



**LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER
January, 2017 Services**

January 1 - "New Beginnings"

Speaker: Janice Kimball; Service Leader: Bob Koches

January 8 - "Let's Dream Together"

*Guest Minister: Reverend Gary Kowalski; Service Leader: Fred Harland
(LCUUF Planning Workshop follows the Service)

January 15 - "Spiritual or Religious: Which are You?"

Guest Minister: Reverend Gary Kowalski; Service Leader: Teresa Sande

January 22 - "Einstein's God"

*Guest Minister: Reverend Gary Kowalski; Service Leader: Susan Miller
(LCUUF Annual General Meeting follows the Service)

January 29 - "LCUUF Writers' Sunday"

Service Leader: Kathy Koches; Speakers: LCUUF writers

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

President's Report



In the last Newsletter, I was pleased to report that at the **November 27th Special Congregational Meeting**, the motion to initiate pledging in our Fellowship passed unanimously.

Pledging cards were then distributed for the 2017 financial year which begins Feb. 1st. While pledging is ongoing, the **Pledging Committee, composed of Heidi MacLennan and David Miller**, reported to the November 16th Board meeting that early pledging indicated that we could consider the proposal from Rev. Daniel O'Connell to advertise for a half-time contract minister, officially employed and supervised by Houston, but based at Lakeside. Hiring would reflect LCUUF priorities, would cost approximately \$15,000 US and ideally the successful candidate would begin work in September, 2017.

Following the Service on December 18th, a Special Congregational Meeting voted 32 to 1 to proceed with advertising. Our Vice-President, **Teresa Sande**, will chair a **Ministerial Selection Committee** to work with Rev. O'Connell.

I am encouraged by the thoughtful participation of members and friends throughout this process of charting our future, and heartened by your generosity.

On **January 8th**, a **Congregational Planning Workshop** will be held following the Service and a light lunch, facilitated by visiting minister Rev. Gary Kowalski. **Please plan to attend.** On Saturday, January 14th from 10 to noon, Board members and Committee chairs will meet with Rev. Kowalski to review the results of the planning workshop and consider next steps.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the Reverend Gary Kowalski and his wife Dori to Lakeside.

Rev. Gary Kowalski



Gary Kowalski has served congregations large and small, from Washington State to Vermont, during his long career. As an accredited Interim Minister, he specializes in guiding churches in transition. A graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Divinity School, Gary is the author of several books on nature, spirituality, science and history, including *The Souls of Animals* and *Revolutionary Spirits: The Enlightened Faith of America's Founding Fathers*. Currently he serves as part time minister to the Unitarian Church of Taos, New Mexico, where he is learning Spanish, enjoying painting, and working as a volunteer firefighter. You can learn more about him on his [website](#).

Member News



(L to R) Linda Conklin, Wayne Conklin, Valerie Marcum, Fred Koesling

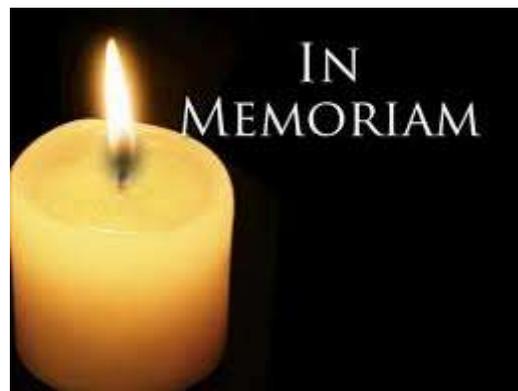
We were very pleased to welcome **four new members** to LCUUF at the December 18th Service. We look forward to their active involvement in our congregation and to getting to know them better.

Linda and Wayne Conklin grew up in Michigan, but now reside in Sun City, Florida, where they are members of the Sun City Center UU Fellowship. Linda is a retired hydrogeologist. She enjoys quilting, reading, travelling, cooking for a crowd, playing games on the computer and making music (ukulele, autoharp and bodhran). Both Linda and Wayne are active in ham radio. Wayne had a career with Dow Chemical Company as an information systems analyst and corporate project manager. He is a lifetime musician, playing saxophone, hammered dulcimer and ukulele (and he sings with our choir!).

Fred Koesling was born and raised in Pennsylvania. He spent his working life between Washington D.C. and environs as a department store furniture buyer; and in North Carolina working in furniture manufacturing

management. In addition to his kids and grandchildren, Fred's interests include reading-mysteries, bios and history- and travel (though not so much any more!). He is an animal enthusiast with multiple dogs and cats; a news junkie (especially the NY Times); a cinephile; and a community theatre actor with decades of experience in numerous LLT, Naked Stage and independent Lakeside productions.

Valerie Marcum is a life long Unitarian. She grew up in Oklahoma, met her husband, Marc, at the Denver UU, then moved to Tulsa 2 years after getting married. Following Marc's retirement, they had a hydroponic green house for two years and then bought a small campground on a trout stream which grew into a large resort after Lynn, Gary and family became their partners. When Marc was 80, they moved to Branson, MO, where they lived until he died in 2015. In addition to working various positions at the resort, Valerie has worked as a realtor, bank teller, and librarian. She enjoys watercolor painting and dealing with people, which she says is her strong point.



Maureen Peterson passed away on December 7th. Sincere condolences to partner Donna Burroughs, members of Maureen's family and her countless friends. We will miss her!



A warm 'welcome back' to our snowbirds. It is great to see you again!



Birthday greetings to the following members who have birthdays in January: **Kathy Koches (5th); Karyn Carpenter (10th); Teresa Sande (29th); and Jan Manning (30th).**

Committee News



From the Sunday Service Committee:

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers for Sunday Services in February or March, please talk to current Service Coordinator, Mardele Harland. She and members of the committee also welcome your feedback on services; what you liked and what you didn't!

From the Membership Committee:

During 2016 our committee members have been very productive improving every aspect of our committee. A few highlights are:

- We have held New Member Ceremonies for 11 new members.
- We have successfully implemented the "Assistant Greeter Program" which was very well accepted and supported by our congregation. Thank you.
- New name tags will be ready the first part of this month.

We have had 2 very valuable committee members resign: Donna Burroughs due to personal reasons and Trudy Crippen who has been part of our group for 3 years. Therefore, we need 1 to 2 new members to fill these vacant spots. Please consider joining our committee. If interested, you can mention this to Ellen McFarland, Jan Manning, Eric Luria or Marty Weston.

Fellowship Activities



English Dancing continues at the Fellowship on **Sunday, January 15th** from 3 to 5 p.m. You do not need a partner or experience. Contact organizers Eric and Catherine Luria if you would like to participate: 766- 6119 or CLuriaARNP@gmail.com. It's fun!



LCUUF WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group has not met since September. We would like to resume in January on the 20th if there is enough interest. Please contact Kathy Koches if you would like to attend at kkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299.



ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC & HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will resume in January on the 23rd at 3pm at the Fellowship. We will be re-visiting the topic of artificial intelligence. For information contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299.



The UU Writers' Group has openings for two more writers. Members each bring a piece to read and gentle, constructive critiques are given. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Koches at 766-2299 or kkoches@gmail.com. The UU Writers' Group will be presenting the Sunday Service on January 29, 2017.



CIRCLE SUPPERS

Sign-up sheets for the first Quarter Circle Suppers, to take place in January, February or March, 2017, will be on the Welcome Table. Please sign up if you wish to participate. If you are a snowbird who will be returning, please contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com and indicate when you will be here and that you would like to sign up. The assignments will be made and posted in mid-January. This is a great way to get to know other members in a small group atmosphere.



CHOIR NEWS

The LCUUF Choir needs more singers, especially sopranos and tenors. We may be changing the date and time of our rehearsals to accommodate as many people as possible and our accompanist. Please contact Choir Director Bob Koches if you are interested in joining the choir at 766-2299 or bobkoches@gmail.com.

This Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. The deadline for the February issue is Jan. 20th.

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