

# LAKE CHAPALA UU FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2020



### Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

For the foreseeable future, we are meeting on-line, at our usual time, Sundays at 10:30, using a service called Zoom. Here's how to get set up. We suggest you do this before the meeting.

To join via video on your computer, tablet or smartphone, please click the link below – you will be stepped through downloading a free app that will let you connect to the meeting. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/233941792> Meeting ID: 233 941 792

Or, for audio, just dial-in by your location

+52 229 910 0061 Mexico

+52 554 161 4288 Mexico

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada +1 647

374 4685 Canada

Elsewhere? Find your local phone number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fnTR4N3JJ>

We encourage you to try to connect early, to get things set up. However, you won't be able to join the service until about 10:00am on Sunday. But it's good to get set up early.

## Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

**May 3 – An Optimistic Look at Climate Change** - There are changes happening right now that are making a difference. Imagine what it might be like 30 years from now, after we have cut emissions in half every 10 years! 2050 is not looking so bad, maybe. Richard Clarke will give the talk and Cat Barnett will lead this service.

**May 10 – Men and Their Mothers** – Our talk will be a panel consisting of Richard Clarke, Fred Harland and Eric Luria talking about their mothers in celebration of Mother's Day. Heidi MacLennan will be the service leader.

**May 17 – Imagining Aftertimes** - Somewhere in my reading I encountered a writer who used the intriguing terms 'Beforetime' and 'Aftertime' to describe the periods of normalcy before and after this time of pandemic. In this service, we'll imagine what Aftertime will look like. It's doubtful aftertime will be the same as beforetime. What do we hope it will look like? What do we fear? What can we do to make our hopes reality? Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk.

**May 24 – The New Normal-** What will be normal in the foreseeable future? What accommodations will all of us make as we move forward? How will this impact our social gatherings and society in general? Lew Crippen will give the talk exploring these issues.

**May 31 – Flower Communion** - The Flower Communion is an annual springtime celebration in most Unitarian Universalist congregations, celebrating the beauty of diversity. Traditionally each person brings a flower, preferably found in their own garden or by the roadside, and each person leaves with a different flower. We'll redesign that ritual for our current time, but retain that essential meaning - the beauty of diversity. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk and Lynn Cleek will be the service leader.





**MESSAGE FROM  
REV. MATT**

We've been offering on-line Sunday services for a little over a month now. It's been quite a journey. I returned from a weekend retreat on March 15 to find that Sunday's service had been cancelled due to the pandemic — which was the right thing to do. But what of the future? We quickly began scrambling to put together some form of online service. I had contacts with other UU ministers, and saw that many of them were planning to try Zoom teleconferencing for their services. I was familiar with Zoom from my work with the Unitarian Universalist Association, where many meetings are done on-line due to the physical separation of the participants. We quickly assembled a team consisting of mostly the Sunday Service Committee members plus a few others to help produce the services. I'm grateful to Cat Barnett, Richard Clarke, Roy Haynes, Charlie Jacobs, and Michael Reason (in the picture, along with Susan Miller, presenting). These folks have stepped up to operate cameras, run the Zoom console, manage sound and lighting, and monitor the overall technical quality of the service. Also off-site, Colleen Beery, Trudy Crippen, Jak Koke and Catherine Luria have helped with what in an in-person service would be ushering or guest management. In addition, we've had Susan Miller and Carol Johnson presenting, Cate Howell reading and Linda Jessen singing remotely, David Hudnall on bells... I'm sorry if I've missed someone in these thanks.

We ordered some equipment - lights, cameras, a video monitor, some sound equipment. This is not professional level by any means — that would cost much more than the \$500 or so we've spent. We also added internet to our Fellowship 'studio', and

hope to upgrade that for more reliability. We're all still learning how to produce services in this way, and we've appreciated your patience as we inevitably have technical difficulties. On top of the task of producing a service, we who are at the 'studio' also have to be mindful of social distancing, hand sanitation, surface disinfection, and all the things current life demands of us. Our immediate future steps are to move more and more of the production away from the fellowship building, allowing presenters to participate from their own homes. We also want to make our services more interactive, but we have to balance that with the risk of unwanted guests 'Zoom-bombing' us with inappropriate or hateful content. Many of my ministerial colleagues are dealing with the same questions, and I am glad we are sharing what we're learning together. What my colleagues and I have noticed — to our delight — is that we are seeing people attending who would not otherwise be with us. We have guests who might not have made the trek to our building on Sunday morning, but they are on-line. Our members with mobility issues are able to attend. For LCUUF in particular, we are grateful to welcome many of our seasonal people who are attending from afar. My colleagues and I have begun to wonder what might be different when things go back to normal (whatever 'normal' will be). Even when we are able to be back physically together, we might want to continue to offer an on-line connection for those who can't be present with us physically, and for those who are just beginning their exploration of Unitarian Universalism. More deeply, we might have a clearer understanding of how we connect with people beyond our walls, and how those people might be served - and serve - LCUUF and Unitarian Universalism.





## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Susan Miller, Secretary

The LCUUF Board thanks everyone who has inquired as to how they may continue to make their pledge payments. Various methods of payment are listed below.

### **Pledge Payments to the LCUUF Fund, Inc.**

If you wish to pay in U.S. dollars or Canadian dollars, you may send your payments to the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc., which is LCUUF's nonprofit fund registered in Texas.

### **Billpayer**

If you wish to use your bank's online billpayer function to make your pledge payment, please contact Susan Miller at [ssmiller999@gmail.com](mailto:ssmiller999@gmail.com) for account information.

### **PayPal**

To use your PayPal account to make your pledge payment, log in to your account and type in the Fund's email address: [lcuufinc@gmail.com](mailto:lcuufinc@gmail.com). To avoid incurring transaction fees, from the dropdown box, click on "Sending to a friend." In the space provided, write "Pledge payment for 2020-21 from (your name)."

### **In Person at a SunTrust/Truist Bank**

If it is convenient to do so, you may make your pledge payment at your local SunTrust/Truist bank. Contact Susan Miller at [ssmiller999@gmail.com](mailto:ssmiller999@gmail.com) for account number information. Please make your check out to Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc.

### **By Mail**

You may also mail a check directly to the Fund. Please contact Susan Miller at [ssmiller999@gmail.com](mailto:ssmiller999@gmail.com) for address and account information.

### **Pledge Payments in Mexican Pesos**

If you are unable make your pledge payment online and you wish to make your pledge payment in Mexican pesos, please contact the LCUUF Treasurer, Lorna Dean (phone: 376-766-6112; email: [lmdean695@gmail.com](mailto:lmdean695@gmail.com)). Lorna will help arrange for your payments to be received. You will be asked to place your pledge payment in an envelope clearly labeled with your name, the date, and the amount in pesos.

### **Share the Basket**

The LCUUF Board has decided to resume the Share the Basket program once we hold Sunday services in person again. As you are willing and able, we encourage you to support your local charities and food programs.

### **Pledge Statements and Tax Receipts**

At the end of June 2020, the LCUUF Treasurer, Lorna Dean, will send out pledge statements to everyone who has agreed to pledge to LCUUF during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Additionally, if you send pledge payments or donations to the LCUUF Fund, at the end of the fiscal year (January 31, 2021) you will receive a tax receipt for your pledge payments and donations.





## STAYING CONNECTED

During this time of quarantine it is important to stay connected to each other. Several groups have been started to help us keep in touch. Contact the facilitator if you wish to be invited to join a group meeting.

Movie Group – The Men's Movie Group has been temporarily renamed, as we are now a co-ed group (at least for the lockdown duration). We are meeting every other Wednesday. Note that this is not the first and third Wednesday of the month, but rather every other week. Our next meeting is set for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Lew Crippen selects each movie. He tries to select a movie that will engender thought-provoking discussion, although often times the discussion degenerates into side topics. As we can no longer meet at a central location, the movie should be generally available. Right now, we are choosing movies available on Netflix, as this seems to be a subscription service that is widely used by our members. The next movie is *The Two Popes*. Movies may be rented or some are even available on YouTube. The schedule is to have a pre-viewing Zoom meeting at 1:00 for 15 minutes. Then at 1:15 we begin watching the movie. Many will have already seen the movie or may choose to watch it ahead of time, an approach that seems to work well. In any case we reconvene our Zoom meeting after the movie for discussion. This time varies each month, based on the length of the movie. As *The Two Popes*, is 125 minutes long, our discussion Zoom will begin at 3:30 Ajijic time. Many of you may like to have various drinks and snacks at hand during the discussion. The link is: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3717484726>

Women's Coffee Klatch – every Thursday at noon Ajijic time. Kathy Koches ([kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)) is the facilitator and the link is: <https://zoom.us/j/3303331456>

The Monday Women's Discussion Group meets Monday at 12Noon Ajijic time. Coordinators are Catherine Luria ([cluriaarnp@gmail.com](mailto:cluriaarnp@gmail.com)) and Pamela Cucinell ([pamelajcny@gmail.com](mailto:pamelajcny@gmail.com)). All meet together for 10 min, then go into breakout rooms for 50 min, return for sharing/wrap-up for 10 min. Weekly group whose members commit to attending each week. Flexible group whose members may come weekly, but less frequent attendance is also possible. New members will attend here. A second weekly group will form if there are 6-8 more women wanting a committed group. Zoom meeting ID is 3303331456 and the link is: <https://zoom.us/j/3303331456>

Ramana Maharshi Self-knowledge Satsang – Wednesdays at 3 to 4 pm, presented by Richard Clarke using Zoom. If you are interested, email [riberasmeditation@gmail.com](mailto:riberasmeditation@gmail.com) for how to connect and watch from your computer using Zoom. This Satsang series is based on Ramana Maharshi's "Who am I," a small book that contains the heart of his teaching. We go through one verse each week, and then listen to videos of contemporary teachers. Finally we meditate as a group with a guided Self-inquiry.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

06 CB Kelley	17 Sharon Merits
11 Cate Howell	20 Fred Koesling
14 Ellen McFarland	31 Kaya Reed



Charlie Jacobs, VP

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

I was born and mostly raised in Mobile, Alabama. I lived with my grandparents for two years after my parents divorced. Eventually my parents reconciled and remarried and my sister and I went back to Mobile. Mobile is right on the Gulf Coast of Alabama so I spent a lot of time around the water. I went to high school at C. F. Vigor High School in Prichard, AL. As a sophomore I ran track until I broke my leg in a motorcycle accident. As I could no longer run track, one of the coaches suggested that I become a student trainer for the football team. I did that for the last two years of high school. I also worked on the stage for two years. Programs during school hours or after school or even in the evenings would have us working back stage to keep things running smoothly. I graduated in 1964 and started college at the University of South Alabama. I also joined the Navy Reserves. After two years of college I dropped out and went on active duty with the Navy. I went to submarine school in New London, CT and then to radio school in San Diego, CA. I was assigned to the USS Requin, SS481, in Norfolk, VA. On my last leave period I went home and got married. I was married to Mary for fifty two years. We had a good life together and I can truthfully say that I enjoyed almost all of it. The parts that I did not enjoy were being away from home for business. Two days before our fourth wedding anniversary, Mary and I had our only son, Glenn. Mary and I decided that before having children we would take time to really get to know each other. We thoroughly enjoyed our time together before our son was born. Afterwards we enjoyed bringing our son up. He was a good kid. He never got into the things that I did as a young man. Until he was in his thirties I never told him my secrets. I always obeyed the eleventh commandment, don't get caught. Now I am alone again, having lost my wife a year and a half ago. It is just me and my cats now. When I lost Mary, my friends rallied around me and helped me to not give in to self-pity and misery. They encouraged me to come to the services at the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. I did start to attend and a few months later

joined the Fellowship. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the services and got involved. I am a member of the Membership and Welcoming Committee. I am now a member of the Board of Directors and am serving as Vice President. I am also involved in putting the service on the internet each Sunday morning. As I look back over my life, I realize that I have been a very lucky man. I had a very loving relationship with my wife. I have a son, who is approaching his fiftieth birthday and he has grown into a responsible adult. I am very proud of him. All in all, my life has been very good. I had a good career, without ever planning it. When an opportunity came along, I took it. I studied chemical engineering in college. When I came back from the Navy I worked as an analytical chemist for a major international company. The insecticide that we were making was so toxic that it could not be sold in the US. When some of the plant workers were poisoned by the insecticide, I decided that I needed to be doing something else. I had learned electronics in the Navy to work on our radio equipment. That is what I turned to and made a living at it for the next forty years. I started in mom and pop electronic shops and graduated to a large shop where I perfected my trade. After five years becoming an excellent technician I got a job at a hospital running the technical end of the closed circuit television network of the hospital. I worked in audio visual education. We made educational television programs for the patients, student nurses and videotaped surgeries for doctors. After three years of hospital work I was offered a job at a much higher pay to go back to repairing electronics. This time I was with a multinational electronics company. I worked on tape recorders mainly but I also learned computer repair. After a year as a technician I was offered a job as a shop manager. After a few years I left to open my own electronics repair company. Mary came to work at the front desk while I worked on the units. I asked her to be the manager of the business and just let me do the technical work. She was a much better business person than I was. Doing things that way, we eventually had thirteen employees and stayed in business for twenty seven years until we retired. After retiring, we came to Mexico and eight years later have arrived at the present. As I said, I have been a very lucky man. When things could go good or bad for me, they usually went good. I know that part of my luck has been the people that I surround myself with. They are all good people and their goodness rubs off on me. Part of my luck is being here in Mexico. The Mexican people are kind and polite and are a joy to be around. All of the Mexican people that I have got close to have been the kind of people that you want as friends. My friends have helped mold me into the man I am today and my friends are continuing to help mold me still.



## LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Lewis Crippen
Vice President	Charles Jacobs
Secretary	Susan Miller
Treasurer	Lorna Dean
Member at Large	Eric Luria
Member at Large	Joan Ward
Member at Large	Fred Koesling



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