

Countdown to Our January 28 Move

21 17 50 15

Days

Hours

Minutes

Seconds

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



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Issue 42

Jan 7, 2024 - Jan 14, 2024

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 Here To Send Your Joys And Sorrows For Sunday Jan 7, 2024

[Send Joys and Sorrows Now](#)

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THIS WEEK: Sunday January 7, 2024
"Your Year To Live"

Presenter: Rev. Gary Kowalski

Eric Luria: Service Associate

"Your Year To Live" It's a truism that everyone knows they are going to die, but no one really believes it. This morning our guest speaker is Reverend Gary Kowalski who suggests that embracing mortality can be a doorway to richer and more abundant living. Gary is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and the author of several books on nature, spirituality, history and science. He lives with his wife Dori Jones in Santa Fe, New Mexico and looks forward to this return visit to Lake Chapala.



**NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY
JANUARY 14, 2024**

"Inspired"

**Presenter: Rev. Scott
Cooper**

**Service Associate: Cat
Barnett**

It's become a tradition at year's end at the Houston church to reflect on lives we may look toward for inspiration, especially those individuals who passed away the previous year. Then, just two weeks later, the United States sets aside a Monday to reflect on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the minister, political philosopher, and prominent civil rights leader. To whom do we look to for inspiration, and by doing so, perhaps even provide inspiration to others?

Rev. Matt's Message

I've been spending a lot of time recently on my role as volunteer treasurer at the condominium where I live. (Yes, I know several of you said, "Don't take that job!"; I guess I'm a glutton for punishment.) I'm busy right now because this is budget season, just as it is here at the fellowship. I've been noticing how the two organizations are similar, and different.

At the fellowship, we raise our money primarily through pledges, and then develop our budget from those pledges. I understand from Al Castleman, our treasurer, that our

pledges total \$892,160 MXN, which puts us in a good place to prepare the budget. I'm grateful to Al, to David Hudnall, the board, and to all the others who have helped with the stewardship (or pledge) drive, and who are working to prepare our budget, which will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on January 21.

At my condo, things are flipped around. We develop a budget first, and will vote on it at our Annual Meeting this month. Then people will be expected to pay up. In the condo community, everyone is expected to pay, and they all pay more or less the same amount. We could even legally compel people to pay, whether they want to or not (though that's never happened.)

That's quite a bit different from the fellowship. We'd love it if every member makes a pledge, but we certainly don't expect people to pledge the same amount. We recognize that in a congregation, people have wildly different abilities to give, as well as different levels of involvement and commitment. So we're grateful when people in the fellowship are able to pledge generously, which makes our budget planning much easier; we don't face program cuts.

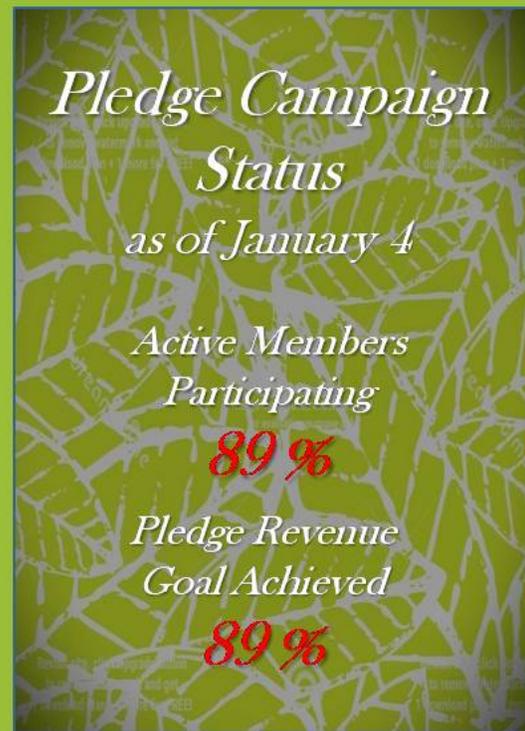
As a board member in both organizations, I pick up other similarities and differences. One of the things we have done at the fellowship for years is to have a board retreat not long after the new board is elected. During the retreat, we talk about how we will work together, how we deal with things like conflicts that might arise, and our direction and goals for the year. These retreats have made our boards function more smoothly, year after year. My condo board doesn't have retreats. In my opinion, that board didn't function as smoothly as the fellowship's board, and there were conflicts. I hope to talk them into having a retreat this year.

It's been a good experience having a role in two different organizations at the same time. I've enjoyed comparing them, and sharing what I've learned from one with the other. So I appreciate when we, as fellowship members, bring our lived experience to the fellowship, and likewise, when we take what we learn at the fellowship to other organizations, making the world a better place.





Credit: "What Peace Looks Like" by 13-year-old Anja Morze, a primary school student in Slovakia



Building The Beloved Community: Final Update

As of January 90% of the Fellowship has submitted a pledge totaling 90% of our pledge goal. Though we did not reach our goal of one million pesos, you have pledged enough to meet our 2024-2025 financial needs.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Annual General Meeting Notice

Mark your calendars for the Annual General Meeting of the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The meeting will be held on Sunday January 21st immediately following the Sunday Service. At this meeting you



will receive a review of 2023 events and activities from the Board and fellowship committees/teams. Also LCUUF members will vote on our 2024-25 fiscal budget and candidates (See candidate slate below) for open board seats. There will be pizza and refreshments served. If you are a voting member we need you to attend.

Kriss Gang
President

Slate of Candidates for the 2024-25 Board

The following are the candidate for the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees for LCUUF that members will be asked to vote on at the Annual General Meeting:

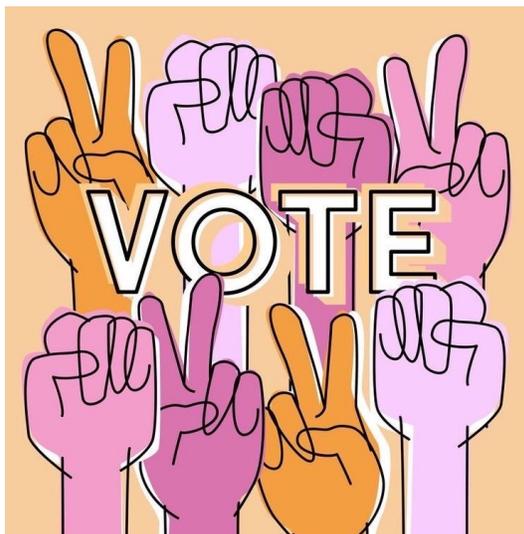
President: Kriss Gang

Vice President: Carol Johnson

Secretary: Marsha Riddle Buly

Trustee at Large: Cate Howell

Note: Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the Annual General Meeting on January 21.

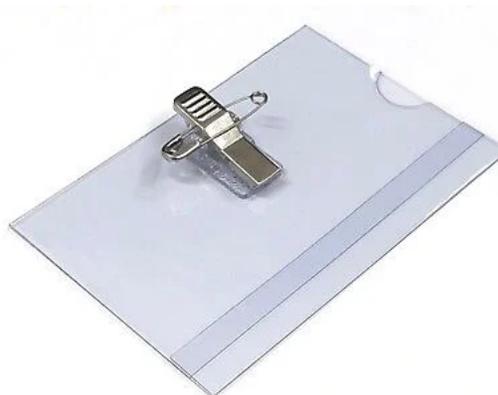


"Share The Basket" results for December

Tepehua Centro Comunitario was the recipient of the December "Share The Basket" Sunday collections. A total of 530.05 was collected and presented to the Tepehua community. Thank you all for your generous donations.

New Nametags For Our New Location

When we move to the the St. Andrews facility we will be using clip-on nametags. If you currently have a "necklace" nametag, it will be replaced by a clip-on which will be available at the St. Andrews facility. If you would like to keep your "necklace" name tag you need to collect by January 28th.





Join Thursday Meet-Ups With LCUUF Friends

Start the New Year out right. Meet other UUs for weekly conversations at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Every Thursday at 10:30 am. Bring a friend!



January Humanist Discussion Group Topic

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet **Wednesday, Jan 24th, 2024** at 11 am Via Zoom. Remember we are on Central Standard Time .

The zoom link is:

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

Where will all the people go? With wars in Somalia, Gaza and Ukraine, with migrations to the US from Latin and South America , with climate change, with water scarcity and various other disasters around the world, where will the Global Migrations be and how will we handle them? We will discuss this topic at our next Humanist Discussion Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, Jan 24, 2024 at 11 am CST.

"Living Joyfully: Embracing the Gift of Joy"



Lake Chapala UU

Jane Castleman, Guest Speaker
Rena Swan, Service Associate
December 31, 2023

Miss The Service Last Sunday?

Here is the video recording for Sunday December 31, 2023.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

Click on the + for info and links

**Humanist Discussion Group-Wed Jan. 24
11am**

+



Wednesday Jan. 24 11:00am on Zoom (CST)

Topic: Where will all the people go? With wars in Somalia, Gaza and Ukraine, with migrations to the US from Latin and South America, with climate change, with water scarcity and various other disasters around the world, where will the Global Migrations be and how will we handle them? We will discuss this topic at our next

Humanist Discussion Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, Jan 24, 2024 at 11 am
CST. If you wish to be added to the reading list contact Bob Koches at
bobkoches@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom

Zoom Women's Group: 1st and 3rd Mondays +

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

Zoom Meditation Lessons: 3-4pm Thursdays +

Richard Clarke, Facilitator. To find out more contact: riberasmeditation@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom

Coffee "Above" The Plaza: Thursdays 10:30am +

Meet other UUs for weekly at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the
Plaza. Bring a friend!

Open Zoom Conversation: Fridays 2pm +

Conversation is open to all questions. Email Richard Clarke at
arunachalakindle@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom



Birthdays This Week!

Steve Wilson 1/08

Karen Carpenter 1/10

Barley Donahue 1/14

David Hudnall 1/14

**Have News You Want To Share? Send it
to:**

newsletter@lcuuf.org

**Past Newsletters are Available on our
Website**

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

Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

**261 Hidalgo, Chapala
Mexico**

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