



LAKE CHAPALA UU FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2019

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

November 3 – “The Meaning of Día de los Muertos” - Who could not be entranced by Mexico’s flamboyant and dramatic observances on Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead? The brightly packaged tourist versions pique our curiosity. But they tell us nothing about what goes on in the hearts and minds of the friends and family who gather around the gravesites on this, perhaps most important holiday, in Mexico. This Sunday, Janice Kimball will take us behind the scenes to explore the long and meaningful healing process that takes place on Day of the Dead. She will give us a greater appreciation of this day and a greater understanding of the complexities of the seemingly simple Mexican way of life. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will explore where Day of the Dead fits within celebrations of remembrance, which for many cultures happen at this time of year. Everyone is encouraged to bring a photo of a loved one who has passed away to place on our “offrenda” (altar). Kathy Koches is the Service Leader.

November 10 – “Extreme Interconnection” - When we try to understand the world, we often oversimplify -- we divide things into parts and look for direct cause and effect. In doing so, we tend to lose deeper understanding of the world in all its chaotic, emergent, and interconnected nature. How can we look at the world with different eyes? How might such a different point of view change how we interact with all that is around us? Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the presentation and Cat Barnett will be the Service Leader

November 17 – “Voces de Luz” - Once again we are pleased to welcome the children’s choir from San Juan Cósala. Their new name is “Voces de Luz” There are now over 50 children/youth in the choir! The choir has grown and evolved, and there are 27 children in “Coro B” (the little ones who can’t read music – yet!!) – they are the future for Música para Crecer. They will present a musical program to welcome in the holiday season. Choir Director is Cindy Youell. Catherine Luria will be the Service Leader.

November 24 – “Unitarians and Vampires; Now That is a Rich Culture” Susie Lindeman, fresh from a UUA pilgrimage to her ancestral home of Romania and Transylvania, will talk about what she learned in the home of modern Unitarianism, Transylvania. Susie will also talk about the 16th century Edict of Torda, written by Unitarian King John Sigismund, which protected freedom of religion. Trudy Crippen will be the Service Leader.



MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

We are in the midst of our pledge, or stewardship, season. This time in our congregational year is for me both exhilarating and challenging. It is an exhilarating time as we consider what the fellowship means to us, expressed so well by the people who are offering brief Sunday morning messages on "Why I Pledge." It's also a time when we consider what we need for our continued success, and how we accomplish this with our pledges of financial support and our service.

Stewardship can be challenging, for talking about money often brings up old anxieties, sometimes unconscious, about frugality and abundance, about fiduciary responsibility, about our experiences with giving in the past. Some of us also bring past negative experiences with other churches and faiths, of fundraising laden with coercion and secrecy. There may even be differences in how we understand generosity and giving. Many in the New Thought or New Age traditions hold that God or the Universe responds to their actions appropriately; that generous and kind-hearted behavior is rewarded with fairly direct benefit. Similarly, others who've adopted Eastern religions may feel that that good and bad deeds show up as karma that quickly ripens into reward and punishment.

Personally, I think the world is more complicated than this, but I believe these sentiments are a part of the truth. My experience is that people who are generous, kind-hearted, loving and caring find themselves surrounded by other generous, kind-hearted, loving people. They tend to see the world as a good place, abundant, generous. On the other hand, those who are stingy, selfish, mean-spirited tend to find themselves surrounded by people just like them; it's not surprising that they find the world

harsh and competitive. Certainly there are complications to this pattern -- at times we must interact with people and institutions that embody selfishness and hard-heartedness, but when we have learned to be generous and kind-hearted, we find that even those interactions can be handled so that we minimize the emotional toll they bring our way.

Here at LCUUF, we strive to nourish a community in which generosity, caring, serving others, joyfulness, and seeing the good in all are encouraged and developed in each person. Our pledge season efforts embody these values. We certainly cannot shy away from the hard work of stewardship, for we do have to raise the money to support our fellowship's work in the world, and our successful operation depends on time and effort freely given by so many of you. Even so, we hope our stewardship work leads us all to become more generous and helpful people over time. I am grateful to the pledge team of Lorna, Heidi, Dave, Fred, Jim and Lew for their hard work, for Michele for the thermometer, and all who are speaking on "Why I Pledge." I'm also grateful to everyone who is giving pledging their serious and full-hearted attention - thank you.



Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, October 26th or you will be an hour early for Fellowship!



Susan Miller, Secretary

BOARD MEMBER MESSAGE

January 5 and January 19, 2020!

Get out your 2020 calendars! It's time to jot down some important dates!

On January 5, 2020, after the service, we will have a discussion about LCUUF's proposed 2020-2021 budget. Two weeks later, on January 19, 2020, also after the service, we will have the LCUUF Annual General Meeting (AGM). Among other business items that will be discussed and voted on during the AGM, there will be a vote on the budget and voting for members of the LCUUF Board of Directors.

The AGM is an important event in the yearly life of the Fellowship. The holding of the annual meeting is mandated by the By-Laws for the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Article VI of the By-Laws states: "An annual meeting of the Fellowship shall be held at a date to be determined by the Board, provided however, that such date must be determined and publicized not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The time, place, and agenda shall be published in writing and made available to the membership no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting."

Here are some frequently asked questions about the AGM and their answers:

Who should come to the meeting? Easy answer: Everyone should come! We need a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the membership to constitute a quorum (Article IX).

Who may vote at the meeting? Article IV of the By-Laws states that "All members shall have voting privileges thirty (30) days after signing the Membership Book."

What if I can't be there? Sorry 'bout that, Chief, but "Neither proxy voting nor absentee voting shall be permitted" (Article XI).

What if I think someone else would make a better president/secretary/etc. than who is on the Nominating Committee's list of nominees? According to Article VIII of the By-Laws, "Nominations from the floor shall be accepted for all elections." But keep in mind that "Board members must be members of the Fellowship" (Article XII, B.).

What kind of majority does it take for a motion to be passed? "All voting and elections shall be determined by a simple majority of the people present and voting, except as otherwise noted [in the By-Laws.]"

The agenda for the January 19, 2020, AGM will be published as soon as it is available.

If you have any other questions or have a question about an answer, please let me know (ssmiller999@gmail.com) and I will do my best to provide you with an answer.



WE HAVE T-SHIRTS!

If you didn't get your T-shirt yet, we still have some available. Contact Karyn Carpenter at newfugger_wanderer@mac.com or (376) 766-0536



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



NOVEMBER

22 Dave Miller

24 Norman Woods



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 Monday Nov 25 at 1:30 pm at the Fellowship to talk about Carbon Emissions. If you are not on the mailing list to receive the reading materials and want to be, contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com





Jack Prins, long-time member of LCUUF, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2019 in Austin, Texas. Born in Amsterdam, Holland on March 24, 1933, Jack spent his formative years hiding and being hidden from the Nazis. During WWII he and his brother, Hans were hidden by the Dutch Resistance until the end of the war. He immigrated to Israel in 1951, a young man in search of a new start in the nascent State of Israel. There, he lived on a kibbutz and joined the Israeli army with a core group of friends from Holland. As a member of the Israeli Defense Forces, Jack was almost killed by the friendly fire of his best friend, but managed to tap into another stroke of luck to escape unscathed. In 1955, he immigrated to New York, where his father had remarried another Holocaust survivor. Thus began his American chapter. After a stint as a very amateur boxer, Jack's full intellect was now being engaged. He worked himself through undergraduate and graduate degrees and landed a coveted position at IBM in 1962. While working full-time at IBM's world headquarters in Poughkeepsie, NY, Jack and his first wife, Yael raised a family of three children. Jack also taught and directed computer centers at Vassar College and the State University of New York at New Paltz during this period. Jack juggled responsibilities as a father, a world-class statistician and programmer, and a full-time PhD student. In 1978, he received his PhD in Statistics from New York University, having attained his masters at Rutgers University. He spent much time in the downstairs bathroom, the only quiet room in the house, balancing work, studies and family to become the first member of his family to gain a

doctorate. Jack went on to develop ground-breaking multivariate analysis methods implemented by the US government, and the world over, forecasting trends of data series across a lattice of variables, and collaborated with some of the greatest mathematical minds in history. After taking his family back to Israel, for a sabbatical at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, he retired from IBM in 1989. But, because, as he later wrote, he "couldn't sit still", he went on to work at Motorola in Chicago, to teach at the University of Northern Colorado, and eventually, became a consultant for Sematech in Austin, Texas. In 2001, Jack met the love of his life and soul mate, Marguerite Ponder in Austin. In a reflection of the patterns of time and geography series that he analyzed throughout his life, he and Marguerite shared the same birthday, and she even had the same name as his mother. But what struck Jack from the minute she walked into Gilligan's for their first date, was her uncanny resemblance to the tall, blonde women from the Dutch resistance who saved him during the war. He was instantly smitten. The two married and moved to Ajijic, Mexico in 2004 where they became part of a thriving community of multi-national expats and locals. Jack was always full of energy, fearless, and fun to be around. At the age of 82, Jack, working with Barbara Harwood, published his memoirs of the war years he spent in hiding, 'ONE STEP AHEAD'. And he always was ONE STEP AHEAD. He was invited by the mayor of Rotterdam to speak about his experiences in 2017. Marguerite passed away in May, 2019. Jack carried on as long as he could afterwards, before succumbing to cancer himself. Jack is loved and survived by his three children, Nomi, Michael, and Tami Prins, and three grandchildren, Ethan, Jordan and Zachary. The family requests that any donations be made to Jack's favorite charity, Doctors without Borders, in his honor. ***A copy of Jack's book, *One Step Ahead* is available in our LCUUF library.**



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS



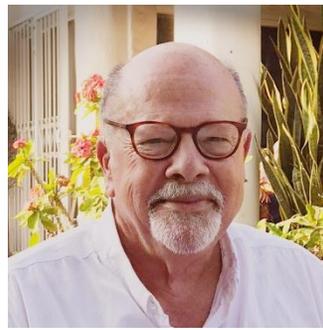
Kaya Reed a long time

UU attendee has joined the Fellowship officially. Kaya hails from New Jersey but lived and worked in Greece, Philippines, United Arab Emirates, Japan & Mexico. Kay was a teacher for 45 years and now enjoys taking care of her dogs, volunteering with Pathways teaching English, studying Spanish and gardening.



Colleen Beery was born

in Lafayette, Indiana, raised in Marin Country, CA. She is a retired elementary school teacher. She has taught ESL in Spain and the USA and certified in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second or Other Language). She has a daughter Maryam, raised in UU and a large extended family in the San Francisco Bay area, Texas, and Iowa where she visits frequently. She enjoys films, literature, travel, volunteering (currently Cruz Roja at Lakeside). Colleen will be living at Lakeside 6 months of the year.



Curtis Kirker grew up in

LA and has moved to Lakeside most recently from Laguna Beach, CA. He also resided in Hawaii for 12 years. Curtis is a veteran, purple heart/combat infantry badge and Buddhist. Curtis has 4 children spread around Europe, Canada and US.



Monica Devine grew up

in Wisconsin, worked in various cities in the US, finished up her career in Denver in the office of Medical Research Compliance at the University of Colorado and retired to Mexico 6 years ago. Monica enjoys playing bridge, dining out and recently joined a writer's group.



Linda Samuels hails

from Yonkers NY and taught non English speaking kids' 3rd and 4th grade and loved it. Linda has been at Lakeside since 1995. Before living in Mexico Linda never lived in a house, had a pet, had a car, had a maid or had a gardener. She never dreamed she would end up living in Mexico but it's the best thing that ever happened to her and she loves her life here.



Roy Haynes has recently moved to Lakeside from Greenville/Spartanburg, SC with his partner **David Hudnall**. They have a daughter Darby who is an Engineer. David was a chemist and dentist. David and Roy were very involved in their SC UU church in Hospitality, Aesthetics, Finance, Building/Designing of a new sanctuary. David enjoys reading biographies, travel guides, theatre, sewing, decorating, travel and map reading. Roy Haynes (partner of David Hudnall) grew up in Huntington, TN and has a master in Fashion Merchandising and Retail Marketing Management. Roy has extensive experience in retail visual displays and other interests such as home stager, interior designer, event planner, and wedding planner. Roy was enthusiastically involved in the SC UU church and, along with David, and was always in charge of decorating the sanctuary/fellowship hall for holidays and special events. Roy enjoys theatrical events, travel, decorating and spending time with friends.

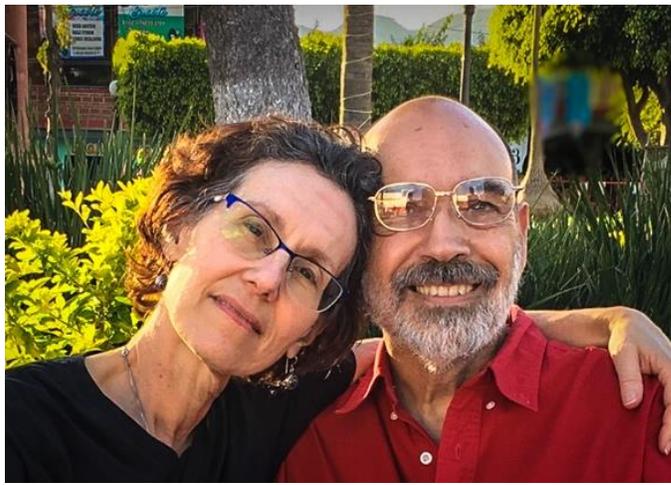


Bob and Esther Jones met as freshman at De Pauw, married 66 years and have four grown children, all

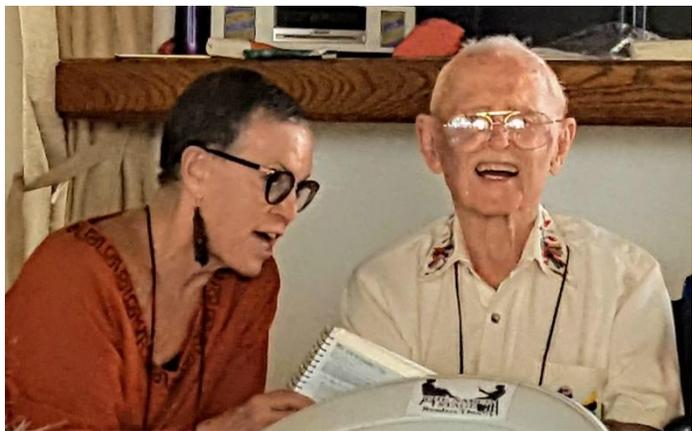
very bright and talented (of course). Todd, their son lives in Ajijic and joins them periodically at the Fellowship. Bob and Esther thoroughly enjoy being members of the LCUUF and one of the main reasons they moved to this area from Santa Fe. Bob has a Ph.D. in music theory from the University of Iowa. He was a professional musician since high school. He taught at Southeast Missouri, Culver-Stockton College University and Upper Iowa University. Since retiring at 63, he has been an active composer, arranger, conductor and performer. Esther retired as Director of PR and Publications at Upper Iowa in '92 when she was paying someone for painting walls in her home and realized that she would be better off financially painting walls. She taught English and Art K-12. After earning an M.A. in English was told by an employment agent in Missouri that she had over-educated herself and no man would hire her.



Robert and Cat Barnett moved to Lakeside in April from Houston Texas. They have two sons in Houston and lost their daughter Elaine five years ago. Cat worked for the City of Houston Health Department 20 years, taught English as a Second Language to adults in a non-profit for 3 years and then quit to care for various family members. She likes sewing, quilting and embroidery and currently attending Needle Pushers at the Lake Chapala Society. Robert worked for the State of Texas for 37 years. He likes to fish, camp, was a Boy Scouts troop and pack leader for 15 years. He is an avid Dungeon and Dragons player and dungeon master for over 45 years and still plays when he can find a group. He enjoys bridge, card and board games, reads science fiction, techno thrillers, and political journals. He also enjoys working with stained glass.



Pamela Cucinell and her husband **Mario Pardillo** hail from NYC, have a daughter in NYC and Mario's mother lives with them at Lakeside. Mario owned a plantscaping business, is bilingual and enjoys gardening and board games. Pamela enjoys nature, culture, the water, yoga, metaphysics, astrology, and is a Reiki Master. Pamela was active in their NY UU congregation in Religious Education, youth sexual education, racial discussions, and the care of the rare piece of green space surrounding the UU building.



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 snorkelling 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.



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 December newsletter is November 20th and should be sent to: Editor: Kathy Koches at: kkoches@gmail.com