



## LAKE CHAPALA UU FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2019

### Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

**October 6** – “Paying it Forward: Blessing a Future We May Not See”. As the year fades, we may ruminate, happily or not, on how we have lived our lives. But once we have reflected on the past, how may we face our futures? Each of us, in our own way, may bless our futures by “paying it forward,” by honoring the blessings of past kindnesses we have received by extending kindnesses to people in the here, the now, and the future. Along with talking about the predictable, as well as surprising, ways in which we can pay it forward, we also celebrate the first Sunday of the LCUUF stewardship drive in which we commit ourselves to the financial support of our beloved community. Susan Miller will speak and David Miller will be service leader.

**October 13** – “Why Have Rituals?” – Our service on October 13th will be presented by Kathy Koches, Bob Koches & Rev. Matt Alspaugh. Rituals, both spiritual and secular, play a part in all our lives. Kathy will speak about what rituals are and why we have them, Bob will speak about rituals bringing comfort and Rev. Matt will explore with us what it means to create and use ritual in our Sunday services.

**October 20** – “Crossing Cultures” – Most of us are migrants, people who’ve chosen to live in a culture different than our birth culture. How we do our living in a different land varies: some of us attempt to recreate ‘old home’ behind walls and gates, others ‘go native,’ others somewhere in between. What does our approach to multiculturalism say about our worldview, our relationship with other people? How do we deepen our awareness and engagement with people of other cultures? How do we learn to live in ease in a multicultural world? Sermon by Matt Alspaugh, Doug Mattoon service leader.

After the service, we will deepen our understanding of multiculturalism with BaFá BaFá, an experience simulating multicultural contact (and conflict!), followed by discussion about multiculturalism and our lives here in Mexico. Dee Dee Camhi will facilitate this experience. This special program is from 12:00 to 3:30. A pizza lunch will be provided. The event is free, but sign-up is required and space is limited.

**October 27** – “Happiness is a Cold Shower”. Modern psychological research has shown that sources of happiness fade over time and lose their power to bring us joy. What’s more, these findings resonate with advice from Greek philosophers who lived two thousand years ago. Learn more about this enduring idea, and how we can use this knowledge to improve our daily lives. Karawynn Long will give the presentation; Jak Koke will lead the service.



## MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

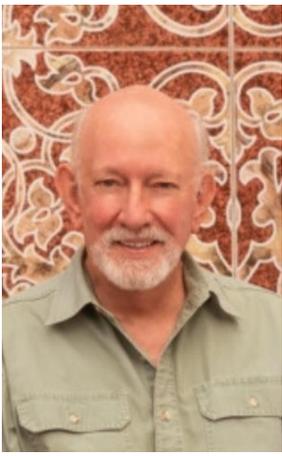
I've been thinking about multiculturalism recently, particularly after returning from the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in June. The UUA has been keenly focused on work on antiracism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism for the last few years, in part as a reaction to political and cultural changes in the USA (like the rise of white supremacy movements). While each of these three areas is important, I think multiculturalism presents unique opportunities and challenges for our fellowship and our people.

After all, almost all of us are migrants from what a friend calls 'gringolandia', and so we get to deal with multiculturalism whether we want to or not. Some (not many in our congregation, I suspect) push back by isolating themselves within purely gringo communities, and attempt to recreate 'north of the border' housing and lifestyle here. Others go 'full native', embedding in the Mexican community. Most of us are somewhere in between, perhaps moving along the continuum as we get a better grasp of Spanish (that's my story, at least). And what of our congregation? What would it mean to become more multicultural? Could that even be possible? If the experiences of congregations with multiculturalism in the USA and Canada is any guide, it's much deeper than reading texts and singing songs in Spanish and celebrating Mexican holidays. We'd have to delve into deep questions about what a multicultural welcome might look like.

Here's just one example. I've been noticing an increasing number of Mexicans I encounter who speak flawless English, and most of those I've talked with have spent significant time in the USA. I suspect that at least a few of these migrants or returnees may encounter the same kinds of issues that many of us encountered — we find ourselves in between. We're in between the culture of our birth nations, perhaps the cultures of other places we lived, and now the culture here. If we are open to it, we might find an enlightening commonality with such Mexicans around our shared experiences of being 'in between'.

I'll be exploring multiculturalism in our Sunday service on October 20. After the service, we'll have a unique opportunity to go deeper together. We'll use BaFá BaFá, an experience simulating multicultural contact. The activity allows us to explore multicultural issues by being part of two made up cultures that encounter each other. Afterwards, we'll use our experiences with the simulation to help us deepen our understanding about multiculturalism and our lives here in Mexico. Dee Dee Camhi will facilitate this experience. This special program is from 12:00 to 3:30. A pizza lunch will be provided. The event is free, but sign-up is required and space is limited (sign up at the welcome table, or send me a note at [minister@lakechapalauu.org](mailto:minister@lakechapalauu.org)). I hope you will join me in this adventure!





## **BOARD MEMBER MESSAGE**

Message: The inspired utterance of a prophet or sage. I enjoyed a hearty chuckle when I stumbled across this particular definition for 'message' in the course of preparing this missive. Being neither prophet or sage I still recognize my privilege in having this opportunity to communicate with our Fellowship, and my inspired utterance for this month is "Pledge Campaign".

The past few years have been challenging and exciting for our LCUUF Fellowship, full of changes, and growth both in direction and membership numbers. My view on change, and I think I am being realistic here, is that it is going to happen, regardless of anything we do. Newcomers to Lakeside, of a free thinking, socially progressive mind set are going to find their way to our Fellowship simply because we are here, and we represent a renaissance of the soul and spirit in these confusing times.

This, of course is where our Pledge Campaign comes in: Our determination to prepare for our tomorrow's through what we do in our today's.

The basics are as follows:

\*The Pledge Campaign is intended to support our Fellowship and our priorities for the fiscal year February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

\*Our Pledge Campaign begins on October 6th and runs through November 24th of this year.

\*A detailed presentation will be given by our own Lorna Dean following the service on October 6th regarding all practical matters such as currencies, methods of pledging, and more.

\*Both the LCUUF Board of Directors and the Pledge Team are committed to an open and transparent accounting of the funds received and spent.

\*Your privacy and security of information as a Pledge Donor are of tantamount importance. The 'need to know' is restricted to two people; our treasurer and our minister.

\*Pledging is neither a requirement nor an obligation to celebrate with our Fellowship. All involved recognize that just as we join in with our own backgrounds, life experiences and temperaments, we each have varying individual financial resources available.

That said, I close by referencing my own personal philosophy on 'giving' for whatever cause or reason. I accept that there really is no magical thinking, no supernatural supreme beings, no karma to rescue us from our own follies, or the worst instincts of others of our species. I believe we exist in an extraordinarily beautiful and exhilarating but morally blind universe where it is up to us as thinking individuals to support those causes and institutions that sustain us and bring meaning to our lives, and to the lives of others in the communities and world that surrounds us. If we don't do it, it's not going to happen. Simple as that!

\*Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present."  
Albert Camus

# LCUUF MEMBERS JOINED THE CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH IN LAKESIDE ON SEPT. 21ST



Photos courtesy of Lorna Dean

If you didn't get your T-shirt yet, we still have some available. Contact Karyn Carpenter at [newfhugger\\_wanderer@mac.com](mailto:newfhugger_wanderer@mac.com) or (376) 766-0536



## OCTOBER

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|----|----------------|----|---------------|
| 03 | Bill White     | 15 | John Roam     |
| 07 | Bob Koches     | 16 | Jim Bellamy   |
| 09 | Susie Lindeman | 17 | Curtis Kirker |
| 09 | Trudy Crippen  | 22 | David Miller  |
| 10 | Fred Harland   | 24 | Norman Woods  |
| 12 | Jak Koke       | 29 | Lynn Cleek    |



## HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Climate change is an existential crisis for humanity. Before we get into the throes of a dystopian morass let us explore how innovation is tackling the large problems. During the next three months we will explore solutions concerning water shortage, carbon emissions and food shortage. The Humanist Discussion Group will meet at 1:30 pm on Monday, Oct 28 at the Fellowship to talk about water. If you are not on the mailing list to receive the reading materials and want to be, contact Bob Koches - [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)



## Fellowship Meal

On October 27<sup>th</sup> the Fellowship will be going to Adelita's in San Antonio Tlaycapan for lunch after the service to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. Please sign up at the round table in the foyer.



## SHARE THE BASKET

Our Share the Basket recipient for September, October and November is NCA. NCA is a non-profit, charitable organization, incorporated and registered in 1977 in Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico. As of the first of June, 2019, we currently have 200 children actively sponsored.

**Scholarships for Education.** NCA assists qualifying, underprivileged children and young adults in the Lake Chapala area (from Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos to San Pedro Itzicán to Jocotepec) to achieve their maximum educational potential: NCA supports the cost of their school fees, books, supplies and uniforms, and where indicated, provides an income supplement and/or assistance with related medical needs. NCA has helped several thousand young Mexicans over the past thirty-five years. NCA alumni are now practicing lawyers, doctors, accountants, marine biologists, teachers, engineers, and successful professionals in other disciplines. NCA is a volunteer-based, hands-on organization, supported by several local community fund-raising groups and activities. This local community support enables NCA to guarantee that 95% of all donated sponsorship funds are received directly by the students. Local community support pays for the NCA Chapala project office and staff.

## FOR THE LOVE OF EDUCATION





A gathering of Lakeside friends to celebrate the life of LCUUF Member, Marguerite Ponder, was held at the Fellowship on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.



Send any announcements for September services to Donna at [donna.burroughs@gmail.com](mailto:donna.burroughs@gmail.com)



### CIRCLE SUPPERS

The fourth quarter circle suppers will be held in October, November and December. Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Table. Please indicate if you would like to be a host or a guest. These suppers are a great way to get to know your fellow UUs. If you need information contact Kathy Koches at [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)



### CHOIR NEWS

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



Can you count?  
Are you somewhat musically inclined?

Even if you can't read music, you can play Choirchimes. Nothing is more joyful than music! And we can make it easy.

We are looking for a number of people who would like to enhance our service music by assembling a group to play Choirchimes. Their effect is similar to handbells.

Performances are Sunday November 17 and Sunday December 22 during the worship service. You may choose to participate in one or both services.

We will gather for the first time in mid-October for an orientation and rehearsal. Rehearsals are a short-term commitment and will be determined at the orientation. Be amazed by the beautiful sounds that come from a team of people working together.

Contact Roy Haynes or David Hudnall at [raydonsimpson@aol.com](mailto:raydonsimpson@aol.com) to let us know of your interest.

Be a part of the solution to help us bring a variety of instrumental music to our services.



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ROY HAYNES & DAVID HUDNALL**

Roy Haynes writes: “I grew up in western TN in a small town called Huntingdon. I was raised by a very overprotective mother and grandmother. Growing up poor, black, and gay in the south is not easy. Contrary to popular belief, I was shy as a child. I knew that I was different from other kids in my neighborhood but didn’t have the term “gay” to know what I was. Somehow, I knew education was my key to get out of a small town. I made it my goal to get good grades, get into college and make something of myself. I was determined not be like all the other boys I grew up with who chose to get a job at the local factory or get into drugs and end up in jail. As a teenager, I was labeled as “Talented” because I was the first male Drum Major of my high school band. I later found out that “talented” was the code word for “gay” but I didn’t let that stop me and ended up being the Drum Major for my University Band also.

I attended Murray State University in Murray, KY and received as BS (1987) and MS in (1992) in Fashion Merchandising and Retail Marketing Management. I would say that my college years were the proudest time in my life. I grew into the person I am today; made lifelong friends that I will never forget. I was the lucky one; through hard work I was able to rise above where I came from and made a good life for myself. My motto has always been “When You Know Better, You Do Better” by Maya Angelou.

I worked for Belk Department Stores from 1993-2019. During my 25 ½ tenure with the company, I held many roles such as Visual Display Manager, Regional Visual Manager, Visual Division Director.

I would say that being the Model Store Visual Coordinator for 300+stores was my best job. I felt that I was really respected by corporate management and that my job mattered. Even though Belk was my main career which required lots of travel, I had many other interests/jobs such as a home stager, interior designer, fashion show coordinator, event planner, wedding planner, and decorator. I love fashion but architecture is my true love. I was lucky that my job in retail allowed me to work in that aspect also.

When I met David Hudnall in 1998, my whole life changed for the better. I got to become a husband and stepdad, travel to places that I would have never imagined going too and now I am living in Mexico. I have a true love/passion for theatrical arts. David and I supported the theatre arts while we lived in SC but I was not able to be active in any shows etc. because of travel with my job. I was Assistant Artistic Director of Murray State Dance Company in college and always wished I had the talent to do dance as a profession. Now, that I am retired, I have started taking dance classes and experiencing that enjoy from my past and I am looking forward to doing some theatre in the future.

In 2002 David and I joined The UU Church of Spartanburg, SC. I served as hospitality committee co-chair (2004), on the architectural committee which was selected all aspects of the building/decorating of a new sanctuary (2004-2005), the aesthetics committee, (2006-2019) and ministerial search committee (2016-2017). David and I were always in charge of decorating the sanctuary/fellowship hall for the holidays or any special events. We made a good team because he knows how to make my sometime crazy visions come to be a reality. I would like to be remembered as a fun-loving guy who gave 100% to everything that he tried whether he was successful or not and that I always tried to make people smile and laugh.”

David Hudnall writes, "I grew up in the Charleston, WV area and have lived in Chicago, IL, Raleigh, NC, Louisville, KY, Greenwood, SC but lived in the Greenville/Spartanburg area since 1997 until we moved to Lakeside in April 2019. I was married to my daughter, Darby's mother for nine years before we figured out that we wanted totally different things in life. Darby was two years old when we divorced. I decided to try a new approach and met Roy. Roy has been her other Dad since she was 3 years old. The three of us put aside our differences and chose to do what was best for Darby to have a great life. She lived with her mom during the week and was with Roy and me on most weekends and vacations throughout her childhood. Her mother later figured out dating men was not working for her and came out as a lesbian. We could have made a reality TV show out of our lives, especially 20+ years ago and living in the South.

If I had the opportunity for a do-over in life, I would have chosen a different career path. With my aptitude, I should have been an electrical engineer. But my world was fairly small growing up in West Virginia. It is hard to make the right career choice while still in high school. I didn't realize that it was possible to obtain scholarships and financial aid to attend college and pay for room and board. So I went to a local college and lived at home while obtaining a B.S. in Chemistry. I was the first person in my family to receive a college degree. I worked in agricultural research for 7 years and then dentistry for 21 years. But I was never truly fulfilled with either field. I have often wondered how many people actually do what they love to do and are passionate about in their working life. I've never had that experience.

One of my passions is traveling. I love seeing and exploring different places. There are many more places I want to see and experience in the coming years. I even like the process of planning the trip – so much so that I have been told that I would have made a good travel agent. Some places I look forward to visiting in the future include: many more areas within Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, the Scandinavian countries, Ireland, and Australia.

We joined the UU Church of Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC in 2002. The impetus for getting involved was our daughter. She was young and we wanted to give her the opportunity for a religious and spiritual life that wouldn't judge or condemn her parents for being gay. UU seemed to align with what I thought religion could ideally be. So it stuck and I became involved in numerous activities, committees, and task forces. We still get to experience the Sunday Services and see our friends weekly via streamed services on Facebook.

Because my husband, Roy, made his living in a career involving design, people assume that Roy does all of the decorating and design and I have nothing to do with it. Not so. We both appreciate design, spatial relations, and architecture. Whether staging a house or decorating for a special event, it is a collaborative effort and always up to me to be the brains behind the vision. I am the member of the duo who figures how to make a vision become a reality.

It's a cliché. My husband really is my best friend. We met in 1998 and were married in 2015 in front of our former congregation; 21 years now and counting. We were both in our 30s and met on a blind date. We genuinely enjoy doing most everything together. We share many similar interests and had similar experiences during our childhoods and early adult years. It's a shame that we look so much alike that people can hardly tell us apart!

In my spare time, I enjoy reading about and taking short courses on business and economics. Sounds crazy, right? I think the subject is fascinating. I have learned a lot of tidbits and practical information over the years. This trivia has come in handy many times. It sure made a difference when I ran my own dental practice or while developing a plan for an extended retirement in another country.

# Welcome New Members

We have had a total of 15 new members join our Fellowship so far this year. We are so very happy you joined us!



**PLEASE** remember to bring your own cups to UU events. Please, bring your own and encourage others to not forget! You can store your cup in the plastic tub in the library.



## SPOTLIGHT BOOK

Would you like to know a little more about your fellow UUs? Check out the "Spotlight Book" in the library, which contains over 28 "Member Spotlights" from previous newsletters, including biographies and pictures. Come check them out in the library.



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