



**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 no longer be required and we will continue to maintain safe distance spacing of chairs.**

## **June 5 – What Values Do Unitarian Universalism and Democrats Abroad**

**Share?** The 5th Principle of UU is the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within congregations and in society at large. UU and Democrats Abroad both share the goal of supporting a vibrant US democracy. Larry Pihl and Terry Rossen, both members of DA will present. Dee Dee Camhi is the service leader.

## **June 12 – The Four Yogas – A Unified Theory of Religion.**

Thousands of years ago, Indians defined four different spiritual paths, different approaches to getting closer to a higher power. These paths are action, devotion, meditation, and knowledge. These same paths are found in religions all around the world. They are found within UU, too. In fact, they were a major influence on Unitarian transcendentalists, like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Richard Clarke will give the message; Carol Johnson will be the Service Leader.

## **June 19 – Original Blessing.**

Richard Rohr, a Christian theologian, calls out conventional Christianity on its attachment to 'original sin' versus an alternative concept of 'original blessing.' He notes that "the words 'original sin' are not in the New Testament. Yet the Church became so preoccupied with the fly in the ointment, the flaw in the beauty that we forgot and even missed out on any original blessing." How did this happen? What might religion based on 'original blessing' look like? Rohr points to Celtic and Native spiritualities as examples. I wonder if 'original blessing' might be a core concept of our Unitarian Universalist values, a guide star to a better world. Let's explore what 'original blessing' might offer us. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the presentation and Colleen Berry will be the service leader.

## **June 26 – A true TED talk on the value and meaning of friendship!**

Hey, I have friends who talk with me, some who bray at me, but I learned one of the most important lessons about the sheer joy and meaning of friendship from our 150-pound Harlequin Great Dane rescue, Maya the Magnificent. Please join us on Sunday, June 26th, as we explore friendship's components and ultimate significance with Ted Rogers. D'Vorah Kelley 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.



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                      |    |                       |
|----|----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 03 | Buddy Dowdy-Winslett | 16 | Sheryl Swain          |
| 08 | Helen White          | 23 | Mary Helen Montgomery |
| 16 | Francisco Urzua      |    |                       |



## MATT'S MESSAGE

One of my activities outside of the fellowship is attending a weekly men's group, typically six to eight other mostly gringos, mostly retired men. For me, the group is an outlet for personal reflection and growth. Occasionally there are also weekend workshops. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend such a workshop with a dozen other guys, most of whom I'd never met.

This group was mostly Mexican guys from Chapala and Guadalajara (though there was one other participant from the weekly group,) and the program was almost entirely in Spanish. This was a real stretch for me. These workshops involve a lot of deep sharing by the participants. I found it very difficult to follow some of the participants, for they often spoke softly, or rapidly, or both. It didn't help that we were meeting in a room above a bar, and the jukebox would fire up occasionally, making things nearly impossible to hear.

It was even more challenging for me to speak to the others about my own 'stuff,' my feelings, and experiences, all in my somewhat intermediate level Spanish. Especially after one man turned to me, and in perfect So-Cal English, said, "Why don't you just say that in English, so we can understand what you mean?" And I did come to realize that almost all of these men had a better command of English than I had of Spanish. But I and my friend were on their turf, so we wanted to keep speaking in Spanish.

The weekend was hard work for me, challenging and uplifting at the same time. I got a bit of a glimpse into the lives of these men, their relationships, their careers, their dreams and concerns. I also realized that some issues of great concern north of the border are just not a thing here. It was humbling for me, another reminder that I'm an extranjero, a foreigner, a stranger in a strange land.

So I continue my work trying to learn Spanish, a couple of classes a week, with daily doses of Duolingo and Spanishdict. It's a slow slog for me, for I don't have the gift of language learning. But I feel it is part of my responsibility as an extranjero to try to learn something of the language and culture that surrounds me.

I know most of us are migrants here - how have you made your way into this different culture? How have you adapted? How have you been changed? I'm curious to know what your experiences have been.



On May 18<sup>th</sup> the UU women had a pool party at the home of Joan Ward. The UU men had a pool party the same day at the home of Fred Harland.

(Unfortunately the men didn't take any pictures!)



## POINT/COUNTERPOINT – two differing points of view on Covid 19 and mask wearing.



Eric Luria, MD & Catherine Luria, NP

There is an epidemic of Covid complacency. The following information is based on an article by Eric Topol, MD a physician – scientist and director of translational research at Scripps Institute. This recent information is very concerning. Quoting from Dr. Topol, “ isn't great? The pandemic is over. We don't need masks. The virus is contained.... The vulnerable are protected. Future variants will be benign. The only problem is **NONE OF THIS IS TRUE!** Any proclamation that the pandemic is over ignores the occurrence of a new variant with high transmission and immune escape. We will still benefit from using masks in many situations...” **IS IT WISE TO STOP WEARING MASKS?** Jalisco eliminated its mask mandate on May 10th 2022. According to an article in the Guadalajara Reporter between May 10 and May 18 there was a 37% increase in Covid cases in Jalisco. This does not include any tests done at home. In the Topol article, in a list of 55 countries, the US ranked #55 with only 64% fully immunized and 28% boosted. Mexico's rank was below #55, as did not even make the list. Immunization is highly effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths, but has not prevented the transmission of this recent variant of Covid. Even in New England and New York, which have very high rates of immunization and boosting, there is a severe outbreak of this newest variant at the present time. In addition people who have other variants of Covid do not seem to be well-protected against this current variant. *(continued on next page)*



Cat Barnett, Board Secretary

Well, hot temperatures have been here for a while, and the UUs are having an m outcropping of pool parties. We started out with one for women, and now there is one for men. On the same day! We are looking around now for the people who feel they are a little of both genders who feel left out because they can't go to both. I'm glad we will have opportunities to know each other better again.

*New at church: relaxation of mask rules.* Starting May 22 in the Fellowship masks will be encouraged but not required. Jalisco has decided that masks are not necessary in most public places. The exceptions are health care and public transportation. The board has been generally following the state rules. Since we don't provide health care at the fellowship, and it's stationary, you can now make the choice for yourself about whether to wear a mask when you go there. Did everyone notice the thing that happened on May 15? When the service leader said “we ask that people wear masks in the building...” something like half of the people in the audience (including me!) thought “Oops!” and pulled their masks out of their pockets. It was good to see we mostly had masks with us, and Paula kindly provided a couple to those who did not. I am a big believer in letting people decide what level of risk they are comfortable with. (And haven't we all learned a lot about transmission of respiratory infections) If you yourself wear an N95 mask, that will protect you pretty well. Is pretty well good enough for you? It may not be. And in that case LCUUF offers you live Zoom services, where you can talk to your friends before and after the service. *(continued on next page)*

*(Luria article continued)* While the sickness may be milder than other times, the risk for long-term sequelae – long Covid for example, is significant. In Mexico there are a high number of people not vaccinated or boosted, which increases the risk of the formation of new variants. Poverty decreases the utilization of antiviral medication, and monoclonal antibody treatment has not been very effective for this latest variant.

At the service on May 22, 2022, which we watched on zoom, we noticed only one person wearing a mask in the areas of the congregation that we could see. This is very concerning. The population of our congregation is predominantly older and therefore at higher risk. The immunization available to people here in Lakeside initially was Sinovac, which has been shown to be much less effective than other vaccines although the more effective Astro-Zeneca was used for the boosters recently.

Even though mask use is no longer mandated, we implore you - **PROTECT YOURSELF and PROTECT OTHERS** - continue to use KN95 masks (rather than cloth or surgical masks) voluntarily. Make UU a safer environment for all of our congregation. To read the Topol article go to [topol.substack.com](http://topol.substack.com).



## **LCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Kriss Gang
Vice President	Charles Jacobs
Secretary	Cat Barnett
Treasurer	Lorna Dean
Member at Large	Catherine Luria
Member at Large	Dee Dee Camhi
Member at Large	Susan Miller

*(Barnett article continued)* I wonder if masking all over the world will get to be like some places in Asia have been for years, Is pretty well And in that case, LCUUF offers you live Zoom services, where you can talk to your friends before and after the service and enjoy almost the same experience the people who are at the fellowship are having. I wonder if masking all over the world will get to be like some places in Asia where it has been very common to see people out in public with masks on. I know I'm not going to wear one unless it is required. At least for now. If we all have masks on, we can't hear each other! And I'm not just talking about people who have hearing issues. So many times, I've seen people unmask because the person they were talking to couldn't understand them. Then where are you? Did that minute negate the other time you were around those people? Hard to say. I worked in the Houston Health Department in Tuberculosis Control for almost 20 years. Tuberculosis is a respiratory illness, spread through the air. I was around a lot of infectious individuals, some known, some unknown. If you know someone's status (newly diagnosed with TB, TB patient on meds for over a month, person exposed to TB) it is easy to know what to do. I wore a mask with newly diagnosed TB patients when I had to talk to them indoors. Infectious particle from TB patients drop to almost nothing after someone has been on TB medicines for a few weeks. BUT if I planned to meet that newly diagnosed TB patient at their home (and I did that a lot towards the end of the time I worked there) I simply sat outside with them. I was doing contact investigation, so I spent at least an hour every time, sitting with the newly diagnosed person. Sunlight kills the TB bacillus, and unlimited ventilation reduces your risk to pretty much nothing. I am full of sympathy for those who feel they are at high risk of hospitalization or death if they get sick with Covid. *(continued on next page)*



## **HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 4pm. Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

We will discuss the topic “The Great Resignation.” This refers to the world-wide phenomena of people leaving their jobs. It implies a paradigm shift of how people look at work in the age of the Internet, Zoom and social media. It also appears to be generational.

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](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)



*(Barnett article continued)* There are a lot of things that all of us didn't do for the first 2 years of Covid. But now, as an individual who has been vaccinated and boosted, and I have also been sick with Covid, (after vaccination and booster!) I'm not worried that if I don't wear a mask I will go to the hospital or die. I might get sick again, but I wasn't very sick the first time. I still have to be courteous to people I visit. Robert and I plan to visit my two aunts in Austin in June. They are both in their mid-90s. They have a high risk of bad outcomes for a lot of things because of their age – not just Covid. I will find out before we get together what their preferences are. We may meet outside (something I'd prefer not to do because even the nighttime temperatures in Austin, Texas in June can be in the 80s and 90s). I haven't seen them for almost 3 years. But I will do what they want about meeting them because they are the ones who could be at risk. But in the meantime, in most places, I will be mask free. I hope to see you at the fellowship!



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Colleen Beerys



Colleen was born on April 4, 1960, to Keith and Mary Jo (Groene) Beery in Lafayette, Indiana. After living for a time in Indiana and Illinois, and traveling often to see relatives in Iowa, her family moved permanently to California in 1964. Colleen had a very happy childhood, growing up in the small town of Marinwood, surrounded by her family, pets, nature, and friends. Though baptized and originally raised Roman Catholic, her family joined the UU fellowship in Marin in 1970, where she was "indoctrinated" into liberal religious thinking, but she felt comfortable in Catholic churches too, which her large extended family attended in Iowa. However, her best friends were Jewish and she also attended synagogue and Jewish events, rounding out her religious education.

Colleen became an avid learner of foreign languages, following in the footsteps of her parents and siblings, who all were gifted at a variety of languages and appreciated all cultures. She spent the summer of 1976 in Mexico City as an exchange student with Youth for Understanding, developing a lifelong friendship with her host family, the Mendez-Diaz family. After graduating from high school, Colleen spent a year in Europe, living for 8 months in Valencia, Spain, learning more deeply about the languages, culture, and history of that country, as well as teaching English as a Second Language and touring Europe. Upon return, Colleen attended Indian Valley College and San Francisco State University, studying to become a Bilingual Elementary School Teacher. She graduated magna cum laude in 1984, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, as well as a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, while working 30+ hours a week to put herself through school. During her years at San Francisco State, Colleen met her former husband, Dr. Babak Alizadeh-Taheri, a native of Tehran, Iran, and together they moved to San Jose, where both began their graduate studies at San Jose State University, got married and made a home. She began

her 34-year teaching career in 1986, teaching a bilingual first-grade class in Hollister, CA, working with migrant farm families. Colleen received her Master of Arts in Linguistics, with a specialization and certificate in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second or Other Language) while working full-time as a teacher. her 34-year teaching career in 1986, teaching a bilingual first-grade class in Hollister, CA, working with migrant farm families. Colleen received her Master of Arts in Linguistics, with a specialization and certificate in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second or Other Language) while working full-time as a teacher. In 1989, Colleen took a brief break from her career giving birth to her daughter, Maryam. In 1990, Colleen and her small family moved to Woodland, CA, and Colleen taught for a number of years in Davis, CA as a bilingual fifth-sixth grade teacher.

In 1993, Colleen got divorced and returned home to Marin County, California with Maryam to be near family and began working as a Technology Teacher, Spanish Teacher and Coordinator of the Foreign Language program for grades K-6. She then moved on to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District, where she taught primarily second and third grades (but also combination classes) for nearly 21 years. Colleen was very active in the California Teachers Association and the Larkspur-Corte Madera Educators Association, and served in many roles over the years in LCMEA, including secretary, vice-president, and ultimately as president her last two years. Colleen became a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin as an adult and joined the United Church of Christ in later years, but returned to her UU roots upon moving to Mexico...choosing Ajijic in part because of LCUUF! Colleen retired from teaching in 2018, and moved to San Francisco to be with her daughter and plan for her eventual retirement in Mexico. She became a permanent resident of Mexico in 2019, and resides the bulk of the year in Ajijic, along with her rescue dogs, Teddy and Leo. She spends a good deal of her retirement involved in her passions of film, art, travel, political advocacy, donating to and volunteering with a variety of worthy organizations, including the LCUUF Tech Team and LCUUF Care Team, local charities, and Democrats Abroad. However, she also spends plenty of time playing with her dogs, playing Mexican train and Euchre with friends, walking around town, and relaxing at home and in the garden. Colleen says, "LIFE IS GOOD!"

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



D'Vorah Kelley



## 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.

Food Bank Lakeside is our recipient for Share the Basket donations in June 2022. FoodBank Lakeside works to relieve the chronic food poverty of our most disadvantaged neighbors, collaborating with donors, volunteers, businesses, and community organizations to ease suffering and offer the hope of a brighter future throughout the Lakeside Community.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> I became an official member of LCUUF. I say “official” because I’ve already become involved in the Sunday Service Committee, offered a service in February, and already pledge. Yet I know from being a UU for 30 years how important the commitment made by signing the Covenant Book is, not just for myself but for the Fellowship. I moved to Ajijic last July, having brought my husband here in June to live at one of Alicia’s nursing homes. It was a good move for both of us – I have made many friends here, love the weather (most of the time), the walkability, and LCUUF! In January Kelley (yes, I too, called him by our last name!) contracted Covid and passed on February 27<sup>th</sup> of Covid-related pneumonia. His last months were spent in this lovely area for which I am grateful. Both our families have deep roots in New England. We met at the University of Rhode Island in grad school in 1972, married in 1975 and have two adult children and one grandson who live in New England. They have all visited us here and now fully understand why I’m staying here! I have a daughter and two grandsons in Texas who have yet to visit.

Here in Ajijic, in addition to joining LCUUF, I am part of a weekly support group that meets at LCS for folks caring for spouses with dementia – several of us are no longer caregivers, but the support is still vital to our well-being! I have also recently become involved in Dems Abroad as the GOTV Volunteer Coordinator and can be found Monday mornings at LCS registering US citizens to vote in the super important mid-terms! I look forward to developing deeper friendships within this beloved community! I thank all of you who have so warmly welcomed me into LCUUF.



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the July newsletter is June 25th and should be sent to Editor, Kathy Koches, at: [kkoches@gmail.com](mailto:kkoches@gmail.com)