



## **LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

### **NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER, 2017**

#### ***Upcoming Services***

*The theme for the month of November is the third of the six UU Sources: "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." This month, we'll explore how we might engage with the deep messages of the various world religions. Join us Sundays at 10:30 at #261 Hidalgo, in Riberas.*

#### **November 5 - "Open Sesame: How My Path Led me to the Beauty of Islam".** *Trudy Crippen, with Rev. Matt Alspaugh*

Trudy will look at how childhood experiences led her to an appreciation of Islam. This talk begins the theme for our November sermons, World Religions.

#### **November 12 - "Building the Cathedral of the World"**

*Rev. Matt Alspaugh, with Sandy Wallin*

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?

#### **November 19 - "A UU View of Taoism"**

*Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell, preaching by video, with Fred Koesling*

Rev. O'Connell will look at the three jewels of Taoism: humility, moderation and compassion in a UU context and see that "peace is who you are without a story."

#### **November 26 - "For All That Is Our Life"**

*Rev. Matt Alspaugh, with Heidi MacLennan*

A thread that runs through many of the world's religions is a sense of gratitude, for being alive in this world. How are we grateful for the gifts of our lives? This is our Celebration Sunday, where we celebrate the conclusion of our pledge drive. The choir will sing.

# Welcome New Members!



(L to R) Lorna Dean, Myra Williams, Alicia Macnamara, Robin McCormick, Jack Voller, Jim Bellamy, Marie MacGregor, Joan Ward

At the service on Sunday , October 29<sup>th</sup>, eight new members joined our congregation. We are delighted to welcome them to our Fellowship and look forward to getting to know them better. The following thumbnail sketches are from their submitted bios:

**Jim Bellamy** is a retired Canadian business owner and investor. He is the ex-president of the condominio Riviera Alta and partner of long term member Joan Jaquish.

**Lorna Dean** is a Canadian who has also lived in the United States as well as the United Kingdom and New Zealand. She is a retired librarian and international researcher.

**Alicia Macnamara** and her late husband came to Lakeside from Minnesota 17 years ago and started a Course in Miracles group that is still functioning. She writes that the past year has had many challenges, but now that she is settled in a cottage west of Ajijic with her dogs and cat, each day is filled with peace, love and joy.

**Marie MacGregor** was born and raised in New York City, but moved to Canada in 1988. She was a sales and marketing executive for 20 years. Marie

likes to cook and has a small business selling Italian food at the markets. She has lived in Chapala for 16 years, the last two full time.

**Robin Carrie McCormick** is from the Tampa Florida area. She has worked in nursing homes, stores, factories and children's nurseries. Robin writes that she has many varied interests including nature, hiking, music, sewing, reading, traveling, helping people, creating things, the arts and family. Robin enjoys meeting new people and learning more about new cultures and spirituality.

**Jack Voller** was born in the Los Angeles area of California. He lived for 25 years in St. Louis and 4 years in Cincinnati. He is a retired English professor with interests in writing, photography and dogs.

**Joan Ward** was born in Minnesota, grew up in the Chicago area and has lived in Minneapolis, Santa Fe and Hong Kong. She has been a member of several UU congregations. Joan was a teacher and counselor in Dekalb, IL where her son was born and she earned Masters and Doctoral degrees. In 1977 she began work in sales and management development and spent 20 wonderful years working in international training and development/corporate leadership & change management. Joan took early retirement and moved to Baja, Mexico in 1999 and to Ajijic in 2011. She has volunteered with many organizations involved in the empowerment of women, social responsibility, political action and community networking. Joan travels extensively, loves music especially jazz, and enjoys the company of friends, good books and movies.

**Myra Williams** is from Naples, Florida. She has worked for many non profits, including environmental, women's health care and hospice organizations, and a Children's Museum. She has been a Community Educator and a Veteran liason. Myra enjoys travel, cooking, reading, hiking, art, music and volunteering with senior, women and children's causes.



## Message from Rev. Matt

One of the new things we have implemented is a **Healthy Communications process** to improve how we receive and share feedback on how our fellowship operates. Each Sunday, after the Service, one of our Board Members is sitting at a table on the patio with a notebook. People can write their feedback in this book, with their name. I will read and respond to the feedback. I will also share it with any committee or responsible person that needs to know it. Periodically, all the feedback is shared with the board and with Rev. Daniel O’Connell in Houston, as part of our overall evaluation process.

It is important to note that we cannot accept anonymous comments in this process. We often need to go back to the person for more information about the situation, and anonymous feedback doesn’t support that. If people need to speak confidentially about a situation, they can make an appointment to meet with me. However, if you provide confidential feedback and choose to remain anonymous, the Healthy Communications process limits what action I or others can take.

We’ve been using the Healthy Communications notebook for several weeks, and received six notes. Five of those notes related to Sunday Services. This is not surprising. Sunday Services are our most visible activity, and we’ve been trying many experiments and making many changes — so getting written feedback is good.

As part of our work with Sunday Services, we recently held a workshop called *Creating Compelling Sunday Services*. About a dozen of us gathered, and we explored how, at a deep level, we can continue to make the Sunday morning experience meaningful and memorable. We considered how to make our services inspiring and sensory-rich, touching head, heart, and calling us to act. The topic is a big one, more than can be

covered in one Saturday morning, so we will continue with monthly meetings, each focusing on one aspect of our services. **Our first meeting is Friday, November 24, at 10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship. We will consider the focus topic of "Speaking and Sound - Being Heard."** All are welcome to these meetings; you do not have to be part of the Sunday Services Committee to attend.

We will also be offering a class on preaching, using the excellent course, *The Shared Pulpit, A Sermon Seminar for Lay People* by Erika Hewitt. Look for this eight session class to start in February.

We seem to have an unusual number of illnesses, accidents, surgeries, and general medical concerns among our fellowship. We find strength in these times through our connections with each other; in being able to give and receive support and care. As your minister, I am able to offer spiritual counsel and conversation (and I define that word spiritual quite broadly). Please call or write to me if you would like to talk.

## Member News



Warm birthday Greetings to the following members who have birthdays in November:

Nov. 22 - **Dave Miller**

Nov. 24 – **Norman Woods**



We are keeping the following members in our hearts as they deal with medical issues: Marty Weston, Fred Harland, and Sue Kelley.

## Board & Committee News



### From the Nominating Committee

The members of the Nominating Committee held an organizational meeting on October 28 to review their mandate and prepare for elections to be held during the LCUUF Annual Meeting in January.

**The following Board positions are up for election: President, Vice President, 2 Members-at-Large and 3 Nominating Committee members.** The Board positions are 2 year terms; the Nominating Committee members serve for one year.

The Committee encourages all members to give serious thought to who they think has the skills, dedication and experience to carry out these important roles in our Fellowship. **Nominating forms will be available at Sunday Services on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Place completed forms in the box on the welcome table no later than Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, or contact any member of the Nominating Committee:**

**Paul Bennett -766 0698 (buck10benn@gmail.com)**

**Mardele Harland – 766 1458**

**(mardeleharlandmx@gmail.com)**

**Kathy Koches – 766 2299**

**(kkoches@gmail.com)**

The Committee will meet on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> to begin the process of compiling a slate for the Board and Nominating Committee election.

### From the Pledging Committee

**Pledge cards for the fiscal year beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> are on the Welcome Table every Sunday in November. Please pick up a pledge card, fill it out and drop it in to the collection plate before or on November 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Several “Why I Pledge” testimonials have been given at Services and will continue all month. Here is what Susan Miller said:

“I am by nature a sedentary person. I exercise, not because it makes me feel better, which it does, but because committing my time and money to working out with a trainer now is a gift I give to my future self. By exercising now, I hope my future self will stay vertical and strong for as long as possible.

Similarly, I commit my money and some of my time to this organization as another gift to my future self. By giving money now to help ensure that the Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship continues to be a viable enterprise, I hope my vertical and strong future self will continue to have a place to go to and get to meet like-minded people who are committed, as I am, to the concepts of religious freedom and the exercise of reason.

As my father used to say, “There is no free lunch.” Everything, and I mean everything, costs time or money or effort or all three. Just as there will be no physical fitness if one spends one’s free time sitting in a recliner wielding a TV remote, there will be no LCUUF without our present selves committing our time and treasure, gifts, as it were, to our future selves and the future of this worthwhile organization.

### From the Hospitality Committee



#### Thanksgiving Dinner

**Thurs. Nov. 23 at Crippen’s.**

**Sign up for our annual LCUUF Thanksgiving Dinner to be held at the Crippen’s on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Due to space issues, attendance is limited to 50 members who attend fellowship regularly. No guests or extended family, please. Thanks for your understanding.

With all the holiday events taking place, fellowship “Last Sunday” lunches will be suspended until January.

Several of our members participate in the **Los Cantantes Christmas Concert**. Let’s support them! Purchase your tickets for \$250 from choir members - Kathy & Bob Koches, Donna Burroughs, Catherine Luria, Mardele Harland or Marion Blackmer. A group from the fellowship will be attending the concert on Wednesday, December 6 at 4 pm and will be going to dinner afterwards. (Location to be determined.) Please let Karyn Carpenter or Lorna Dean know if you would like to go to dinner and we will reserve a spot for you.

We are exploring options for this year’s **Christmas dinner**. If you have a preference, please let Karyn or Lorna know.

Meet and Greet are currently filled. More will be held in January so watch for updates.  
(Submitted by Karyn Carpenter, Chair)





## November Activities

(not mentioned under Committee reports)

**Mindfulness Meditation** Every **Saturday 3-4:15pm**. Contact Richard Clarke for information: ([richard@infinitepie.net](mailto:richard@infinitepie.net))

**The LCUUF Choir** is pleased to welcome two new members and we look forward to the return of our snowbird members. We will be rehearsing the **1st and 3rd Fridays** of the month and will be singing at the Thanksgiving service on **November 26th**. We will also begin practicing several pieces for presentation at the Christmas service on Dec. 24th. Anyone interested in singing is welcome to join us. Contact choir director Bob Koches [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)

**English Country Dancing** **November 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Fellowship. Contact Catherine or Eric Luria for information: [CLuriaARNP@gmail.com](mailto:CLuriaARNP@gmail.com)

**The UU Humanist Discussion Group** will meet Monday, November 27th at 3pm at the Fellowship. We will be discussing direct experience as a follow-up to Richard Clarke's presentation on this subject. Richard will be leading this discussion. Please contact Bob Koches at [bobkoches@gmail.com](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com) for further information.

**The Women's Movie Group** will meet Wednesday, Nov. 22nd to watch a movie at a theater. Watch for an e-mail from Kathy Koches on the 17th or 18th for information on the movie title, time and location.

## Photo Gallery



(Day of the Dead Altar, Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>)

### LCUUF Board of Directors:

**President:** Fred Harland, (term expires January 2018)

**Vice-president:** Teresa Sande, (term expires January 2018);

**Secretary:** Eric Walter Luria (term expires January 2019);

**Treasurer:** Gary Cleek (term expires January 2019);

**Member-at-Large:** Heidi Irene MacLennan (term expires January 2018);

**Member- at -Large:** Trudy Crippen (term expires January 2019).

**Member-at-Large:** Joan Jaquish (term expires January 2018)

### LCUUF Minister:

**Rev. Matt Alpaugh** ([matt@malspaugh.org](mailto:matt@malspaugh.org))

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***The purpose of this newsletter is to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. The deadline for contributions to the December Newsletter is November 20<sup>th</sup>.***

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