

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



Lake Chapala Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship



Issue 95

Jan 12 - Jan 19, 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: Jan 12, 2025

"Stories of our Lives"
Presenter: Ted Fahy



Next Week: Jan 19, 2025

"Behind The Scenes at LCUUF"
Annual General Meeting
immediately after the regular

Service Associate: Priscilla Taylor

Each of us has endless and endlessly different stories about ourselves. Sunday's service is an exploration of how our personal narratives are formed and reinforced, although they may bear little resemblance to the realities we have lived. It requires effort, open eyes, resilience, and humility to discover our untruths and to rescue ourselves from our myths while preserving our essential selves.

service (Pizza and soft drinks provided)

Presenter: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Service Associate: Dee Dee Camhi

PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-JANUARY 19TH

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President: Kriss Gang (Final Term)

Vice President: Ted Fahy (2nd yr of 2-yr term)

Treasurer: Larry Pihl (2 yr term)

Secretary: Marsha Buly (2nd yr of 2-yr term)

Member-at Large: Adele St. Pierre (2yr term)

Member-at Large: June Wilson (2yr term)

Member-at Large: Bob Koches (2yr term)

Nominating Committee

Paula Odom

Dee Dee Camhi

Barley Donahue



Rev. Matt Alspaugh

We are beginning the new year, and for many of us it is time to reflect on our past and think of plans for our future. This is also true for our fellowship. With our stewardship drive complete and our annual general meeting coming up, it's a good time for all of us to reflect on LCUUF. In particular, I think it is time for us to be proactive, to think about our future direction, and about what we as a fellowship might want to look like a few years in the future.

Admittedly, for the past few years we've had to be reactive, responding to outside things affecting us. We had to react to the Covid-19 pandemic. (We, along with practically every other congregation, organization, and well, everyone for that matter, had to react.) Only now are we as a fellowship getting enough distance from the pandemic to look back on it with understanding.

I believe we weathered the pandemic much better than most other congregations, some of which are still struggling, and a few of which have disappeared. The pandemic forced us to make changes, and we've retained some of those changes that still serve us. In particular, our Sunday services are quite different now: we broadcast them to serve a broader audience; they are more varied and appealing, with images and videos regularly used; and more people are involved in creating them.

We also had to react when we lost our lease in 2023. So last January, we moved location, and began a relationship with St. Andrews Anglican. This relationship has exceeded all my expectations. The two congregations enjoy each other's company, at coffee hour between services and at special events, and we're talking about working together on, for example, social justice projects.

But both of these were external events that we had to respond to. And while we responded well, we necessarily had to be reactive rather than proactive in those responses. Now we have an opportunity to be more proactive, to look forward into the future, to imagine who we might become in five or ten (or even fifty!) years, and to plan how we might make those visions real.

I'm not sure exactly how we might best do this visionary work. I do believe it ought to involve all of us. It should not be the work of just the board or some planning committee. Everyone who is interested ought to be heard. I also think we ought to be expansive in our thinking. We are different from most UU congregations, we don't easily fit the mold of a typical UU congregation in the

USA of Canada. So we ought to be willing to imagine more broadly. Finally, we might need to get help with this work. We might need to spend money to hire the right support, facilitation, or coaching to help us do this work well. We don't want to end up with a plan that sits on the shelf unused.

So let's begin to think about thinking about our future. Working together, let's find a way to imagine what LCUUF might be like years from today. And then let's find ways to live into those future dreams.

Tree Trimming in the Garden Space Required

St. Andrew's has been advised that the trees in the garden area need to be significantly trimmed back both for the trees' benefit and our safety.

Weekly "After-Service" Lunches?

Charlie Jacobs has agreed to organize after service lunches if there is enough interest. If you are interested in having lunch after the Sunday service send me an email at cj1946@gmail.com.



Sign Up For Circle Suppers Now Through January 15th

A new year of Circle Suppers will begin for January –

March. Circle Suppers are a great way to socialize and meet new members and friends outside of the Fellowship. Participants gather in small groups and share a meal together. As these suppers will be during high season, we hope seasonal friends and members will participate.

If you would like to attend or host, email paulaodom01@gmail.com. Please indicate travel dates January-March, food allergies, and other special requests.

If hosting, please indicate how many attendees (including yourself) you can accommodate. Hosts will reach out to attendees to set the date and time of the gathering.

Sign-up will conclude January 15th.



Video Recording for the January 5th Service



Mindfulness With Richard Clarke for Thursday, January 9th

Monthly Women's Group Brown Bag Lunch!

In addition to the 1st & 3rd Mon ZOOM women's group meetings we are adding an IN PERSON BROWN BAG LUNCH at 12N on the 4th Monday. Please contact Trudy if you plan to attend.

trudycrippen@gmail.com

Click on the "+" for details

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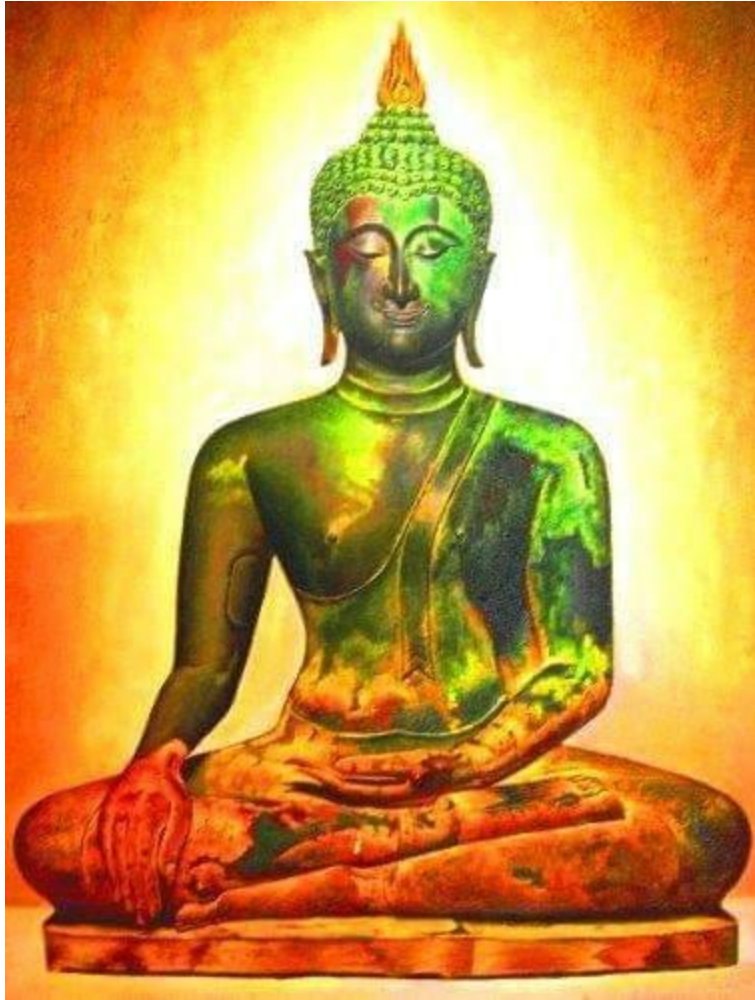
For our January Unitarian Universalist (UU) humanist discussion, we will delve into the pressing challenges of global depopulation and replacement, exploring how technology and artificial intelligence (AI) might offer innovative solutions. The conversation will focus on the potential of AI to enhance societal resilience and address demographic shifts, while also considering the ethical implications of such technologies, including issues of equity and the preservation of human connections. The Humanist Discussion Group will meet Wednesday Jan. 22 at 11am Central Standard Time Via Zoom. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863> If you wish to be added to the reading list please email Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom

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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**

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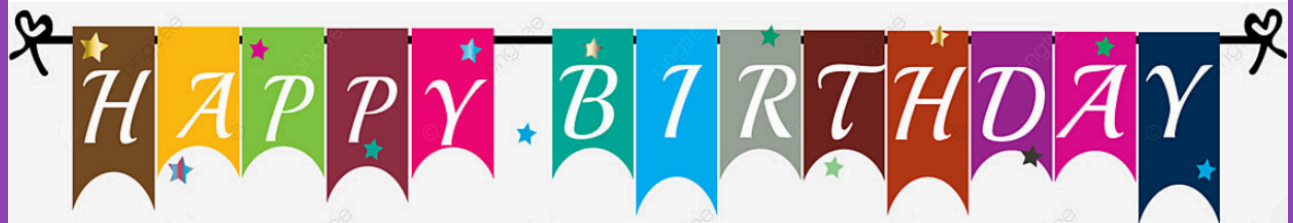
Meet other UUs for weekly conversations at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

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 WEEK

Cheryl Cholvachuk, January 3

Hanna Fejerdy Frederick, January 7

Steve Wilson, January 8

Barley Donahue, January 14

David Hudnall, January 14

Linda Samuels, January 18

Joan Bellamy, January 19



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