

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



Issue 106

Mar 30 - Apr 6, 2025

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Attend our weekly services in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 12:00pm CST. We are located at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, San Lucas 19, Riberas del Pilar.

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UPCOMING SERVICES



This Week: Mar 30, 2025

"Living The Greatest That You Are"



Next Week: Apr 6, 2025

"Tears Of Joy"

Presenter: Greg Kemp

Service Associate: Tiim Boeve

What is the Greatness of the human being, and how can we activate, develop and live it on a daily basis? What does it really mean to be perfectly imperfect and how can we apply Love in a tangible way that benefits oneself, those around us, and the world as a whole? We will dive into these questions.

Spoiler alert – there will be mystic poetry recited, and Sufi whirling.

Greg Kemp has been a Kundalini yoga teacher, Sheik of the Whirling Dervishes, and Minister of the Essentialist Church of Christ. He lives in Ajijic with his Beloved wife, Alicia

Presenter: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Service Associate: Dee Dee Camhi

It has been said, “Joy is the happiness that doesn’t depend on what happens.” How is it that joy can accompany other emotions, like pain, sadness, deep sorrow? Or conversely, that we can be so filled with joy that we are brought to tears? There is something about joy that elevates it among the emotions, intertwining it with those others, so that joy forms a foundation for our emotional life, if we let it.



News From The Annual LCUUF Board Retreat

The new board elected at the January Annual General Meeting held its board retreat on Saturday, March 14th. All board members and Rev. Alspaugh participated. For a second year we utilized the facilitation services of Stacey Rombough.

We begin our retreats by looking back on our previous year’s goals and accomplishments, acknowledging what we achieved and what we did not and discussed which goals that were not achieved should be considered again for 2025. These included the need to establish a congregational Mission and Vision statement, to do more outreach in the community to build awareness of LCUUF, long term planning for ministerial succession and more focus on legacy giving planning and communication.

We also reviewed board practices and agreed we have been operating smoothly and to everyone’s satisfaction. One change we agreed to was to assign board reporting responsibilities for bringing committee/team reports/requests to monthly board meetings. Historically this has been the role of the Vice President. Our current Vice President Ted Fahy is also our volunteer bookkeeper so this will be a more effective way to bring important committee/team information to the board and allow Ted to focus on our more important financial demands.

We talked about personnel management and decided that Rev. Matt and I would take up the personnel responsibilities for managing our paid staff (currently Jesus and Fernanda)

which has been managed by Cate Howell who has asked to be able to step down. It was also reported that beginning in May we will be able to use the St. Andrew's Church Administrator "very part time" for some of our administrative needs including newsletter production, scheduling, calendar maintenance etc.

One of the greatest values of a board retreat is that we have the time to discuss important topics in detail. At this retreat we spent time talking about Stewardship, not just the pledge campaign but how we talk about money throughout the year, both in terms of generating income to cover our operating expenses and outflow through our charitable giving and other community outreach opportunities. The focus of the discussion was about how most congregations operate from a position of "scarcity", relying mostly on their annual pledge campaign, which in turn falls short and then there is a need for fundraisers and emergency pledge campaigns, cost-cutting measures etc. Successful congregations operate from a position of "abundance" where stewardship is a year-long focus, not just the annual pledge campaign. This entails discussions about how pledge income is used to achieve a congregational mission and vision, how we welcome new members and engage them in the community, and the importance of the community both socially and spiritually.

As a Congregation, we have been financially generous, but we discussed that we could do more. We talked about enhancing our new member ingathering with more information about our history and our connections with the greater Unitarian Universalist world. We also acknowledge that in our focus on stewardship we should always focus on inclusion of care, compassion and empathy.

This new board recently approved the formation or, re-establishment, of a finance team to oversee the details of our finances and overall stewardship focus. This committee includes Ted Fahy, Larry Pihl, D'Vorah Kelley, Bob Koches and June Wilson. As President, I will attend as a guest. One of their first efforts was to review the Share The Basket funding formula. What they identified was that what our charities received was not evenly distributed with some receiving over 20,000 pesos (\$1000) annually and some receiving less. What the finance team recommended, and the board approved was to give each charity 10,000 pesos (\$500) for each month they are the Share The Basket recipient (each charity currently gets two months per calendar year). So, at the end of the year we will have given an equal amount, 20,000 pesos (\$1,000) to each charity and allocated approximately 100% of the annual Share The Basket donations.

The board also spent time discussing the "congregational mission and vision" and why it is important. We agreed that a mission is "where you are going" and the "vision" is what does it look like when you get there. There are multiple processes for bringing a congregation together to form their vision and the mission. The board realized that we would need outside help and support in formulating the vision and mission for LCUUF. Why is it important? Knowing where we are going "the mission" to achieve our "vision" will guide board and congregational decision making as to what programming we pursue, what our social action outreach looks like, how the board identifies annual goals and how we allocate our resources. It will be the foundation of our annual budget and ultimately define who we are. The next steps will be to find an outside facilitator to guide us in this process in the year ahead.

Finally, we ended our day by identifying board goals for this fiscal year. We started this process by listing goals we would like to address. Then we stepped back and discussed what we as a board felt should be our priorities. This involved some very engaging and productive discussions, and in the end, we reached an agreeable consensus. The board goals for the remainder of our 2025-2026 fiscal year are as follows:

BY PRIORITY

1. Mission and vision. Make our values and direction clear by end of the year. Hire a facilitator to guide us through the process.
2. Stewardship: Make it more inclusive, improve the pledge campaign process, making it more of a yearlong process – work toward providing more transparent financials.
3. Succession planning for the minister. Rev. Alspaugh would like to retire someday, and we need to identify how we will replace him. This is a longer term but essential issue and goal.
4. Internal communication – Focus on improved communication between teams, committees and the board, identify a new newsletter editor, follow-through with new board liaisons.
5. Increase outreach north of the border--bring attention to people considering moving down here, ads through UUA?, writing a blurb about LCUUF, advertising beyond the Guadalajara Reporter to attract local and visiting ministers.
6. Legacy Planning- Congregations that thrive in the long term often rely on an endowment built on members donating all or portions of their assets to the congregation. We need to identify a person or persons who would be great at these private and personal conversations.

The board welcomes all input, comments and suggestions regarding our goals and direction. My goal as President over these past three years has been to ensure that our work is transparent, accessible and serves the congregation.

Thank you
Kriss Gang,
Board President

What Is A Brain Trust?

What is a brain trust? Good Question. The brain trust was developed to help give direction to Sunday Services. It consists of a group of members who volunteer to help frame the direction of a particular service. It is based on the concept of a small community of

individuals that can develop collective wisdom. Currently there are 21 volunteers.

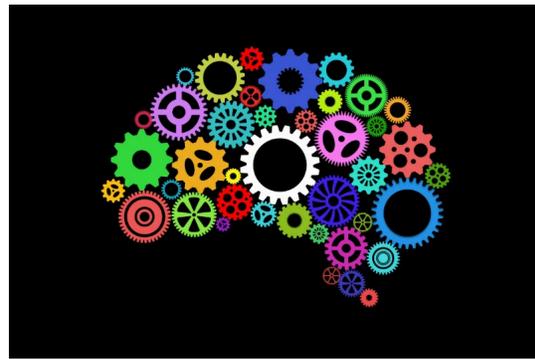
Some frequently asked questions:

Is it mandatory for a service? No, it is only by request for help.

Do all the volunteers meet at the same time? No, it is on an availability basis. A time is determined and if they can participate, they volunteer.

How long does it take? The brainstorm session usually lasts for an hour. So far we have held 4 sessions. The average attendance is 5 to 6 participants.

Is it fun? Yes it is definitely fun.



If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and want to be included in the pool of volunteers, contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com



April Basket Collection Recipient: Operation Feed

For over 30 years, Operation Feed volunteers have been providing food and improving the lives of the very poor and marginalized people of the village of San Juan Cosalá. They provide weekly food dispensas to 150 families and individuals who would go hungry without the aid.

Operation Feed also supports new program initiatives like cooking classes and crochet projects to involve the people in developing additional income sources and skills.

A Modification To The Share The Basket Funding Formula

The newly created Finance Team reviewed our Share The Basket funding formula. What they identified was that what our charities received was not evenly distributed with some receiving over 20,000 pesos (\$1000) annually and some receiving considerably less. What the finance team recommended, and the board approved was to give each charity 10,000 pesos (\$500) for each month they are the Share The Basket recipient (each charity gets two months).

So, at the end of the year we will have given an equal amount, 20,000 pesos (\$1,000) to each charity and allocated approximately 100% of the annual Share The Basket donations.

You are invited to a live performance

People living with memory changes share their stories of how they live, cope and manage life after their diagnosis.

To whom it may concern



This performance is a **MUST SEE** for anyone who knows a person living with dementia.



Come hear the experiences from our brave cast in this Readers' Theatre performance. Learn more and be moved by their courage, challenges, sadness, insights, and humor.

MONDAY, April 7 at 4:30 pm St. Andrews Church in Riberas
LOVE DONATIONS will be gratefully accepted

Lakeside DayBreak
Dementia Support 

*Refreshments & Botanas served
after the performance*

Facility offered by



RSVP by April 3rd to LakesideDaybreak@gmail.com

Lakeside **DayBreak**

Dementia Support



Offering opportunities and support
for persons with Dementia, and their family.
Respite Care, Day Programs, Education and more.



LakesideDayBreak@gmail.com
WhatsApp +52.314.150.5966



April Humanist Group Discussion: Wednesday, Apr 23rd

The Gaia hypothesis, formulated by James Lovelock and Lynn Margulis in the 1970s, suggests that Earth is a self-regulating system where living organisms interact with their surroundings to maintain habitable conditions. This theory proposes that the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and pedosphere are tightly coupled, evolving together to create an environment optimal

for life. Although initially criticized, the Gaia hypothesis has evolved to align with fields like Earth system science and biogeochemistry, with ongoing research exploring how life influences global temperature, ocean salinity, and atmospheric conditions. It also encourages a re-evaluation of human systems, emphasizing their embeddedness within and dependence on the Gaian system, which influences political ideas, practices, and our understanding of sustainability. The Gaia hypothesis also inspires analogies and interpretations in politics, religion, and social sciences, prompting discussions about a cultural paradigm shift affecting science, morality, and the arts. This topic is in honor of Earth Day

If you want to be added to the mailing list, contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com



March Humanist Discussion Group Video

Emerson Sunday, May 4th

Ralph Waldo Emerson considered art a way for the artist to express their inner self, their "spirit," and to share a deeper understanding of the world with others. He believed there should be no strict separation between different art forms, like painting, music, and poetry, as they all stem from the same creative impulse.

Greetings, artists, and there are many of you in our fellowship. Time goes by quickly, so don't let Emerson Sunday, May 4, slip past unnoticed and, therefore, miss your chance to let the rest of the congregation celebrate your art. April 1st is the last day to let us know of your wish to participate. Art takes many forms: writing, painting and all visual arts, sculpture and other 3D art, culinary arts, textile arts, music and all forms of performing arts, and many others, I'm sure. Please let us know soon what your talent is and how

you would like to share it with us.
Remember: last date for entry is April 1st.

"Creative work is a gift to the world and every being in it. Don't cheat us of your contributions. Give us what you've got." Steven Pressfield, author We have been calling out "artists" for our celebration of the arts on Emerson Sunday, May 4, but you don't have to consider yourself an "artist" to take part in this special service, We all have a creative streak for something somewhere inside us and all of us in the congregation would love to see it and share it with you. Think outside the proverbial box and share your "art" with us.

Please contact me before April 1st at mydruthers01@gmail.com

Thank you all, Jan



Video Recording for Sunday, March 23rd

Monthly Women's Group Brown Bag Lunch!

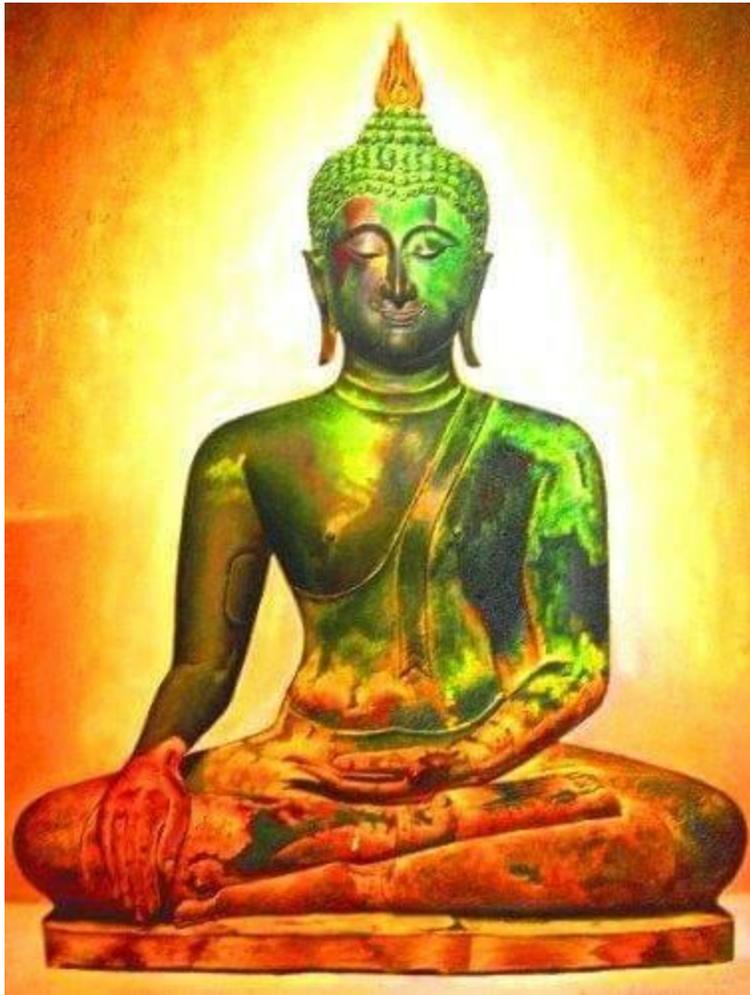
encourages a re-evaluation of human systems, emphasizing their embeddedness within and dependence on the Gaian system, which influences political ideas, practices, and our understanding of sustainability. The Gaia hypothesis also inspires analogies and interpretations in politics, religion, and social sciences, prompting discussions about a cultural paradigm shift affecting science, morality, and the arts. This topic is in honor of Earth Day. If you want to be added to the mailing list, contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com

[Click to join on Zoom](#)

Women's Group: 1st , 3rd and 4th Mondays +

12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact CLuriaARNP@gmail.com for topics. Now you can join us for a brown bag lunch on the 4th Monday of each month at Trudy Crippen's house. RSVP Trudy if you plan to attend. trudycrippen@gmail.com

Zoom Meditation Lessons: 3-4pm Thursdays +



Mindfulness is the fountain of youth for the mind. It enhances clarity, boosts mood, and keeps stress at bay. Meditation not only helps you age gracefully but also lets you savor life's every moment. 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 conversations 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 arunachalakinde@gmail.com

[Click to join on Zoom](#)



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Kriss Gang, April 3

Eugchi, April 3

Colleen Beery, April 6



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