

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



Lake Chapala Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship



Issue 87

Nov 17 - Nov 24, 2024

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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.

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UPCOMING SERVICES



This Week: Nov 17

"The Healing Power Of Music"

Presenter: Michael Reason



Next Week: November 24

**"Replacing Dogmas with
Core Values"**

Presenter: David Elison

**Service Associate: Michael
Swords**

Michael Reason, our Music Director and Artistic Director of the Lake Chapala Orchestra, will present an exploration of how music is not just a universal language that influences all of us, but is also a universal power that has healing potential both physically and emotionally.

Service Associate: Dee Dee Camhi

Dave Ellison was a true-believer, accepting without question both Catholic and United States dogmas. His life experiences, however, as both a teacher and a traveler, led him to discard any and all prescribed notions, and to embrace stoic existentialism. Indeed, he finally recognized that beliefs matter far less than values—moral principles and goals—which guide his daily life. In this talk, Dave will briefly review his philosophical journey, and then focus on these values, and why he chose them; culminating with his current credo which embodies them.

During his thirty-six-year career, David Ellison was a teacher, mentor teacher, school administrator, education columnist and community activist. He worked in schools foreign and domestic, public and private, grades four through college. His treks through five continents included volunteering in far-flung villages, and surviving harrowing adventures.



Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Most of you know I was away from Lakeside part of October and November, traveling to Italy to see family and to Croatia as part of a delightful group tour with Road Scholar. One surprise for me was that practically everyone I encountered in Croatia spoke at least some English, and most spoke it very well. I learned that Croatians must take English starting in primary school, and so it is a strong second language for them.

This of course made interacting with most people quite stress-free. I didn't have to pantomime what I needed, or resort to trying to get Google Translate to

understand both of us. Also, many advertising signs were only in English, as both local people and most European tourists could read these to some extent. I was glad for this, as the Croatian language has little parallel with English and is considered a fairly difficult language for English-speakers to learn. Even the niceties like greetings are unfamiliar —I only learned živjeli (cheers!). Fortunately, like Spanish, Croatian words are generally pronounced as written, even for words like 'čvrsk' (strong) or 'prst' (finger).

I realize that here in Mexico, and certainly at Lakeside, many Mexican citizens have learned English as a second language. Most are proud of this skill, as they know it opens doors for employment and travel outside Latin America. I too am trying to learn some Spanish. I'm slow and timid about it, and used to get annoyed, well, more precisely embarrassed, when Mexicans would switch our conversation to English just to get the job done. I accept that it's far more valuable for them to learn English than for me to learn Spanish, so I'm happy to let them learn on my time. I still study my Spanish, as it is useful in more rural areas and in other parts of Latin America. More importantly, it keeps me learning and helps connect me with the people, the history and the culture here.

Travel brings insights, along with enjoyment. I've enjoyed this travel, but I'm glad to be back. And I'm glad to see things going so well in my absence. Thanks to all of you who made that so.



Pledge Campaign Status as of Nov 14

Active Members Participating	67%
Pledge Revenue Goal Achieved	67%



Climate Justice and LCUUF (progress report)

Eighteen persons—mostly active members of LCUUF, a few recent visitors and a couple of guests met this past Monday evening (11/11) in the sanctuary of St. Andrews to take further steps to address climate justice at Lakeside. This group

resulted from presentations at the Fellowship over the past month and a half on ecological concerns. The first of these presentations, What is Climate Justice by Bob Koches (Sep. 29), was the springboard, which was followed on Sunday, October 13 with a service led by D'vorah Kelley, Dee Dee Camhi and Catherine Luria on Climate Justice Revival: Putting Love at the Center, and a workshop on the topic that afternoon.

Subsequently, at an afternoon meeting on Oct. 24, several of us took ideas from the revival/workshop to begin planning actions that we could take to assist our local Mexican residents with ecological projects they are already engaged with. At the Nov. 11 meeting the group heard a report on a local initiative named Siempre Verde ("Forever Green") and agreed to bring financial and other support to this project, which presently is engaged in planting indigenous trees around the Lake. Another report focused on the work

of a young Ajijic Mexican lawyer who is personally engaged in bringing awareness of Lake Chapala's toxicity levels and related ecological concerns directly to the federal government in Mexico City. Though not as fully embraced by the group as the hands-on work of Siempre Verde, there arose sufficient interest by some to help finance the lawyer's travel to the capital. Opportunities to contribute to one or both of these local initiatives will be forthcoming. The meeting was characterized by spirited sharing around ways that various members are personally engaged with ecological concerns (such as reduction in the use of plastics, recycling, using biodegradable dish and laundry soaps or earth friendly sheets, opting for a vegan diet, and so forth).

The LCUUF Climate Justice Team plans on meeting every other month with the next meeting scheduled for January. 13, 2025. A smaller working group, meeting on in-between months, was charged with creating fund-raising opportunities at LCUUF to support Siempre Verde. Stay tuned fellow earth lovers for opportunities to be engaged with helping to bring climate justice with love to Lakeside.

Tim Boeve



Sunday Service Committee Needs Your Help

Your Sunday Service Team (SST) has been continuing to provide thoughtful, spiritual, and informative services each Sunday. But we need YOUR help! The next Quarterly Planning Meeting will take place

directly after the service on December 1 to plan January and February services. Have an idea for a topic you might want to explore? Want to be one of our valued Service Associates? Be a reader? We now have a "Brain Trust" (aka brainstorming) group ready to help put your ideas into action! Or, just come and give your ideas without committing to being the one to necessarily implement them. Or, just come and observe the process. Can't make it to the meeting but want to contribute? Contact any of the members of the SST (we are on the website¹).

Holiday Party Sign-up Time

Time to sign up for the LCUUF Holiday Parties in December. These are parties held at homes where members get together for holiday cheer. The hosts set

the date and time. Guests bring appetizers and drinks to share. Sign up at the Welcome table on Sunday or email Paula at:
paulaodom01@gmail.com



For The Love Of Chocolate and LCUUF

Hanna Frederick, LCUUF member and professional chocolatier, has brought her talent and treasure to LCUUF in the form of the most wonderful Chocolates. She has been crafting her custom chocolates and selling them before and after services. This holiday season she will be selling her chocolates every Sunday from now through Christmas. (except November 30th)



Hanna uses 70% dark organic chocolate made in Tabasco MX by CACEP. Lo carb, no sugar added to the ganache. Real fruits, nuts, no artificial stuff. Very Healthy!

The cost is 15 pesos per chocolate. If possible bring a plastic container or plastic bag for your purchases.

100% of the proceeds will go to LCUUF. A most delicious way to support our congregation.



Handmade Bookmarks to Benefit LCUUF

Since many at Lakeside are avid readers, Adele St. Pierre has created unique and lovely bookmarks to share. She will be offering them before and after the Fellowship Service on November 17th. All donations will go to LCUUF.

Song Leaders, We Need You!

LCUUF is looking for people who like to sing and would be interested in being song leaders for our services. You do not have to read music, just the ability to learn and hold a tune. Song Leaders will be for the hymns that we sing each service. Each week Michael will send you the music and a recording of the hymn to learn at home.

Then on Sunday you will meet Michael at 11.30am at the church and have a short rehearsal. It would not necessarily be every week. If you are interested please email

Michael at mjrmusic01@gmail.com



“In Repair We Mend Others and Ourselves”

Ted Fahy, Guest Speaker
D’Vorah Kelley, Service Associate
November 10, 2024

Lake Chapala UU



Video Recording for the November 10th Service



**Mindfulness with Richard Clarke for
Thursday Nov. 14**

November Humanist Discussion Group



In his new book *NEXUS: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI*, Harari looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us, and our world. Taking us from the Stone Age, through the canonization of the Bible, early modern witch-hunts, Stalinism, Nazism, and the resurgence of populism today, Harari asks us to consider the complex relationship between information and truth,

bureaucracy and mythology, wisdom and power. He explores how different societies and political systems throughout history have wielded information to achieve their goals, for good and ill. And he addresses the urgent choices we face as non-human intelligence threatens our very existence.

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet , **Wednesday November 27th** at 11am Via Zoom. Remember we are on Central Standard Time .Those on Standard Time please adjust your time zone. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>
If you want to be included in the reading list contact bobkoches@gmail.com

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

Click on the "+" for details

**Humanist Discussion Group-Wed Nov 27
11am**

+



Wednesday Nov 27 11:00am on Zoom (CST)

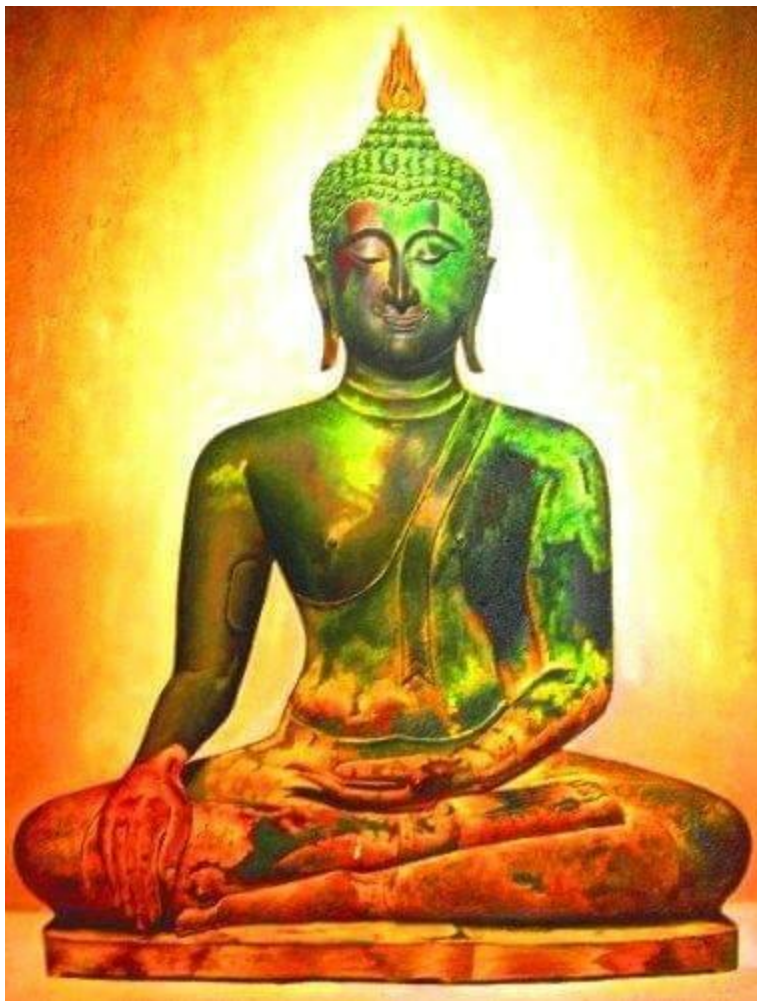
November Topic: In his new book NEXUS: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI, Harari looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us, and our world. Taking us from the Stone Age, through the canonization of the Bible, early modern witch-hunts, Stalinism, Nazism, and the resurgence of populism today, Harari asks us to consider the complex relationship between information and truth, bureaucracy and mythology, wisdom and power. He explores how different societies and political systems throughout history have wielded information to achieve their goals, for good and ill. And he addresses the urgent choices we face as non-human intelligence threatens our very existence. The Humanist Discussion Group will meet , Wednesday November 27th at 11am Via Zoom. Remember we are on Central Standard Time .Those on Standard Time please adjust your time zone. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863> If you want to be included in the reading list contact 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 +

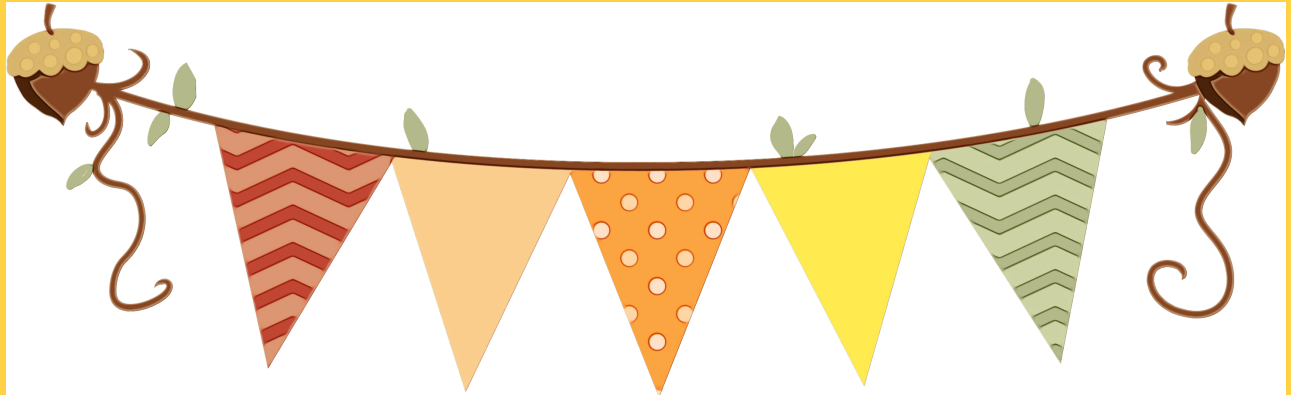
Meet other UUs for weekly conversations at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

Open Zoom Conversation: Fridays 2pm

+

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

[Click to join on Zoom](#)



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Christy Caldwell, November 21

Dave Miller, November 22

Norman Woods, November 24

D'Vorah Kelley, November 24

Candy Fields, November 25

Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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our welcome table or sent an email request to be
added.

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