



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

- Jan. 3** – “**Nostalgia for a Hopeful Future**” - For this first Sunday of the New Year, we reflect on the challenging dystopian year of 2020, while noting some hopeful points (democracy survives in the US, yes!). We also look with optimism to a new year, one that perhaps corrects the extremes of the past year. On a personal level, we recall our own hardships, and look forward to hopeful changes in the New Year. We will include a time of remembrance for those in our membership who died in 2020. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk and the Service Leader is Deb Gang.
- Jan. 10** – “**There’s a Light at the End of the Tunnel**” – Bob Koches will reflect on hope, love and community for the upcoming year. The Service Leader is Heidi MacLennan.
- Jan. 17** – “**A New Member’s Remarkable Personal Journey**” - New member Sharon Robinson shares her story of overcoming major obstacles in her life to find her way to the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Attracted by the truth of the seven UU principles, Sharon offers hope for those seeking to transcend life’s hardships. The Service Leader is Carol Johnson.
- Jan. 24** – “**Following Buggies While Changing the World**” - Historically, at least since the merger of the Unitarians and the Universalists, Unitarian Universalism as a denomination has been quite small—maybe 200,000 members—with little to no rate of growth in over 50 years. To be truthful, we're smaller than the Amish! However our denomination's impact on social and economic justice, environmental regulation, racial justice and gender equality, to name just a few world problems has been exponentially greater than our numbers would suggest. This service will explore how we the few have done so much and what this means for LCUUF as we transition into a new year. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk and the Service Leader is Kriss Gang.
- Jan. 31** – “**Great Expectations and Not So Great Expectations**” - In Dickensian England, the phrase "having expectations" meant you expected to inherit wealth upon the death of a relative, which seems both crass and morbid to us. But what do we mean by expectation? What happens when we expect too much? Or too little? We'll explore how our mindsets about expectation can guide us or lead us astray. Rev. Matt will give the talk and the Service Leader is Catherine Luria.



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**

A translation from Jalāl ad-Dīn Rumi:
But that shadow has been serving you!
What hurts you, blesses you.
Darkness is your candle.
Your boundaries are your quest.
You must have shadow and light source both.
Listen, and lay your head under the tree of awe.

As we turn to a new year, we look back on this last year, and it has been a hard one for most everyone. I reflect on my life this last year, and look for what positive bits I can sift out of the shadows and the dust. There are in fact a few things, truly; here is one: For the last few years, I've mostly hiked the hills with the Ajijic Hiking Group. I'd go out about once a week with them, usually taking just morning hikes, as other commitments kept me from doing more. These hikes were largely social, as the groups were large, often a dozen or more people, on easy trails. Because I was part of a group, I paid less attention to the trails and more to the conversation, and didn't really learn to navigate the network of trails around us. When the pandemic came, the Hiking Group shut down, as no one wanted to risk leading such large groups. I, and others, were left to our own devices. I began to explore the hills on my own, building my own map of the trails on a GPS app on my phone. I gradually expanded my range, and began hiking three days a week. Occasionally, I'd run into other Hiking Group hikers on the trails and sometimes we'd hike together. Later, I formed a 'hiking bubble' with two other hikers I met on the trails, and we've explored longer and more complex routes. So hiking has

become my primary source of exercise, and I feel I'm in better shape than I've been in a long time. And surprisingly in the time of Covid, I've even lost a bit of weight. But more than that, these trails, especially on the days when I hike alone, have become my spiritual solace, my means of regeneration in these hard times. I share this not to look for affirmation. I am just realizing that even with all that I have had to give up: regular time with my wife, travel, socializing, greeting people on Sunday, even going to the gym, even with these losses, there have been some benefits that have come to me in this past year. I am grateful for these. I know that for some people, 2020 has been disastrous, that there may not be not one single good thing they can find in it, and I would not ask them to pretend otherwise. But for me, I am joyous and grateful that there are some glimmers of light. What of you? Have you had time to reflect on 2020? Has the shadow of 2020 served you in some way?



Lorna Dean Treasurer **PLEDGE CAMPAIGN WRAPUP**

The LCUUF Pledge Campaign for the fiscal year, February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022, formally concluded on November 29, 2020. LCUUF has received pledges of MXN \$743,050 pesos for 2021-22, which is in excess of our goal MXN \$700,000 pesos. This includes pledges in U.S. dollars converted at an exchange rate of 20:1 and pledges in Canadian dollars converted at an exchange rate of 15:1. This represents pledges from 35 pledge units (singles or a couple who pledge together) or 54 individuals. If you have not yet pledged for 2021-22, please note your pledge in an email to Lorna Dean lmdean695@gmail.com We appreciate everyone's generosity in financing our congregation for the upcoming fiscal year.



Lew Crippen, President **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

I am not a Boomer, being born 1942 as many fathers, including mine were overseas during WWII. My wife and little sister were and are, however Baby Boomers, arriving after the war was over. This might not seem like an important event, but it led to my sister and Trudy being college classmates at Michigan State University in East Lansing at the same time I was working for Oldsmobile in Lansing. In the very traditional sense, my sister introduced us, and in the also traditional scenario, one thing led to another and our marriage a few years later in 1970. And more traditionally still, our son, Phil was born in Lansing.

Trudy was born, lived grew up in and was educated and married in Michigan. Nothing to indicate that she would lead a nomadic life. My background was slightly more diverse, being born in northwest Pennsylvania, one of the first in my parents' families to actually be born in a hospital instead of the family farm. Although I was a part of an extended family during the war years, my Dad moved the family to far off, small town, Illinois where I was a part of the now traditional nuclear family consisting of Mom, Dad, younger sister, a dog and miscellaneous cats.

The only thing for me that was not a part of what now seems to be a normal '50s childhood was our move to a mid-sized Kentucky town on the Ohio River in the middle of my fifth grade. My new school was ironically named Lincoln Grade School, located just a few blocks away from Dunbar Grade School. The idea that there had to be two schools located so closely together, but so far apart was my first real view that it was not a perfect world.

But really I was still isolated and in a cocoon, not realizing the magnitude and diversity of the world and its citizens. Catching back up to the top: born in Pennsylvania, grew

up in small-town Illinois and somewhat larger town in Kentucky, college in Indiana (Purdue), interrupted by a few years in the Army, working and married in Michigan, where Trudy and I thought we would retire. Our dream was to spend the "golden years" in an A-frame on the shores of Lake Michigan.

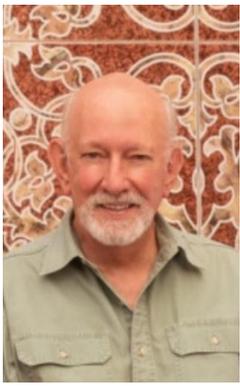
Instead, we moved to Texas where we worked for a few years, both of us spending time running projects in various places around the country. It was then that I had my first of several assignments in South America. And it was in Venezuela that I learned among other things that "good service" was not bringing the check until asked, as opposed to rushing through a meal, out the door and turn the table.

Later we both had work assignments in Europe, Trudy the more so. One year Philip came from college in Minnesota, met his mother in Germany for Thanksgiving, while I joined them from Argentina. Our nuclear family was living on three different continents, a far cry from our backgrounds but it seemed natural at the time. Later we moved to East and Southeast Asia for a couple of years and then to Adelaide and Sydney Australia. By the time we returned to the States, we soon realized that we no longer felt comfortable in the US, leading us to retire and move to Lakeside. Trudy and I have now lived longer in our house here, than anywhere either of us have lived anywhere. Our golden years are now filled with virtual gold, except for the few aches and pains of maturity. And our diverse experiences have given us a broad and deep perspective of the world and our place in it.



JAN. BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 03 Cheryl Cholavchuk | 19 Joan Bellamy |
| 05 Kathy Koches | 21 Charlie Jacobs |
| 07 Monica Devine | 25 Paula Odom |
| 10 Karyn Carpenter | 27 Pamela Cucinell |
| 14 David Hudnall | 29 Teresa Sande |
| 18 Linda Samuels | 30 Jan Manning |



Fred Koesling, MAL

BOARD MEMBER MESSAGE

As I write this in mid-December 2020 there really is a 'star of wonder' in the western night sky, or, more accurately 'the Rare Great Conjunction' of the planets Saturn and Jupiter. Visible to the naked eye, these two largest of planets in our solar system seem to be merging together and their conjoined brightness is beautiful to take in. Now I am decidedly not a believer in omens and auguries, but after the year past I gratefully welcome this delightful and fascinating phenomenon, this serendipitous event, as a reminder that 'the universe is unfolding as it should'.

I have enjoyed serving on our Fellowship's Board as an 'at large' member for the past two years. I intentionally use 'enjoy' because it has been a satisfying experience. I leave with a healthy regard for the day in and out administration of our Fellowship, for the many talents and energies of the other board members and for Matt's encyclopedic knowledge of the UU 'way' and his steadying presence. As an 'at large' member I had no specific responsibilities, just a lot of 'this and that'. I do like to think I brought a certain level of 'common sense' to the proceedings and, having experienced board responsibilities from the inside, I am an enthusiastic supporter of the high level of transparency, competence and diligence employed in administering the Fellowship. LCUUF is my first experience with Unitarian Universalism, but far from my first experience with organized religion reaching back to my childhood (oh so many years ago now), and middle years. Later, following a series of seminal life events and many seasons of pondering, I embraced my doubts about most everything concerning religion, capitalism and all the other

'isms'. I am comfortable taking on appellations such as free thinker, secular humanist, atheist, progressive, democratic socialist wannabe. I have no problem living with this mindset on my own. Never a pressing issue. Four and a half years ago as some of my other Lakeside retirement pastimes were winding down I felt the need for a little more 'community' in my life. Walking into Fellowship Hall and experiencing my first UU Sunday service was, using John Denver's imagery, 'coming home to a place I'd never been before'. I appreciate the society of independent minded thinking individuals in the Fellowship. It's gratifying to see my personal philosophies expressed in the seven UU principles, and in the several 'sources' Unitarian Universalism draws inspiration from. I am appreciative of LCUUF being here for me, and I wish the same for generations of nonconformists yet to grace Lakesides shores and mountains. May it be so!



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 January recipient is Tepehua Centro Comunitario, AC <https://tepehua.org> which runs a nutrition program for its elderly, sick or poverty-stricken members, among other social service programs. 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.



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

“It was the Best of Times, It was the Worst of Times.” This was the title of Fred Harland’s November talk that created a lot of discussion. We didn’t have a lot of time to dig deep into the subject. We will devote our Humanist Discussion Group to the topic via Zoom on Wednesday Jan. 27 at 4 pm. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/233941792>

Both Fred and Pete Soderman, who Fred referenced, will participate. Here is a link to the printed version of the talk. If the link does not work or you let me know and I’ll send you the talk as an attachment to an email.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ui=2&ik=86240ee471&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1686505368483355207&th=1767abb2783d5a47&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_kivm1g0z0

Here is the YouTube link to the service

[LCUUF 2020-11-22 It was the best of times; it was the worst of times - YouTube](#)

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



On January 24, 2021, LCUUF will hold its Annual General Meeting. During the meeting, members will vote on the proposed 2021-2022 budget, on the slate of new officers for the Board of Directors, and the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor will also be entertained for Board or Nominating Committee members.

The following are nominees for the Board of Directors:

Treasurer - Lorna Dean
Member at Large - Cat Barnett
Member at Large - Kriss Gang

The meeting will be held immediately after the January 24, 2021, Sunday service. Voting on the budget, Board, and Nominating Committee will be conducted through the Zoom chat function. Each voter must type in his or her name, as well as a yea or nay vote. Votes will be tallied during the meeting; additionally, the chat screens will be saved and printed out as a record of voting. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Miller at ssmiller999@gmail.com.



IN MEMORIAM



Adolf Abercrombie



Els Abercrombie

I met Els and Adolf Abercrombie at the first service the LCUUF ever held. This was the first Sunday in March 2006. They were a warm and modest couple in their early 70's. A month or so later, Els brought in a bag of votive candles and said that we needed to celebrate the joys and concerns in our lives. We started celebrating that day and have continued on for almost 16 years.

Els and Dolf grew up in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands and Els shared memories of the fear, deprivation, and then joy when the Canadian soldiers came in and freed her country. They were married and had their oldest child, Walter, when The Netherlands was flooded in 1953. They received emergency visas, allowing them to immigrate to the United States. They had three other children, Eric, Karen, and Tanya, when Dolf's work started taking them on international assignments.

Ironically, their first international assignment was to The Netherlands. Dolf was involved in the tire industry, and other assignments included at least one in South America. They came to Ajijic in retirement, enticed here by friends they visited. Their later years were greatly enhanced when Eric moved next door to them.

A few years ago, after Els had injured her arm and could not cook, I made them a traditional Dutch dish, witloaf en de oven; endive with ham, cheese, and cream. Els talked about her wartime childhood without cheese, without cream, without ham. It is hard to imagine The Netherlands without cheese, but the war was difficult.

I will always be grateful that the Care Team delivered a large bouquet of tulips on behalf of the fellowship. Els received them a week before her death and cherished them. Eric told me that they covered her body in tulips. This memory talks more about Els than Adolf. If you see pictures of them, Dolf is always looking lovingly at Els as she laughs and smiles. Dolf was soft spoken, but a strong and intelligent man who well understood the world's interactions. He was a man who deeply loved his wife.

Els worried about Dolf having to live without her. She might have known that he would die of a broken heart two weeks after her death. They both slipped away in their sleep, not having to face lives without each other. They were married for 65 years, and Dolf would have been 90 in January. They truly personified love.

Submitted by Trudy Crippen



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