



## LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

### Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

**April 7** – “The Three Dimensional Church.” The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would often preach on a text from the Book of Revelation which describes a vision of the “New Jerusalem” as a place equal in height and width and length. Today we will look at King’s interpretation and how we might draw meaning from this text in our Unitarian Universalists congregations and in our personal lives. Our service will be led by The Rev. Tom Rosiello, affiliate minister of The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende and minister emeritus of The First Parish of Stow and Acton in Massachusetts. Music will be provided by Malcolm Halliday, who is a well-known and highly acclaimed pianist, organist and conductor. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will be service leader.

**April 14** - “The Building Blocks of Our Minds”. Before we could talk, or even roll over, we learned lullabies and nursery rhymes. Music and poetry stay with us all our lives. Even if we suffer dementia or loss of speech, we remember the rhythms of our life. On this Sunday we will share some favorite poems and the gift of music. Trudy Crippen will give sermon.

**April 21** – “Who Was Jesus Anyway?” It’s Easter, so let’s talk about Jesus! Who was this man? What did he actually do? Why would we even care? We’ll try to do what most modern bible scholars do, which is to peel back the many layers of embellishment to make a good guess at who the historical Jesus (if he existed) actually was. It’s worth the effort, for we’ll find some surprises in the discovery. Also, as has been our tradition for some time, there will be chocolate on this day. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the sermon and Trudy Crippen will be the service leader.

**April 28** – “Expats or Migrants: Who Are We?” Not long ago I encountered the article in the Guardian, “Why Are White People Expats When the Rest of Us Are Immigrants?” by Mawuna Remarque Koutonin. I began to think about labels, and the effect they have on us, in particular, these labels. Are we expats or migrants? How might being thoughtful about how we label ourselves make a difference in how we view others? How might we better understand each other? Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the sermon and Susie Lindeman will be 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.lakechapelauu.org](http://www.lakechapelauu.org)



## MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

Years ago, I was vacationing on a sailboat with my siblings down in the Bimini islands off Florida. Sun and wind in my face, a glorious day. Sailing at a broad reach, heeled nicely, making good time. I was doing my part, hiking, acting as ballast to keep the boat from heeling over. Good music playing on the sound system, a really nice bottle of microbrew in my hand, and my brother-in-law, the excellent cook, sending up exquisite appetizers every now and then. And I thought, "Man, this is living!" And then I thought, "Is this all there is?" I mean, is there more to life? Certainly there could be a material 'more'. For my family, this kind of 'more' emerged in another sailing trip a couple years later, with a bigger boat (actually two boats), in a classier locale (the British Virgin Islands), more people, more food, more drink, more diving, more island beaches. With that more came more effort, confusion, tension, even more disagreements. The result was less satisfaction and less intensity of experience, at least for me. It was easy for my family and me to think, quite unconsciously, that more is better. Our culture constantly murmurs 'more, more, more': buy more stuff, do more things, use more credit, work more hours, travel more, have more money.

Even here in Lakeside, where many of us have come to escape the drumbeat of 'more', we can still easily hear and be drawn into a different drumbeat of 'more,' whether it be more parties, activities, even volunteer programs. In this way, as the Dalai Lama suggests, we can find the true goal, the meaning of life.

We need to notice this constant murmur, and then ignore it. We have to notice it consciously in order to analyze it, deconstruct it, figure out how it gets to us — and only then can we disregard it. We disregard it by making silent space for ourselves, quiet time, time to be at peace. Only after we've begun to do this can we begin to think about what is truly living.

The Dalai Lama has said: "We are visitors on this planet. We are here for ninety, a hundred years at the very most. During that period we must try to do something good, something useful with our lives. Try to be at peace with yourself and help others share that peace. If you contribute to others' happiness, you will find the true goal, the meaning of life."

We don't have to go live in a monastery (or in the Dalai Lama's case, be sent to a monastery as a child), in order to sort out how to truly live. We simply have to make small steps, trying out things that might lead toward inner peace. As we find practices that work for us, we need to make them a more regular and integral part of our lives.



## HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Monday, April 22nd 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](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)



## CIRCLE SUPPERS

The second quarter circle suppers will be held in April, May and June. The sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table. We need volunteers to host a dinner of six or eight people. If you need more information contact Kathy Koches at [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **BOB KOCHES**

We all know Bob, our U.U. choir director (but sadly, is stepping down as of April 1st), and a few of us have heard of Bob, the singing waiter, but few of us know of Bob, the grad student in anthropology at Portland State University. He says his most fun was as a grad student but unhappily we don't have room to go into all he did in those carefree days, (be sure to ask him) or Bob, the top salesman in pharmaceuticals among other things, or Bob, the violinist, or Bob the reporter, or Bob, the manager, or Bob, the diaper washer (his most hated job) or Bob, the 18 wheel truck driver, or Bob, the runner (11 mile per day) or Bob the basketball player until he broke his arm, or Bob, the civic leader.

As a matter of fact this last is one of the threads that was constant throughout most of his life. He even ran for office (City Council) and one of his proudest legacies is a county park in Clark County, Washington that he was instrumental in founding and which won a state environmental award. He was a member of the Vancouver Jaycees and was responsible for its leadership training. One of the things he did in grad school was a study of how decisions were made at city halls and how things were done. Another was a study which he managed on neighbourhoods. Ask him about this and the many other projects he worked on.

Another thread is music. He played violin from grade 3 on and was always singing from grade school through university glee clubs. He sang all four years with the Notre Dame University Glee Club. He did gigs in high school and played viola in the University orchestra and a community symphony orchestra. He spent two years singing with a Madrigal group, twenty years in the U.U choir in Vancouver, WA, twenty years in Vancouver USA Singers and made several tours to Europe with them, and twelve years in Los Cantantas del Lago here Lakeside and of course his 27 years as a singing waiter. Mind you, singing in the restaurants isn't all he did; he also was responsible for hiring and training staff and even trained the trainers in other branches. He is proud of breaking the glass ceiling, hiring the first female singing wait person.

Bob is passionate about ideas and food (he is a stupendous cook). He is a news junky and a science nerd and inquisitive about everything. He is an only child and describes himself as a loner. His brown eyes come from his Sicilian grandparents

He met his soulmate, Kathy and they married soon after in 1990. They raised her grandchild, Angel from the time she was 8 until 18. They both had other children separately. They have been in Mexico twelve years, are charter members of LCUUF, and Bob says he has not much left on his bucket list. They have done a lot of traveling, covering most of North America and Europe and a lot of Mexico.

His advice: life is full of possibilities. Keep an open mind.

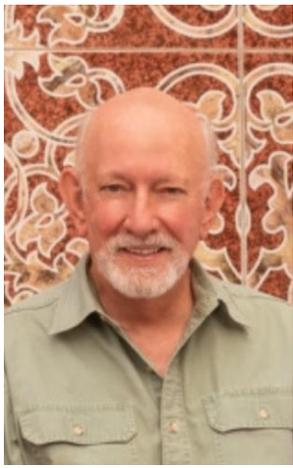
Submitted by Jan Manning



## CHOIR NEWS

I started as choir director 8 years ago, and as you may know as stepping down effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. I want to thank everyone who participated in the choir and helped make the journey fun. It's been an enjoyable experience bring music to the Fellowship.

Bob Koches, Choir Director



## BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

Fred Koesling  
Member at Large

I am the product of mid-twentieth century mid-America, Pittsburgh, PA. How the world has changed since then. College educated, I found my 33 year 'career' niche in the home furnishings industry, as a department store buyer in Washington, D.C., and later as sales and merchandising management with furniture manufacturers in North Carolina. My two kids, raised in North Carolina, departed for New York City after graduating college, and have never looked back. Following a divorce, and later the death of my 2nd wife at age 50 from cancer, and the subsequent ruinous medical expenses, the decision to retire to Mexico was an easy one. After 14 plus years at Lakeside I find myself in the ranks of the 'semi' old timers here. Everything comes to he or she who waits.

Our Fellowship community can be a source of support for this kind of spiritual exploration. As a community, we provide support and care, and we provide many ways for people to care for others. Together we contribute to each other's happiness, and create a more joyful, lives long enough. I've been fortunate at Lakeside in occasionally indulging my 'avocation' for the performing arts, acting and singing in numerous theatre productions. I spent several early years on Lakeside Little Theatre's Board as treasurer.

WHY LCUUF? A couple of years ago I experienced a reawakening and needed to nourish my personal spiritual leanings. A churched renegade (raised Episcopalian, married Catholic) with a secular humanist, open minded life philosophy, in opposition to my upbringing, I 'tried out' our UU Fellowship. I was immediately grabbed by the UU "principles" and "sources" on the back of our Sunday Orders of Service.

I stay for the enlightened personalities and bright minds I experience in our midst, and for the generally inspired and relevant tidings we experience in our services.

WHY THE BOARD? I believe in reciprocity for value received. What is important in my life deserves my support. Of an age where the idea of actual retirement is most attractive I still want my grandkids to inherit a life sustaining planet, and I want a healthy mind/soul expanding LCUUF experience passed on to future Lakeside generations.

IN CLOSING: I speak for the entire board in thanking Bob Koches for his 'labor of love' as LCUUF's resident music director these past several years. And a grand bouquet to Kathy as his partner and support in bringing the beauty and uplift of music to our services. All it required was talent, dedication and perseverance. The committed contribution of both of them has meant so much in the enrichment of our spiritual lives. Thank you!



### APRIL

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 11 Linda Conklin   | 24 Mardele Harland |
| 16 Peter Jessen    | 24 Catherine Luria |
| 18 Myra Williamson | 29 Sharon Woods    |
| 24 Gary Cleek      |                    |



Jim & Flo Rhodes, Tonja Murphy, Michelle Naquaiya  
Paula Odom, Membership Chair, Lamar Allen, Penny  
Humphreys, Karawyn Long, Jak Koke and John de Waal

To support our growing community, the Welcome and Membership Committee organized a luncheon for eleven new LCUUF members and the Board to meet and mix. Thirty one people enjoyed food and found new UU friends at Adelita's on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. A special thank you to Liz Moulder for her vision, warmth and initiative in bringing everyone together.

### **Our New Members**

Jak Koke moved to Lakeside with his partner Karawynn 5 years ago. Jak is a technical writer and has published 10 novels and a dozen short stories. Jak enjoys staying healthy, learning Spanish and plays soccer and basketball with local Mexican groups.

Karawynn Long moved to Lakeside with her partner Jak 5 years ago. Karawynn is a writer, graphic designer, voracious reader and excellent cook. Karawynn has joined the Fellowship choir and served as a Service Leader in March.

Tonja Murphy moved to Lakeside from Belgium and has attended UU's in the US and Europe. Tonja enjoys the UU for connection to community with common values.

Paula Odom moved to Lakeside from Sydney Australia. Paula enjoys staying fit, travel, movies, and has recently started gardening. Paula is serving on the Welcome and Membership committee, Hospitality and the Nominating committee. Please feel free to reach out to her if you can assist with any of the above committees.

Michele Naquaiya is an artist that has relocated to Lakeside from Ocean Park Washington. Michele works in watercolor and drawing and gives classes in her home gallery. She has created and donated the beautiful "Welcome" sign located at the Welcome table.

John de Waal has lived in Chapala Haciendas since 2003. He retired in 1998, after working in various sales and marketing positions. He holds an MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. John was born in The Hague, the Netherlands, and immigrated to the USA in 1957. John published "Marketing Abstracts". John lost his wife of 61 1/2 years last October.

Charlie Jacobs moved to Lakeside from Alabama 7 years ago. He enjoys cars, motorcycles, sailing and flying. Charlie is serving on the Welcome and Membership committee.

Penny Humphreys, and Lamar Allen, were married in Alpine, a mile-high city in Texas, on Canada Day, 2013, after having met in Ajijic in 2010. She is a native citizen of Ontario, and he is a native citizen of Texas. He enjoys reading and chess with a career background in the old mainframe computers. (Do not ask him for help with today's computers or electronics as he is mostly illiterate in those, as is Penny.) Penny has enjoyed teaching piano decades ago and English as a Second/Foreign Language, mostly in Tokyo, and still enjoys practicing piano at home, but is no longer in a position to play in public. Both enjoy activities at the Lake Chapala Society, and are very happy to have come to UU Lakeside.

Jim Rhodes was an airline pilot with Pan Am and United Airlines. Jim was born in Oakland Ca. He lived most of his adult life in Scottsdale AZ -when he wasn't flying. He always kept a boat in San Diego. He loved boating and always had either motor or sail boats.

Flo Rhodes is a native New Yorker. Her career was spent in the newspaper industry in New York, Las Vegas and San Diego. When Flo & Jim met they bought a boat and sailed off on a new adventure that led them to Mexico. They bought their boat in Vancouver and brought it down the coast spending time aboard in La Paz, up in the Sea of Cortez snorkeling and feeling like they were the only two people on earth. They moved on to Mazatlán and Puerto Vallarta. Their love of Mexico made another life changing decision for them. To stay in Mexico, they off loaded their boat and spent the next 7 yrs. living Puerto Vallarta. Wanting more of Mexico than the coast, health issues and the heat they made their way to Lake Chapala. They have lived in lakeside for 9 yrs. and been attending LCUUF for approximately 7 months.



**SHARE THE BASKET**

Our Share the Basket recipient for 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.



Fellowship Meal

The April Fellowship Luncheon will be April 21<sup>st</sup> (Easter) at Janelle's Garden Carretera Poniente 35 West Ajijic. Sign up at the Welcome table.



**SUNDAY SERVICE**

**PLANNING MEETING – APRIL 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Sunday Service Committee will hold a workshop on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at the Fellowship to brainstorm ideas for Sunday services in July and August. Open to all members. We need your input and ideas. Please contact Kathy Koches, SSC Chairman, at [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



Please send any announcements for April 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 May newsletter is April 20th to be sent to: Editor: Kathy Koches at: [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)*