



## **LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**November 2015**

### **Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services**

**November 8 - “A Copernican Revolution- Spiritual Style”; Rev. Ernie Mills**

*This meditation focuses on our Unitarian Universalist First Principle: "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" and how that principle directly challenges an age old dogma known as Original Sin. Our first principle not only challenges that dogma but represents a radical revolution in how we are to relate to ourselves and each other. Like peace, worth and dignity have to begin with the individual, with you and me. It is, indeed a spiritual revolution no less important that the Copernican revolution that changed our view of the outer universe.*

**November 15 - “Declaration of Inter-dependence”; Rev. Ernie Mills**

*As our First Principle challenges an age old dogma known as Original Sin, our Seventh principle, "respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part", challenges another age old belief in humans as the apex of creation, free standing and independent. This Principle reminds us that we "did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it" (Chief Seattle). This Principle expands our vision beyond the human, cultural world to include all of life as well as our interdependence on that life.*

**November 22 - “Jesus Potter Harry Christ - A Fascinating Comparison”; Speaker: Jan Manning; Service Leader: Sue Boyzchuk**

*Based on a book by Derek Murphy, Jan will talk about the many similarities between ancient mythology and Christian Biblical mythology. She will use as an example the comparison between the Greek god Dionysus and Jesus Christ.*

**November 29- “We Give Thanks”; Service Leader: Mardele Harland**

## Rev. Ernie Mills



Ernie completed a BA in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, a Master of Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He began his ministry in the United Methodist Church, serving as director of education, assistant pastor, minister and chaplain.

Leaving his long-time affiliation with United Methodism was, as Mills has said, one of the most difficult decisions of his life. But in 2002 he resigned his position at Brevard College and became part-time minister to a small congregation of Unitarian Universalists in North Carolina known as UUTC. "The UUs I have met are dedicated, eager to grow and learn, and are always ready for a new experience" writes Ernie.

When he retired last June, UUTC had a growing children's program, adult education programs, and many new UUTC members and friends.

Ernie credits his family -- wife Diane, and daughters Sarah, Joanne, and Libby -- for keeping him grounded and helping him formulate sermon ideas.

Ernie's strong interest in depth psychology and his love of folk guitar and mountain storytelling enhanced his theology and brought an added dimension to his ministry. As lead singer and guitarist for the Eclectics, Ernie performed regularly for the congregation.

## Visiting Minister Special Events:



**Fri. Nov. 6, 5 to 8 p.m.**  
**Potluck and Sing Along at Jeanne and Paul's: Tempisque # 15**  
Bring a dish and drinks to share; welcome our visiting minister and his wife Diane, and enjoy a sing along!

**Wed. Nov. 11: 3 to 5 p.m.**  
**UU film and Discussion at the Fellowship.**  
This information session is open to all who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Mills will show a DVD from the Series "The Long Strange Trip", followed by questions and discussion. Coffee and cookies will be served.

**Sun. Nov. 15 (after the Service)**  
**Lunch at Viva Mexico, San Juan Cosala**

This is our monthly 'lunch out' an also an opportunity to say "goodbye" to Rev. Mills.

## President's Report



**We are looking for a new home!** The new owners of 10A Rio Bravo have informed us that they want to sell the property, and have asked the current tenants to vacate the premises by the end of March. **Lew Crippen** is chairing a **Facilities Search Committee** which hopes to have recommendations for the December Board meeting. If you know of any suitable space, please contact Lew. The current property has served us very well for the last two years and we will be sad to leave. But our fellowship is not about location; it is about community, and we will survive this move as we have others.

**The LCUUF Annual General Meeting will be held following the service on January 31.** The agenda will be available 3 weeks prior to the meeting. There are four Board positions up for election: two members-at-large, Vice president and President. If you're interested in running for any of these positions, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Cate Howell, Lew Crippen and Heidi MacLennan.

**Committees** are the backbone of our Fellowship. They are currently finalizing their budget requests for the next year and determining their staffing needs. Watch the December Newsletter for information about LCUUF committee mandates and policy, as well as staffing needs, and consider volunteering!

## Committee News



Donations to the **Mezcala Food Program**, as of mid-July this year, were 28 percent **less** than they were at mid-July in 2014. The **Outreach Committee** reminds us that any money put into the brown box goes directly to the food program. The children greatly appreciate your donations.

We will again be collecting used clothing for the **Operation Feed Clothing Drive**. Bring your items to the Service on **Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** or **contact Outreach Chair, Susan Miller.**

If anyone is interested in serving as a **greeter** on Sunday mornings, please talk to any member of **the Membership Committee**. We'd love to have your help!

We will host a **New Member ceremony** in early to mid-December for anyone who wants to join in order to vote in our Annual Meeting in January. If you're interested, please talk to **Donna Burroughs, Membership Chair**, or any member of the Committee.

The **Sunday Service Committee** welcomes its new member, Nancy Jordan-Zanot.

The **Sunday Service Coordinator** for Nov. and Dec. is Teresa Sande. The Coordinator for Jan. Feb. and March is Karyn Carpenter. Please contact them or **Sunday Service Chair Kathy Koches**, if you would like to be a speaker, service leader, or have a topic you would like to suggest.

## News/Events/Activities



*John Blackmer passed away on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Heartfelt condolences to Marion and family members. A Memorial Service will be held November 29<sup>th</sup> at LCS.*

## Self-inquiry Meditation



Saturday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 at Richard Clarke's home: San Luis 73A, Riberas del Pilar, 376 765 6976. Watch videos on Ramana Maharshi and self-inquiry; listen to audios of profound teaching and dialogs; and experience guided Self-inquiry meditation. Questions and discussion will follow. All are welcome.

## CIRCLE SUPPERS

Assignments for the October/ November Circle Suppers are posted on the bulletin board. Hosts will be contacting their guests to arrange a convenient date for their circle. We had 32 people

sign up this quarter for our circle suppers, which have proven to be one of our most popular activities. This is a great way to get to know other members in a small group atmosphere.



## CHOIR NEWS

I am happy to report that Rodrigo Leal has agreed to donate his time and talents to be the piano accompanist for our LCUUF choir. We welcome new member, Lori Fjelstad, and are looking for additional singers, particularly sopranos and tenors. This season's rehearsals will be held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 9:30 to 11:00 am at the Fellowship, beginning November 2nd. See Bob Koches, Choir Director if you would like to participate or contact him at [bob.koches@gmail.com](mailto:bob.koches@gmail.com).



## Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will be November 23rd at 3pm at the Fellowship. Everybody has had experiences that cannot be explained by science. We will explore personal experiences and look at shamanism, acupuncture, auras, and the relationship between shakras and the vagas nerve. If you would like to receive links to topics prior to a discussion, contact Bob at [bob.koches@gmail.com](mailto:bob.koches@gmail.com)

## LCUUF Women's Movie Group

The Women's Movie Group did not meet in October. We are attempting to ascertain a day and time that will be convenient for everyone for our November film showing. Please contact Kathy Koches to let her know your preferences. We have some exciting movies lined up for our next few get-togethers!



Trudy and Lew Crippen will again host LCUUF's **Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner** on **November 26** at 2 O'clock. Be sure to sign the sheet on the Welcome Table as numbers are limited. This is always a highlight of our year; wonderful food and great company!

## Member Spotlight



**Susan R. Kelley** was born on a Thursday in Iowa, but moved with her family to Muskogee, Oklahoma when she was 10. Even as a child, Sue knew she wanted to work with books, and got her first job in a library at age 15.

Sue majored in English at Oklahoma State University where she met Kelley. Shortly after they married in 1959, Kelley was drafted. They were sent to France where they experienced many memorable moments. Following their return to Tulsa, they were assigned to Houston, Texas to await a transfer to Libya, a virtually unknown destination in 1965.

Sue and Kelley lived and worked in Libya for 6 years. Sue has recently completed a book about their experiences, titled "*How the Camel Ate My Hat*", which is based on letters she wrote to her mother.

The thing that surprised me most about Sue was that she worked as a lobbyist for three years with Common Cause, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to restoring the core values of American democracy. To this day, she retains her passion for politics, along with books, children, cooking and sports. She listened to Cubs baseball games with her grandmother, and remains a Cub fan.

Sue and Kelly have been Unitarian Universalists for 15 years and were founding members of LCUUF. Sue served on the original steering committee and was a member of the Sunday Service Committee for 6 years. She set up and continues to manage the Fellowship Library and currently serves on the Care Committee. Sue and Kelley have lived in Mexico for ten years.

*Jan Manning*

***This Newsletter provides LCUUF information to members and friends.***

***Editor: Mardele Harland***  
[\*\(fmharland@gmail.com\)\*](mailto:fmharland@gmail.com)