



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER AUGUST, 2017

Upcoming Services

August 6th - Marshall Krantz arranges the weekly film program at LCS, and has done so for many years. His selection of films as well as his spirited introductions and comments have afforded much enjoyment to those who attend. Films can influence people's thinking about everyday life and some can increase the capacity for empathy. Marshall will speak about what he has gained personally from his contribution of time, knowledge & expertise.

August 13th - Inez Dayer is Director of the ESL Program at LCS. Her work can provide inspiration to us as we consider the many options of how to assist others in the Ajijic and the Lake Chapala area. People from different socioeconomic levels take the courses. There is hope of improving one's socio-economic status by increasing employment options, particularly for those in poverty. The benefits of learning a second language can have significant positive effects on the brain. Inez will speak about what involvement with the program has meant to her and what she has gained personally from her work on behalf of young people and adults.

August 20th - TBA

August 27th - "Music from the Heart" Wayne and Linda Conklin will speak about how music can touch others and thereby impact their lives in unexpected ways. They will relate stories from their own lives, as well as some of their friends. Wayne and Linda will play music for the meditation and the offering on the hammered dulcimer, autoharp and bodhran (Celtic drum).



ELLEN McFARLAND

Who is Ellen McFarland? There are many germane and surprising answers to this question. She is, among other things, a gardener, a world traveler, a teacher of English as a Second Language, and an interior decorator of her own beautiful house in Ajijic, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, and a member of LCUUF.

In her childhood, her family moved constantly as her father was in the military. Ellen said she “didn’t like” the constant uprooting and changing of schools and friends. Her best years, however, were spent in Hawaii, when she was ten to twelve years old. From Hawaii her family moved to Phoenix. Ellen grew up in Phoenix and was able to make her own decisions, and the first one was to stop moving all over the country. She happily settled down, got married and had two children. She finished her B.A. in Human Nutrition at Arizona State University while raising her children and holding down a job to pay for her education and meet household expenses. After obtaining her degree, she worked in management for several hospitals. She was a single mother during many of those years. She said her children were helpful and supportive, which enabled her to accomplish her educational goals.

In 1980 Ellen moved to San Francisco and worked in the dietary department of a major hospital. She worked there until 1993 when she moved to Prague in the Czech Republic, teaching English, utilizing the certificate she had obtained through night school courses in San Francisco. Ellen spent her 50th birthday in a pub in Prague. It was an “exciting time,” as she said, to be there. Because of social and political changes, Western teachers of English were in heavy demand. After a year in Prague, she returned to San Francisco where she obtained her M.A. in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

Ellen received a USIS fellowship to train teachers of English in Nizhny Novgorod in Central Russia. She enjoyed the Russian people, finding them friendly, always ready for a spontaneous party. She said she was “not lonely” that year.

Moving back to San Francisco, Ellen taught ESP (English for Special Purposes) to engineers in Silicon Valley for two years. By that time she realized that she was in her mid-fifties and had made no financial plans for retirement. She looked around for a lucrative job and found employment teaching ESP in the United Arab Emirates. She worked there for eight years and was able to save two-thirds of her salary. Her next move was to Japan, where she was able to save one-half of her salary for the five years she taught there. Her self-imposed retirement plan, it seemed, was efficacious, lucrative, and, to be honest, a lot of fun! She left Japan in 2012, returning to San Francisco where she taught online adult ESP for three years. She still has one Japanese online student.

By the year 2014 Ellen’s two children were married, living in California, and had produced two grandchildren. Ellen was more than ready for retirement. She moved to Ajijic where she is active in the UU Fellowship and takes cooking and gardening classes. She likes traveling within Mexico, has a host of friends, myriad social activities, and is exploring Secular Buddhism and studying Spanish, proving that, after all these year, Ellen still enjoys learning new things.

Submitted by Liz Moulder



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

When Rev. Matt Alspaugh arrives at our Fellowship we will have a New Member Orientation and Ceremony for our 4 prospective new members. The New Member Orientation will be held the 2nd week of October, followed by the New Member Ceremony on October 15th. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Fellowship please contact Marty Weston, Membership Committee Chairperson at 765 2357. Again, a BIG thank you to all those who volunteer as an “Assistant Greeter” on Sunday mornings. You are truly an asset to our Fellowship and the Membership Committee.



HOSPITALITY NEWS

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON & POOL PARTY

It is time for the women to get together! Friday, August 11, 2 pm at the home of Karyn Carpenter - Juarez 15, Ajijic. Bring a salad, what you want to drink, sun screen, a hat, suit and towel. There will be a sign up sheet at fellowship or email Karyn at [Newfugger Wander@mac.com](mailto:Newfugger_Wander@mac.com) to reserve your spot and for directions. Parking is somewhat restricted so if you can carpool that would be great!

AUGUST FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

On Sunday, August 27th after the service we will be going to lunch at Los Cinco Potrillos in Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos . Please sign up at fellowship or contact Karyn Carpenter or Lorna Dean to sign up. Directions will be provided.

MEET AND GREETS

Welcome to our new minister and his wife, Matt and Liz. Watch for upcoming small group meetings so we can get to know them and they us! These will begin in September and we will have signup sheets available the middle of August.

NOTE: Circle suppers will be suspended for the third quarter, and will resume in October.



The **ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC AND HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP** will meet Monday, August 28th at 3:00 pm at the Fellowship. The *Holocene extinction*, otherwise referred to as the *sixth extinction* or *Anthropocene extinction*, is the ongoing species during the present Holocene epoch, mainly due to human activity. The large number of extinctions spans numerous families of plants and animals, including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and arthropods. This is the topic for our August meeting. Anyone interested in being added to the mailing list contact: bobkoches@gmail.com



CHOIR NEWS

The LCUUF Choir will resume rehearsals in late August. Since many of our choir members are out of town or on vacation the choir is on break until fall. If you are interested in joining us please contact Choir Director, Bob Koches at 766-2299 or bobkoches@gmail.com



This Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Guest Editor for August is Kathy Koches.