



*LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
NEWSLETTER*

July 2016

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

July 3 - "Home Sweet Home"

Speaker: Trudy Crippen. Service Leader: Gary Cleek.

Trudy will explore the political responsibilities of immigration/expatriation.

July 10 - "An Indian Way of Death"

Speaker: Richard Clarke. Service Leader: Carol Johnson

Richard will speak about the way death is viewed and celebrated in India.

(Congregational information meeting follows the Service.)

July 17 - "What is Religion and Why Should an Atheist, Agnostic or Humanist Care?" *Speaker: Lew Crippen.*

July 24 - "Book Share": a Participatory Service

Service Leader: Mardele Harland

Please plan to speak for 3 to 4 minutes about a book you have read which impressed you. The list of books shared will be compiled and posted.

July 31 - Video Sermon TBA - Service Leader: Teresa Sande

President's Report



I'm very excited about an opportunity that Daniel O'Connell, our visiting minister from the First UU congregation in Houston, is encouraging us to consider i.e. taking on a **ministerial intern**.

An intern is someone who has completed the bulk of their training to be a UU minister and needs to serve at a congregation in order to complete their requirements.

I'm excited about this because we would have at little cost (interns do not normally receive salaries) a professional person, with fresh energy, working on our priorities. For example, we might determine that the intern would present sermons twice a month, reducing the load on the Sunday Service Committee and our members.

If we are to go ahead with seeking an intern, I think it's very important that the congregation understand what's entailed and supports the idea. So I've asked our vice President, Teresa Sande, to organize a process to inform the congregation and to seek your guidance.

The process will begin on **Sunday July 10th**. Immediately after our regular service, Teresa will facilitate a congregational information meeting concerning the intern option. The other parts of the consultation process are:

1. An email and hard copy **questionnaire** distributed to all active members and friends;
2. **Discussions with committees** concerning how they might use an intern;
3. A **Report to the board** that summarizes the findings of this process and makes a recommendation; and
4. A **Board decision** by the end of July.

Please plan to take part in this consultation!

Committee News



From the Membership Committee:

There will be a **UU Orientation** session on **Monday, July 11, 3-4 p.m. at the Fellowship**. Come learn about Unitarian Universalism in general and LCUUF specifically, and have your questions answered. All are welcome.

A **New Member Ceremony** will be held on **Sunday, July 17**. Those who have expressed interest in joining will be welcomed into the congregation. For more information contact **Membership Chair: Donna Burroughs**.

From the Outreach Committee:

Update on the Hungry Children of Mezcala Fund: As of Sunday, June 19, 2016, the Hungry Children of Mezcala fund contains \$10,425 (MX). This amount will cover our monthly donations of \$2,700 (MX) for the months of July, August, and September, and most of October. If funding allows, we may consider making an additional donation in August before school starts. **For more information contact: Susan Miller**

From the Sunday Service Committee:

The Sunday Service Coordinator for July, August and September is Kathy Koches. Please talk to Kathy if you have ideas for topics or speakers.

Member News:

Happy Birthday to the following active members who have birthdays in July (those we know about!):

**Bobbe Dannebrink, July 20,
Lew Crippen, July 28.**



Book Review by Sue Boyczuk

“**A Chosen Faith**” is a concise introduction to Unitarian Universalism and its history. The introduction by Robert Fulghum is delightful and funny, then Buehrens and Church take you thru the following six sources of Unitarian Universalism which divide the book into parts, each with 2 chapters. The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of Prophetic women and men, which challenge us to confront the powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world’s religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

I’m not a history buff, but I particularly enjoyed learning about the history of how Transcendentalism, Humanist teachings and the Earth-centered Traditions became three of the six sources.

Below are excerpts from a few Amazon Reviews:

“If you want to know more about Unitarian Universalism in general, this is a good book to start with. If you are wondering whether Unitarian Universalism might be the "right" religion for you, then you won't find the answer to that in this or any book. You need to attend a UU church and talk to the members of the congregation and see if it's a good "fit" for you. And be aware that no two UU congregations are the same -- some are heavily theistic, with a lot of spiritual/religious overtones (though none explicitly endorse or require members to believe in a deity), while others are much more "humanist." Some UU congregations are even explicitly pagan/"Earth-centered" in nature, though these are rare...”

“A Chosen Faith" explains that two religious movements joined to create what is now the Unitarian Universalist movement. Now that I've read the book, I understand why Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Taoists, Pagans, Atheists and Agnostics all come together in UU fellowships. But more than that, the book attempts to explain what kind of theology can support such diversity under one tent. UUs have, I believe, a lot to say about how religious pluralism can be healthy and positive for our culture...”

This book is in the LCUUF Library. Check it out!

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

One a month, in lieu of coffee hour, we go to lunch together after the service. On Sunday, July 24th we will be going to Alex's Pasta Bar after the service for breakfast. You may order off the menu. Please join us.



ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC & HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will meet July 25th at 3pm at the Fellowship. We will be discussing the question of good and evil. As non-believers do we think there is inherent good or inherent evil in the world, or is this just another "made up" value? For more information contact Bob Koches.



LCUUF WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group will meet on July 15th at 2pm at the Fellowship. We will be watching "Trumbo" starring Bryan Cranston. Bring your own beverage and snack.



CHOIR NEWS

Just as the Sunday Service presentations are the mind of the Fellowship and the Outreach and Care Committees are the heart of the Fellowship, Music is our soul.

In order to prepare this important feature we need singers! We also need to know how many singers we will have in order to plan the music for the rest of the year.

It is not necessary that you read music or sing in other choirs, but only that you want to join us in making a joyful sound and help us create the soul of our Fellowship.

Please contact Choir Director, Bob Koches to let him know if you are returning to the choir or would like to become a new member. bobkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299.

***This Newsletter contains LCUUF news for members and friends. The Deadline for contributions to the August newsletter is July 20th.
Editor: Mardele Harland
fmharland@gmail.com***