



**We are now having in person services and NO RESERVATION is required. We will continue to maintain safe distance spacing of chairs. Masks are strongly encouraged but are not required.**

**Nov. 6 -- LESSONS FROM THE CRITTERS** - Rev. Don Beaudreau will be our speaker. Don is a retired UU minister who has lived with his husband Juan at Lakeside for 10 years. They share their home with 7 dogs, 2 cats, a snowy-white lab mouse named "Algodon" ("Cotton"), and with whatever cow, horse, turtle, dove, snake, etc. that passes by their front door. Don writes a monthly article for our local magazine *El Ojo del Lago* and has 10 books on AMAZON, with 4 more in process. He will share lessons he has learned from animals, and play some jazz piano to illustrate the theme. The Service Leader will be Kriss Gang.

**Nov. 13 – We Won't Be One: Schismogenesis and Human Nature** – One of our favorite hymns speaks to one of our deep desires as Unitarian Universalists.- “We Would be One” Our Lake Chapala congregation holds the idea one oneness as a core theological value. Yet as humans, we like to divide up in to self, in-groups and out-groups, amigo and enemigo (friend and enemy.) Schismogenesis means creation of division and it seems to be built into our human nature. How do we find a way to create unity instead of division? Is that even possible? Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk and Dee Camhi will be the Service Leader.

**Nov. 20 – Enjoy the Journey** - Susie Wagner, long-time member, will speak to us about aging without getting old. She will give us the benefit of her 86 years of wisdom and experience and challenge us to see ourselves in a new light. The Service Leader will be Kathy Koches.

**Nov. 27 – The Only Lasting Truth is Change** – The title is a quote from Octavia E. Butler’s seminal work, “The Parable of the Sower” This line points to dee; theological wisdom found in many religious traditions, and perhaps more importantly, in the lived experience of many of us. We’ll explore how we can befriend, even embrace change in our lives and the world around us. This is also the end of our pledge campaign. We’ll celebrate and ponder what changes may be ahead of us at LCUUF in the months and years ahead. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will give the talk.



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.



**ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH**

This will be the last time Mexico will use Daylight Saving Time.



## MATT'S MESSAGE

In early October, board president Kriss Gang and I presented a Stewardship service to start our Pledge Campaign. That service unfortunately wasn't recorded, but I wanted to return to some of the thoughts I presented in the service.

This year, we've asked our congregational leaders to think about what they could do, no, rather what dreams they have for the congregation, if we had sufficient money to afford them. They had many ideas. So some of the things we hope to do next year are: have more guest musicians, invite guest ministers to come to Mexico and present to us, develop more opportunities for direct service in the community with our new social action group. And of course there is our physical space and possible need for a new facility. But longer term, I wondered in that talk, whether we might have bolder dreams. I talked of my internship at Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul, 15 years ago. My internship supervisor, Rob Eller-Issacs, said, "When you dream, dream boldly, in fact dream ten times as bold. That will be about right." Rob had some ten times as bold dreams, and some of those worked out, though they took years, and others didn't come to pass. But I think dreaming big helped create the possibility for lots of dreams, big and small, to emerge, be developed, and be realized by that congregation.

So now I've been here at LCUUF. I've been here five years. I'd like to offer my ten times as bold dreams.

The first is that we develop ways to welcome and invite Mexican nationals into Unitarian Universalism. To me this means understanding and including them. It means letting go of our assumptions. We might realize that many speak English better than we speak Spanish, so our mostly English language activities may not be as big a barrier as we think. I'm also realizing that many Mexicans are secular Catholics at best, and they hold a variety of spiritualities including humanism, agnosticism, and atheism.

Finally, I'm now aware how many have lived in the USA or Canada and they understand the migrant lifestyle, and so they are a bit like us.

Second, we are in a unique place to support other UUs in Mexico and Latin America. I dream we support other migrants from the USA, Canada, and Europe mostly, but also Latino UUs. We're in this unique place in part because we've embraced technology, allowing us to reach people far away. This dream still requires a commitment to reach out to distant UUs, to get to know them, perhaps traveling to meet face-to-face. It would also require figuring out how to include them as full members of our fellowship.

Third, I dream that space is not an issue for us. In the years before I came to this fellowship, it had to move a number of times, sometimes with little warning. While our current building has served us very well, we're on the verge of outgrowing it. When we began looking for larger spaces before the pandemic, we realized that there were almost no existing buildings sufficiently large for our future plans. So I anticipate we will need to plan to proceed building our own facility, something big enough, and flexible enough to hold us with our bold dreams, and whatever dreams that arise for us in the future.

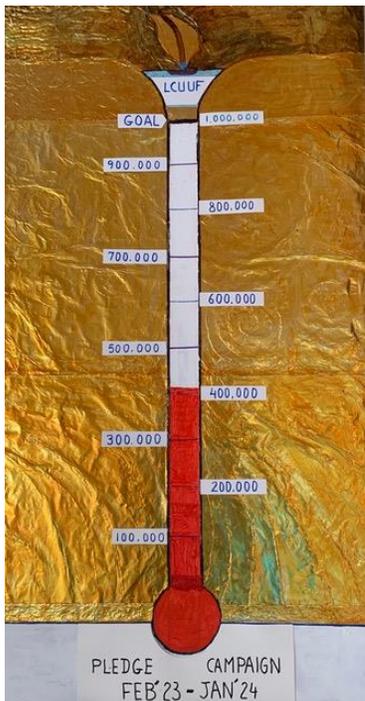
But these are just my dreams. The real dreams should come from you all. What ten times as bold dreams might you have for this fellowship? I'd love to hear your ideas.





## BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

Lorna Dean, Treasurer



### PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

As of October 25, 2022, LCUUF has received pledges totaling MXN 430,000 pesos for 2023-24, from 23 singles or couples. This is 43% of our goal of MXN 1,000,000 pesos.

Paper pledge forms and envelopes for 2023-24 are available on the Welcome Table on Sundays. They can be completed and put in the offering basket. If you are not attending services in person, you may submit your pledge by email to [Treasurer@LakeChapalaUU.org](mailto:Treasurer@LakeChapalaUU.org) The email should state: "My pledge to LCUUF is ... (amount in U.S. or Canadian dollars or Mexican pesos)... for the fiscal year from February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024." Be sure that the currency of your pledge is clearly stated and that you state an annual amount.

Pledge amounts are confidential and known only to the treasurer, bookkeeper and the minister. It is not necessary to start paying your 2023-24 pledge until after February 1, 2023, although we can accept prepayments.

**PLEDGE PAYMENTS FOR 2022-23:** For the current fiscal year, LCUUF has received MXN 780,334 pesos of the total pledged amount of MXN 965,800 pesos, or 80.8%, as of Oct. 25, 2022.

**ASSETS:** As of September 30, 2022, LCUUF's total assets are MXN 3,787,148 pesos. This includes the Actinver account, petty cash, the Truist U.S. account, and Schwab brokerage account.

**INCOME & EXPENSES:** The Income & Expense Statement, from February 1 to September 30, 2022 (9 months of the fiscal year), shows:

Income	MXN 824,553 pesos
Less Expenses	<u>(MXN 516,347 pesos)</u>
Net Income (surplus)	MXN 308,206 pesos



### HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022 at 4pm. Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

By the time we have our discussion the results of the midterm elections will be in. But the US elections are not the only ones that have occurred. Brazil, Italy, China and England have all seen elections or government change. We will discuss what these mean for the US and the rest of the world.

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)



Barley Donahue

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



John De Waal

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



My name is Barley Donahue. I grew up attending The First Universalist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During 4th grade I had perfect Sunday School attendance and received a bible. I strive for perfect attendance here at LCUUF. Please introduce yourself so I get to know you. I'm often a greeter on Sunday's.

The most important event of my life was adopting a baby boy from Acapulco, Mexico. My husband and I worked with the Department of Infant and Families. His birth mother had abandoned him at the hospital and we got him at 2 months old. We were so blessed. He is now 41 and lives in California.

Unfortunately, my husband died in 2006, but fortunately I met William Smith. We've been together for 22 years. We moved here from Taos, New Mexico 3 years ago and plan to stay forever. We live with 2 cats and 2 dogs.

I spent my working years as a teacher and social worker, though my favorite job was a baker's assistant. I loved kneading and forming the delicious Swedish bread.

Practicing Tae Kwon Do, Shiatsu and yoga asanas have been my passions. Here I've been studying meditation with Richard Clarke, Qi Gong and NIA on YouTube. I also love reading, walking, politics (DEM) and watching Netflix.

The year 2000 began my journey towards a vegan lifestyle. I do it primarily for compassionate reasons. Since I've always loved dogs it was easy to expand my love for all sentient beings.

I was born 89 years ago in The Hague, the Netherlands. I went to High School and did my military service there and was working as an outdoor salesman when I was offered a Visa for the USA completely by surprise, which I accepted. I was 23. I married Barbara 2 days before I left and went to Grand Rapids, Michigan and then to Chicago, Illinois where I remained until I was 65. Barbara joined me after five months.

In Chicago I worked in various sales jobs, including that of Medical Rep. for Bristol Myers for 18 years. I earned a BS and an MBA in Marketing on the side, but was not able to put my education into practice. I made several entrepreneurial efforts, including publishing Marketing Abstracts, but none came to fruition. I also spent several years being an Associate Professor in Marketing with IIT, which looked impressive but did not pay very well. I even wrote a 60 page book while there for foreign business people. I have three sons, all successfully employed. When I was 65, I was able to get my Social Security, I sold my home in Oak Park and bought a RV with which we explored parts of Canada and the US, and when winter started to come near, we ventured into Mexico. We did that for three years and got tired of that life and bought our home here in Chapala. My dear, dear and unbelievably brave wife Barbara, who never failed me, passed away in 2018 after a very long struggle with a Meningioma. Today I share my life with Diane, the widow of Sheldon, a Unitarian all his life and my best friend here.



## SHARE THE BASKET

During the corona-virus crisis 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. 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. Operation Feed is our recipient for Share the Basket donations in November, 2022.

Operation Feed is a group of people dedicated to providing food and improving the lives of the very poor and marginalized people of the village of San Juan Cosalá, less than a 10 minute drive from Ajijic. They provide weekly food despensas for those who would go hungry without the aid. Many of the recipients are elderly, disabled, and children who are hungry. Operation Feed also supports new program initiatives to involve the people in developing additional income sources and skills (such as English), thereby offering them a “hand up” and not just a “hand out”. Operation Feed’s goal is to help these people live productive lives, free from hunger. Finally, although Operation Feed doesn’t provide monetary support, they do participate in other initiatives in San Juan Cosalá, such as the Token Store and the music program to help increase the dreams of the people of San Juan Cosalá.



The newly formed Social Action Team will be holding an event on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00-11:30 to celebrate the Season of Light, Love, and Peace. We could use a few volunteers to help us as we plan this event. If interested, contact either Colleen Beery ([colleenbeery@gmail.com](mailto:colleenbeery@gmail.com)) or D’Vorah Kelley ([dvorah.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:dvorah.kelley@gmail.com)). More information will follow!



Download from Dreamstime.com

## Friday Conversation

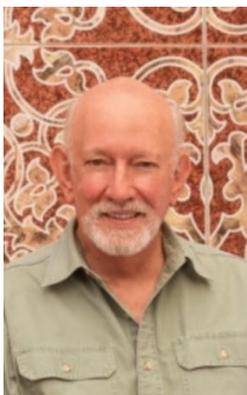
Zoom get together for open talk. We never know what we are going to discuss, we converse about whatever is on people's minds. We meet every Friday at 2:00 pm. You are all welcome. If you have questions, e-mail Richard at: [Richard@infinitiepie.net](mailto:Richard@infinitiepie.net) The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85190017215>



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 22 Dave Miller
- 24 Norman Woods





Fred Koesling

## PLEDGING

I enjoy perusing the internet and social media. Certainly there are the loads of claptrap, gibberish and downright falsehoods dressed in self-importance in an attempt to pass as pertinent, even urgent. But I also find that every day the World Wide Web brings me gems of wisdom, wonder, and affirmation, a sense of shared community and of common sense advice to living an engaged and energized life in these interesting times. Naturally I like to think I have enough clear-headedness to distinguish between these two extremes. I feel the same way about LCUUF.

That is, I experience LCUUF as the solid ground of sanity and enlightenment in this cockamamie and often unhinged world. I think it has never been more important for us to seek out that which magnifies our spirits, and find the people and ideas that open our hearts and confirm our understanding of our place in the universe.

Quoting the essayist Maria Popova “There is nothing more difficult yet more gratifying in our society than living with sincerity and acting from a place of large hearted, constructive rational faith in the human spirit”. Our financial pledges to LCUUF are our ammunition, our means of defending and embracing all that we are about: tolerance, patience, diversity, open mindedness, rational thought and the pursuit of knowledge. This Fellowship of diverse peoples and diverse thought needs your financial support to maintain and to grow this sacred and safe space where we are free to be ourselves, and to nurture our individual beliefs in association with our fellow freethinkers.

Paraphrasing Eleanor Roosevelt, “We need to come together with the firm determination to live and support the things we say we believe”. Your pledge is your commitment to both the present and future of LCUUF.



## 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 | Susan Miller    |
| Member at Large | Cate Howell     |



Newsletters (including Member Spotlights) from 2015 to the present) are now available on the website. From [lakechapa-lauu.org](http://lakechapa-lauu.org) select the menu tab **News**, then **LCUUF Monthly Newsletters**; or go directly via <https://lakechapelauu.org/lcuuf-monthly-newsletters/>. Newsletters are arranged by year with most recent on top. Click on the month you want to see.



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