



LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



[Website](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Directory Login](#)

[How To Donate](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[LCUUF Elected Leaders](#)

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

[Click For Zoom](#)

[Order Of Service](#)

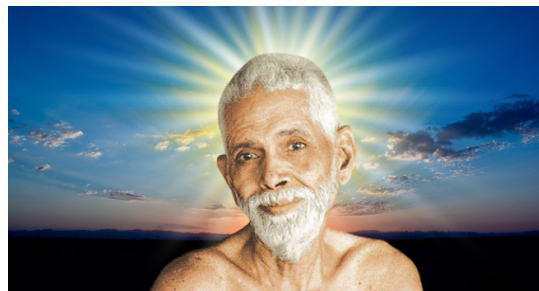
[Contact Care Team](#)

NEW THIS WEEK: 1) Report on recent board retreat 2) video recording of Part 1 of "Getting to Know Us" presented by St. Andrews and 3) Share The Basket Results and May charity recipient! Scroll down to read more.

UPCOMING SERVICES



This Week: May 5th



Next Week: May 12th

"Sense of Place"

Presenter: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Service Associate: Rev. D'Vorah Kelley

There is a sense of rootedness, a sense of place, the interdependence we have with the people and things that are local, directly around us. Yet we live in a global world, easily connecting us with people and things far away. How does this sort of rootedness relate to our global world, and all the choices that globalization brings us?

Further, most of us in this congregation are migrants, scatterlings, here by choice. Consequently our relationship with this chosen place is different. We may even be seen as 'strangers in a strange land'. Can we establish a sense of place in a new place?

Special Guest: Janine Kirkland, President of Operation Feed will join us to briefly talk about all of the work their organization does for the San Juan Cosala community.

"Embracing Oneness: Exploring Universalism and Unitarianism through the Eyes of Ramana Maharshi"

Presenter: Richard Clarke

Service Associate:

Join us as Richard Clarke explores the ideas of unity and interconnectedness through the teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi, a revered sage of the 20th century and Unitarian-Universalist eyes. Discover profound parallels between Universalism, Unitarianism, and Advaita Vedanta in this special talk. Much of Ramana's teaching aligns with Unitarian Universalist principles. Explore themes of compassionate action, spiritual growth, and respect for diversity. Ramana's teachings inspire us to awaken to our true nature for the betterment of all. Don't miss this opportunity to embrace unity and interconnectedness for personal and collective transformation. Join us for an enriching discussion that promises to illuminate the path to spiritual harmony.

May Share The Basket: Operation Feed

For the month of **May**, we are supporting 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.



LCUUF Board Retreat Report

By Kriss Gang, President

Annually, your board of directors participates in a one day “board retreat.” This is the board’s opportunity to step back from day-to-day business and reflect on our work during the previous year, what we

accomplished and what we have left to continue working on. It is also the time we set board goals for the current year.

This year we met in the beautiful garden setting of our new location and were aided in our work by an outside facilitator, Stacey Rombough, Professional Life Coach and Group Facilitator. It was a busy day beginning with a self-assessment of our previous year’s accomplishments as well as those goals we were unable to achieve. Accomplishments included:

- Working on improving communications between the board and committees/teams.
- Supporting the Social Action Team’s work to expand our outreach to other Lakeside Charities and engage more with our existing ones.
- Improving our financial record-keeping and reporting.
- Improving our production technology and hiring of staff to support our tech needs.
- Identifying a Task team to facilitate our unexpected need to find a new meeting space.
- Supporting the task force managing the move to St. Andrews.

Goals we were not able to take on because of the move included leadership development, conducting a congregational survey and promoting/marketing ourselves beyond Lakeside. It was decided that this year we would have a special meeting in August to evaluate how we are doing on this year’s goals in order to adjust or calibrate to changing situations or conditions.

After assessing our past goal performance, we continued to discuss ways to improve board/committee communications and interactions, addressed the need to effectively work with and manage our paid staff and all board members were asked to define why they agreed to serve and what they thought the role of a fellowship board was.

We had a valuable conversation about managing our hired staff. It was agreed that we would continue to look for a volunteer to fulfill this role. Ideally someone with personnel

management experience. Until that time Cate Howell has agreed to fulfill this role until a permanent volunteer is identified. Richard Clarke will continue to oversee the technical side of our weekly production. Kriss Gang has agreed to revise the original performance evaluation form to accurately reflect their work and to conduct an annual performance review as they approach their one-year anniversary.

The board also took time to contemplate what our future might look like assuming we stay on a growth trajectory. This included an interesting discussion led by Rev. Alspaugh about "ministry" at the fellowship. How would we manage a ministerial transition without the support network of the UUA? Would we choose to move to a full-time minister, or would we look into hiring an assistant minister to take on specific duties such as pastoral care or social action, or something all together different? It was a good beginning to what will be an ongoing conversation.

The board continued to discuss long term considerations about renting vs owning our space, specifically the ramifications of owning which includes the evaluation of financial resources required to fund a capital campaign, identifying local fundraising expertise and comprehending the long-term financial risk given our aging demographic .

These are the kinds of discussions that are never possible during monthly board meetings and are conducted without the pressure of having to make decisions, but rather allow us to explore strategies, identify obstacles and set goals.

After lunch we reconvened to work on setting goals for the rest of the calendar year. What we came up with included:

- Advertise in the Chapala area, US, and CANADA to UU groups –promoting our presence at St Andrews to the Lakeside community and promoting our existence via Facebook to congregations in the US and Canada.
- Strengthen and continue to develop ongoing relationship between St Andrews, Bare Stage, and LCUUF
- Strengthen connections between new, interested, and current members.
- Evaluate staffing needs - do we need an office manager? Between the board, minister, and committees, what could be done by an office admin that would relieve volunteers?
- Promote Legacy giving and explore possible capital fundraising options for a permanent location.
- Conduct a congregational survey.
- Conduct a review of these goals in August or September

And finally, the board addressed leadership issues and agreed to form a leadership development subcommittee to support the nominating committee by working to identify potential new board members for the nominating committee to review as they prepare their recommendations for Annual General Meetings. Paula Odom agreed to lead the subcommittee and Cate Howell and Kriss Gang agreed to be part of this committee.

Overall, the consensus was that it was a very successful retreat, the facilitation was excellent, and that we have a lot of work to do. ***Please note that our board meetings are***

*open to all. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:30pm at St. Andrews.
Questions or requests for the board can be sent to:*

board@lcuuf.groups.io

Results for April Share The Basket recipient Ninas Sabias

Because of your generosity, one of our newest Share The Basket charities, Ninas Sabias, will receive \$349.83USD (6,297 pesos) from donations given during the month of April.

Thank you all for sharing the wealth.



Getting To Know Each Other: Part 1

This past Wednesday, May 1st, Rev. Alspaugh and other members of our Fellowship attended a special presentation organized by St Andrews: "**Getting**

If you would like to view other past services click on the link below which will take you to our video archive.

Video Archive



May Humanist Discussion Group

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet **Wednesday May 22nd** at 11am Via Zoom.

May Topic:

As artificial intelligence continues to advance rapidly, its potential applications in military affairs become increasingly

concerning from an ethical and humanitarian perspective. The development of autonomous weapon systems, AI-powered surveillance and targeting, and the automation of many warfighting functions could lead to a future of warfare that is more impersonal, unpredictable, and potentially more devastating to human life. At the same time, AI-enabled technologies may also have the potential to reduce military casualties and collateral damage through improved decision-making, risk assessment, and precision. However, this raises complex moral and legal questions about the appropriate role of machines in the use of lethal force. Ultimately, the intersection of AI and warfare will be a critical issue shaping the future of global security and conflict.

If you want to be added to the reading list email Bob Koches at [**bobkoches@gmail.com**](mailto:bobkoches@gmail.com)

Click to join on Zoom



Mindfulness with Richard Clarke: Every Thursdays at 3pm on Zoom

Every Thursday from 3pm - 4pm Richard Clarke leads a Meditation Lesson on Zoom. The above video is a recording of his most recent session.

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. To find out more contact:

riberasmeditation@gmail.com. Click below for the Zoom link for the next session.

Join Richard on Zoom

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

Click on the + for info and links

**Humanist Discussion Group-Wed May 22
11am**

+



Wednesday May 22 11:00am on Zoom (CST)

May Topic As artificial intelligence continues to advance rapidly, its potential applications in military affairs become increasingly concerning from an ethical and humanitarian perspective. The development of autonomous weapon systems, AI-powered surveillance and targeting, and the automation of many warfighting functions could lead to a future of warfare that is more impersonal, unpredictable, and potentially more devastating to human life. At the same time, AI-enabled technologies may also have the potential to reduce military casualties and collateral damage through improved decision-making, risk assessment, and precision. However, this raises complex moral and legal questions about the appropriate role of machines in the use of lethal force. Ultimately, the intersection of AI and warfare will be a critical issue shaping the future of global security and conflict.

[Click to join on Zoom](#)

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

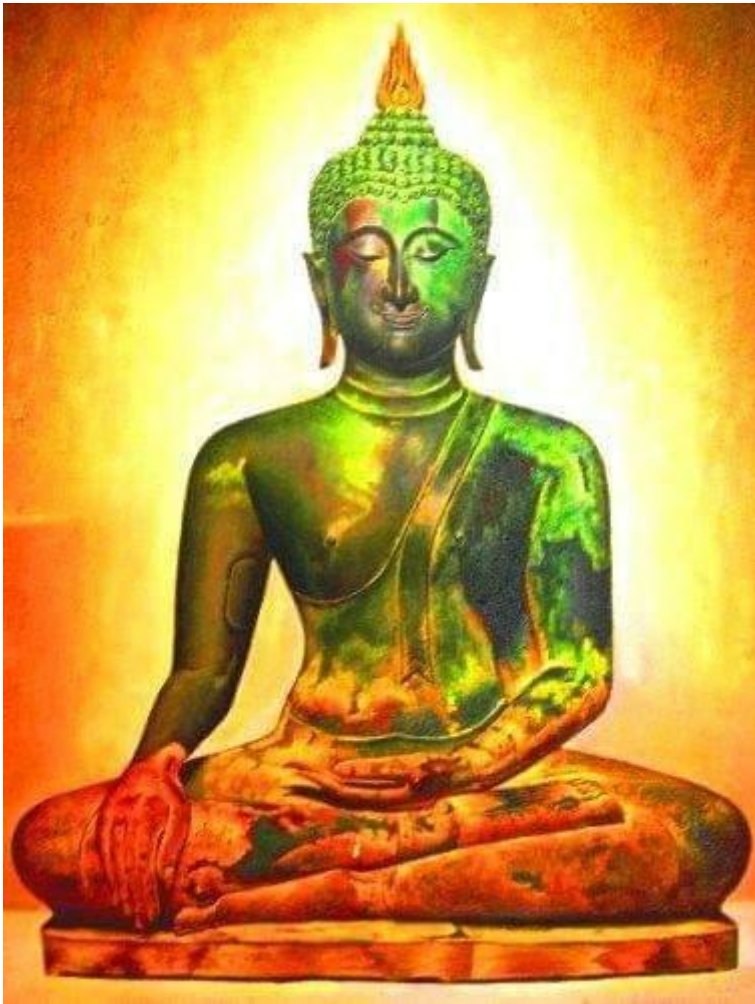
12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact CLuriaARNP@gmail.com for topics

Healing Circle Monthly: 2nd Thursday 4pm +



This is a new group gathering to focus on healing, peace and well-being. Our methods employ Reiki distance healing. This is group, not individual work. All LCUUF members are welcome regardless of experience. Facilitators: D'Vorah Kelley and Pamela Cucinell, Reiki Practitioners

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**

+

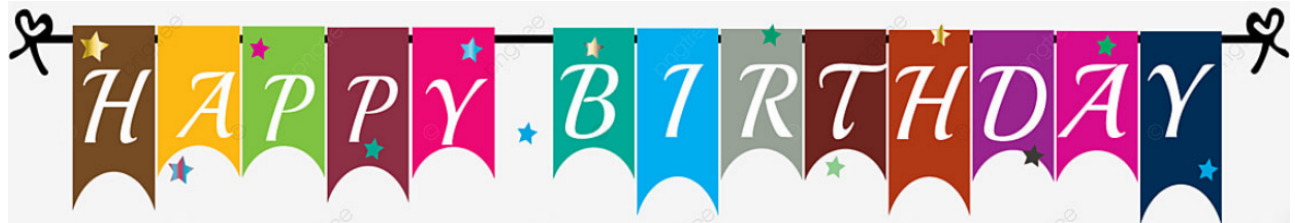
Meet other UUs for weekly conversations at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

Open Zoom Conversation: Fridays 2pm

+

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

[Click to join on Zoom](#)



Birthdays This Week!

Thomas McClure, May 7th

Mark Etkin, May 8th

Al Castleman, May 9th

Cate Howell, May 11th

**Do You 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

**San Lucas 19 Riberas del Pilar,
Chapala, Mx**

You received this email because you signed up with our welcome team or requested to be added to our mailing list. Click on the email below to unsubscribe.

newsletter@lcuuf.org