



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

NEWSLETTER JULY, 2017

Upcoming Services

July 2 - “Canada Turns 150: What I’m Celebrating”

Speaker: Fred Harland; Service Leader: Sandy Wallin

July 9 - “A Plague On Both Your Houses”

Speaker: Trudy Crippen; Service Leader: Ellen McFarland. Focusing on the role of institutions, Trudy will talk about the social, political and cultural divisions that have caused a lack of civility and tolerance, not only in the U.S., but also in Europe;

July 16 - “Book Share: A Participatory Service”

Service Leader: Mardele Harland. Members and friends are invited to share information about a book that has inspired, informed or in some other way enriched their lives – see page 2 for participation instructions.

July 23 - “Manifest Destiny and the Treaty of Guadalupe”

Speaker: Lew Crippen; Service Leader: Trudy Crippen

The Treaty of Guadalupe resulted in Texas, much of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, etc. being given to the United States by Mexico. This happened at the point of a sword, as General Winfield Scott was occupying Mexico City at the time at the end of the Mexican-American war (a war that was opposed by most Unitarians, as well as Abraham Lincoln).

July 30 - “The Cognitive Revolution: The World as a Canvas to our Imaginations” *Speaker: Fred Koesling; Service Leader: Richard*

Clarke. A consideration of the theory that homo sapiens (us) owe our dominance to a biological breakthrough in our thinking processes; enhanced imaginations, enabling our species alone to 'imagine' our way to dominion (for good or ill) over this world. Based on the book "Sapiens: A Brief History Of Humankind" by Israeli Historian Yuval Noah Harari.

July 16th Participatory Book

Share Instructions:



Members and friends are invited to participate in the July 16th Service by sharing information about a book they have read which has had an impact on their lives. *Those who choose to take part will have up to 4 minutes to give the Title, Author, a brief description of the subject and the reason they chose to share this particular book. Bring the book to show if you have a hard copy.* There will be a benevolent Timer, but depending on how many participate, the Service may last longer than the usual one hour. *Please complete and hand in a Book Share Form if you participate. The forms will be available at the July 9th and 16th Services. They help us in compiling a listing of the books shared, which will be posted on the Bulletin Board and the Yahoo site.*

Member News



Birthday Greetings to the following members who have birthdays in July:

July 20 - Bobbe Dannebrink

July 25 - Tom Dowdy-Winslett

July 28 - Lew Crippen

“Welcome back” to those members who have been travelling and “safe travels” to those who are about to leave for various destinations.

Our thoughts are with Kathy Koches as she recovers from knee surgery, Cate Howell, who recently fell and broke her elbow, and Sue Kelley.

Committee News



From the

Membership Committee: Even though during the summer months our Fellowship does not have as many people in attendance, it is very helpful to the Membership Committee to have **Assistant Greeters**. Ideally we have one person at the door greeting all attendees and another person to assist visitors to complete the necessary forms. It only takes 30 minutes on Sunday from 10 to 10:30. Please volunteer to be an assistant greeter by adding your name to the Greeter list or talking to Marty Weston, Chair of the Membership Committee.

From the Sunday Service

Committee: A sincere thank you to **Richard Clarke** for Coordinating Services in April, May and June. The Sunday Service Coordinator for July, August and September is **Teresa Sande**, with assistance from **Lew Crippen**. Service Leaders should contact **Bob Koches** about hymn choices, during the absence of our accompanist from July 23th to August 14th.

Our new part time Minister, **Rev. Matt Alspaugh** will be with us in September. We are enthusiastically looking forward to his participation in services and service planning. At a meeting during his visit the end of May, we agreed that we will experiment with different options and formats during the fall. Stay tuned!

Our thanks to all those who attend UU Services regularly. Suggestions and comments about Services are always welcome and appreciated.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Sharon Woods

(by Jan Manning)

Sharon is a very creative person. She is also a collector and her house and garden are filled with wonderful things - paintings, glass works, and a virtual jungle that she planted and watched grow over the past ten years. Years after getting her BA in English Literature, Sharon studied landscape design. Obviously, to judge by the garden that surrounds her house, she was an excellent student. She also designed all of the LCUUF wooden furniture, the hand blown chalice and the decor. She says she did not inherit the gifts of her artistic mother and grandparents, but I disagree. There are many definitions of an artist. Sharon fits.

In 2011 Sharon was on the board of the Lake Chapala Garden Club. Their community project for that year was to remodel the LCS Wilkes Library garden. Sharon led the project, did the design and hired the contractors who installed new walkways, planters, and patios as well as all of the garden plantings. The new garden is a huge success and here is the link:

<http://www.lakechapalagardenclub.org/wilkes.html>

Her love of things Mexican seems to have had a very early start. One of her first memories in Southern California is picking avocados with her Mother. She remembers loving guacamole. Her first trip to Mexico was around age 6 when her family rented cottages on the beach cliffs in Baja California. Later she came here in the summers to visit her grandparents who had retired to Chapala in 1957. They took many road trips in her grandfather's Nash Rambler to colonial villages

across the country. This was the beginning of her collections and love of all things Mexican.

What Sharon is most proud of is her independence. Her parents did a good job of instilling that. They could afford to pay for her college education, but thought it would be good for her to pay for it herself - so she did. She also bought her first car by herself and later her first house. These acts gave her a great sense of pride, a feeling if she could do these things, she could do anything. Her employers recognized her strengths. She was always the "go to" person.

Sharon has been involved with computers since 1968. She worked for a computer manufacturer who taught her how to program their "BIG" 4K computer which involved hard-wiring the program boards. Her second computer-related job was for a large cable TV company as their national computer trainer. She and Norman met at that company.

Always ready for a new challenge, Sharon decided to become a realtor. She partnered with another woman to buy and fix up houses to sell. Sharon lists over 5 businesses she has owned and more than 15 jobs she has held, including corporate computer trainer, home designer and landscape designer. She loves challenges, considers herself an entrepreneur and is always looking for new opportunities, even today.

About seven years after they met, Norman invited her to go dancing at a loud country and western bar where Norman leaned over and said something in her ear. The music was so loud she didn't hear him, so she got him to repeat it. What he said was "I think we should get married." So they did. They flew in a Unitarian minister from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, and he presided over the lovely ceremony that she and Norman wrote. That was 36 years ago this coming November.

Ten years ago they moved to Ajijic where they had bought a fixer-upper house - sight unseen. After a year of designing and renovations, they knew they had created their dream home. Sharon and Norman are charter members of LCUUF. Their many contributions to the Fellowship are ongoing and very much appreciated.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



The new **Mindfulness Group** led by **Richard Clarke** meets weekly on **Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. at San Luis #73, Riberas.**

(Take the carretera towards Chapala, turn right at the Pemex station, go one short block, turn right, about 4th house on the right.)

The focus is on instruction and practice of mindfulness meditation using the Buddha's own guide to Mindfulness, written 2500 years ago. All those who want to establish a regular meditation practice are invited to attend.

If you are interested in attending, call Richard at 376 765 6976 or email him at: richard@infinitepie.net



The Atheist, Agnostic and Humanist Discussion Group will meet the last Monday of July (instead of the 4th Monday of the month) on **July 31st at 3 pm** at the Fellowship.

The topic for the month is: How does a humanist define terms like luck, fate, or karma? Reading material will be sent out ahead of time. Anyone interested in being added to the mailing list contact: bobkoches@gmail.com



Join us for our next end-of-month 'After Service Lunch Out' on July 30th, when we will be going next door to La Antigua Restaurant.

UUA News

The **Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray** of Phoenix, Arizona was elected UUA President on June 24th at the General Assembly held in New Orleans. She is the 9th President and first woman to be elected to the position.

Solstice Service, June 25th



This Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Guest Editor for August is Kathy Koches (kkoches@gmail.com). Deadline for contributions is July 20th.