



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

5 May – “So What DO UUs Believe Anyway?” When someone says, “Hey, aren’t you a UU? What DO UUs believe anyway?” what do you tell them? Do you have your “elevator speech” ready; that is, can you tell someone in two or three minutes what UUs believe? Kathy Koches, long time UU and charter member of LCUUF will talk about the UU religion, and the things that UUs hold as their common principals. Rather than, as some might say, UUs believe whatever they want, Kathy explains that Unitarian Universalism encourages people to develop authentic beliefs, to test and refine them, and to practice living them. She will help you develop your own “elevator speech.” Service Leader: Bob Koches

12 May – “The Women of Unitarian Universalism” This service will be about our UU mothers, the women of Unitarian Universalism, who inspired us, including Florence Nightingale, Clara Barton, and Sylvia Plath. We will also remember Barbara Lauer, without whom we would not have our fellowship. Presenter: Trudy Crippen. S/L Donna Burroughs

19 May – “Silence Isn’t Empty; It’s Full of Answers” Silence heals the brain, relieves stress and helps us sleep better. There is also a kind of spiritual silence where answers to your questions just come to you. We all can find this silence within ourselves, if we look for it, and take time for it. Richard Clarke will give a talk about silence, and give you some easy suggestions about how to find this silence in your everyday life. Service Leader: Carol Johnson

26 May – “The Universal Power of Music” Music is the universal language that touches the soul. Michael Reason, pianist for the church and conductor of the Lake Chapala Community Orchestra, will give an illustrated talk about the way music speaks to all of us and defines who we are as spiritual beings. Service Leader: Richard Clarke

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



MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

There is a song from the 1980s, “Once in a Lifetime” by Talking Heads, which opens with the lyrics,

*“And you may find yourself living in a
shotgun shack
And you may find yourself in another part of
the world
And you may find yourself behind the wheel
of a large automobile
And you may find yourself in a beautiful
house, with a beautiful wife
And you may ask yourself, “Well... how did
I get here?”*

The song raised the existential question for many of us, “how did I get here?” That certainly was the question for me and my friends, in the 80s and 90s. The song answers, repeating, “Letting the days go by...” - that sense that day by day, without much thought, without self-examination, we built our lives, until at some point we ask, “Well... how did I get here?” How did I get, (and maybe, the song suggests, how did I lose), my career, my friends, my relationships?

And then, maybe, we could ask, “where am I going?”

What is true for people living their lives is also true for organizations — like this fellowship. “How did we get here?” and “Where are we going?” are good questions.

They suggest other questions about the organization, big expansive questions about aspects of the organization.

Our board decided at its gathering in February to do just that; to pause, reflect and consider what topics might be worthy of our expansive thought and conversation. The board came up with three ‘Open Questions.’ These are questions that invite us into free flowing discussion. They don’t have obvious answers, certainly they are not yes-no questions, and they don’t call for immediate action. But we hope discussing them might raise other questions and ideas that we might consider taking action on.

We plan to discuss these three questions in the discussion time after three upcoming services. (We also plan to have other ways to have conversations on these questions, too, so if you can’t come to these service, we can still hear from you.)

For each of these three Sundays, I’ll offer a sermon on a related topic, with the goal to help everyone think expansively about the question of the day. Then, after the service, a board member will lead a conversation on the Open Question, and other board members will take notes.

On **June 2**, we’ll look at **Sunday Services**: What are your expectations of our Sunday Services? Why do you come or why do you occasionally stay away?

On **June 16**, we’ll look at **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?

On **July 7**, we’ll look at **Our Value**: What value does the LCUUF bring to you? To others? What do you think attracts potential new congregants to the Fellowship? What value to you bring to the Fellowship for others?

We hope you will be able to join us for these services and the conversations following them. We hope these conversations will guide us toward a good future for the fellowship, helping us avoid getting stuck being (from the song) “Same as it ever was, same as it ever was.”



Susan Miller, Secretary

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

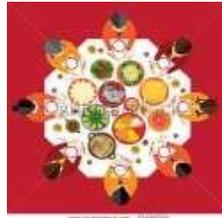
In 1980, my husband, Dave; our preschool daughters; and I moved from a small town in southeastern Virginia to the most foreign land I could imagine: New Jersey. With the move, Dave's one-way commute went from 15 minutes to at least an hour. The winter was cold, there was snow and we had frozen pipes on Christmas morning. We had a 16% mortgage, two old cars, and at least one doctor's appt. a week for a child with recurrent ear infections. We needed somewhere to go that had smart people to talk to. Plus it had to be cheap.

In the local paper I read about The Unitarian Society, a congregation in East Brunswick, New Jersey. And so we began our almost 40-year history of attending, participating in, and thoroughly enjoying UU congregations. In those days, The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick was lay led. Years later we attended the UU Congregation in Blacksburg, Virginia. During our time in Blacksburg, the congregation moved from being lay led to calling a part-time minister. Since I have been to so many lay-led and minister-led services, I have decided that what I like best is the combination of services we have here at LCUUF. Last year, our part-time minister, Rev. Matt led 19 services; members of the Fellowship or guest speakers led more than 30 services. None of our services are pulled out of thin air. All of them result from the hard work of many people: the Sunday Service Committee, local and imported musicians, members who make our visitors feel at home, and those who make sure that we have building signs and Sunday bulletins, notices in the Guadalajara Reporter, chairs, coffee, and candles. So, to Rev. Matt, the smart people we get to talk to every week, and everyone who makes the magic happen, thank you, thank you very much!



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will not meet in May, June or July. We will resume discussions in August.



CIRCLE SUPPERS

The second quarter circle suppers will be held in April, May and June. The assignments are posted on the bulletin board. If you need more information contact Bob or Kathy Koches at kkoches@gmail.com



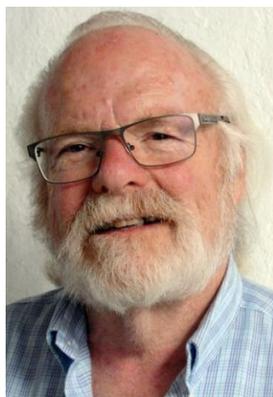
CHOIR NEWS

The choir is on hiatus until November when our new Choir Director, Linda Jessen returns from Canada.



MAY

06	CB Kelley	16	Jim Rhodes
11	Cate Howell	17	Sharon Merits
13	Wes Weston	20	Fred Koesling
14	Ellen McFarland		



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Richard Clarke

When I asked Richard if I could interview him for the newsletter he decided to start on his memoirs and while doing that he condensed it for the newsletter. So here, in his own words, is Richard.

"I might have the most varied background of anyone here at LCUUF. My father was an engineer, my mother a mystic. Both were the first in their families to get college degrees. I have lived in 37 places, gone to five different elementary schools and three high schools, and worked for 19 different companies in a variety of high-tech industries. Four of these were companies I started. My industrial career began at IBM in the mail room, and ended at Teledyne Semiconductor where I was Director of Power Products. They were going to make me a VP in just a few months, but the President was fired and the deal went out the door with him. My last 15 years I was a computer consultant designing and implementing systems for sales, marketing and customer support.

I was born in Oklahoma, with four grandparents that were Texan. On one side of the family my grandfather, came to the US in the late 1840s as a young teen, working his way from Ireland as a cabin boy, and jumping ship in New Orleans. My grandmother was probably Comanche. Grandma always said she was French, though. She had no explanation why she was in the Indian Boarding School in Brazos, Texas.

I am from a divorced family and was a latch-key kid before the term was even invented. I was raised by my mother with an absent father; I have had three wives and have two children and four grandchildren.

One thing that has always set me apart is a deep belief in myself. This is probably from my mother's approach to raising a kid. My father was in Europe for WW2, and for the first two years, it was just mom. She didn't believe in squelching me. She did not like to tell me, "NO," so would do other things. An example was when I was four, I figured out how to unlatch the window screen, then climbed out, and rode my trike down the street, shedding clothes as I went. Mother calmly followed me, picking pieces as she walked along. She didn't yell at me, but just calmly dressed me again. Her approach received much criticism from the family and my father.

This self-belief led to a life-long spiritual interest. As a teen, I figured out that for me, I had to know things for myself. With my mother's mysticism, I was off to an unusual start. She, as a girl in Oklahoma farm country, would go by herself to the Red River and just talk with Jesus, just talk. She had a number of experiences of "The Light." She would just let go, then the room would fill with light, and everything was OK. I was born into this light, my mother's first experience with it. So in my early 20s I started studying, first Chan and Zen Buddhism, all on my own, reading and trying to meditate. Finally, in 1990 I found a teacher, a genuine Self-realized teacher in Santa Cruz. In the years since, my spiritual practice has intensified, and my happiness has increased. I have offered meditation groups for the last ten years, in India, and now at Lakeside.

Carol and I retired from Silicon Valley to Tiruvannamalai, in Tamil Nadu, India. After eight years there, we moved here to Lakeside in 2015 and joined LCUUF.

Submitted by Jan Manning



WE MOURN THE LOSS

We mourn together the death of two of our members, Lech Zielinski and Pixie Frayer.



Following a brave struggle with lung cancer, Lech Stefan Zielinski died on March 8, 2019 at the May Court Hospice, Ottawa. Lech was born in 1930 in Postawy, Poland. In 1939 Russia invaded Poland, seized their home and he, his brother and mother were deported by cattle car to Siberia. In 1941 came the Russian German war and Lech and the other refugees were forced to start travelling again. Over many months they made their way through Uzbekistan, Iran, Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand. They sailed down the Persian Gulf to Karachi where they stayed in a refugee camp for some months. The allied authorities were not sure what to do with all these women and children. Finally they were ordered to sail to Mombasa where they took a train to Kampala and a steam boat across Lake Kioga to Masindi, Uganda. In Masindi Lech was to spend nearly 6 years, the rest of the war and the rest of his childhood. He went to school, joined the scouts, learned to sail and learned to play the mandolin.

In 1947 he sailed for England where he joined his father and brother, completed his high school education, graduating from Regent Street Polytech. In London he met and married his first wife and had two children, Mark and Julie.

In 1964 he was offered a place at Bell Northern Research Labs and sailed to Canada. While at Bell he completed his degree in Electrical Engineering. He and his first wife divorced and he met and married his second wife, Margaret, and in doing so acquired a second family of Kirsten, Simon and Jonathan. He did research in acoustics at Bell, later Nortel, until he retired.

In retirement he did volunteer work for CESO in India, enjoyed his many grandchildren, played his mandolin, golf, tennis, bridge and sailed. He and his wife hiked and travelled widely in the UK, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Eastern Europe, the USA, New Zealand and China. They cruised the Mediterranean from Istanbul, through the South Seas and around South America. They spent their last 15 winters in Ajijic and joined LCUUF.



Denice "Pixie" Frayer was born in Skowhegan, Maine and grew up in Bath, Maine. She met and married Bill in 1974. She is survived by her husband, Bill Frayer, and her three children Eric, Wendy & Cassie and her granddaughter, Isabel. Pixie and Bill moved to Lakeside in 2007 and became charter members of LCUUF. Pixie served on many committees and she and Kathy Koches led the Rise Up and Call Her Name program for UU ladies in 2008 and 2011. She was also a charter member of Las Hermanas de Los Sombreros Rojos. Pixie was one of the organizers of many Solstice and Equinox celebrations, and taught English at Love in Action in Chapala. She and Bill returned to Maine in 2012 and were snowbirds until 2016. She was a bright light and joyful spirit and she will be greatly missed by her family and all of her friends here in Lakeside.



2019 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION

Facing territorial encroachment of their sacred land and a need to survive in a modern world, the Huichol Center for Cultural Survival and the Traditional Arts serves as a bridge between a cultural divide.

Established nearly three decades ago within the rugged mountains of the Sierra Madre Occidental, The Huichol Center and its founder, anthropologist Susana Valadez, strive to empower both Huichol individuals and communities across the country to maintain their spiritual, artistic and cultural heritage by preparing them to coexist with the outside world on their own terms. With careful planning and education the Huichol people can thrive in today's world without sacrificing their native traditions or language.

Submitted by Jan Manning



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

On May 26th the Fellowship will be going to Mario's Restaurant in San Antonio Tlayacapan for lunch. The Restaurant is located at Ramón Corona #132 in San Antonio Tlayacapan, just ½ block from the plaza. Please sign up so we can get an accurate headcount. The sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table.



A BIG thank you to Michelle Naquaiya for repainting our sign – it looks great!



Please send any announcements for May services to Donna Burroughs at donna.burroughs@gmail.com



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