



We are now having in person services and NO RESERVATION is required. There will no longer be a limit to the number of people who can attend. Masks will be required and we will continue to maintain safe distance spacing of chairs.

Apr. 3 –Leaving it all up to Chance. How much of the course of our lives is the result of the luck of the draw? Is it all purely chance, or pre-ordained, or maybe somewhere in between? How about the development of our species, or for that matter, all life on earth? We'll look at the life of Charles Darwin, among others, as we consider these questions. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the message and Deb Gang will be the service leader.

Apr. 10 –Finding Civic Space in Community. This service will look at community outreach and development. We will be challenged to look past our own perceptions of people's poverty and rather challenge ourselves to come in with a listening pose. What do we hear? What are people talking about? What do they value? This process gives us the ability to appreciate history, context, and culture. Instead of prescribing solutions, we position ourselves to identify agency, encouraging people on ways to exercise this agency and grow it. We are not the drivers, we are but fellow travelers. As we listen, we see the new avenues for expanding that potential. Joco Roets will be the speaker and Kriss Gang will be the service leader.

Apr. 17 – Easter Awakening. On Easter morning, we consider a take on the Easter story as one of awakening. What does the mythology of Jesus' awakening mean for us? Perhaps we are called to see and care for one another in a new way. With Earth Day coming a few days after this service, perhaps we consider awakening to the calls of the earth, and reflect on what actions of care for the earth are being asked of us now. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the message and Annie Morris will be the service leader.

Apr. 24 – History of Unitarianism in North America. The term "Unitarian" first appeared as "unitaria religio" in a document of the Diet of Lécfalva, Transylvania on 25 October 1600, though it was not widely used in Transylvania until 1638. Unitarianism, both as a theology and as a denominational family of churches, was defined and developed in Poland, Transylvania, England, Wales, India, Japan, Jamaica, and the United States, and beyond beginning in the 16th century through to the present. The history of Unitarianism in North America can be roughly divided into four periods: precursor movements (early 18th century to c. 1800) the formative period (c. 1800–1835) a Transcendentalist period (c. 1835–1885) and the modern period (since 1885). This presentation will trace the history of Unitarianism in North America through these four distinct periods from the precursor movements up to the merger with the Universalists in 1961. Kriss Gang will be the presenter and Kathleen Pharis will be the service leader.



We are also 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.



Daylight Saving Time starts in Mexico on Sunday, April 3rd. Don't forget to spring forward one hour.



MATT'S MESSAGE

On March 9 Lake Chapala UU Fellowship held a peace vigil against the Russian attack on Ukraine. Some 60 people participated in this protest, held on the Carretera, including many not in the fellowship, and we were covered in the Guadalajara Reporter. I'm grateful to Colleen Beery and D'Vorah Kelley for organizing this vigil; I would have liked to have been there, but I was traveling.

Organizing this event has caused many of us to re-consider LCUUF's role in Social Justice work. The board had a discussion of this topic at its March 21 meeting. We would like to see the congregation develop a more organized, holistic approach to justice-making work.

Justice-making involves a mix of activities. Rev. Richard Gilbert, who wrote a book on social justice work called "The Prophetic Imperative", listed five main activities. First is direct service, where we provide direct assistance to the communities we are concerned about. Right now, we do this with Share the Plate and other funding programs, and in the past, we've worked hands-on with other groups to help poor Lakeside towns. The next is education, that is, educating ourselves on the nature of the problem and possible ways to address it. We do this through Sunday Services and occasionally we have had workshops. A third is public witness, where we make others aware of a concern. The peace vigil this month is a good example of witness work. Fourth, is advocacy, where we work for political, legal and other changes. This is tricky for us in Mexico as most of us are not citizens, but we have done advocacy work

in the past with, for example, Amnesty International. Finally, community organizing is a whole area of work best done with partner groups to help communities advocate for change for themselves.

There may be other ways to organize our thoughts about justice-making; I mention Richard Gilbert because he was my minister and seminary professor. I think the larger point is that to be effective at justice-making, we can't focus on just one of these areas, we need to be holistic. Similarly, we ought to develop, over time, justice-making work on multiple topics. Much of our focus right now is food security, which was appropriate during the pandemic, but I hope we move into other areas, as the peace vigil represents.

Our board hopes to organize an exploratory discussion or conversation on our justice-making efforts. We're early in the process. If you are interested, let Kriss, our board president, or me, or one of the other board members know.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 03 Kriss Gang | 13 Myra Williamson |
| 04 Colleen Beery | 24 Gary Cleek |
| 10 Deb Gang | 24 Mardele Harland |
| 11 Linda Conklin | 24 Catherine Luria |
| 16 Peter Jessen | 29 Sharon Woods |



Lorna Dean, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

Sunday Services

From March 27, reservations will no longer be required for attending LCUUF services in person. Masks will still be required, and chairs will be spaced. So everyone is welcome back. Zoom services will continue for those who prefer them.

Building Improvements

The front of the LCUUF building has been painted a bluish-grey color. The painting of the inside white walls is almost complete. A new sign for LCUUF has been designed by Roy Haynes and will be installed in the near future.

Pledges

LCUUF has pledges of MXN 931,800 pesos for the 2022-23 fiscal year. This number has been reduced slightly from that announced at the end of the pledge campaign due to the deaths of two members of the congregation. From February 1 to March 24, 2022, we have collected MXN 278,178 pesos or 30% of the total pledges for the year.

Share the Basket

In February, we donated MXN 5,050 pesos to FoodBank Lakeside. As of March 24, we have collected MXN 5,700 pesos for Operation Feed for the March Share the Basket donation. In April, the Share the Basket donation will go to Poco a Poco. <https://www.pocoapocosanpedro.com/>

Assets

LCUUF assets total MXN 4,065,536 pesos as of February 28, 2022. This includes three U.S. dollar accounts (Actinver-one account, Truist (formerly SunTrust) and Schwab) converted to pesos at our standard exchange rate for the year of 20:1. The Truist and Schwab accounts are owned by Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fund, Inc., but are included in the LCUUF accounts in pesos.

Actinver Investments (both peso & dollar accounts)	MXN	855,103
Actinver Checking	MXN	146,665
Truist Checking	MXN	284,220
Schwab Brokerage	MXN	2,763,991
Petty Cash	<u>MXN</u>	<u>15,557</u>
Total Assets	MXN	4,065,536 pesos (about USD 203,277)

Income

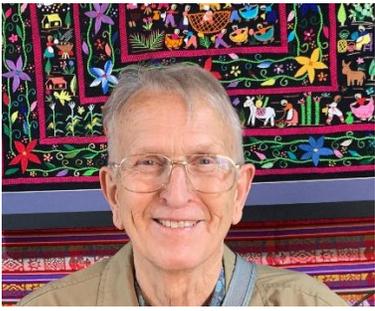
LCUUF tends to receive more pledge payments early in the fiscal year, so our Income totaled MXN 291,882 pesos for February compared to the budgeted income of MXN 84,456 pesos. The gain from the brokerage account is not considered part of our operating income.

Expenses

LCUUF's total Expenses for February were MXN 81,164 pesos, compared to the budgeted Expenses of MXN 96,398 pesos.

If anyone has questions about the LCUUF finances or would like a copy of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Statement prepared each month, contact Lorna Dean, Treasurer, at Treasurer@LakeChapalaUU.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Johannes Bjorner



Susanne Bjorner

Johannes and Susanne first visited Chapala as a side trip when they came to the Guadalajara Book Fair (FIL), the largest Spanish-language book fair in the world. Even though Susanne was nearing the end of her library/information career in 2015, she wanted to see what it was like. She had a friend who spent time in San Miguel de Allende, so they planned a few days there after the conference. Johannes always researches interesting places to go when they travel, so he probably was the one who had found Chapala and LCUUF on the Internet. A friend (in Guadalajara) of Johannes' nephew (in Argentina) drove them down for a Sunday—she had spent many weekends in Chapala as a child, visiting her grandparents.

So the Bjorners visited LCUUF the first day they found Chapala, and felt warmly welcomed then and on subsequent short vacation trips they made to the area in the next five years. They were attracted by the weather, of course, and by the interesting and vibrant expat and Mexican communities. Their longest stay was in January 2020 for the whole month, and then, of course, they didn't travel again for the next two years. But they stayed in touch with Lakeside via Zoom, as members of LCS and Richard and Fred's weekly Hot Science meetings, and the online services offered by LCUUF. They realized that they wanted to spend more time here, and though not able to become permanent residents, they decided to rent an apartment long-term so that they could come and go more easily and more frequently. For now, they will continue to go back and forth for regular treatments to stabilize Susanne's limited vision and to keep watch on family.

Johannes was born in 1939 on the small Danish island of Fyn, just before Denmark was occupied by the Nazis in WWII. From his home he could see and hear the bombing of the German port of Kiel across the sea. He still remembers waking up from nightmares that persisted until his family emigrated to Argentina in 1947. At the age of 20 he went back to Denmark for engineering college, graduating in 1964. In 1966 he emigrated to the U.S. and found an electrical engineering job in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Susanne was born and grew up in a small town in Ohio but left for Boston in 1965 to go to college at Tufts University. She had a work-study job in the library of the Crane Theological School (UU) for a year, and it was there that she found her vocational career and her religion.

Johannes and Susanne met in Cincinnati in 1967, just four months after he arrived in the U.S., and while Susanne was home from college on Easter break. They were married in 1968 and moved immediately to New England, where they have spent most of their life together, in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and their dream home in New Hampshire. They lived in Denmark for a year early in the marriage, and moved to Spain to live in 2003, where Johannes' continued his artistic career and Susanne could telecommute to her clients in the U.S. In 2014 they moved to Cincinnati to be able to spend more time with Susanne's family.

It was in Cincinnati that the Bjorners first became a part of a UU congregation together, and that has prepared them for recognizing the value of this Fellowship. They hope to be able to contribute as they learn more. Johannes would like to offer low-cost art classes with all proceeds going to charitable causes. Susanne is not sure where she will be able to contribute, but is pretty sure that something will identify itself.



SHARE THE BASKET

Our policy for Share the Basket, during the coronavirus crisis, has been: If we collect more than MXN 5,000 pesos in any month, the full amount will go to an organization providing assistance to low-income members of 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.

If you pay your pledge or make a donation to LCUUF by PayPal, by Bill Pay, or pesos directly to Lorna Dean or David Hudnall, you may specify the amount that you want to donate to the Share the Basket program.

The recipient for April Share the Basket is Poco a Poco San Pedro Itzican. This organization supports youth and women in this indigenous area, through education, teaching local organic food growth, providing food and drinking water to renal patients, feeding over 300 children 5 days a week; offering health services; literacy and ESL classes.



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, April 28, 2022 at 4pm. Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

What accounts for our polarized public life, and how can we begin to heal it? Political philosopher Michael Sandel offers a surprising answer: those who have flourished need to look in the mirror. He explores how "meritocratic hubris" leads many to believe their success is their own doing and to look down on those who haven't made it, provoking resentment and inflaming the divide between "winners" and "losers" in the new economy. We will discuss why we need to reconsider the meaning of success and recognize the role of luck in order to create a less rancorous, more generous civic life. This topic was suggested by both Bill Frayer and Fred Harland after our last meeting on Cultural Bias.

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





LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary	Cat Barnett
Treasurer	Lorna Dean
Member at Large	Catherine Luria
Member at Large	Dee Dee Camhi
Member at Large	Susan Miller



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the May newsletter is April 25th and should be sent to Editor, Kathy Koches, at: kkoches@gmail.com