



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

Dec. 6 – The Tao of Pooh – Monica Devine will explore the Tao through the characters of Winnie the Pooh. Susie Lindeman is the service leader.

Dec. 13 – Entering the Heart of Darkness - December is the darkest month in the northern hemisphere -- including here in Mexico. Most major religions of the world respond to this darkness in many and varied ways. We'll explore some of these responses and our own responses to entering the heart of seasonal darkness. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the presentation.

Dec. 20 – Christmas Concert performed via video by Musica Para Crecer, the children's choir from San Juan Cosalá. Kathy Koches is the service leader.

Dec. 27 – Kwanzaa 101: A celebration of Family, Struggle and Hope - Roy Haynes will explore a personal reflection of the many meanings of Kwanzaa from its historical origins from the mid 1960's to present day. A celebration of Love that lifts a community to a higher purpose. Donna Burroughs is the service leader.





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/j/233941792>

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**

What are our stories? What are the stories of our lives, of our community, nation and world? Are they true? On the one hand, Buddhist writer Pema Chodron tells us, "There are no true stories, we are making up every one of them." On the other, spiritual writer Christina Baldwin tells us, "There are only true stories. We are discovering the truth in them." Perhaps they are both right! We find in the stories we tell about ourselves both fiction and elements of truth. I carry stories from my childhood about my awkwardness around people, my introversion. When I was at a family reunion last year, I noticed how these stories bubbled up - not just in the retelling by others, but in my own behavior around my extended family. Yet in my current story, I work to transcend those old qualities as part of a conscious choice in my life.

We might all examine the ancient, even unconscious, stories in our lives, and pick the plain truths, and the metaphorical truths, out of the parts that are convenient fictions. Often, those fictions were convenient for someone else who is trying to define or control us. As we go deeper, as we deconstruct these stories, we find ourselves, our 'selves': what Zen calls the True Self, what Samuel Coleridge called the 'infinite I AM', what many call God. Some of you have talked with me about the possibility of forming a Story Circle, a small group that would meet periodically share the stories of our lives. At LCUUF, we've done a story workshop before, but this group would need to be on Zoom. I think that

would work well. We'd meet online, maybe weekly or monthly, sharing stories based on prompts, or seed questions, finding commonality in our experiences. We'd need a minimum number of people to do this, of course, and a few who'd be willing to help facilitate at times. If you are interested, please write to me (minister@lakechapalauu.org).

Science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin tells us: "Storytelling is dangerous to those who profit from the way things are because it has the power to show that the way things are is not permanent, not universal, not necessary. ... We will not know our own injustice if we cannot imagine justice. We will not be free if we do not imagine freedom. We cannot demand that anyone try to attain justice and freedom who has not had a chance to imagine them as attainable." So let's tell stories, our stories, new stories, stories that open the path to freedom, justice, and peace.



Lorna Dean Treasurer **REPORT ON PLEDGE CAMPAIGN**

As of November 20, 2020, LCUUF has received MXN 726,100 pesos in pledges for the 2021-22 fiscal year. This represents pledges from 34 pledge units. A pledge unit is a single person or a couple that pledge together. The 34 pledge units represent 53 individuals. We are pleased that the amount pledged is already in excess of our goal of MXN 700,000 pesos. Our pledge campaign will conclude on Sunday, November 29, 2020. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, send an email to Lorna Dean at lmdean695@gmail.com and state your pledge for 2021-22 as an annual amount. Specify if your pledge is in U.S. or Canadian dollars or Pesos. Thank you



Susan Miller, Secretary



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

After living in the suburbs of Washington, DC, for twenty-three years, my husband, Dave, and I moved to Ajijic in the summer of 2012. We were not the first members of our family to do so: Our younger daughter, Meredith, had already been here for five years. We sold our house and our cars and got rid of most of our possessions and sent our one remaining dog, Lizzie, to live with a nice family on a farm. (True story: She lived in luxury on my brother's farm until her death four years ago.) We now live with Meredith, her husband, Ramon, and their two children. Because we spend so much time not going anywhere, we are certainly glad that we decided to live together. Life is much livelier with children in the house! (Our elder daughter, Laura, is still in northern Virginia, but comes down to visit.)

Knowing about the Lake Chapala UU Fellowship helped in our decision to move to Ajijic (although I must admit that the presence of grandchildren was the major draw). Over the years, we had been active in UU congregations in East Brunswick, NJ; Blacksburg, VA and Sterling, VA, and we looked forward to participating in another congregation composed of like-minded religious liberals. I am in my second term as secretary to the Board and Dave is active with the Pledge Committee and the choir. We enjoy the online services either in real time or on YouTube. Like many other people, we look forward to the time that we can do some in-person socializing with friends before and after the services and get together for Circle Supper dinners! Someday!



Kathy Koches, Editor

KATHY'S KORNER

It's hard to believe this is the last newsletter of 2020. I, for one, will not be sorry to see the end of this year. It has been full of challenges and hardships, but we have survived. There have been lessons learned as we try to cope with the new reality of our lives. But through it all it is the friendships that have sustained me; knowing that there are others I can count on as we all find our way through this chaos. The holidays are fast approaching, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. I wish you health and prosperity in 2021, but most of all I wish you love and peace.



SHARE THE BASKET

The LCUUF Share the Basket program donates MXN 5,000 pesos or more to an organization providing food to the Lakeside community during the coronavirus crisis. Our December recipient is Poco a Poco, which manages a Food Share program, in conjunction with The Brigada Estatal, in San Pedro Itzicán and surrounding villages. We appreciate the congregation's support for the Share the Basket program separate from your pledge payments. If we collect more than MXN 5,000 pesos in any month, the full amount will go to an organization providing food to the Lakeside community. If we collect less than MXN 5,000 pesos in donations in any month, the balance will be subsidized from the LCUUF treasury, as long as this is financially feasible.

Please designate your donation for "Share the Basket" when you use one of the usual payment methods (PayPal, Bill Pay or pesos) listed in more detail under the Board Column this month. Contact Lorna Dean, Treasurer, lmdean695@gmail.com if you have questions.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 01 Jesse Quarter | 25 Linda Jessen |
| 10 Roy Haynes | 26 Flo Rhodes |
| 15 Carol Powell | 27 Frank Howell |
| 17 Sue Kelley | 28 Richard Clarke |



LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|-----------------|----------------|
| 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 San Juan Cosalá children's choir, "Musica Para Crecer," will sing for our Christmas service on December 20th. The Board has authorized a donation of \$2,700 pesos to this program.



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Happy Holidays. Enjoy the season as we take a break in December. We will resume meeting on January 27th at 4:00 pm via ZOOM. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>
If you wish to receive the reading materials prior to the meeting and are not on the mailing list please contact Bob Koches at: bobkoches@gmail.com



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is open to submissions of members that would like to serve the LCUUF in Board positions for the 2021-2023 term: Treasurer and two Board Member at Large positions will be open. If you are interested in being on the list of nominees or recommending a member, please forward the nomination to Paula Odom at paulaodom01@gmail.com for consideration.



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the January newsletter is December 20th and should be sent to Kathy Koches, at: kkoches@gmail.com

