



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Upcoming Services

October 2 – “We’re all a Little Weird and Religion is

Dangerous” *This talk will introduce a series of presentations on the book “A Chosen Religion” by Forrest Church and John Buehrens, which discusses the 6 Sources which inform our UU faith.*

Speaker: Trudy Crippen; Service Leader: Eric Luria

October 9 – “#1 Direct Experience”

Speaker: Ellen McFarland; Service Leader: Lorna Dean

October 16 – “Stewardship”

Speaker: Rev. Daniel O’Connell; Service Leader: Fred Harland

October 23 - “#2 Deeds Not Creeds”

Speaker: Mardele Harland; Service Leader: Sandy Wallin

October 30 – “Celebrating Day of the Dead”

Speaker: Lynn Cleek; Service Leader: Lori Fjelsted

President's Report



I'm very sorry to report that the UUA has decided it is unwilling to consider intern positions that require off-site supervision. Therefore, **our request for an intern minister will not be approved.**

Rev. Daniel O'Connell from the First UU congregation in Houston, who had originally suggested we consider applying for an intern, has **some suggestions of other options we might wish to explore. He will be visiting LCUUF October 15-19th.** (His picture and bio are elsewhere in this Newsletter.) While here, Rev. O'Connell will meet with the Board and congregation to discuss these possible options. **That meeting will take place at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, October 19th at the Fellowship.** Please plan to attend.

Please also plan to attend a **congregational potluck on October 16th at 5 pm at Heidi MacLennan's. There will be a signup sheet for the potluck at the October 9th and 16th Services.**

Rev. O'Connell will discuss **Stewardship** in his sermon on October 16th. This is also the subject of Heidi MacLennan's letter written on behalf of the Board. Please read it carefully and plan to attend one of the small group discussions which are being planned. **Your participation is important to ensuring a vibrant and viable Fellowship and we value your views.**

LCUUF Stewardship

Dear LCUUF Members and Friends,

I am writing to you on behalf of the board of directors of LCUUF. We the board believe that, after over 10 years of active service and building our Fellowship, we have reached the stage where we are ready to offer more to the community. For example, we wish to be able to extend secure funding to the Hungry Children of Mezcala Outreach Program, as opposed to leaving this group guessing as to the amount of money available to feed the very needy children. And as an important extension of this project, under the leadership of Frank Howell, we are now involved in organizing a soccer program for middle school boys and girls. In addition, we are committed to providing needed funding support to the Women's Health program.

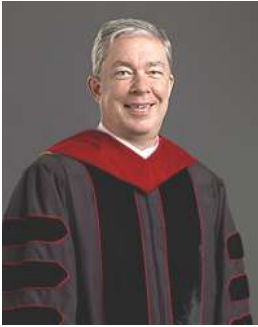
The idea of an Internship program was well received by the Fellowship, and although that option is now off the table, other options may be considered. All of these Outreach programs and any new initiatives require a more stable and predictable budget.

This brings me to the point to which we want to draw your attention, the idea of Stewardship. A Stewardship program would allow us to predetermine our budget, allowing us to better meet our Outreach and organizational goals.

The Board has approved holding several small group meetings on different days and times in late October and early November to begin a conversation on the idea of a Stewardship program. Please watch for the signup sheets and plan to attend one of the meetings.

**Sincerely,
Heidi MacLennan (Board Member)**

Reverend Dr. Daniel O'Connell



With a conviction that the UU faith has something extraordinarily important to offer the world, Rev. O'Connell enjoys working with others to create worship experiences that touch the heart, light up the mind, and call congregation members to service. Having been raised in our faith, he is thoroughly grounded in Unitarian Universalism. He seeks ways to describe, explain and celebrate the diverse spiritual paths among us.

Rev. O'Connell grew up in the suburbs of Washington D. C., attending the then new (1961) denomination of Unitarian Universalism. He was active in Liberal Religious Youth, the UU senior high program of the era, and served in UU Young Adult groups all over the country. He is the son of a physicist (atheist) father, and UU church music director (theist) mother.

Daniel attended Montgomery College and, in 1982, received an Associates of Arts degree in Radio, TV and Film. In 1985, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, majoring in Communications. He worked for several years selling software. Daniel attended seminary in Chicago and received his Doctorate of Ministry degree in 1996. He served as the minister of the UU Society of Northern Fairfield County in West Redding and the Eliot Unitarian Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He is Lead Minister at First Unitarian in Houston



One of the founders of our Fellowship, Barbara Laurer, passed away on September 17th, 2016. She was a private person who found a peaceful life with her pets and her home. Barbara remained a part of us through the Yahoo group and she read every joy and concern. We keep her in our hearts.

Member News



Sue Kelley writes:

"My blood tests this week came in at 2.3. We are aiming for 1.11 and then I can have my hip repair surgery. And maybe get my life back. This has been a nightmare. The anemia almost did me in but that is now gone. Feeling hopeful!"

We are keeping Sue and Kelley in our hearts and also the following members who have had surgeries over the summer: Susan Miller (back); Diane VanBrocklin (knee replacement); Mary Roam (knee replacement); John Roam (hip replacement); Carol Powell (2 knees replacements).and Marion Blackmer, who recently fell and fractured her upper arm.



Birthday Greetings to the following members who have birthdays in October: Bill White (3rd); Bob Koches (7th); Susie Lindeman and Trudy Crippen (9th); Fred Harland (10th); Lynn Cleek (29th)

Photo Gallery



Janice, Francisco and Max Bird talk about "UU Fables". (September 11th)



The San Juan Cosala Children's Choir sing Mexican songs for us. (September 18th)

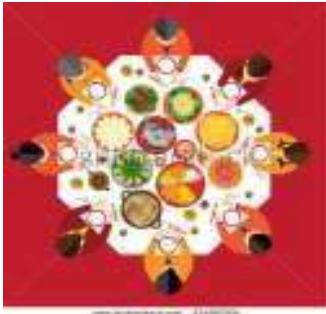
Activities



The **UU Writers' Group** has openings for two more writers. The next meeting is October 20th from 10 am to 12 pm at the home of Karyn Carpenter. Members each bring a piece to read and gentle, constructive critiques are given. If interested, please contact Kathy Koches at 766-2299 or kkoches@gmail.com



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH Once a month, in lieu of coffee hour, we go to lunch together after the service. After the service on Sunday, October 30th we will be going to Mel's for Sunday Brunch. The buffet brunch is a full buffet and includes coffee, tea and juice, not to mention an entire table of fabulous desserts! Please join us.



CIRCLE SUPPERS

Sign-up sheets for the fourth Quarter Circle Suppers (October, November and December) will be on the Welcome Table. Please sign up if you wish to participate. If you are a snowbird who will be returning, please contact Bob or Kathy Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com and indicate when you will be here and that you would like to sign up. The assignments will be made and posted in mid-October. This is a great way to get to know other members in a small group atmosphere.



CHOIR

NEWS

The LCUUF Choir will rehearse the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 am at the Fellowship. Please contact Choir Director, Bob Koches if you are interested in joining the choir at 766-2299 or bobkoches@gmail.com

LCUUF WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

The LCUUF Women's Movie Group will meet on October 21st at 2pm at the Fellowship. The movie title will be announced at Fellowship and in the updates. Bring your own beverage and snack



ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC & HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will meet October 24th at 3pm at the Fellowship. We will be discussing the question "What do you believe is true, even though you cannot prove it." Great minds can sometimes guess the truth before they have either the evidence or arguments for it. Diderot called it having the "esprit de divination". For information contact Bob Koches.

This Newsletter is produced monthly to provide LCUUF news to members and friends. The deadline for the November edition is October 20th. Editor: Mardele Harland mardeleharlandmx@gmail.com