



LAKE CHAPALA UU FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER –FEB. 2023

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

Feb.5 – Cathedral of the World – The Cathedral of the World is a metaphor for the religions of the world, a great hall with numerous rooms and chapels, created by the various religions and faiths of the world. How might we wander through such an edifice, and engage with what we find within? Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the speaker and Annie Morris is the Service Leader.

Feb. 12 – Social Justice; Standing on the Side of Love – “To be a Unitarian Universalist means we’re not alone in the work: we are not alone because of our promises to love one another and because we are companions on the journey.” Erika Hewitt. Through music and readings this service focuses on how our UU principles align with Social Justice and how as individuals and a congregation we can undertake and promote Social Justice work in our community. D’Vorah Kelley and Colleen Beery will lead the service.

Feb. 19 – The Path of Love – Since 2009, Unitarian Universalists have gathered at social justice events in their bright yellow “Standing on the Side of Love” T-shirts, and over time, we’ve become known as “The Love People.” The Love People is a good description for us, for a key part of our theology is love. We’ll consider how love in all its forms defines how we as UUs are in the world, and how love might guide us in our lives. Rev. Matt is the speaker and Heidi MacLennan is the Service Leader.

Feb. 26 - Imagine: Stories from Ukraine, Macedonia and Lakeside - We live in an information age. If we don’t know something, we ask Google. The embedded algorithms give us more information...lots more information. But how do we avoid information bubbles reflecting more of what we already know? How do we get to know what we don’t know? Maybe, we humans can listen to our imagination and tell our stories. Jud Dolphin, ESL Coach, Watercolorist, and returned Peace Corps Volunteer will be the speaker and Carol Johnson 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.



February 2nd – Die de la Candelaría



February 5th – Mexican Constitution Day

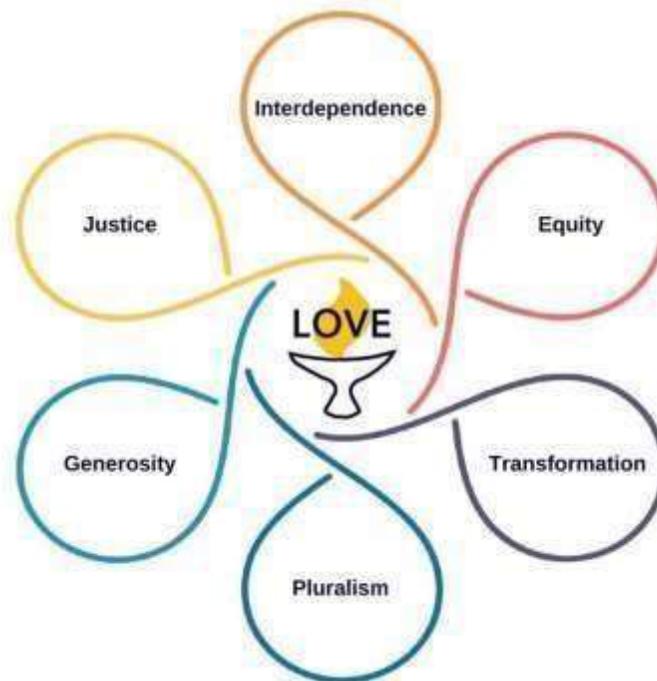


MATT'S MESSAGE

In my January 22 sermon, I mentioned changes to the Principles and Purposes that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is proposing. I wanted to comment further on this, as we read aloud the proposed changes but did not provide them in print. The Principles and Purposes (see <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/whatwebelieve/principles>) have been with Unitarian Universalism since the merger of the Unitarians and the

Universalists in 1960. However, they've been revised several times, most significantly in 1985, when the language was made gender neutral and the Seventh Principle was added ("Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.")

A minor revision was voted down in 2009, and more recently, there has been interest in adding an Eighth Principle (to "dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.") From this there developed a desire to reconsider the whole set of Principles and Purposes, and a study commission was formed to do just this. The so-called Article II Study Commission (named for where the Principles and Purposes sit in the UUA Bylaws) has been at work for two years; it just released a proposed draft of new language, which they call "Values and Covenant." I copy the draft language here, along with an image they provided. See <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>)



“ As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect. Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions. Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.”

Now, this is just a draft. It is very likely to be modified by amendments by the UUA board, and at the 2023 General Assembly, where it will be voted on for the first time. If it passes through the 2023 General Assembly, it must be voted on again, at the 2024 General Assembly, where it will require a two-thirds majority to pass. Now I note that all this work is being done by the UUA within the USA. We are not included in the process; international UUs are not even mentioned in the long list of stakeholders the Study Commission consulted. Remember also that LCUUF is not a member of either the Unitarian Universalist Association or the Canadian Unitarian Council, as neither currently accept congregations outside of their respective countries.

Now the question for us might be: what does this have to do with us? We are not bound by whatever is ultimately approved in the same way congregations in the USA might be. Further, our Canadian Unitarians may do their own thing, something completely different. Still, we may want to pay attention to this proposal. I think of this in the manner of an analogy. For me, for many of us, the seven principles have been a kind of a north star, offering guidance, a sense of direction, as we sort out how we ought to live.

Assuming this recommendation passes, we may have another source of guidance, kind of like magnetic north, available to us. Now most of you know that magnetic north and geographic north, that of the North Star, don't line up precisely, and you have to choose one to work with in your direction finding. You have to adjust for the deviation.

We, as Mexican UUs, may find ourselves in a similar situation. We may have to choose. Or convert. Perhaps retaining the existing seven principles, perhaps adopting these seven values, perhaps doing something else altogether. Pondering these proposed new values and covenants, as they go through the approval process, could be a good thing for us. It may cause us to think deeply about what we are about. It may help us reflect on who we are, and what we need to be, as a community of UUs at Lakeside and in Mexico. I look forward to your thoughts and questions about this process, and about the content of these proposed new values and covenants.

SHARE THE BASKET

Helping a Village Help Itself



Our policy for Share the Basket, during the corona-virus 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 Treasurer Al Castleman, you may specify the amount that you want to donate to the Share the Basket program. Tepehua is our recipient for Share the Basket donations in February 2023. <http://tepehua.org>



FEB. BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 Eric Luria | 16 Janice Kimball |
| 05 Robin McCormick | 16 Diane Van Brocklin |
| 12 Mary Roan | 20 Karawynn Long |
| 13 Donna Burroughs | 23 Susan Reynolds |
| 13 Richard Krueger | 26 Liz Moulder |
| 15 Rikki Martin | |



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Garrett Browning

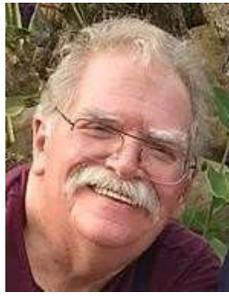
Born second of six boys to excellent nurturing and attentive Mormon parents, I grew up in Santa Barbara, CA. I attended local schools, including UCSB. I was very close with my older brother, Ray -- best friends, as well as brothers, we shared minds, hearts, spirits, questions, and values. We discussed observations and the meaning of life starting at an early age of 7 and 8, respectively, often under the covers well into the night. We knew things were not as they seemed, or as we were taught. I believe we developed our paths exponentially by collaborating. We loved and learned a lot about life from sports, especially baseball. He pitched and I caught through high school and into sandlot/semipro. I went on to coach and umpire. We included and coached our younger brothers whenever possible. Golf became part of my spiritual practice later in life, not unlike Tai Chi. The Mormon church fed my hunger to See by offering so many mysteries and contradictions. I see it now as a 15-year zen koan. Ray volunteered for duty in Vietnam with the intent to keep a journal and then campaign for peace upon his return home. He did not return but in death campaigned for the peace he sought so passionately. His death had an immense impact on the family and the rest of my life. I was married young, briefly, and we had a son, Ray, born with cerebral palsy. When the marriage ended he went to live with his mother in Indiana, and was raised a Mormon. My son and I remain estranged.

I continued my path in the '70s and studied psychology, literature, had two wonderful mentors, utilized peyote, mescaline, mushrooms, and therapy. Further, I studied -- and was greatly influenced by George Gurdjieff, Buddhism, and the writings of Castaneda about the Yaqui way. My earlier career was in clinical psychology, focused on counseling adolescent boys and their families. I spent the final 30+ years in high tech. I met Sharon Robinson in 1988. I immediately saw a beautiful soul. We have been partners in friendship, and seeking the Reality of Being, even after her passing in early 2022. We were extremely close and supported each other in every way we could. She introduced me to the LCUUF. I have been incredibly fortunate in relationships in my life, even with losses of Sharon, parents, three beloved brothers, best male friend, Joe Dobkowski, and teachers including poet Mary Oliver. I benefited beyond measure from a long and existing therapeutic relationship with Laura Goldenberg in Northern California. The path continues...



TACO PARTY 12/31/22





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Robert Barnett

I was born in Dallas TX, and until we moved to Mexico 4 years ago I had never lived outside of that state. An odd note, I spent a lot of the first year of my life living in a tent at the Salesmanship Boys Club Camp outside of Mineola TX where my father was doing construction work. We returned to Dallas when I was three, where we lived until I left to attend college at the University of Texas at Austin. I met and married the love of my life Cat at UT. (47 years and going strong). We moved to Houston, had three kids, and settled into a pretty conventional middle class lifestyle. I worked briefly in construction. After graduation with a Government degree from UT, I worked for a year at the US Customs Service, then 37 years with the Texas Health and Services Commission as a caseworker, supervisor and eventually, as an employer trainer and curriculum writer for employees in Welfare, SNAP, and Medicaid.

What do I do for fun? I can't sing, and play no musical instrument, but I love to listen. My musical tastes are so varied some might say I have no discrimination, but I love classical, hard rock, electronic, and Texas style country. I was a Boy Scout, then a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader for over 15 years. I love to camp and fish and play almost any type of game from Dungeons and Dragons to board and card games. When I get inspired I do stained glass windows (copper foil style). I love to cook, entertain, and hang with friends. I read almost anything, but love science fiction, fantasy, and history. (I suspect Cat thinks I am a little nuts as I read History and Political Books for fun).

How did we end up in Ajijic? When I retired 5 years ago, we spent a year making trips around the US in a Ford van we remodeled into a camper. We were looking for somewhere with a good climate (not Houston) and beautiful (not Houston). We went along the Gulf coast to Key West, north to Montana, then down to Nevada. In Mexico we looked at Cuernavaca and San Miguel de Allende. We actually engaged a real estate agent for Fort Collins, Colorado, as two long visits there had almost decided us. We had literally one last stop on our list- Ajijic. It met a key requirement, wherever we ended up had to have a UU fellowship. Three months later our house was on the market in Houston and we were looking for a home here, since it was beautiful (check), great climate (check), and a wonderful fellowship that made us welcome. I came to Unitarian Universalism about 15 years ago, having been a raised Presbyterian, and then I lapsed from that right after high school. I found that UU met a need I didn't even know I had until I started attending. I spent several years on both the Adult Programs Committee and the Healthy Congregations Team at First UU in Houston. Currently at our fellowship I am the Power Point button pusher twice a month as part of the Tech Team. I'm also the person to call if you have a maintenance issue at the church. Anyone who likes to play games, board, card, or role play give me a buzz. Like I said, I love them.



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 4pm Via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863> Happy Valentines Month. As UU's we talk about choosing Love. We even have a T-Shirt that says Chose Love. But as Secular Humanists what does that mean? How do we live our lives choosing love both in the area of our personal life and in our search for social justice. This is the topic for our Feb. discussion. If you wish to receive the reading materials prior to the meeting and are not on the mailing list contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com



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February
21st – Mardi
Gras



The LCUUF
Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news
to members and friends. The deadline for the
March newsletter is February 25th and articles
should be sent to Kathy Koches, Editor at
kkoches@gmail.com

