



## LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

### **December, 2016 Services**

#### **December 4 - "Who's Listening?"**

*Speaker: Carol Johnson; Service Leader: Richard Clarke*

A lifetime of questioning the nature of God leads a spiritual seeker on a journey to non-duality.

#### **December 11 - "A Scriptorium for the 21st Century"**

*Speaker: Joan Jaquish; Service Leader: Teresa Sande*

Joan will review Chapters 9 and 10 of "A Chosen Faith" and give us post-election reflections on idolatry of mind and spirit.

#### **December 18 - "Seven Principles and Carols"**

*Service Leader: Lew Crippen*

#### **December 25 - "The Spirit of Christmas Present "**

*Speaker: Robert Arril; Service Leader: Teresa Sande*



# President's Report



The November 27 **special congregational meeting** was an important milestone for our Fellowship. The motion "That the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship institute pledging" was **unanimously approved**.

## **The pledging process for the budget year starting Feb. 1, 2017 has begun.**

The Pledging Committee, Heidi MacLennan and David Miller, distributed pledge cards last Sunday, and they will be handing out and collecting pledge cards at Services over the next few weeks. Individual pledges are treated confidentially. Several different options for making pledging payments are being explored, including credit card, bank transfer, and other payment options. More details will be available in January.

Many of us are very excited about the proposal from the Rev. Daniel O'Connell of Houston concerning hiring a half-time contract minister who would be based here, but part of the Houston ministerial team. That proposal, however, would entail a significant increase in our budget. At its December 16 meeting, the board will consider whether early pledging indicates enough support to move ahead on this proposal. If it does, there will be another special congregational meeting to approve proceeding with advertising for a position to begin in September, 2017.

I am also pleased to report that the **Rev. Gary Kowalski** will be with us for three Sundays, January 8, 15 and 22. Organizational visioning and planning will be a focus of his visit. The January Newsletter will include information about Rev. Kowalski and the events planned during his visit.

## **Notice of LCUUF Annual General Meeting**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** will be held following the service on Sunday, **January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**.

In addition to reports from the President and Committees, the meeting will review financial statements and budgets, approve an Outreach program and elect board and nominating committee members. All are welcome to attend and speak, but only members can vote.

The current members of the **Board of Directors** are as follows: (expiry dates)

President: Fred Harland (2018)  
Vice-President: Teresa Sande (2018)  
Secretary: Jan Manning (2017)  
Treasurer: Gary Cleek (2017)  
Member-at-large: Trudy Crippen (2017)  
Member-at-large: Joan Jaquish (2018)  
Member-at-large: Heidi MacLennan (2018)

**Current Nominating Committee Members** are (one year term expires 2017): Kathy Koches, Ellen McFarland, and Marion Blackmer.

To suggest or nominate anyone for any open position, contact a member of the nominating committee. To propose an item for the agenda, contact President Fred Harland.

## Committee News



### Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee is making progress developing **new name tags**. If you have not provided information to Marty Weston, please e-mail her at [martymex916@gmail.com](mailto:martymex916@gmail.com) to let her know how you want your name printed on your new name tag and your preference for either a lanyard or clip. If we do not hear from you, your name will be exactly as it is printed in the LCUUF Directory and you will receive a lanyard.

We are hoping to have a New Member Orientation early in December and a **New Member Ceremony** before December 22<sup>nd</sup> so any new members will have a vote at the Annual General Meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our committee still needs additional members. If interested, please talk to one of our committee members: Jan Manning, Ellen McFarland, Trudy Crippen, Eric Luria or Marty Weston.

### Outreach Committee:

Check out the website of our Outreach project: **Centro de Desarrollo Jocotepec**. <http://www.cedejo.org>.



Sylvia Flores, Director, and Norman Woods. November 20<sup>th</sup> Service. (Photo by Lorna Dean)



## New Activity

You are invited to join us for the second **English Country Dance on Sun. Dec. 11th from 3-5pm at the fellowship hall**. The dance is under the sponsorship of LCUUF, and is led by Catherine & Eric Luria.

So what is English Country Dancing? This type of dancing was featured in the Jane Austin movies. It originated in the 1600's, and new dances are still being written today. Usually the dances are very elegant and graceful, at other times lively and up-beat.

All dance figures are first taught, and then called (prompted) while you are dancing. Nearly everyone at the dance will be a beginner. You do NOT need to have a partner. Please contact Catherine or Eric Luria (home phone: 376-766-6119, email: [CLuriaARNP@gmail.com](mailto:CLuriaARNP@gmail.com) if you would like to attend, so we can give you more specific information..



**Happy Birthday Greetings** to the following members who have December birthdays: Carol Powell (15<sup>th</sup>); Sue Kelley (17<sup>th</sup>); Frank Howell (27<sup>th</sup>).



The fellowship will gather for Christmas Dinner on December 25<sup>th</sup> right after the service. We will be going to Mel's Restaurant for their special Christmas Buffett. More information, including price, will be available soon. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table in December, or you may contact Bob or Kathy Koches at [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com) to sign up. Come join us and let's celebrate together!



### **ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC & HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will not meet in December due to the holidays. We will resume in January on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm at the Fellowship. We will be re-visiting the topic of artificial intelligence. For information contact Bob Koches.



### **LCUUF WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP**

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group will not meet in December, but will resume on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Fellowship. The movie title will be announced at Fellowship and in the updates. Bring your own beverage and snack.

## **Thanksgiving Dinner Photos**



(Photos by Mardele Harland and Heidi MacLennan)

***This Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. The deadline for contributions to the January edition is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Editor: Mardele Harland ([mardeleharlandmx@gmail.com](mailto:mardeleharlandmx@gmail.com))***