



Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

Feb. 7 – Black lives in UU History Part 1 – We will be talking about Black lives in UU History. Deb Gang, Donna Burroughs, Susie Lindeman, Lynn Cleek and Colleen Beery will present a brief history along with current actions of Black Lives UU movement. Roy Haynes will be service leader.

Feb 14 - Love Story: A Sunday Morning Jazz Cabaret - A Valentine's Day celebration of love songs, poems and readings by Rev. Matt Alspaugh featuring music by Michael Reason, Linda Jessen, and guest musicians Doug Voet and Amaranta Santos. Deb Gang will be service leader.

Feb. 21 - Black Lives in UU History Part 2 – We will continue talking about Black Lives in UU History. Trudy Crippen, Sue Kelley, Cat Barnett, and Kathy Koches will talk about a few Black UUs who have made a difference in large and small ways. Roy Haynes will be service leader.

Feb. 28 – Eternity is a Very Long Time, Especially Toward the End - We've all encountered the idea of 'eternity' or 'eternal life' offered as words of comfort, typically at funerals or memorial services. But what is eternity anyway? Would eternal life be all that great? We'll explore various religious concepts of eternity, as well as what science has to say about time and eternity. Rev. Matt Alspaugh with Joani Ward, leading this service.



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

I write this as I listen to the inauguration of President Joe Biden in the United States. I am swelled with hope, on many levels, not least that finally someone intends to take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously. But even in this time of crisis levels of infections and deaths, we are seeing vaccinations rolling out, along with responsible steps to minimize viral spread until those vaccines are more widely distributed.

As a Fellowship, we can now begin to think forward to a future when the pandemic is winding down. What will our Fellowship be like? What things will we want to do? Our Board had a discussion about these topics last Friday, and I add my own thoughts here.

For our Sunday Services, we have developed a strong online presence, which has gotten better as we've learned. Online (Zoom) services allow people to participate, both as attendees and as presenters, even when they are far away, or at home. We now record the services for those who want to see them later. Even when we're able to meet in person again, we don't want to lose those benefits. So we are working to be able to support 'hybrid' services, combining both attendance in person and online.

In addition, our online services have allowed us to connect with other congregations. We've had members of Contemplative Sunday, a UU-like congregation in Puerto Vallarta, attending regularly, and we've had others from US congregations attend.

We're planning a combined service with UU Fellowship of San Miguel Allende in April. We are realizing that online provides an opportunity to connect with other UU or liberal religious groups in Mexico.

In our own small group gatherings, we may find benefit for an online future. While being physically together is generally desirable, there are some groups that may work better online. We just started a Story Circle group online, and the participants noted that the Zoom format worked better than past in person circles - there was no cross-talk or difficulty hearing the person speaking. So we might use a mix of both forms for future Story Circles.

I know all of us look forward to when we can have social gatherings in person again. I'm sure we'll want to restart our monthly after-service lunches and gatherings like Circle Suppers as soon as that is feasible. I expect we'll invent other ways to be together, yearning to connect after months of distance.

A final area where we've been limited by the pandemic is our social justice work. We've primarily been focused on providing funding for food aid to poor communities in the Lakeside area, because we can't physically go work in these communities. We hope that as the pandemic ends, we can explore more hands-on opportunities for social justice.

It does seem like there is a light in the obscurity, a new dawn coming. Let's get ready. Let's be ready to move into that light.



Lew Crippen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this with the Presidential Inaugural Parade playing in the background. Trudy and I, uncharacteristically turned the TV on early this morning so as not to miss any of the ceremonies. I was particularly moved by Jennifer Lopez's version of "This Land is Your Land", no doubt remembering Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen leading the crowd at Obama's inauguration. We also watched a goodly portion of former President Trump's farewell (not to be confused with Washington's) address. I can only hope that is the last bit of self-aggrandizement that will be foisted on me for some time. With luck and a bit of self-editing, I'll try hard to avoid the same.

Last year was not only difficult for the United States, but for the entire world, as countries and communities tried differing approaches to the Pandemic, including ourselves. In this moment, we here in Lakeside (and all of Jalisco) are in lockdown—at least those of us of a certain age. Supposedly the ban will be lifted by month's end, and life will return to Covid-normal.

For us at LCUUF, Covid-normal consists of Sunday services conducted via Zoom, as well as small group gatherings also on the Zoom platform. And while most of us miss the physical contact and the dynamics that come from all being together in one place, the online services have had other substantial benefits. For example, those of us who are here full-time were able to greet, see and interact with the part-time residents on a regular basis. As well, some former residents attend and participate in services. And we even have regular attendees who are not a part of the Lakeside community, but who join with us in common cause. All of this because of not being able to meet in person. Not to mention Linda Jessen's vocals from Canada before she and Peter returned.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am skeptical to the point of disbelief of miracles, but the fact we only had to cancel one service back in March, before continuing services via Zoom comes pretty close. Our miracle worker was Rev. Matt, who, with a small number of congregants was able to assemble the physical and software tools and use his cellphone as a device to connect to the internet and get the next week's service presented to the Zoom audience live. Now this has been an enormous amount of work for our lay volunteers, known collectively as "the tech team". They have our collective thanks.

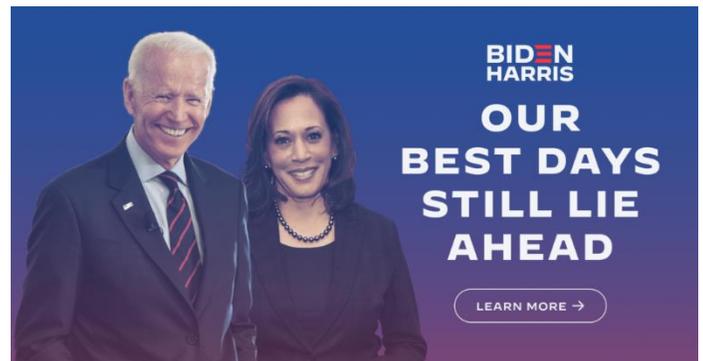
With the impending arrival of vaccines at Lakeside, we look forward to not only a new era in the United States, but a renewed life here. This we hope will include hybrid services and no doubt other innovations as well.

Missing in Lady Gaga's version were verses that pertain to many in the US today:

"In the squares of the city,
in the shadow of the steeple;
By the relief office, I'd seen my people.
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking,
Is this land made for you and me?"

Contribute generously to our "shared basket", with the proceeds going to various Lakeside food banks. And don't forget the last verse sung by Seeger for Obama:

"Nobody living can ever stop me,
As I go walking that freedom highway;
Nobody living can ever make me turn back
This land was made for you and me."





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 February recipient is FoodBank Lakeside, which provides food assistance to local families. 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. Contact Lorna Dean, Treasurer, lmdean695@gmail.com if you have questions.



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, February 24th at 4pm. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/233941792>

By the time of our meeting President Biden will have been in office for one month. How is the world reacting to this new administration? What is their view of the job he is doing? The readings will be send out to you late this time in order to give everyone time to assess his performance.

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



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Member at Large	Cat Barnett
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FEB. BIRTHDAYS

01 Eric Luria	16 Diane Van Brocklin
05 Robin McCormick	22 Karawynn Long
12 Mary Roam	23 Susan Reynolds
13 Donna Burroughs	26 Liz Moulder
16 Janice Kimball	

IN MEMORIAM



Marion Blackmer



It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Marion Blackmer, a member of LCUUF for several years, on December 22, 2020, less than one hour before her 80th birthday. She had been living close to her daughter, Caroline, in a care facility in Alameda, California for the past year. Marion was born in Philadelphia but spent significant amounts of time staying with family in Bermuda during her formative years, before returning to the US to continue her education. She met the love of her life, her second husband, John Blackmer, through a mutual friend and the two were married in June 1990. Marion and John, along with several cats, moved from Oakland, California, to their lovely home, Casa Mosaica, in Ajijic in June 2011. They joined the LCUU Fellowship soon after their arrival. Both had been active members of a large UU Fellowship in Oakland for many years and were thrilled to find a like-minded community here at Lakeside.

Following John's death in October 2015, Marion struggled to carry on alone. She suffered a stroke on December 31, 2018 and never fully recovered. Marion was an avid and discerning reader and particularly enjoyed police procedural novels. She also loved music, theatre and travel. She was a member of Los Cantantes for several years and she and John both contributed time and resources to various theatrical endeavors here at Lakeside, as well as the Lake Chapala Society and a number of local charities. Marion is survived by her daughter, Caroline, Caroline's husband, Craig, and their three daughters; also, John's two daughters, Alexis and Clare, and their spouses Chris and Brien. Rest in peace, dear Marion.

Submitted by Sandy Wallin



After two years serving as your Sunday Service Committee Chairman, I am stepping down. It has been a remarkable two years, especially 2020, when we were suddenly faced with the challenges of having our services via Zoom. I want to say a special thank you to Rev. Matt, Richard Clarke, Roy Haynes, Cat Barnett and Catherine Luria who stepped up and had my back when I was stuck up north due to Covid last year. And thank you to Charlie Jacobs, our VP, who worked with them to form the tech team that made our services possible. Thank you also to Trudy Crippen and Susan Miller who served with me in 2019. Thanks to all of you who participated, as speakers, service leaders, singers, readers or in any of the many ways you helped our Fellowship get through this past difficult year.

Richard Clarke will be the new Sunday Service Committee Chairman and I know that we will continue to have great services. Joining the committee for 2021 are Kriss Gang and Dee Dee Camhi and I look forward to working with them. Here's to better days ahead and to the day when we can all be together again, face to face, to get those hugs we all miss.

Kathy Koches
SSC Chairman



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