ricca, Ken Asch and Carolyn Valdes and many others, the church grounds have been raked and pruned so that our campus looks lived in and neat. Ken also repaired the door to the mechanical room and Chuck Gould has been building basins and deep watering the Palo Verde trees along 22nd St. This summer has been brutal on all vegetation.

The saga of the solar panels continues. Enlightened Solar Solutions Leasing LLC, the company we lease the panels from has gone into Chapter 7 bankruptcy. We have been notified of this by the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Arizona. The Board authorized consultations with a bankruptcy lawyer and withholding monthly payments until we know who to mail them to. The remaining value of the lease is about $128,000. However, we have a right to try and buy the installation next year. We will keep you up to date as the story unfolds.

As a result of the Homeless Summit in August, we are moving to put locks on outdoor water spigots and cover over outside electrical outlets. Ken and Barb mapped the inventory of the spigots and outlets and those that are outside of the Children’s Center have been covered over or locked. When we hear which spigots and outlets the Children’s Center uses, then we will cap the remaining ones to

Questions about Zoom or our gatherings? Email us at sazcuups@uuctucson.org
New!
Small Group Ministry at
UUCT
Circles of Trust for Unitarian Universalists are coming to UUCT, beginning the week of October 19!

These ongoing small groups will run through the end of May. Each Circle of 8 people will meet either once a month for 2 hours, or twice a month for 1½ hours, over Zoom. Modeled after Quaker teacher and writer Parker Palmer’s Circles of Trust, now in wide use all over the world, the groups will be facilitated by UUCT Affiliate Ministers and experienced lay leaders.

Participating in a Circles of Trust for UUs offers you the chance to:
- Connect meaningfully with others
- Create a community of trust
- Engage important questions of the self and of the times
- Listen attentively and speak truthfully
- Learn to ask open-ended, honest questions
- Welcome silence; invite laughter
- Practice deep, covenantal relationships

To register, or for more information, please contact Rev. Karla Brockie kbrockie@uuma.org or Rev. Carolyn Price uurevclprice@gmail.com. And if you want to participate, but no available time works for you, let us know. Groups may be added as the church year progresses.

The following days and times are offered this fall:

Circles of Trust for UUs Oct 2020 – May 2021
Group Meeting Times and Facilitators:

1st and 3rd Mondays, 2-3:30pm, Rev. Karla Brockie, facilitator. Begins Oct 19

3rd Tuesday, 10am to noon, Rev. Carolyn Price, facilitator. Begins Oct 20

3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon, Rev. Julie Olson, facilitator. Begins Oct 17

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7pm, for young adults age 18-35, Rachael Milles facilitator. Begins Oct 21

1st and 3rd Monday, 7-8:30 pm, Linda Myers, facilitator. Begins Oct. 19

We hope you’ll join us for this exciting new small group ministry.

~ Karla, Carolyn, and Julie; Linda, and Rachael, Facilitators, Circles of Trust for UUs.

Road Trip!
The Empire Ranch

Empire Ranch is a working cattle ranch in southeastern Arizona. It is currently in the process of being allowed to become a home for unhoused people. As a part of that process we are adding to the list of needed repairs to our campus in order to prepare a master list that can guide our priorities and funding of those repairs. We would welcome any input from you, the congregants, as to things you have seen that need to be repaired or improved. We welcome your suggestions. Send them to Margot Garcia (mgarcia@vcu.edu), Facilities Team facilitator and she will compile them. We hope at our November meeting to begin to prioritize the many things we need to do with an eye to the limited funds we have at this time.

We meet first Sunday of the month at 9 am. You are welcome to join us.

IT'S PRIDE MONTH!

This photo was taken at the PRIDE Parade at the end of September, 2019. It was a miserably hot day, but these folks were committed to supporting the Queer Community in our congregation and beyond!

This year PRIDE will be celebrated virtually on October 24th. Quite a different experience, but none the less worth celebrating. If you wish to join the celebration here is the link.

https://tucsonpride.org/tucson-pride-festival/

If you're an older adult you might be interested in Senior Pride. Here is their YouTube link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClyYqDQwZooNMuNZ2H_IibA

If you're interested in participating in the celebration with LGBTQAI+ Group at UUCT stay tuned! There is more to come...

~ Revs. Karla, Carolyn, and Julie; Linda, and Rachael, Facilitators, Circles of Trust for UUs.

Conversations with Friends

Ronna James and Gilbert Moore

Conversations with Friends has resumed meeting weekly, at 2:30 pm on Wednesdays, via zoom.

For info contact Gilbert Moore at: gmoore579@aol.com
Pima County, Arizona that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. In its heyday, Empire Ranch was one of the largest in Arizona with a range spanning over 180 square miles. It's owner, Walter L. Vail, was an important figure in the establishment of southern Arizona's cattle industry.

In the early 1950's the ranch was featured in several western films starring many of Hollywood's most famous actors, such as John Wayne, Gregory Peck and Steve McQueen.

On November 7th the Empire Ranch plans to host their annual “Roundup” now called the Cowboy Festival which has many events of cultural interest.

Carolyn Saunders and Julia Mehrer are planning a one day TUUR to the festival, Covid permitting. No details are available at this time, but stay tuned for more information!

Meet Zoobie! (Space Cat Extraordinaire!)

Submitted by Gloria McMillan

When I was about twelve, I had a Sears microscope. That microscope was a big advance in my life, although it may have held me back socially. I found friends among tiny things who didn’t know I existed. Paramecia, Volvoxas (who look something like COVID viruses without the spikes), amoebas, stentors—what a tiny zoo! I grew up in a steel mill suburb of Chicago and so big nature wasn’t right outside my door but little nature was around any time I could get some water from the pond nearby. I realized those little beings were as real as I was but they lived in fast motion. Nobody at school knew or cared much about this and I have found this to be the case to this day. I never became a microbiologist because I mainly enjoyed how these beings looked not how they functioned. I did endless drawings.

Science, as I mentioned, is about scale. Everyday life tells us that our human scale is more important than any other scale in the universe, but who are we to pass judgement? There is a classic story called “Surface Tension” about just such tiny beings under a microscope. Here is a link to this story.

LINK: https://gwijthoff.github.io/globalSF/readings/blish_surface_tension.pdf

Rhetoric about divine plans mean little to people who entertain the idea that there may be no plan, no plan at all, just many complex systems interacting in a myriad of ways. Having an open system means we don’t deduce from an already-given answer but induce from phenomena like many views of tiny beings that amaze, delight, and sometimes terrify when we consider the implications.

Send ideas to pursue, or write your own column to newsletter@uuctucson.org. This is your Cosmic Corner and your voices are important to us.

Tucson UU Younger Adults (TUUYA) Meet Ups

Do you identify as a young adult (generations X, Y, or Z)? Would you like to meet up with other UU young adults? TUUYA regularly hosts events and meet ups.

To stay in the loop make sure that Janice (janicesignin@gmail.com) or Jamili (dre.uuct@gmail.com) has your email or join us on Facebook: by searching Tucson UU Younger Adults (TUUYA).

The UUCT Book Club

The UUCT Book Club has selected the books for October and November so that participants will have time to acquire and read the books. We are not ready to meet in person and will continue to use Zoom. We meet online the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30am.

The book for our October 8th meeting is "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri.

The book for our November 12th meeting is "The German House" by Annette Hess.

To be added to the book club email list, contact Jan. ZOOM LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88412604078?pwd=SWl0dGdyTzZrRTlYaDk1VEXlNnBiZz09

OR
go to: zoom.us
select: Join meeting:
Meeting ID: 884 1260 4078
Password: 484848
The Art Corner

Do you write poetry or prose? Are you an artist or photographer? Perhaps you work in clay or are a beader. What about a favorite Covid-19 recipe? We want to share in your creativity!

Send to:
announcements@uuctucson.org for inclusion in the Tucsonitarian.

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Defensible Space
By Margot Weaver Garcia - September 2005

To protect my home from wildfire,
I cut brush loaded with berries
I rake forest duff, pine needles
Decaying leaves, pine cones, and seeds,
Stuff them into a plastic bag,
Ready for a trip to the dump.

I protect my home in the woods,
By destroying the homes of bugs,
Removing food for bird and bear
Op’ning the soil to erosion.

By what right have I to do this?
To make my wants superior
To those of my fellow creatures
Who share life on Gaia with me?

I have no easy answer,
I wasn’t even here first,
Must be because I am bigger,
Maybe because I think ahead.

CONNECT WITH US!

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