



## Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

**July 5 – “Postcards from the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly”** – The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly is an annual gathering of several thousand UUs in the USA. This year the event is completely online. Rev. Matt and a few other members of our Fellowship are attending remotely. In these times it is good to be connected with other UUs and to know we are not alone in what we are trying to do. Matt will report back on his observations and learnings. Heidi McLennan will be the Service Leader.

**July 12 – “Importance of Friendship During the Time of Pandemic”** - Catherine Luria will speak about how during this time of social distancing friends and maintaining friendships are even more important than usual. This service will consider ways to strengthen those ties and enhance friendship. Service Leader: Roy Haynes or Cat Barnett.

**July 19 – “Endowed Objects”** – In literature and film making an endowed object is an ordinary object that takes on lasting symbolic power. Our lives are likely endowed with personal endowed objects, things we cherish because they have personal meaning to us. We’ll explore several endowed objects and their meaning in our lives. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk.

**July 26 – “A Melody for Change”** – Music reflects society, but music can also be a catalyst for change. Michael Reason’s multi-media presentation will show how music in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century created social and political commentary and became a global force for change.

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.





## MESSAGE FROM REV. MATT

Way back, what feels like a long time ago, in February, in what I call BeforeTime, we began to explore what we, as Unitarian Universalists in this congregation, value. We held an after-service workshop, led by guest minister Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, in which a significant number of us developed a list of three core values. Let me be clear - these values are not meant to be some creedal statement, but merely to offer greater clarity about who we are and what we believe and are about.

Now I want to return to these values, to both deepen our understanding of them, and ask, do they still fit, or do they need tweaking? The three values are “Oneness”, “Openness”, and “Compassionate Action in service to All Beings”. Let me start with my own thoughts, and then invite you to reflect.

“Oneness” seems to be a core part of our theology; it has been with us for a long time. The very word ‘Unitarian’ speaks to a oneness of God or of reality, a sense that all things are interconnected, that all are one. We tend to reject dualities, the slicing up of reality into ‘us vs. them’, ‘matter vs. spirit’, the ‘saved’ vs. the ‘damned’. We know historically that such dualities can quickly lead to violent and oppressive outcomes. The teachings of science show us that all things are interconnected, from physical reality, the ecosystem, our own human societies; these are networks of networks, linked by emergent qualities. Our own personal experiences hint at these degrees of interconnection. We realize that ‘us/them’, ‘black/white’ thinking is just a shortcut way of dealing with a complex world. True wisdom comes when we see such shortcuts as they are, and let go of them.

“Openness” is a value that emerges from Oneness. If we honor each other’s experience and knowing, then what do we do when what they bring is different than ours? Or more bluntly, can we be sure of our own knowing? Openness invites us to consider what others offer. Openness invites us to hold our own views with a degree of humility. Perhaps something new and illuminating can emerge from the synthesis of others’ ideas with ours. But openness is paradoxical, for without boundaries of some kind, everything dissipates, anything goes. For example, we are open to many things, but not to the dual thinking that leads to white supremacy culture, patriarchy, or the denigration of the earth.

“Compassionate Action in Service to All Beings” speaks to what we do as a result of the previous two values. This value is a bit of a mouthful; if I had my druthers I’d shorten it to “Compassionate Service.” This is in part because my first inclination is to lengthen it to say “Compassionate Action in Service to All Beings and the Earth.” The main point is that we act in the world based on our values, and the nature of this action is service. We serve, we care for other people, beings and the earth. We do this work with compassion, honoring the needs and desires of those we serve as best we discern them. We’ve all experienced service delivered with bad intent, we’ve received perfunctory, paternalistic, and brusque treatment at times, and so we know that compassion has to be at the center of our intent to serve. We hope that our service leads to a greater sense of unity or oneness for all, and opens up new possibilities for interconnection

These are just my thoughts about these three values, and how they connect with our Fellowship. Let me know what you think about these values at, [minister@lakechapalauu.org](mailto:minister@lakechapalauu.org)





## FROM THE BOARD

Lorna Dean, Treasurer

### **Why Make a Bequest or Gift to Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship?**

We encourage you to consider a bequest to the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (LCUUF) when you make your estate or trust decisions. By leaving a legacy in your will, or making a special gift, to the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, you create opportunities for the future. A well-funded LCUUF investment fund will help us pay for a permanent building, more significant outreach, and for staff as needed to serve more members. Any bequests from wills or special gifts which are not part of your annual pledge will be put in LCUUF's investment fund.

### **Mexican Bequests – Information for your *Notario* when Preparing your Will**

Any bequests to LCUUF from Mexico should be specified exactly as follows, including quotation marks and punctuation, in your Mexican will:

“Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship”,  
Asociación Civil

It is more convenient for LCUUF if you designate a cash bequest in pesos in your Mexican will. This can be a fixed peso amount or a percentage of the estate.

At this time, LCUUF's Articles of Incorporation do not permit LCUUF to accept a bequest or donation of physical property (e.g., a Mexican house).

### **U.S. and Canadian Bequests**

Donations to LCUUF in Mexico are not tax deductible according to U.S. or Canadian tax law. We have set up a U.S. tax-exempt charitable organization in Laredo, Texas, to make it more convenient to donate special gifts or make

bequests in U.S. or Canadian dollars and receive a U.S. tax receipt. For a bequest in U.S. or Canadian dollars, your will should specify the name of the organization as: Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc.

A U.S. or Canadian executor may contact the Legacy Team for assistance in handling the bequest (e.g., for bank information).

### **Bank, Brokerage or Retirement Accounts**

You may wish to ask the financial institution where you have a bank, brokerage or retirement account whether a charitable organization, such as Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc., can be named as a beneficiary.

### **Restricted Bequests or Gifts**

Restricted bequests for long-term purposes (e.g., a bequest of which the income can only be used for a specific program indefinitely) are not convenient, because such bequests or gifts need to be tracked and managed by Board members for many years in the future. However, if you would like to give a gift for a specific, immediate purpose, talk to a Legacy Team member, and we will ask the LCUUF Board for approval for the particular purpose.

### **Approval by LCUUF Board**

The LCUUF Board of Directors has the power to approve or decline any specific bequest or gift. As an example, the Board might choose to decline the bequest of a foreign-plated car which could not be sold in Mexico.

### **Consultation with your Legal Representative**

This description is not intended to give legal advice. In all cases, potential donors should consult with their own *notario* in Mexico or their lawyer in the USA or Canada for advice on drafting their will.

### **Contact Information for the Legacy Team**

The Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Legacy Team consists of: Norman Woods, Lorna Dean, Heidi MacLennan, Dave Miller and the Rev. Matt Alspaugh. You may speak to any one of us to discuss legacy issues. You may email the Legacy Team at: [LegacyTeam@LakeChapalaUU.org](mailto:LegacyTeam@LakeChapalaUU.org)



Trudy Crippen



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

I have struggled with how to capture 72 years in a few paragraphs. My life was complicated, all our lives are complicated, so here is my solution: four chapters.

Chapter One, Innocence to Grief. My parents were married in Reims, France, after World War II. I was a speck in my mother when they returned to the US. I grew up in the outskirts of Ann Arbor Michigan, starting at a one room school a la Laura Ingalls Wilder, and then moving to an ultra luxurious laboratory school run by the University of Michigan. I loved mud. I loved snow, I loved lying on the grass and watching the sky. I loved the freedom of living without fences and always having puppies and kittens around. I hate worms and snakes.

We moved into Ann Arbor proper when I was 12. I now had a full city to explore, and I could walk to school. Everyone's father was working on a PhD and as soon as they finished they would move into town or to another college town. My mother died in the Spring of that year and I don't remember much about junior high.

Chapter Two: Teens to Texas. My big accomplishment as a teenager was being the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. I went to Michigan State University because I had spent most of my life on the University of Michigan campus. I loved college and met Lew in my junior year. Lew's sister, Cathie, introduced us. We were married in 1970 and had our son, Philip in 1976. I had been a high school English teacher. I liked the kids, but I was bored by the repetition. Every year Juliet died. Every year. So I wanted to change. I earned a graduate degree in Guidance and Counseling, and then one in Educational Administration. What I really liked about this time was

motherhood. I stayed home for three of the best years of my life.

Chapter Three: Texas to the World. We moved to Plano, Texas, which is pretty much like it sounds, but it was not nearly as bad as I had expected. I packed a gallon of olive oil in the car because I was sure I was going to rattlesnakes and the Confederacy. The best part of this move was a chance to do something different. I got a corporate job. I remember when the admin showed me the supply closet and asked if I was happy with the selection of pens, or should she order something different. Wow! I started by creating computer-based training, primarily for telecommunications specialists. It was a big learning curve. I like a big learning curve. I moved onto developing curricula for programmers moving into a variety of technologies, like artificial intelligence. Then I got my chance as a project manager working overseas. I started in Belgium. General Motors Europe wanted to get all of their dealerships to handle warranty the same way. I handled that, and then moved onto British Telecom, Deutsche Telekom and NEC, who were building a hot shot, top-secret network. A year later, and I was in Hong Kong, and then Jakarta, and then Australia.

Chapter Four: A Big Mistake and a Wonderful Solution. We moved back to Texas for a job I ended up hating. It was bureaucratic and dull. We were both ready to give it up. Then we realized that we could retire. But where? Lew's favorite place was Caracas and mine was Jakarta. Normal people do not like these cities, but we loved their energy, their happiness, their music and their color. A friend gushed about San Miguel so we took a trip to Mexico. We did not warm to San Miguel but we fell in love with Ajijic. We bought a house our first week here, in 2004. We still live in that house. We went back to retire, and moved here on our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, April 4, 2005. Actually, we spent the night in dazzling downtown Laredo, with three cats, but we found a steak house that served wine. We started playing Bridge, and Barbara Lauer asked me to help form a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. That seems to have worked out pretty well. Philip is a filmmaker and he married an amazing woman, Ruth. We have visited them in Los Angeles, Tanzania, and then three times in Sweden. They now live in New Orleans, where Ruth is on the faculty at Tulane. We are never moving again.



## LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary	Susan Miller
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## JULY BIRTHDAYS

20 Bobbe Dannenbrink  
 25 Tom Dowdy-Winslett  
 26 Lamar Allen  
 28 Lew Crippen



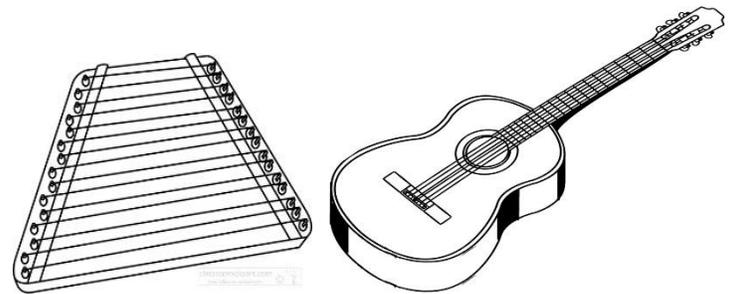
### Help for Sunday Services

We're looking for people to help on our Sunday Services in numerous ways.

Content production and presentation - speaking, leading services, reading (these can be done from home or the Fellowship 'studio')

Technical support and backup - greeting, production, camera and sound help, and backup for our regular workers (again some roles can be done from home, others are done at the studio)

Curious? Interested? Write to Matt at [minister@lakechapalauu.org](mailto:minister@lakechapalauu.org), or talk with one of the Sunday Service Committee members.



We mourn the passing of LCUUF member Wayne Conklin. We will miss his many contributions of time, talent and music to our Fellowship. Our condolences to Linda and the Conklin family



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