



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

March 3 – Age-ing to Sage-ing: Elder and Still Growing – We are living longer and healthier lives, but how can we learn the lessons and harvest our life? How can we keep growing personally? How can we best contribute to friends and family and serve the community? Learn what you can do today to keep yourself alive and growing each day, and hear experiences of people trying to do just that. Presentation by Richard Clarke. Carol Johnson, service leader.

March 10 – "Spaciousness of Belief" - What attracts so many of us to Unitarian Universalism in the first place, and why we stay, is that the UU traditions allow a wide latitude for spiritual belief and practice, and the tradition encourages wide and deep spiritual exploration. We also acknowledge that people's beliefs can evolve, and that that's a good thing. How did we come to value freedom of belief so dearly? What are the limits to belief? Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the speaker and Karawynn Long is the service leader.

March 17 – What the What? Reflections on Love and Death – Who knew time was going to move quite this fast? And what are we supposed to do with the time we have left? Susan Miller will reflect on these questions using writings from the late Rev. Forrest Church, senior minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, and Dr. Oliver Sacks, famed neurologist and author. Service Leader is Helen White.

March 24 - "In the Neutral Zone" In the Transition Theory of change, the Neutral Zone is the time after the old ways have ended but before the new ways are fully in place. The Neutral Zone is often a very uncomfortable time, when we are both dealing with the losses of the past, and putting in extra effort to implement changes for the future. We'll explore places and times where we have been in the Neutral Zone. We'll also explore what finding ourselves in the Neutral Zone is like. Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the speaker and Joan Bellamy is the service leader.

March 31 - "The Changing Face of Lakeside" - Lakeside is changing. What stories might we tell of how we, as members of both Lakeside and LCUUF, respond to these changes?" Fred Harland is the speaker and Cate Howell is the service leader.

DID YOU KNOW that we have a new website? Interested in what the next topic is at fellowship? Find it there! Need a copy of an older newsletter? Yes, we've got it! Do you have friends visiting Lakeside who need information on our fellowship? Send them this link - www.lakechupaluu.org



MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

In early February the new Board met for its board retreat. There's an adage that whenever a group changes by even one person, it's a new group. So although only one Board member was truly new, we met as a 'new' board to consider how we wanted to work together in board meetings (and outside them), what topics might need our attention in the coming year, and to choose Open Questions.

As Board President, Lew Crippen, has written about this in his column in this newsletter, we invite everyone to consider these Open Questions. We will explore and discuss them without rushing to find a quick answer to each of them. Our discussions will guide us in the future, when we have to make more specific decisions - as a board, and as a fellowship. After much discussion, the board came to three broad questions:

- 1. Our Value:** What value does the LCUUF bring to you? What do you think attracts potential new congregants to the Fellowship? What value do you bring to the Fellowship for others?
- 2. Growth into the Future:** How do you see the Fellowship developing over the next three to five years? Do you expect to see the Fellowship growing both in terms of membership numbers and our involvement in the local community and within the congregation?
- 3. Sunday Services:** What are your expectations of our Sunday Services? Why do you come or why do you occasionally stay away?

These Open Questions are not yes/no questions - meaning we can't really 'vote' on them. They are for deep thought and discussion, one-on-one, in small groups, and with the fellowship on Sunday mornings questions, and see what thoughts and ideas emerge. I hope you will be part of our exploration!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lew Crippen, President

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 the Board of our obligation to determine the thoughts of our LCUUF community as an inclusive whole. In order to do this the Board needs to seek out thoughts from all segments of the congregation.

Matt has written about our recent Board Retreat, where we discussed posing "Open Questions", as a method for engendering discussion that will facilitate a dialog without boundaries. A method that will not predetermine the outcome in "Yes" or "No" terms, but rather will allow for a creative process to provide thoughts that may not have occurred to the Board. At the Annual General Meeting, I mentioned that I planned on calling a Congregational Meeting to discuss our future facility needs. The idea behind that was to allow the Fellowship to begin engaging in a dialogue that would point us toward a goal that we construct a plan for the future and perhaps how best to meet such a goal.

Upon consideration by the Board at the Retreat, we thought it good idea to begin the thought process and discussion not by voting on any one issue, or set of issues, but rather to seek out ideas by presenting a few, very general "Open Questions". We expect to expand on this idea in the near future. Your thoughts are greatly valued and appreciated.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT JANICE KIMBALL

We love Janice Kimball and probably thought we knew all about her life after reading her books, *THREE IN A CAGE* and *THE JOY OF ART*. But you will be surprised to learn her family history and how it shaped her life in a new book to be released this year titled *RAGE IN A HATBOX*. For information on the new book or to read Janice's biography, check her website: www.janicekimball.com.

Janice is the great-granddaughter of Alois P. Swoboda, a historical figure in the physical culture movement that was all the rage in the early 1900s. A Bohemian, he immigrated to the United States with his father at the age of eight. Because his physique was slight, he developed techniques that used the mind and exercises to improve physical and mental health. One source said that his photograph was always taken from the waist up, so as not to call attention to his short stature. His philosophy, *Swobodism*, was sold by mail subscription, although some of his most famous pupils---Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Henry Ford---received personal attention. Charles Atlas claimed his success came from Swoboda's techniques; Elbert Hubbard, relative of L. Ron Hubbard, claimed that the principles used in Scientology came from Swoboda.

Janice was partially raised by her grandmother, Helen Aloisia, the oldest daughter and protégé of her father. She spent her vacations and weekends with her aristocratic grandmother. She remembered her grandmother buying expensive dresses for her in downtown Detroit; dresses which were out of place in the poor rural community where she lived during the

week, making her feel different from the other children. Her grandmother made her feel wanted, a feeling which she did not have at home. Great-grandfather Swoboda believed in the interconnectedness of life in the universe. It was no surprise that the family attended the Unitarian Church in downtown Detroit. Because the family had atheist beliefs, Janice felt discrimination in her conservative community. Her clothing, language and family beliefs caused her to feel that she didn't belong. When she was growing up, Janice said that she was sad and dreamed of having a girlfriend. The expat girlfriends she has in Mexico therefore give her great joy and make her feel that she belongs.

Janice's grandfather Norris, who lived along the Cumberland River in Tennessee where she spent a couple of summers, was a great influence in her life. He acted as a liaison between his white farming community and the black community just around the bend. Janice walked in the woods with him, developing her love of nature and the environment. Probably because of these experiences, she said that she most admired anthropologist and environmentalist, Jane Goodall. Reflecting while we talked, she said that Grandfather Norris influenced her to build bridges between cultures, as she did when she moved to Chapala and opened her first gallery. Having exhibitions for both ex-pat and Mexican artists, she developed a liaison between the two. She has continued that passion in her Aztec Gallery where she and Francisco produce weavings that combine the present with Mexican history.

Janice would like to be remembered as a kind and strong person. (You will have this feeling about Janice after you read her book.) She hopes that she has helped to make the world a better place. Asked if she has any regrets, here is her spunky reply: "If I die tomorrow, I have no regrets." Then with her jolly laugh and a twinkle in her eye, she added, "but there will always be three more books to write...."

Submitted by Helen White



SUNDAY SERVICE

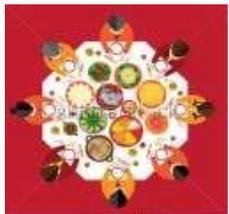
PLANNING MEETING – MARCH 5th

The Sunday Service Committee will hold a workshop on March 5th from 12 to 2pm at the Fellowship to brainstorm ideas for Sunday services in May, June and July. Open to all members. We need your input and ideas. Please contact Kathy Koches, SSC Chairman, at kkoches@gmail.com if you plan to attend.



NINE NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome our nine new members who joined our fellowship last month. They are: Michele Naquaiya, Paula Odom, Tonja Murphy, John de Waal, Jak Koke, Karawynn Long, Lamar Allen, Penny Humphreys, and Charlie Jacobs.



Circle Suppers

will be held in February/March. Assignments have been posted on the bulletin board and hosts will be contacting their guests to set a convenient date. If you need more information contact Kathy Koches at kkoches@gmail.com



SERMON WRITING SEMINAR

In this four session seminar, we will focus on writing for Sunday service presentation - writing what many would call 'sermons'; in part we consider how this kind of writing is different from lectures, speeches, print, etc. The seminar equips participants with tools and techniques that they can use to prepare more effective Sunday services.

This is the second time Rev. Matt will teach this seminar at LCUUF. It is based on the book "The Shared Pulpit" by Rev. Erika Hewitt. We will have 4 sessions, each about 2 1/2 hours long. We will start Monday, March 11, meet every other week, and end on April 22. There will be some writing homework, with the final writing product being a sermon or talk. People can then decide whether or not to present this for a Sunday service. If you are interested, please write me at minister@lakechapalauu.org.



MARCH

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|----|------------------|----|----------------|
| 15 | Lorna Dean | 16 | Marie McGregor |
| 19 | Michele Naquaiya | 27 | Paul Bennett |
| 30 | Susan Miller | | |





Please send any announcements for March's services to Karyn Carpenter at newfhugger_wander@mac.com



CHOIR NEWS

Effective May 1st I am stepping down as the Choir Director and Chair of the Music Sub-Committee. It has been a pleasure but it is time for a change. This last season has been very challenging with the low number of singers available both for rehearsals and to sing on Sundays. We will be performing "Siahamba" in March and are looking for drummers to accompany us. Rehearsals are March 8th and 22nd at 10am at the Fellowship. All singers are welcome.

Bob Koches, Choir Director



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Monday March 25 at 1:30 pm. The topic will center on social inequality. We will examine the causes, whether any progress has been made and the effect of climate change on worldwide social inequality that we tailor to describe reality. All are welcome and if you want the reading material on the subject contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com



WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group has lost its venue. Thirteen people signed up for our January movie and only 5 showed up, with no notice to our hostess. She is not interested in a repeat and I can't blame her. If you want to offer your house for the March movie, or are interested in going to a theater as a group, please e-mail Kathy Koches at kkoches@gmail.com



SHARE THE BASKET

Our Share the Basket recipient for March, April & May, 2019 is the University Vocational Assistance Program (UVA). UVA is the oldest functioning charity in Lakeside, providing scholarships for over 40 years to students including post graduate and licensing. 100% of all funds received go directly to the students.



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the April newsletter is March 20th to be sent to: Editor: Kathy Koches at: kkoches@gmail.com