



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Upcoming LCUUF Sunday Services

June 3 – “Tikkun Olam – To Repair the World” - In the Kabbalah, the mystical teachings of Judaism, there is a story that God created the world out of vessels of light made from parts of God’s essence. But some vessels shattered and the shards, representing brokenness, still carry power and need to be reunited with God. Both mystical and practical effort are required to repair the world. Moving beyond the story, we consider the nature of brokenness in our world, our role as humans in that brokenness, and how we might heal ourselves and repair the world. What does repair look like? What are we called to do? Undeniably, this is a most urgent topic in these times. Rev. Matt Alspaugh will speak. Kathy Koches will be service leader.

June 10 – “Cycles and Season” - The Lake Chapala Fellowship, like many congregations, has a cycle following the seasons of the year, swelling in numbers and energy from the fall until early spring, and waning in the summer. As we live through this cycle, it’s good for us to take notice. This Sunday, we pause as we shift into summer. We will reflect on the year past, and begin to imagine the year to come. This is Rev. Matt’s last service with us for two months, as he takes a summer break, before returning in late August. Sandy Wallin will be the service leader.

June 17 – “A South Indian Boy’s First Haircut” - We all are from families, and families all over the world celebrate Rites of Passages where a family member moves from one stage of life to the next. This presentation shows such a rite, one that is ancient in origin. The culture is so foreign to us, but as members of families we easily understand it. This First Haircut is much like a Child Dedication ceremony done at some Unitarian Universalist locations. But it is oh so different. Richard Clarke will speak and Lorna Dean will be service leader.

June 24 – “Book Discussion” - Ellen McFarland will lead us in discussing books that have truly affected our lives. Lorna Dean will be the service leader.



Message from Rev. Matt

This is my last newsletter column before I depart to the US for two months this summer. I'll return to Lakeside the third week of August, as the Board has renewed my contract for another year as part-time minister with the Fellowship.

It's been a good year, working together with you! I've enjoyed it immensely! I think we've accomplished a lot in the 10 months we've been together. Some highlights:

- My primary focus has been Sunday Services, and we are offering consistently high quality services while developing a larger pool of people who help with services. We've offered two educational programs, one on sermon writing and one on aspects of effective services, and I'm convinced these have contributed to greater quality and professionalism in services. We're using visuals more effectively, and while music is an area for improvement, we're working on it.
- In outreach, we recognize our generosity every Sunday through a new Share the Basket program. This will likely lead to our greater involvement with various community improvement and social justice organizations in the Lakeside area.
- An important behind the scenes effort is that of our Legacy Gifts team, which is working to understand the complexities of wills, bequests and charitable giving to LCUUF under Mexican law. Ultimately, we hope to make it easy for people to include LCUUF in their estate planning.
- Communication is another behind the scenes area. We now provide printed announcements, rather than read them aloud on Sunday. We are upgrading our website, and are working to improve related communications tools (like emails). Our Healthy Communications Book has

become an effective tool for receiving and addressing individual comments and concerns.

- Our pastoral care is rather informal, as people tend to get the support they need from friends in the congregation, and occasionally from me. I want to assist us in developing improved ways of offering support and care as a community.

The Board knows that I encourage, even push them to move beyond the individual, day-to-day issues and accomplishments to look to the generative questions, those questions that lead to deeper inquiry into root causes, values, and foster new ideas. Examples of generative questions are "What kind of congregation do we want to be?", or "What is our relationship with the larger UU movement?"

Regarding ministry, a generative question might be "What is the role of professional ministry in a congregation like ours?" One can imagine many possible answers, each with their own implications. For some, the answer is "no ministry needed", and that leads to a pure lay led organization like the LCUUF of years past. Another answer might be, "a role limited to preaching, pastoral care, and life passages"; another might be "helping the congregation become what it wants to be." Each of these will lead to a particular kind of culture, and call for a particular kind of minister. By way of disclosure, I'm passionate about the last answer to this question, and I hope that has been apparent in my work. As we reflect on the past year, we might also look toward the future, asking (and trying to answer) generative questions like this one. I wish you a great summer, and look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year.





President's Message

President Lew Crippen

As I write this on May 15, many members of our Fellowship have had and are having serious health concerns. So just in general, keep all of our members and friends in your thoughts and hearts. More importantly, spend a bit of time on the phone, send an e-mail, write a card, drop by and visit, make a meal, or any creative thing that comes to mind. Actually you don't really need to be creative, just thoughtful.

The Board decided to gratefully accept Marguerite Ponder's offer to donate her electronic piano. This week we will present our current piano to the San Juan Cosala Music Program. Should you not be aware of this program, they are sponsors of the Children's Choir from San Juan Cosala that has performed several times at our fellowship. Sue Kelley donated this piano to the Fellowship several years ago and was enthusiastic that her piano is finding a new home, where it will be used to support a children's music program.

More on the donation front! I will be handing Sue Torres a check for 7,035 pesos (and 50 centavos) this week. This is for the first two months of our inaugural "Share the Basket" program. As you likely recall 50% of our loose offerings every week are given to a local charity. The proceeds of the months of March, April, and May are going to UVA, a program that supports local students in their tertiary education. Sue is president of UVA and informs us that 100% of donated funds go to students. The all-volunteer organization has no overhead. The next three months proceeds will go to *Musica para Crecer AC*, (*Music to Grow AC*) the San Juan Cosala Music Program.

Don't forget to thank Norman Woods for his work in securing our new electronic piano. Well done, Norman.

I will be calling a congregational meeting on Sunday June 24. Meeting attendees will consider our ongoing use of a part time minister. If you are traveling and not able to attend, please send me an e-mail with your thoughts. I will do my best to represent them at the meeting.

As Trudy and I will be traveling for several weeks, Karyn Carpenter will be chairing the next board meeting. I will be in e-mail contact using my trusty iPad/phone. Please feel free to contact either of us.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Buddy Dowdy-Winslett
- 8 Helen White
- 15 Wayne Conklin
- 16 Francisco Urzua
- 23 Mary Helen Montgomery



We send Get Well Wishes to Frank Howell, Marguerite Ponder as she recovers from back surgery, Linda Conklin as she has recovers from shoulder replacement surgery and Susan Miller as she recovers from cataract surgery.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARY ROAM

Mary is a glass half-full kind of person and it seems to have paid off for her, as she can look back on a life well lived with lots of great relationships and adventures. Her first marriage lasted until her husband, Mark Sharp, died after 29 years of their being together. Her second marriage to John Roam is still going strong after nearly 30 years.

She was born into a Christian Science family several decades ago. She had one much older half-sister, whom her father lost contact with in the 1940s. Mary found that branch of the family about ten years ago through the Internet and is delighted to have a wonderful nephew and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mary's father was an expert telegrapher, and the family moved often to follow his jobs for which he was much in demand. She remembers having been to four schools in one year alone. Her father's favorite job during this time was being in charge of the wire service from The Christian Science Monitor to the United Press in NYC. She really enjoyed all their moves and all the new people she met. Her mother, Fanny, was a graduate Christian Science nurse but didn't "ply her trade" much, as her father was old-fashioned in that respect and preferred his wife at home. Mary credits both her parents for their self-sacrificing to ensure she got an excellent education.

After earning a BA in creative writing from Principia College, she moved to Kansas City, Missouri, to write verses at Hallmark Cards. She found this a very creative environment, with writers and artists galore; one of her most long-time friends wrote cards with her. During her years there she took evening dance lessons at Arthur Murray's, where she was eventually asked to go into training as an instructor

("Wow", she thought, "free dance lessons.") She met her first husband, Mark, when he was assigned to be one of her first students.

Several years later she enrolled at The Kansas City Art Institute to study interior design, so she could work on color schemes with her architect husband. It was there she first encountered Unitarianism, when she was taking a philosophy course which was taught by Dr. Raymond B. Bragg. (He had been one of the signers of the first Humanist Manifesto and was also an early member of the Unitarian Service Committee.) She soon discovered that this brilliant professor was also a practicing minister, and, being impressed with his knowledge of philosophy, she and her husband decided to try his church. She realized she had harbored some doubts about her parents' religion for quite some time, and his class had opened her mind to other religious possibilities, even though, of course, the professor never talked religion in his classroom. It was long after the visit to her first Unitarian Church that Mary had the difficult task of informing her parents that she had given up their religious pathway and found her own. So Mary and Mark had dancing and many other interests in common. Many years later she taught John the joy of ballroom dancing to add to his square-dancing expertise. They have danced all over the world.

Mary and John met at First UU, Springfield, MO in the fall of 1985. Mary was a widow, and John was divorced. They both lived some distance from the congregation and drove far to meet each week. After marrying three years later, and living - after John's retirement - at Table Rock Lake In the Ozarks, they decided to sign up for the U.S. Peace Corps. They had a fantastic three years teaching English as a Foreign Language in southwest Poland at a 5-year college of economics. On Mary's "bucket list" is a trip with John to China. Her advice for future generations: "See the bright side of life. Negativity only hurts you." She's grateful each day for the love she and John share.

Mary's current ambition is to improve her Spanish and to publish some of her many poems. She has published stories in *El Ojo del Lago* and the now-defunct *Lake Chapala Review* and of course in the *Springfield News Leader* when she worked as a freelance reporter and photographer for ten years. Her *Idyll Tyme Book Club* is one of her favorite activities.

Submitted by Jan Manning



SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Sunday Service Coordinator for June is Susan Miller and the Sunday Service Coordinator for July and August is Trudy Crippen. Information regarding services can be found on the LCUUF website under "What's Happening."



HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on June 25th at 3pm at the Fellowship. Our discussion will cover Humanism and Process Theology. This is a follow-up to Rev. Matt's talk on the subject. The emphasis will be from a Humanist perspective. Readings on the subject will be sent out via e-mail to the group. If you would like to be added to the e-mailing list, please contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com



PLEASE remember to bring your own cups to UU events. Please, bring your own and encourage others to not forget!



Please send announcements for June's services to Donna Burroughs at:

donna.burroughs@gmail.com



The LCUUF Newsletter is produced to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. Deadline for contributions to the June newsletter is June 20th to be sent to: Editor: Kathy Koches at: kkoches@gmail.com