



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services:

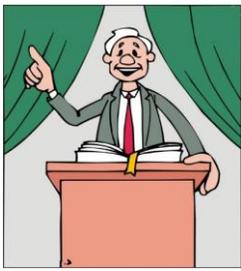
The theme for January is the second of the six UU Sources: “Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.”

January 7 - “Margaret Fuller, American Unitarian Renaissance Woman” Rev. Matt Alspaugh, with Susan Miller. Margaret Fuller was one of the founding voices of the Transcendentalist movement, as well as an author, radical, and foreign correspondent. We’ll explore her amazing life.

January 14 - “Martin Luther King, Jr.: Part of a Proud Tradition” Lewis Crippen, with Susan Reynolds. Influenced by both Gandhi and Unitarians, MLK was for many, the focal point of the civil rights movement in the United States. Sunday’s sermon will consider leaders who used similar tactics in other movements. The LCUUF choir will perform.

January 21 - “What Does it Mean to be Prophetic?” Rev. Dr. Daniel O’Connell, preaching by video, with Fred Harland. We’ll look at how a Hebrew prophet got his reputation, what prophecy meant back then, and how you might bring a prophetic voice to your community.

January 28 - “The Road Ahead” Rev. Matt Alspaugh, with Trudy Crippen. This is our annual meeting Sunday. Rev. Matt will reflect on his experience with LCUUF so far, and offer some thoughts, though not prophecy, about what is before us, as a congregation, on the road to the future.



MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

It's late December, American Christmas behind us, except for the gift returns. (I realize that Latin American Christmas just keeps on going into early January). I'm reflecting on the wonderful happenings of recent weeks, and beginning to think about the new year.

I was so impressed with how our choir and musicians came together for our Christmas Eve service, under the direction of Bob Koches. The combination of music and poetry was, in my mind, sublime. We have had many visitors this fall and everyone in the Fellowship does a fantastic job of making them feel welcome. I've been grateful at the number of people who are willing and able to be involved in Sunday Services; their willingness to step up, work together, and try new things, is impressive. In addition, I loved that we were able to organize a house concert with singer/songwriter David Roth on short notice (thank you Lynn and Gary Cleek for opening their home); it was an amazing and enjoyable event.

Working with the Board and other leaders on various issues has been a true pleasure. Our nominating committee did a phenomenal job in organizing a slate of nominees, and I look forward to working with the new board that will be elected at our Annual Meeting on January 28.

Let me list a few of the areas I will be working on, with the board and other leaders. We will continue to work on creating compelling and effective Sunday Services, involving a greater number of people, engaging a wide variety of forms, styles and ideas. Our Sunday Service Group is becoming a "learning community" that gathers to review previous services with an eye toward continuous improvement.

Many members of our Fellowship are facing health and mobility issues, and some are here without family. Our Fellowship does a great job providing support, but we need to understand what our community and a planned Care Team can realistically be expected to do.

The Fellowship has a history of making sound decisions; as we continue to grow we need to take a look at things like communications, policies, and leadership development, to ensure that we can continue to work together well in the future.

As the year ends I want to thank everyone for extending such a warm welcome to me and Liz (and Rosie!). We wish you all much happiness and health in 2018. See you at the Fellowship!



ANNUAL MEETING

At their meeting on Dec. 8th, the Board set the date for the LCUUF Annual General Meeting and discussed the agenda. The AGM will be held on January 28th at the Fellowship from 12 to 2 p.m., following the Service and a light lunch.

Proposed Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting
2. Confirmation of Quorum by Secretary
3. President's Report
4. Minister's Report
5. Vice President's Committee Reports
 - A. Discussion and possible actions based on Committee Reports
6. Outreach Committee Report
 - A. Selection of outreach project(s) for 2018-2019
7. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Review of financial status and Pledging.
 - B. Presentation of proposed budget for 2018-2019.
8. Nominating Committee Report:
 - A. Election of officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and three Members-at Large.
 - B. Election of Nominating Committee for 2018-2019.
9. New Business:
 - A. Questions and Discussion
10. Adjourn

The Board is also pleased to report that the Naked Stage and the LCUUF Rental Group have come to an agreement with the landlord to renew our lease with a 6% increase for 2018/19.



ELECTIONS

The 2017-2018 nominations committee, Kathy Koches, Paul Bennett & Mardele Harland, are pleased to present the following nominees for election at the 2018 AGM:

President:	Lew Crippen
Vice Pres.:	Mardele Harland
Secretary:	Susan Miller
MAL	Linda Conklin
MAL	Eric Luria
MAL	Joan Ward

Nominating Committee for 2018-19:
Bob Koches, Fred Harland, Cate Howell

Trudy Crippen is resigning as a Member at Large effective the end of the annual meeting and Eric Luria is resigning as Secretary effective the end of the annual meeting.



MEMBERSHIP

- We want to welcome our new members who became part of our Fellowship the end of October. We are hoping to see you regularly and that you will enjoy taking an active part in our Fellowship.
- We always strive to make our Fellowship a pleasant experience. Therefore, we want to thank our entire Fellowship for their warmth in creating this wonderful welcoming community. Also, a special thank you goes to our Assistant Greeters. We could not welcome everyone without your help.



SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE

At its December meeting, the **Sunday Service Committee** began a six month **planning process**. This process will continue in January with the revision of Committee and Coordinator Job Descriptions to reflect the new reality of having a part time Minister.

It was agreed that congregational **feedback on services** will continue with **quarterly after service facilitated discussions**. The newly formed **Sunday Service Group**, which is open to all members and meets monthly, also contributes to the evaluation process. This Group learns about what goes into creating good services and discusses ways to improve various aspects of services.

The Sunday Service Coordinator position will continue with two month terms. **Coordinator for January and February is Mardele Harland; March and April, Catherine Luria; and May and June, Susan Miller.**

The Committee will have a **Reader/Service Leader/Speaker Sign up Form** available in January to identify potential lay readers, service leaders and speakers for 2018. **Please sign up.**

The Committee will be losing up to 4 members in Feb. and is actively recruiting. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Committee, please talk to Rev. Matt or any current member.

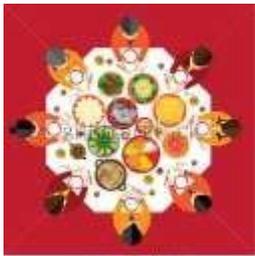
And finally, a **binding machine** has been purchased thanks to Sharon Woods. **Richard Clarke will be in charge of the machine** and he will train a few people to operate it.

(Submitted by Mardele Harland, Chair)



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet Monday, January 23rd at 3pm at the Fellowship and will be led by Fred Harland. Our topic will be Sexual Abuse and Harassment. We've all seen the string of revelations about powerful men being accused of sexual violence. Raising the following issues, which we'll discuss: Is all the media attention to sexual harassment a good thing? What explains the sexual abuse and harassment? What constitutes harassment? What should we do about it? For further detail on this discussion contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299.



CIRCLE SUPPERS

Circle Suppers will resume in February/March when the Meet & Greets have been completed. Sign-up sheets will be available mid-January and assignments will be posted by the end of January. Please also indicate if you can be a host and how many you can accommodate. This has proven to be one of our most popular activities and is a great way to get to know other members in a small group atmosphere, especially now that our snowbirds are back!



CHOIR NEWS

Thanks to everyone who sang in the choir for our Christmas Eve music service. Everyone worked very hard to learn the many pieces we performed and your efforts are appreciated, both by me as your director and also by the entire Fellowship. A special thanks to Marguerite Ponder for her flute accompaniment, to Wayne Conklin for his hammered dulcimer piece, and to Rodrigo Leal for his wonderful piano accompaniment.

There is a change in the choir schedule for January – NO rehearsal on January 5th. There will be rehearsals on January 12th and January 19th.

As we begin this new year, please come and join your voice with ours to make a joyful noise for our UU Fellowship. Contact Choir Director, Bob Koches to let him know if you would like to become a new member of the choir. bobkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299



LCUUF WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group will meet on January 29th. The movie title, time and place will be e-mailed on Friday, January 26th. Contact Kathy Koches at kkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299 if you wish to receive this e-mail.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeanne Haely is like a gentle spring shower, refreshing, warm and delightful. Although she lately has some problems with her memory, she remains a charming lunch or coffee companion..

Jeanne was born in Pennsylvania and grew up an only child. Her mother died tragically when Jeanne was three. She lived a few years with her aunt and cousins, but returned to her father and step-mother's home when she was six. She says she didn't get along with her stepmother until she had her first baby. Common motherhood brought them together. She and her father were friends, he treated her like an adult, but it was a hard time for Jeanne because he was also controlling. She was very glad when she left home to go to college.

She worked many years as a social worker, and moved to Miami where her then husband, Bill had a job offer. She and Bill had three children, Julie, Bill, and Bobby. All live in the US and are independent and strong minded like Jeanne.

After five years in Miami, Jeanne and Bill separated and for many years changed houses every two weeks to live with their teen-aged children. Bill, being a devout Catholic, eventually paid for an annulment from Jeanne through the church on the grounds that she had not been mature enough to make such a decision when they got married. At that time she was 22. After the separation, Jeanne returned to university and got two master's degrees, one in ESL and one in

psychology. She started teaching ESL at Miami Dade Community College and was a very dedicated professor.

She was running a woman's group when a UU member of her group suggested that they and a UU men's group get together for a joint meeting. Paul was a member of the men's group and says he was immediately taken with Jeanne. Their first date was to go Sufi dancing. Soon Jeanne was complaining playfully that she almost felt left out as Paul appeared in the household picture – the children really liked him and for the first time approved of a man that their mother dated. After a year, Jeanne and Paul married in the Unitarian fellowship and lived in Miami for 30 years.

At a Halloween party they met a friend who suggested they visit the Lake Chapala area; Jeanne was off in a flash of enthusiasm. When she returned she told Paul "we are moving to Ajijic". In 2005 they bought their house in Ajijic and in 2006 they retired here permanently.

Jeanne still loves to talk about the science or philosophy of religion and any other amazing or amusing topics.

Submitted by Jan Manning.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Cholavchuk (3); Kathy Koches (5); Karyn Carpenter (10); Joan Jaquish (19); Teresa Sande (29); Jan Manning (30)

This Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Guest Editor for this January newsletter was Kathy Koches. Deadline for contributions to the February newsletter is January 20th to be sent to: Editor: Mardele Harland at: mardeleharlandmx@gmail.com