

# LAKE CHAPALA UU FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 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

**June 7 – “The World is Better Than You Think”** - LCUUF member Cat Barnett will lead us in a service based on the book “*Factfulness*”, written by Hans Rosling, an international lecturer and world health professor from Sweden. The presentation will focus on how statistically we are ignorant of basic facts of how the world really is better than worse. Roy Haynes will be Service Leader

**June 14 – "Endowed Objects"** - In literature or film-making, an 'endowed object' is some ordinary object that takes on lasting symbolic power. Our lives are likely populated with personal endowed objects, things we cherish because of their meaning to us. We'll explore the meaning of various endowed objects in our lives. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will deliver the presentation.

**June 21 – “A Celebration of Fathers”** - LCUUF members Kathy Koches, Catherine Luria, and Colleen Beery will give reflections of their fathers as we celebrate what it means to be and/or to have a father in whatever form that may look like. Cat Barnett will be Service Leader.

**June 28 – “Compassion: Love in Action”** - Guest Minister Rev. Dr. Daniel O’Connell will be our speaker. For some of us, compassion has always come easy and it is a strength we use in moderation. Others of us suffer from “compassion fatigue” and find ourselves becoming more uncaring than we’d like. How do we muster compassion for people who really, really don’t deserve it? We begin with mindfulness, self-kindness, and acknowledgment of shared humanity.





**MESSAGE FROM  
REV. MATT**

What will the next year look like? Those of us with minds that like to plan have been humbled by how our plans have gone awry, for this year is far different from what any of us expected.

What will the next year look like for LCUUF? Our board and I have been talking about this. We're also paying attention to what other UU leaders are saying and doing.

We are realizing that our current arrangement in which we do not meet in person for Sunday Services will likely continue for many months. Just this week Susan Frederick-Gray, the President of the UUA recommended to its congregations that they should not plan to gather in person until May 2021. We too, have been realizing that we won't gather in person in the near term. We also realize that even if we are able to gather in person, there are many who might choose to stay away, and we are realizing that our on-line services are connecting with many of our seasonal people and a few other distant people who would not be able to attend in-person services.

The board consensus was that even if we are able to meet in-person, offering an on-line option is valuable, and we want to continue to do that. We are willing to invest money to improve these on-line services (starting with a good high-speed internet at the Fellowship, which I hope will be installed by the time you read this). More importantly, we are exploring how to take advantage of the streaming medium - are there ways to make on-line services more impactful and meaningful, perhaps even than some in-person services? How can we involve lots of people in different ways-without technology getting in the way?



But Sunday Services are just a part of what we do as a Fellowship. We will continue to look at how to facilitate connection among our participants, through on-line groups, and perhaps small in-person groups when that is safe to do.

We will re-examine how people become members. Will it be possible for distant people to join us as members? I've already seen how another congregation did its new member recognition ceremony on-line, with the minister holding up pictures of each new member, and talking briefly about them.

We will look at how we continue to grow our social justice work. Right now, we are simply encouraging people to be generous in contributing to local needs, but we hope to figure out how we can be more 'hands on' in the future. It's a challenge many churches are facing.

Finally, we will look at how we raise money and plan for the future in these strange times. We are very fortunate to be in good financial shape, and I thank all of you who have continued your support through your pledges and gifts. Let me also thank all of you who have helped out in many ways, and all of you who've stayed with us as we figure out our path into a different and unplanned future.





## FROM THE BOARD

Joan Ward, Member at Large

Hello I'm Joani. Juanita, Joan Ward...all of these. As an LCUUF board member I volunteered to write a column for the month's newsletter. Strange and challenging times right now. What has captured my attention is this: It has been two months since I arrived home to Ajijic from Patzcuaro, Michoacan. A delightful, quiet trip with friends during which we visited many artists in villages surrounding the lake, shopped in many well-stocked stores and made purchases at wonderful local markets. We also consumed excellent food in the many restaurants, full of tourists like us, as well as locals. Our evening walks in the beautiful plazas found them full of people laughing, chatting and enjoying time together. Little did we know of the changes we had in our near futures. We were isolated from the escalating concerns about this new COVID 19 virus and really appreciated this idyllic getaway.

As soon as we returned to Lakeside, all of the above changed quickly. Stay at Home, Social Distancing requests became orders; shops, and markets were shut down - some "essential" services continued or had restrictions in operation. Masks were suggested and then made mandatory - for the elderly (me!) - then for all. It was very quiet in many neighborhoods and in many homes, including mine. Just as all of this was becoming my new normal, I was introduced to something that I had come to identify with Mazda advertisements: ZOOM! Zoom, zoom? What's this? As our fellowship services were being cancelled to support safe health practices and conform to government requests, I was surprised to learn that we would ZOOM our services. Matt knew how to ZOOM and he had a small group of members who quickly put together a plan to send our services out through the internet! I have ZOOMED every Sunday since the first one in mid-March. I have come to look forward to and yes, RELY on these services. We are able to see and talk with our community - those here and those who have gone north. I so welcome being a part of community especially in this time of isolation - the stability from our familiar rituals, uplifting music, and stimulating messages from service leaders and participants. And thanks to the

technicians who, make it all work. Some new people are finding us too! Each week it only gets better and now people from offsite locations are contributing so much too. As we move past this time, I hope we continue to keep our offsite members connected to us in services and other activities while not in residence here. We now know it can be done! And after the service, we can just chat face-to-face a little to remind us of the community which is 'here' for us no matter how far away or how isolated we must be for now.

Speaking of chatting, many other ZOOM groups have been organized since our first one in mid- March. My calendar is not empty due to all the cancellations these two month; it is full of ZOOMS! Our board meetings are now efficiently ZOOMED. Each week we have enlightening and enjoyable discussion groups, coffee klatches, movie groups, committee meetings. As the weeks continue, I find satisfaction in the quiet, unstructured hours, in completing long delayed photo and music projects, in longer talks with my son who is now working from his home in CA, in providing support to friends and neighbors struggling with isolation and other concerns, and in taking unlimited hours to just be and appreciate where I live. I'm more centered, quiet and at peace than ever, despite having no idea of how long this will continue. ZOOM! My new valued communication tool for support, staying connected and finding new ways to thrive as we deal with the challenges of this pandemic. I didn't know I would get so much out of that simple word. ZOOM! How do YOU like it?

Addendum: I realized how important this has become in my days when our ZOOM failed and we didn't get last Sunday's service. I missed connecting with people, the service to stretch our minds and the wonderful music to make me smile. I will look for the recorded service on our website soon, but it is not quite the same. I worry that ZOOM may be out-of-order beyond today; will my Monday group get to connect and discuss living life with passion? Will my first reunion with colleagues from Hong Kong be cancelled on Tuesday? Will Wednesday's movie group ...Ahhhh all the newly special ZOOMS that add so much to life in my now!





Lorna Dean, Treasurer

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A major theme of my life has been a desire to move to new places. For about 30 years of my life, I would live someplace for two years, then I would find a reason to change my living space, my job, my city, or my country of residence. The timeframe has become longer as I have aged as it is just harder to move than it used to be.

I grew up in Orillia, Ontario, Canada. My mother was a teacher. My father died in WWII before I was born. When I was 12, I got a job at the Orillia Public Library. I was younger than the girls that the library usually hired, but I worked there for four years -- starting at 40 cents an hour. When I was in 12th grade, my mother remarried and we moved to Goderich, Ontario. For grade 13, I moved back to Orillia by myself and boarded with friends. I picked the high school in Orillia because it would permit me to take three math classes and not take biology. I had no intention of taking biology and having to dissect a frog. I attended the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario, and majored in English as an undergraduate. I selected it because it was the only university that did not require freshmen to take physical education.

After two years at the University of Waterloo, I got a Green Card for the USA, moved to Boston and attended the Cambridge School of Business (a secretarial school). I picked the school because I thought Boston sounded glamorous. I can see that my reasons for making choices were not the best, but it always worked out all right. I spent a year in Boston and had a part-time job at Harvard University Library. I went back to the University of Waterloo and graduated, then returned to the United States for about 40 years with a couple of breaks to go to New Zealand and England to work. I lived in Boston; Anchorage; Honolulu; Glendale, AZ; Chicago; Santa Fe,

Washington, DC; Stamford, CT; Falls Church and Harrisonburg, VA. In Boston, I attended the Rittners School of Floral Design and became a professional florist. Along the way, I managed to get a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Hawaii and a Master of International Management degree from Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, AZ.

In Auckland, New Zealand, I was a reference librarian in the Public Library. As the only librarian who knew how to use the U.S. Zip Code directory, I helped people address their U.S. bound Christmas cards.

In mid-1986, I returned to Washington, DC, and started a business researching international social security, private pensions, healthcare, labor laws and taxation of employee benefits. I have written reports on the social security systems and labor laws of about fifty countries.

In the mid-1990s, East European countries were reforming their social security systems. I joined a team, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, to advise the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (now the Republic of North Macedonia) on the reform of its social security system.

I married when I was 54 and lived in Falls Church, Virginia. My husband, Robert Dean, passed away from cancer after we were married for six years

I returned to Canada when my elderly aunt needed assistance. I had left Canada when I was 20; by the time I returned, Canada had changed the look of the money, changed the national anthem, and had converted to the metric system. Canada felt like a foreign country to me.

In 2013, my long-time friend, Tom McClure, invited me to Ajijic. I had never heard of the place and never had a desire to visit Mexico, but I came to visit for one month. The next two winters, I came to Ajijic again and each time, upon arriving Lakeside, I realized I immediately felt happier than when I was in Canada. After three winters, I received my Permanent Residency, became a full-time resident, and somehow lost my yearning to move again.



Did you know that your purchases from Amazon USA can generate a donation to the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Fund, Inc.? To ensure that the LCUUF Fund is credited:

- Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-1570707>
- Log on with your own Amazon USA username and password.
- Supporting: Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Inc. will show up under the Amazon search box.
- Make your purchase.

Every three months, the LCUUF Fund will receive a payment from the Amazon Smile program. The payment is made directly into our U.S. bank account for 0.5% of the cost of the purchases made in the previous quarter.

This only works for purchases from Amazon USA because Amazon Smile is a U.S. charitable organization that donates to other U.S. charitable organizations. It does not work for orders from Amazon Mexico.

Contact Lorna Dean [lmdean695@gmail.com](mailto:lmdean695@gmail.com) 376-766-6112 if you have questions about the program



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



### LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Buddy Dowdy-Winslett**
- 08 Helen White**
- 10 Bob Jones**
- 15 Wayne Conklin**
- 16 Francisco Uruza**
- 23 Mary Helen Montgomery**