

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



Issue 6

Apr 30 - May 7, 2023

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Attend our weekly services in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 10:30am CST. We are located at 261 Hidalgo, Riberas Del Pilar. To participate on Zoom use this link:

[Sunday Service Zoom Link](#)

Click for Order of Service



THIS WEEK: April 30, 2023

From the Inside: What You Didn't Know About Lakeside's Festivals - The Key to Understanding Our Mexican Hosts

Presenter: Janice Kimball

Service Leader: Lynn Cleek

Local artist and writer, Janice Kimball, explores the often uneasy but co-dependent relationships between the Catholic Church and the beliefs of the indigenous culture that predominates in our "Lakeside" communities.

The visual presentation of Janice's personal photographs focuses most closely on the communities of Mezcala, Ajijic, and Jocotepec. They were gathered during her close ties with these communities over the 24 years she has lived at Lakeside. In the presenter's narration she will also give an overview of the historical formation and the character of the

villages in between. Rather than using the usual English language descriptions about the relationships between the connecting villages, the narration will be from accounts told to the presenter by indigenous people living at Lakeside.



NEXT WEEK: MAY 7, 2023

"All Work and No Play"

**Rev. Matt Alspaugh, Minister
Barley Donahue, Service Associate**

New Guinea, who are apparently the only culture in the world who discourage their children from playing. But later evidence suggests this isn't quite true. Every culture makes space for play. What is so essential about play for human life? Why do we love play? How can we play more, and better?

There's a story in anthropology circles about the Baining people in



From The Board...by Kriss Gang

Your Board of Trustees met for an all-day retreat on April 19th to take time to identify, discuss and evaluate goals and opportunities both for the board and for the congregation for the rest of our fiscal year. During our sessions we focused on what each of us thought congregational goals might look like and were able to see important similarities amongst ourselves regarding the future of LCUUF, valuable information as we anticipate working through challenges we will face as we continue to grow. The board also spent time identifying short term and longer-term board goals which

will guide our agendas and priorities moving forward. Here are the goals your board unanimously approved:

Develop and conduct a congregational assessment/survey: What does the congregation like? What do you want more of? What would you like less of etc? We have not surveyed the congregation since the Spring of 2021 as we were about to introduce hybrid services. The plan is to conduct a survey this September or October.

Conduct a financial resource assessment: Before the pandemic, comprehensive work was completed by a Fellowship Facilities Work Team (FFWT.) They were asked to research options for relocating LCUUF to our own space either by finding an existing facility or finding land and building our own space. At the time, their findings indicated that there were no existing facilities that fit our needs and that building our own space would be our best option. Their recommendation was that LCUUF needed to conduct a financial resource assessment to determine whether the resources existed within the congregation to even consider an option such as building our own building. This board will be revisiting

their work to identify what, if anything has changed regarding their work and more importantly, this board will need to identify how and when we can conduct a financial feasibility assessment.

Strengthen board connection with teams/committees: The board agreed that more could be done to improve connections with our teams and committees including inviting members to present to the board, more clearly defining committee/team policies, soliciting feedback via meeting minutes and notes and exploring other ways we might strengthen communications.

Strengthen new member integration: The board will be looking at how we welcome new members and review how new members become active or “integrated” in Fellowship activities and events. We will hopefully identify ways to enhance communications and processes for new members that make it friendlier and easier to engage.

Improve our stewardship/pledge campaign efforts: As we grow, our programming grows and our financial needs grow. The board plans to look at how we conduct our annual budgeting process and pledge campaign to find better ways to identify our financial needs and communicate those needs to the congregation.

Nominating committee/leadership development: This is a long-term goal. As our numbers increase, the need for congregational leadership increases. In the future it will be necessary and valuable to create a leadership development process whereby we can identify potential leaders, assess abilities and willingness to step up and be in a better position to nominate the right people for the right leadership roles.

So yes, your board has its work cut out for it. We always welcome your thoughts and ideas. Board meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 2pm. We meet at the Fellowship and via zoom and are open to all.

2023-2024 board: **President:** Kriss Gang, **Vice President:** Charlie Jacobs, **Treasurer:** Al Castleman, **Secretary:** Cat Barnett, **Members-at-Large:** Cate Howell, Catherine Luria and Paula Odom.

Kriss Gang

President, Board of Trustees



THANK YOU! The Sunday Service Committee needed your help and they got it!

Last Sunday's quarterly service planning meeting was a success with great new ideas for future services as well as new volunteers to assist with services. If you were unable to attend this planning meeting you can catch the next one which will be held on Sunday July 23rd. Again, thanks to all who agreed to help.

Humanist Discussion Group: May 24, 2023

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 11 am via Zoom. **NOTE THE NEW TIME!** Remember we are on Central Standard Time. Those on Daylight Savings Time please adjust your time. The zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>



What are the foundations of human behavior and their variations? Drives? Genes? Instincts? Experiences? Environment? Hormones? Chance? Vitamins/Minerals? Gender? All of the above? The answer is "all of the above", except perhaps humans do not have true instincts... semantics at work? But exactly which of these factors is most influential on behaviors is a matter of both scientific and cultural debate. We will discuss this topic suggested by James Luce. If you wish more information or want to be added to the reading list contact bobkoches@gmail.com.

Weekly and Monthly Events

Zoom Women's Group: 12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly
Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact CLuriaARNP@gmail.com for topics

Zoom Meditation Lessons: 2pm - 3pm Weekly on Thursdays Richard Clarke, Facilitator. (Click to join Zoom) Contact: reberasmeditation@gmail.com

Coffee on the Plaza: 10:30am - 11:00am Weekly on Thursdays at Black Coffee on the plaza in Ajijic. Bring a Friend

Monthly Humanist Discussion Group: Wed. May 24th 11:00am CST. Bob Koches Facilitator (Click for Monthly Topic and Zoom link)

Friday open "Zoom" conversation--2:00 pm. Open to all questions: e-mail Richard Clarke at: arunachalakindle@gmail.com (click to join on Zoom)

Join Cat Burnett after our Sunday services weekly from 11:30-12:30 for a chat about the service or any other topic on your mind. Contact Cat Barnett, cat77074@gmail.com with questions

Sunday April 23rd Video Recording



Birthdays This Week

Doug Mattoon 5/03

Thomas McClure 5/07

Do you have a news item you would like included? Contact us at:

editor@lcuuf.groups.io

Newsletters are Available on our Website

Monthly newsletters from 2015 through March 2023 are now available on the website. Weekly newsletters to be added soon.

<https://lakechapalauu.org/lcuuf-monthly-newsletters/>.



**Lake Chapala Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**

261 Hidalgo, Chapala
Mexico

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2023