



LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



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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](#)

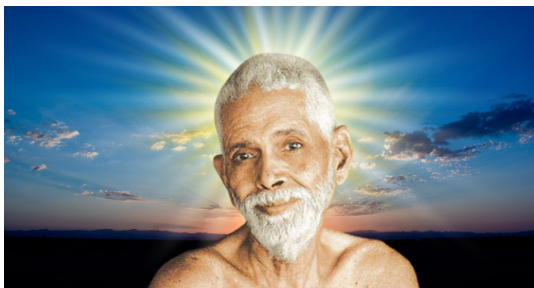
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NEW THIS WEEK:

Rev. Matt Alspaugh's Monthly message AND
Fernanda Parra's Sunday performance of the postlude and prelude

UPCOMING SERVICES



This Week: May 12th

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

Presenter: Richard Clarke

**Service Associate: Carol
Johnson**

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.

Next Week: May 19th

"Earth Heal Us"

**Presenter: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
(remote)**

**Service Associate: June
Wilson**

We live in a time of existential despair over climate change and other harms to the earth. We are saddened that so many deny the existence of these harms and even double down on increasing such harms. We can easily get frozen in such despair. How do we avoid allowing such despair lead us into inaction? How do we reclaim that mutual relationship with the earth that our ancestors knew?



Rev. Matt Alspaugh

A little over two weeks ago, the LCUF board held its annual retreat. Kriss Gang, our board president, summarized many of the activities of that retreat in last week's newsletter. I wanted to highlight and expand upon two key areas. First, we talked of our long-term plans for physical space. I am coming to realize that the question of our physical space may be less about having a space of our own as it is about having long-term security and flexibility in whatever

space that we occupy. This wasn't quite true of our previous location, where we were permitted to make minimal changes, and where we ultimately lost our lease with modest advance notice. We want more security and flexibility than that. Obviously, owning a building — which we would likely have to be custom-built to our own specifications — would be one way to accomplish these goals. But this may not be the only way: a long-term lease has been suggested as one possibility, and I think we are beginning to explore the possibility of a long-term relationship with St. Andrews. Both of these alternative approaches have their advantages and weaknesses, but the important thing is that we are realizing that we have more options to explore to address these needs.

We also talked about professional ministry and ministerial succession. At some point, I will want to retire, or at least 'dial back' my ministry with LCUUF. However, our congregation is growing, and needs more staff time for ministry, not less. The traditional solution would be for me to resign, and the congregation to search for a new minister who could work maybe 3/4 time or full time. Yet we note that the traditional search process is both expensive and risky, especially as we are asking potential ministers to relocate to a different country. However, our association with Saint Andrews suggests alternatives. I was surprised to learn that they have three part-time professional ministers, only one of whom is Anglican. Additionally they have a couple of trained lay leaders (deacons) providing ministry services. While St. Andrews' model for ministry may not fit LCUUF, it does open up our eyes to alternative possibilities for professional ministry. These are alternatives that we will want to explore in the years ahead.

Retreats for boards and other leadership bodies offer an opportunity to step away from the day-to-day business and consider larger, more strategic questions. I think this particular board retreat did just that, opening us to consider, broadly and deeply, important questions about LCUUF's future.



Video Recording For The Service On Sunday May 5, 2024

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

[Video Archive](#)



Special Feature: Fernanda Parra Performs for LCUUF

Fernanda Parra, LCUUF Tech Assistant and as we now know, talented musician, again moved LCUUF members who attended last Sunday's service with an exceptional Prelude and Postlude solo performance. If you missed

Sunday's service or want to hear her wonderful performance again, a video recording of her performance has been produced and you can now see and hear again here. Click on the video above to watch the Postlude and this link to watch the Prelude:

Fernanda is the founder and lead singer of the group "Mary's Island" which performs at many locations around the Lakeside Community

Follow Mary's Island on Facebook



Getting To Know Each Other: Part 2

This past Wednesday, May 8th, Rev. Alspaugh presented "**Getting To Know Us**" Part 2, covering our Unitarian Universalist history, principles and practices and social justice.



May Humanist Discussion Group

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

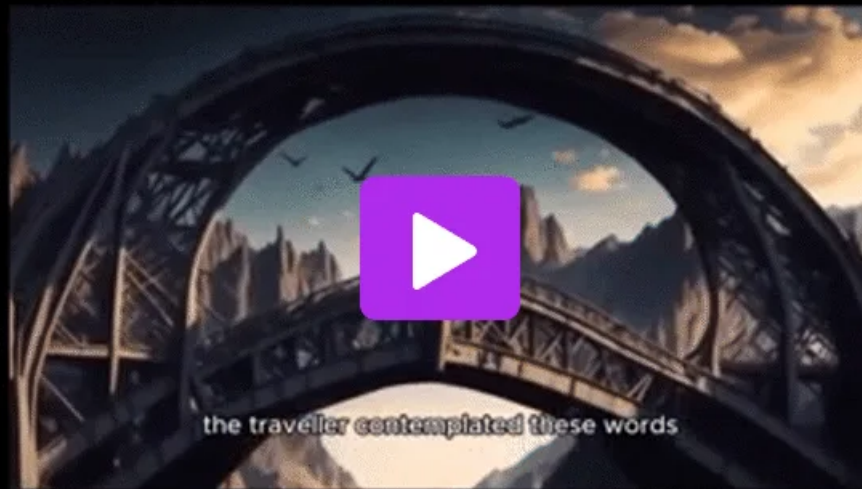
May Topic:

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

[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 +

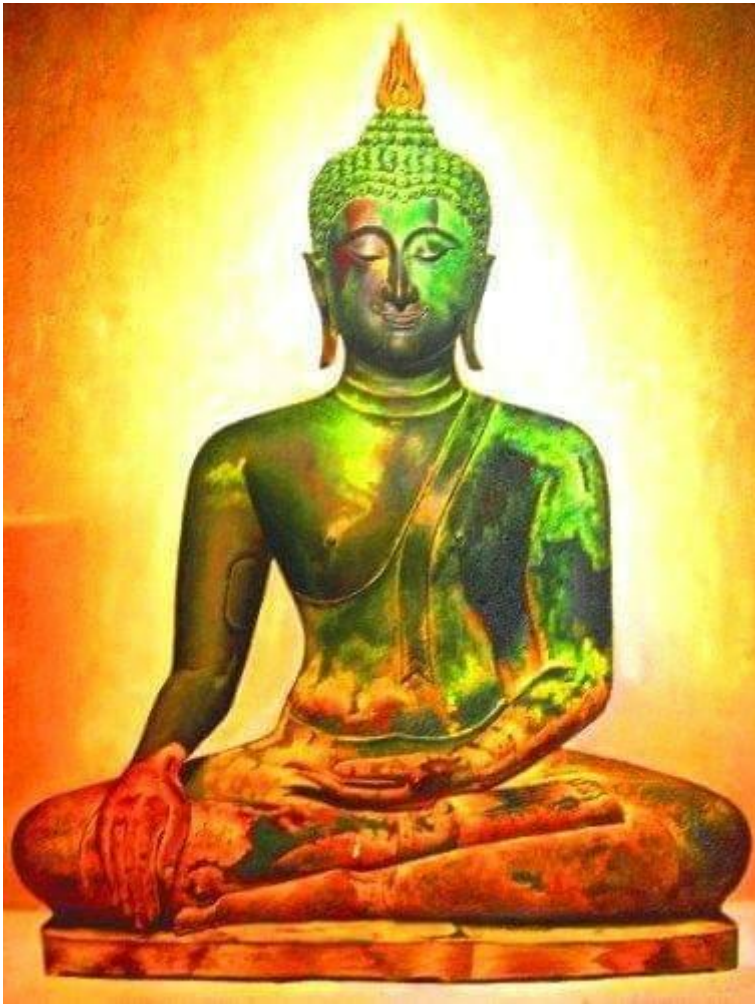
12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact CLuriaARNP@gmail.com for topics

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**

+

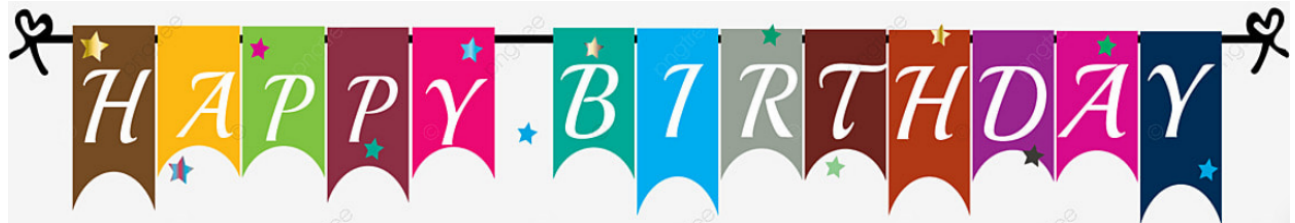
Meet other UUs for weekly conversations at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

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!

Wes Weston, May 13th

Ellen McFarland, May 14th

Priscilla Taylor, May 16th

Trish Farrel, May 17th

Sharon Merits, May 17th

Liz Hill, May 19th

**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**

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