



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

December 2015

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

December 6: *"Human Evolution: Did Language and Religion Play a Role?"* Speaker: Richard Rhoda; Service Leader: Fred Harland

December 13: *"Girl Rising: Why the Education of Girls Matters"*
Speaker: Ellen McFarland; Service Leader: Teresa Sande

December 20: *"Christmas Traditions Mexican Style"*
Service Leader: Kathy Koches.



The Children's Choir of San Juan Cosala, under the direction of Daniel Medeles and Gustabo Medeles, and accompanied by Rodrigo Leal Murillo will perform Christmas music for us. Come and celebrate the season Mexican style. Be sure and bring extra "goodies" to the coffee hour on the 20th for the children.

December 27: *"A Holiday Scrooge Shares Stories of the Season"*
Speaker: Karyn Carpenter; Service Leader: Teresa Sande. LCUUF Choir will sing.

President's Report



We are very pleased that Dave Miller, rushed to the hospital two weeks ago, is now out, recuperating, and feeling much better.

Please mark on your calendars and plan to attend two important events scheduled in January: Pastoral Care Training (Jan. 22, 23) and the AGM (Jan. 31).

We're delighted that JoAnn Flanagan and Paulette Cox will be here from Accotink, (Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael's congregation) in Virginia, to provide **specialist training in pastoral care**. The first workshop, on **Friday Jan 22**, is for the whole congregation, and the second, on **Saturday, Jan 23**, is for people either currently providing care, or possibly interested in doing so in the future. We need volunteers to provide accommodation Jan. 22 to 24 for 4 members of the San Miguel UU congregation (one couple, two singles) who are participating in our pastoral care training. Please let me know if you might be able to help.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is January 31, immediately following the Sunday service. The meeting will include reflections on the past year and directions for the next. Check the Jan. Newsletter for more details.

Mardele and I will away from Dec. 14th to Jan. 2nd. Happy Holidays to all!



Committee News

New Member Ceremony

Only LCUUF members can vote at the January General Meeting. For anyone who has been thinking about joining and wants to vote, there will be a New Member Ceremony in mid-December. If you're interested in joining at that time, please see one of the Membership Committee members: Donna, Ellen, Jan, Mardele, or Trudy.

Greeters Needed

One of the keys to member satisfaction is how welcome people feel at the Fellowship. A key role in making that happen is that of greeter. If you find that you're interested in the people who attend our services, you might enjoy being a greeter. To find out more, contact any of the Membership Committee members.

LCUUF Committees

The LCUUF currently operates with five standing committees. Below is a list of the committees and current chairs. Many of these committees will be looking for volunteers in the New Year. Please consider volunteering!

Sunday Service Committee: (6)

Chair: Kathy Koches

Membership: (5)

Chair: Donna Burroughs

Outreach: (5)

Chair: Susan Miller

Finance: (5)

Chair: Gary Cleek

Program (5)

Chair: Kathy Koches

News/Events/Activities

BON VOYAGE TO BONNIE & BILL



We bid a fond farewell to Bill and Bonnie Phillips, who are returning to the US after seven years in Ajijic. They are moving to Boise, Idaho and plan to attend the UU church there. Bill served on the LCUUF Board for two years, and Bonnie served on the Care Committee. They leave behind many friends and they will be greatly missed.

LCUUF Women's



Movie Group

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group will meet on **December 18th at 3pm** at the home of Karyn Carpenter. We will be watching "Into the Woods," a 2014 musical fantasy film written and directed by Rob Marshall, based on Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning Broadway musical of the same name. It features an ensemble cast that includes Meryl Streep and Johnny Depp. Bring your own beverage and a snack to share.



The Fellowship will be gathering to enjoy Christmas Dinner together **at Mel's Restaurant**, Zaragoza #36 in Ajijic on **December 25th at 2:00 pm**. Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Table or contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com.

Our discounted price is \$225 per person and includes the following:

Soup & Salad Bar (Leak & potato soup and house salad)

Choice of one main course:

- 1) Roasted Turkey, stuffing, green beans, carrots and zucchini, gravy, tourtière, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce
- 2) Roast Beef, fresh vegetables, mashed potatoes & gravy
- 3) Bass Filet Provençal, fresh vegetables & rice
- 4) Stuffed Pork Loin, fresh vegetables, apple compote, calvados sauce and mashed potatoes

Dessert Bar and Coffee or Tea

Member Spotlight



Everyone knows **Francisco Urzua**. He sets up the coffee and refreshments on Sunday mornings and he sings in the choir. He came to the Fellowship via his partnership with Janice Kimball, who is a long time Unitarian. Francisco is a master weaver and partner with Janice at Aztec Art and Weaving Studio.

Many years ago, Francisco's family, who were weavers, rented the property which is now the Tango Restaurant. When Francisco was about 15 years old, they had to leave. He made his first dangerous crossing into the USA hiding in a freight train. Many crossings and unsettled years ensued. He worked for a Chinese mushroom farmer, and did many odd jobs in California.

Back in Mexico, Francisco worked in an opal mine near Tequila and was the bell ringer for the Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe church in Puerto Vallarta. The vagabond life took a heavy mental toll, but medical help and stability with Janice has improved his life a lot. He works hard at improving his English and says he likes the friendly people in the UU Fellowship.

Paul Bennett



LCUUF DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will be **December 28th at 3pm at the Fellowship.**

We will discuss the ethical and social consequences of Transhumanism. Transhumanism is an inter-national and intellectual movement that aims to transform the human condition by developing and creating widely available technologies to greatly enhance human intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities.

If you would like to receive links to topics prior to a discussion contact Bob at bob.koches@gmail.com

This Newsletter is written and produced to provide information about LCUUF news and activities to members and friends. Editor: Mardele Harland (fmharland@gmail.com)

Deadline for contribution to the January 2016 newsletter is December 20th, 2015. To unsubscribe, e-mail the editor.