



# LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2019

### **Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services**

January 6 – Letting Go – Every gringo here at Lakeside has experienced letting go, letting go of the old home and friends and city. Letting go can be painful, but can also bring opportunity, growth, and new joy in life. This talk will show you some of these opportunities, and how to use the many chances you have each day to “let go” as a deep spiritual process that brings more joy into your everyday life. Speaker – Richard Clarke. Service Leader – Fred Koesling

January 13 – Desiderata – The Power of Words to Heal. Words of inspiration can get us through life’s low moments, regardless of our age or family background, level of education or spiritual strength. Cate Howell will talk about how one poem saw her through some low moments in her early adulthood. Susan Miller, Service Leader.

January 20 – Life is an Improvisation – Improvisation is the ability to do something without preparation, using whatever is readily at hand. It’s a practice that shows up in art, music and theater, certainly, but how does it show up in life in general? Bob Koches will talk to us about lessons he has learned from the study of acting and improvisations in life. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will explore his experience with Interplay, a practice of movement and improvisation.

January 27 – Rev. Colin Bossen from the Houston UU will be our visiting minister. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will be the service leader.



## MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

As many of you have noticed, we're growing in numbers. Not only is Lakeside feeling more crowded, our Fellowship is too. Often all our chairs are filled, and people are beginning to occupy the Bare Stage theater area (our 'balcony'). We've had to add chairs outside the regular seating area to accommodate everyone. Coffee hour feels full, with lots of energy and bustle.

What steps do we take to make room for new people? This is a profound question. Congregational growth is a paradoxical problem, with an apparently easy, proven solution: if you don't do anything about it, the problem goes away. That is, the people go away, and the congregation shrinks back to a size its members perceive as 'more comfortable.' Making room for people requires effort, perhaps discomfort, change and cost. It's not easy. A simple example: if we add chairs outside the seating area, we will likely need to make changes as to how we do projection and sound so those people can hear and see. That's expensive.

Longer term, we may need to consider building or buying a larger facility of our own. This is an idea that has been proposed, but we've not had formal discussions about the idea. That would be expensive and we might have to change the way we've always done things - from how we produce our Sunday bulletins to how we have our monthly lunch gatherings.

How do we make room for people? It's a question that delves into a deeper aspiration: to share Unitarian Universalism with everyone who is drawn to its values and principles. I hope this is a core intent of our Fellowship, a central part of our sense of mission. I hope we are willing to become uncomfortable, if it means we are welcoming in others who find meaning in Unitarian Universalism, and whose lives will be enriched by being part of us. Just a note, I will be away for the first half of January, but I can be reached at: [minister@lakechapelauu.org](mailto:minister@lakechapelauu.org).



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*The mission of the LCUUF Board of Directors is to lead an inclusive community dedicated to spiritual growth, education and social justice.*

This is to remind us all of our obligations to the Fellowship as the year closes and we prepare for 2019.

Pledge month is over and we will be able to meet our obligations for the coming year. To all of you who pledged, both the Board and I thank you and we are all most grateful. Also I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to Heidi MacLennan, Dave Miller and Gary Cleek who led the pledge drive. In particular, Heidi led the effort and was instrumental this year as she was last year in bringing the Pledge Drive to a successful conclusion. I also wish to thank those members who spoke in support of the drive each Sunday during Pledge Month.





## WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group will meet on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the home of Joan Bellamy. We will be watching "Roma" a film by Mexican director Cuaron about a middle-class Mexican family in Mexico City during the late 1970's. To sign up please e-mail contact Kathy Koches at [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)



## WELCOMING AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

On December 29th we had a New Member Orientation and this will be followed by a New Member Ceremony on February 3rd as part of our Sunday Service. If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation please send Liz Moulder an e-mail, [lizzylou6767@gmail.com](mailto:lizzylou6767@gmail.com)

Marty Weston, Chairman



## January Birthdays

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 3 Cheryl Cholavchuk | 19 Joan Bellamy |
| 5 Kathy Koches      | 29 Teresa Sande |
| 10 Karyn Carpenter  | 30 Jan Manning  |

## AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS TO LCUUF

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of any purchase you make to a charitable organization of your choice, providing you use a specific Amazon Smile URL to make your purchase. An Amazon Smile account has been set up for the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc. (LCUUF, Inc.), the new charitable organization incorporated in Texas.

Steps to use Amazon Smile and get credit for LCUUF, Inc.:

1. Go: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-1570707> and it will ask if you want your Amazon Smile donations to go to Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc.
2. If you agree, it will create a specific URL for your Amazon account. You may have to sign in with your [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) login information, if you are not already signed in.
3. When you use the new URL which has been created for you, it will display "Supporting: Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund Inc." immediately under the search bar. Then LCUUF, Inc. will be credited with 0.5% of the purchase price each time you make a purchase.

When at least USD 5.00 has accrued in the LCUUF, Inc. account at Amazon Smile, it will be automatically deposited in the LCUUF, Inc. bank account at SunTrust. The program makes a bank deposit every calendar quarter if there are sufficient funds accrued.

This only works with Amazon USA. It does not work with Amazon Mexico or Amazon Canada, because Amazon Smile is set up as a U.S. foundation. It would be helpful if everyone in the congregation, who uses Amazon.com, would try out this process and let Lorna Dean [lmdean695@gmail.com](mailto:lmdean695@gmail.com) know when you have it set up to credit LCUUF, Inc. Also contact Lorna Dean if you have any problems with the process.



## SUNDAY SERVICE PLANNING WORKSHOP

We are using a new way to plan upcoming Sunday services. On **Tuesday, January 22, 9:30 - 11:30 am** a group of us will meet at the Fellowship. First, we will brainstorm ideas for upcoming services. Next we'll have a selection process to choose those topics that both have plenty of interest and have people willing to help out in some way. Finally, we'll organize these selected topics onto our service calendar, identifying Service Leaders and Speakers.

You are invited to participate -- no matter how little or much you'd like to be involved in creating services. You could come just because you've got ideas. You might also want to help out, maybe simply by reading one small piece in a service. Maybe you can read a larger part of the service, or even organize the service (we call these people Service Leaders). Maybe you can prepare a short reflection to be given alongside several other people. Maybe you might write a full-length (15-20 minute) talk, as the main Speaker for a service. Maybe you could help in other ways we haven't even fully explored - writing poems, displaying art, producing a slide-show, creating rituals, music, dance...

This model is used in other UU congregations. We hope that working together will amplify our wisdom and creativity and also welcome newer voices into helping create services. If you are planning to come, please drop a note to Trudy Crippen, at [trudycrippen@gmail.com](mailto:trudycrippen@gmail.com). If you cannot come, but have suggestions, please write also. We hope to see you January 22nd at 9:30 am.



## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Thirty two people stayed after the service on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> to participate in LCUUF's first "Write for Rights". This is an annual project of Amnesty International which takes place around International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. LCUUF chose 5 women to support; from Iran, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Ukraine and Sudan. All of them have suffered a great deal for speaking out and taking action on human rights issues. They have been harassed, beaten, threatened and even imprisoned. The 30 letters and ten emails written by LCUUF participants will hopefully help to make a difference in their lives. Thank you to all who took the time to learn about these women and to write a letter on their behalf.

Mardele Harland, Coordinator, Write for Rights



## HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!** The Humanist Discussion Group will meet at 1:30 pm instead of 3:00 pm on Monday, January 28, 2019. The topic this month was chosen by the group. It is to look at the paranormal, not from an anecdotal point of view, but rather from scientific studies that are available to support the existence of the paranormal. If you wish to receive the readings prior to the meeting and are not already on the mailing list contact Bob Koches at [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Val Marcum

When I asked Val what was the event that most changed her life, she readily answered, “When my husband Marc and I bought a 28 acre campground in the foothills of the Ozarks and built it over the next twenty-four years into 106 acres.” Marc had retired at 55 from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and for the next few decades he and Val ran the campground, buying and selling it on almost a whim. By the time they sold, *MarVal* had become the biggest and best known resort in Oklahoma. Val has many, many interesting stories about those years and sadly space doesn’t permit me to relate them, but be sure to ask Val.

One of those stories is when they bought large trout from WildLife to hold a fishing tournament, which turned into a wildly successful boost to tourism for Oklahoma and how they had to watch the fish all night to be sure they were in enough water and what fun it was sitting around the campfire laughing and eating cake. Or how they expanded the campground, with bath-houses and a pool. Or their Halloween treat to the community of a spooky ghost and goblin trail through their woods, and hay rides afterwards. Or how she was the designated “enforcer” responsible for subduing rowdy campers or asking them to leave. They all worked every day of the year from 6 AM until 10 PM or later. What she loved most about the campground was the opportunity to work and live with her close and extended family. At one time or another they all contributed to the work. She credits Lynn and Gary, who bought into the enterprise after

four years, with being the driving force behind all the improvements that were made on the campground.

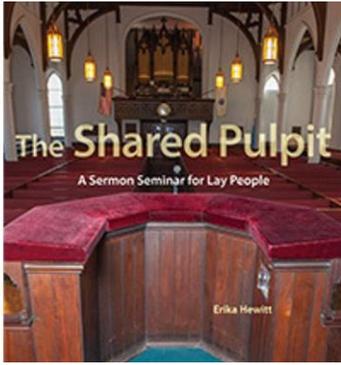
Val lived most of her life in Oklahoma and Missouri and moved to Lakeside in 2016 a year after her husband of 65 years, Lyndral Ervine (Marc) Marcum, died. They had four children, Lynn, Larry, Leia, and Lee. As a child she wanted to be a nurse, but married at 18 and eventually went into tourism instead. Her parents taught her to think for herself and she attended a Christian Church as a teenager before settling on UU as her parents had.

Marc and Val met when she was giving a presentation on what she had learned at a UU workshop while in high school. Afterwards they went hiking, which they both loved and that was the proverbial that. Marc was like the Energizer Bunny – he never stopped pursuing Va. Her father, who had opposed the union, and even went so far as to move Val 100 miles away to Grand Junction for her senior year of high school, finally threw up his hands and said “I give up”. Val and Marc were married shortly after when she was 18.

Painting has been a life-long love. She remembers in church as a child, drawing pictures of people she could see and still likes doing portraits. She works in watercolor today, but used oils for many years. She is mostly self-taught but did take a few week-long artists’ workshops. Before they bought the campground Val had various jobs: selling real estate, teaching accordion, and working as a bank teller, an assistant librarian, and substitute teacher for grade school disabled children.

The modern convenience that Val values most is air-conditioning. When growing up in the 30’s in OK, it was not unusual for temperatures to reach the 90’s or 100’s and families moved their beds outside for the six to eight weeks of summer. When they got the campground, Val made sure they had A/C in their house and offices.

The most important thing for Val after the three essentials of food, clothing and shelter is family. Next would be painting and music. By Jan Manning



## Shared Pulpit Seminar

Interested in speaking to the Fellowship on some Sunday? Maybe you are new and don't quite know where to start. Maybe you've given talks before, but you'd like to 'up your game', to learn tips and techniques for broadening and improving what you can offer.

Rev. Matt will be offering a four session seminar on preparing and delivering talks, sermons, or presentations (your pick). The goal of the seminar is for each person to complete a text that is ready to deliver. We will learn how to keep people's interest, how to deal with difficult topics, how to find theological, ethical, or spiritual themes in the stories and events around us, and other things.

We plan to start this 'Shared Pulpit Seminar' in late February. It will consist of four sessions, about two and a half hours a week, every other week. We haven't yet picked a day of the week and time of day.

If you are interested, please write to Rev. Matt at [minister@lakechapalauu.org](mailto:minister@lakechapalauu.org) and suggest your preferred days and times.

Part of our Fellowship's strength is consistently good lay-led Sunday services. We hope you will consider attending this seminar.



## SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Sunday Service Coordinator for January and February 2019 is Catherine Luria. Information regarding services can be found on the LCUUF website under "Worship/Sunday Services."

We are looking for a new member to join our Sunday Service Committee. If you are interested please contact Catherine Luria at [CLuriaARNP@gmail.com](mailto:CLuriaARNP@gmail.com)



Please send any announcements for February services to Donna Burroughs at: [donna.burroughs@gmail.com](mailto:donna.burroughs@gmail.com)



***The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the February newsletter is January 20th to be sent to: Editor: Kathy Koches at: [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)***