



LAKE CHAPALA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

SEPTEMBER, 2017 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Services

Sept. 3 - Water Communion: “Poured in Together” Rev. Matt Alspaugh

As members of a community, we are poured in together, like water, offering our gifts and imperfections, all mixed together, sometimes turbulent, sometime tranquil. As with many other UU churches, we will hold a ritual of Water Communion, a merging of the waters. ***We invite you to bring a small amount of water from home or your travels for the ritual.***
In addition to the regular offering there will be a special collection for Hurricane Harvey relief.

Sept. 10 - “Hospitality is a Leap of Faith” Video Sermon by Rev. Daniel O’Connell Service Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

It can feel a bit scary reaching out to strangers, but doing so can make you a better person. We’ll hear a couple of low stress ways to do that, and explore our connection to hospitality.

Sept. 17 - “A Community of Compassion” Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Beyond being a caring community, or a concerned community, perhaps we should be striving to create a community of compassion. Compassion speaks of the deeper, heartfelt yearning for connection with others who suffer just as we do. What would the community of compassion look like? How might we have more compassion for those around us?

Sept. 24 – “Starting Over and Over and Over” Eric and Catherine Luria

This service presents a humanist Jewish perspective on self renewal in the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Message from Rev. Matt



Liz and I are finally here! We arrived in Lake Chapala on August 18, and moved into the house we rented in Riberas. Our first days have been focused on the numerous little things of getting a household set up, from finding the keys to the bodega that holds the washer and dryer to getting the internet to work reliably. Many of you have been helpful with advice — we now know where to get the best raspberries, for example, and this makes me very happy.

Where will I fit into the life of the congregation? What is the role of the minister here? Initially, I see my role as listening and learning. I want to get to know you as individuals, understand your culture as a fellowship, and learn a bit about your history. Only then will I be able to offer useful advice and provide meaningful ministry.

Consequently, I look forward to the “Meet and Greet” gatherings which we will be holding approximately weekly starting in September. Each of these gatherings of eight people will give us a chance to get to know one another better. We hope these will be the start of deeper conversations about ourselves, our lives, our faith, our yearnings. I also welcome other one-on-one conversations, perhaps over coffee (coffee is always good!) - just email me (matt@malspaugh.org).

I will be leading the service on two Sundays in September, and will play minor roles in other services. The Sunday Service Committee and I are not planning any big changes at this time, but we will experiment with things. For example, our first September service will include the ritual of the Water Service, or Water Communion, which many UU congregations celebrate at this time of year. For this ritual, you are encouraged to bring a bit of water from home or from your travels.

Speaking of experiments, we are participating in a big experiment, in which LCUUF is working with First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston (FUUH) to make my ministry in Lake Chapala possible. I am part of a ministry team consisting of five ministers, a religious

educator and a music director. This means I will have access to ideas and resources far beyond what I would have as a part-time solo minister. We hope that this will amplify what I can offer to LCUUF. Liz and I spent a week in Houston before driving to Lake Chapala, I met with the team and other FUUH staff, and I am excited about the possibilities that this partnership may bring us.

I am so grateful for the welcome you have extended to us, both during our visit in May, and now, as we settle into a new life here. Your help, advice and wisdom mean so much to us, and have helped make our transition smoother and more pleasant than we expected. See you at the Fellowship!

President's Report



On behalf of LCUUF, I extend a warm welcome to Rev. Matt Alspaugh, our first Minister, and his wife Liz. We are delighted you are here! Our congregation's decision last December to introduce pledging made this possible. We thank all those who made generous pledges and have followed through on their financial commitments.

The work of the Board has continued over the summer and I am pleased to report that following a thoughtful congregational discussion on July 16th we now have a policy on dogs attending Sunday Services.

LCUUF Policy on Dogs at Sunday Services:
Dogs are welcome at Services, if the following guidelines are followed in the interests of preventing tripping and other safety concerns:

- 1) Dogs must be on short leashes or in containers and must be controlled at all times.**
- 2) Except in transit, dogs are not permitted in the front visiting area either before or after services.**

Committee Reports



From the Hospitality Committee

Four “Meet and Greet” small group gatherings with Rev. Matt and his wife Liz have been scheduled in September at members’ homes. These are now fully subscribed, but more will be scheduled in October. Please sign up to attend.

“Lunch Out” following the Sept. 24th Service will be at Las Delicias Restaurant in Chapala. Watch for the sign up sheet or contact Lorna Dean(lmdean695@gmail.com) *(Submitted by Karyn Carpenter, Chair)*

From the Membership Committee

The **New Members’ Orientation and Ceremony** is delayed until the end of October due to travel. If you are interested in becoming an LCUUF member, please speak to a member of the committee.

A **new name tag bar** is being constructed by Wes Weston. Gary Gleek will add the lettering. There will be more pegs/hangers for those letters with many names tags, making it easier to retrieve and return your name tag. It should be ready for use by mid-September.

A BIG thank you to all **Assistant Greeter volunteers**. You perform a valuable service which is very much appreciated. Please consider signing up to be an Assistant Greeter in September and October. *(Submitted by Marty Weston, Chair)*

From the Sunday Service Committee

Our thanks to Teresa Sande for serving as Sunday Service Coordinator for July, Aug. and Sept. Lew Crippen will be the lay Coordinator for Oct. Nov. and Dec.

Rev. Matt will be involved in planning and participating in all services and will normally speak at the first and third services of the month.

We will be experimenting with different formats during the fall. The Committee members and Rev. Matt welcome your comments and suggestions. *(Submitted by Mardele Harland, Chair)*

Fellowship Recycling

(Submitted by Jan Manning)



LCUUF will now take newspaper, magazines and almost any other paper and transport it to the recycling depot in Chapala. We hope to expand the program soon, but let’s make a BIG start with paper.

Here are some facts to encourage you to take part: Recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and combustion facilities. It conserves natural resources: timber, water and minerals. It prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials. It saves energy, and it reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. If we don’t change our ways in a BIG way, we will soon have nothing left of our planet to leave to our children and grandchildren.

One ton of (2000 pounds) of recycled paper saves 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy and 7000 gallons of water. To save one tree we only need collect 117 pounds of paper. That is definitely doable.

Bring newspapers, magazines, light cardboard and all other paper to the Fellowship and we will take it to the recycling depot in Chapala or give you directions so you can take it yourself. We will add more collectibles as it becomes possible. Please help UU do its part to make up that ton! For more information contact Jan: *(mydruthers01@yahoo.com)*

Member News and Activities

Marion Blackmer writes that she is sponsoring the first play of the Lakeside Little Theater season in memory of her late husband, John. John loved building sets and is warmly remembered. “Ripcord” runs from the 29th of Sept. to October 8th. Check the link for more information.

<http://www.lakesidelittletheatre.com/mainstage-shows/season-53-2017-2018/ripcord>



Happy Birthday Greetings to those members who have birthdays in September:

- Heidi MacLennan – (17th)**
- Maynard Merits – (20th)**
- Lori Fjelsted – (26th)**
- Nancy Jordan- Zanot (30th)**



Choir News

The LCUUF Choir will resume rehearsals on the 1st of September at 4:30 at the Fellowship. Our new rehearsal time is 4:30 to 5:30 on the first and third Fridays of the month. We need singers! Please contact Choir Director Bob Koches to let him know if you are returning to the choir or would like to become a new member. bobkoches@gmail.com or 766-2299.

Mindfulness Meditation Group



Join us weekly on Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. for Mindfulness meditation instruction and practice at Richard and Carol's house, San Luis #73 Riberas. Using the Buddha's own guide, written 2500 years ago, we have covered mindful breathing and movement. Up next is being mindful of feelings and emotions. For information and directions contact Richard Clarke (Richard@infinitepie.com) 765-6976.



The LCUUF Women's Movie

Group will meet on Sept. 21st at 2 p.m. The movie title will be announced and location given by Kathy Koches. Watch for updates

Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group



The Atheist, Agnostic & Humanist Discussion Group will meet Sept. 25th at 3 p.m at the Fellowship. We will be discussing the question "Does the populous revolt now sweeping across the developed world mean that globalization will be reversed?" One sentence of Teresa May's caught the force behind the revolt with butal clarity. "If you believe you are a citizen of the world, you are a citizen of nowhere." For more information contact Bob Koches: 766-2299 or (bobkoches@gmail.com)

English Country Dancing will resume at the Fellowship on Sept. 15th at 3 p.m. For more information contact Eric and Catherine Luria at luriaec@aol.com or cluriaarnp@gmail.com

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

If you would like to donate to Hurricane Harvey relief online, you might consider the First UU Church of Houston, which we partner with for UU ministry. Here's how:

- Go to <http://firstuu.org/firstchurchpay.php> and click the blue DONATE button.
- Then choose "Hurricane Harvey Relief" and scroll to the bottom of the form, and on the drop down menu for "Donation Frequency" select "One Time"
- Then select the "Continue" button at the bottom of the page.
- On the next page, you'll see the Donation Information section for your name, address, and payment options, including credit/debit, checking account.

This newsletter provides LCUUF news to members and friends. The deadline for contributions to the October Newsletter is September 20th.

Editor: Mardele Harland
(mardeleharlandmx@gmail.com)