



## UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

### MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA

*At The Heart of It*

*December 2018*

November was a very full month for us here at UUCOD, and we are full of thanks. We celebrated at the Auction. It was full of fun, fellowship and a better than ever financial return, the result of bounteous gracious giving. Thank you to all who gave so much time, talent and treasure to sustain of our spiritual home.

We entered into our 60<sup>th</sup> year of UUCOD giving thanks and we recognized one who has been steadfast in sustaining and recreating the bonds that keep this community alive. Thank you, Marion Ellson.

In the midst of this joy and success, we grieved for terrible mass shootings and devastating fires.

As I write, Jon and I are enjoying a Thanksgiving holiday with two of our three children and their new wives. It is a delight! I hope that however you celebrated this holiday, it was nourishing for body, mind and spirit.

Now comes the season of long dark nights and putting up lights, holding at the heart of it, the possibility of renewal, just as the earth begins to tilt back into the light, after it holds briefly still, on the Solstice. We will have a simple Solstice Service at our blessed Peace Labyrinth on Dec 21 at 4 pm. Bring a flashlight and a jacket.

This season we are invited to live so much, and give and receive as we are able. The season invites us into possibility of the impossible: be it the miracle of Hanukkah lights that did not go out, or the birth of a new life. We will celebrate Christmas Eve at 5 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. I love Christmas Eve worship!

Many thanks to Geoff for his service, as he bids us goodbye and a warm welcome to Dorys Forray as she begins to serve with me here at UUCOD. She will give you a warm welcome when you come in and I hope you will do the same for her.

At the heart of this month I hope you will find some solace and renewal of hope in the songs, smells and bells of this season of night and light.

***Blessings all around, no exceptions,  
Rev Barbara***

*PS I am calling my column "At the heart of it" because of a person, Joy Veaudry and her poem, A Clear Path Home .*

*At the heart of it  
I would give you this whole cloth...  
and a clear path home.*

## SERVICES

December 2, 2018

**"Not What I Expected"**

Worship Leader: Rev Barbara Fast  
Worship Associate: Josette Pacino

In lieu of a sermon, I give you my brief drama of an ordinary woman who encounters Jesus. It is my experience of a core Christian value and I was proud to present it at a UUA General Assembly closing service. UU's of all convictions seem to find meaning in it. I hope you can too.

December 9, 2018

**Be the kindness you want to see in the world!**

Worship Leader: Dr. Arlette Poland, JD, MA-Religion, MA-Ethical Leadership, Ph.D

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

December 16, 2018

**Christmas Past and How the Unitarians Made Christmas Present**

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Denise Janssen Eager

We will lovingly deconstruct Christmas and then put it back together again, better than ever!

**Friday, December 21, 2018 Solstice at the Labyrinth 4 PM**

December 23, 2018

**Favorite Holiday Songs**

Worship Leader: Josette Pacino

Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

Come sing your favorite holiday songs with the congregation.

Monday, December 24, 2018

**Candlelight Christmas Eve service 5PM**

## CALENDAR

**Saturday, December 1**

1 pm-Drop in Scrabble

**Sunday, December 2**

10 am-Worship Service  
10 am-Food on the First  
11:30-CRE Committee

**Monday, December 3**

5:30-Meditation  
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal

**Tuesday, December 4**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers  
4 pm-SUBUD  
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 5**

6:30 UUCOD Choir

**Thursday, December 6**

5 pm-DOS Choir  
5:15 pm-Women's Night Out  
7 pm-Bridge  
7 pm S2S Rehearsal

**Friday, December 7**

8 am Men's Breakfast  
7:30 pm-S2S Performance

**Saturday, December 8**

TBA-2nd Saturday Stroll  
7:30-S2S Rehearsal

**Sunday, December 9**

10 am-Worship Service

**Saturday December 15**

9 am-Developmental Minister Workshop with Board

12 pm Lunch with Rev. Barbara, Board and Congregation

12:30 Developmental Minister Workshop with Congregation

**Sunday, December 16**

10 am-Worship Service

**Monday, December 17**

5:30-Meditation

**Tuesday, December 18**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers  
4 pm-SUBUD  
6:30-Board of Directors' Meeting

**Wednesday, December 19**

6:30 UUCOD Choir

**Thursday, December 20**

5 pm-DOS Choir  
6 pm-Worship Committee  
7 pm-Bridge

**Friday, December 21**

Sundown-Solstice at the Labyrinth

**Sunday, December 23**

10 am-Worship Service

**Monday, December 24**

5 pm-Christmas Eve Service

10 am-Socks on the Second  
11:30-Facilities Committee

**Monday, December 10**

5:30-Meditation  
7 pm-Evening Book Group

**Tuesday December 11**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers  
4 pm-SUBUD  
5:30 pm-Membership

Wednesday, December 12

6:30 UUCOD Choir

**Thursday, December 13**

5 pm-DOS Choir  
6:30-Social Justice Committee  
7 pm-Bridge

**Tuesday December 25**

2 pm-Christmas Potluck at Sheryl Eaton's

**Wednesday, December 26**

6:30 UUCOD Choir

**Thursday, December 27**

5 pm-DOS Choir  
7 pm-Bridge

**Friday December 28**

1:30pm-Afternoon Book Group

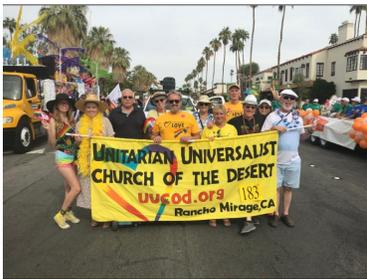
**Sunday, December 30**

10 am-Worship

**Monday, December 31**

5:30-Meditation

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



### UUCOD marchers at Palm Springs Pride

A dozen UUCOD members and friends marched with our banner in the Pride Parade earlier in November. Here's the photo. Make plans to march with our banner next November!

### December 2: Support Migrant Worker Families in 3 ways:

Food on the First will be Dec. 2. If you will be away, leave items in the Oasis bin in the UUCOD lobby before Dec. 2. Without access to

meals at school, families will need extra food during the holiday recess weeks. Your donations of sealed packages of non-perishable staples improve nutrition and free up household funds to buy fresh items at the market. Items from these categories are especially needed: 1) dry goods: corn (masa) flour (like Maseca brand) to make tamales for the holiday season, bagged rice or dried pinto beans, small pasta or dry spaghetti; 2) cooking oil: vegetable, canola, or corn oil; 3) canned proteins: chicken, tuna or jars of peanut butter; 4) canned fruits and vegetables: all fruits, vegetables, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pasta sauce. New

Unwrapped Toys or Cash Donation—UUCOD collects new, unwrapped toys for children ages 3-14. The Migrant Education program will have a holiday meeting and party where children can select a toy. Often this is the only new toy they will receive this season. We will collect toys or donations to purchase toys or extra food for the party after church through Sunday December 9.

Volunteer to Serve Dinner—You can volunteer to serve dinner to the Migrant families at the Migrant Education program holiday party on Friday December 14. Time commitment is from 5 pm to approximately 9:30 pm. Have questions? Contact Barbara Storms [bastorms@gmail.com](mailto:bastorms@gmail.com) or Ken Mills [jksmills@windstream.net](mailto:jksmills@windstream.net)

**Dec. 9 Socks on the Second for homeless persons:** Bring on Dec. 9 or leave ahead of time in the Well in the Desert brown bin in the UUCOD lobby, to be joined up with the other socks. Please bring new socks, darker colors very welcome. The Well in the Desert in Palm Springs gives them out to local people who are without homes and often sleep outside or in other places. The socks you give will cushion footsteps during long treks on foot, provide a sense of comfort and dignity, and keep feet warm and dry at night. Reminder: we have limited space to store and to transport all these socks, so we ask socks only. If you have any other items to donate, please contact the Well in the Desert or another local charity and transport those items yourself. Thanks!

**December 16 Share-the-Plate for Coachella's "Hidden Harvest:"** Hidden Harvest's mission is twofold.

- 1) To provide work, paying farm workers \$12.50/hr. to reenter and re-pick fields before they are plowed under. (Workers can take food for their own family)
- 2) To glean from the picked fields the produce that was left behind as not saleable, and provide the rescued fresh, locally-grown food from both fields and packing houses to feed poor and hungry in the Coachella Valley.

Additionally, Hidden Harvest serves and educates our community through various programs. Volunteers pack produce, give out foods at various senior citizen/school sites and work the program jobs. Thus, every dollar donated to Hidden Harvest by the general public or through foundation grants goes directly toward their services.

Please bring your checkbooks December 16 and be prepared to give generously for Hidden Harvest. November share-the-plate raised \$434.00 for SafeHouse of the Desert programs. Thank you all so much!

**Holiday gift drive for SafeHouse residents In the holiday spirit?** Our annual holiday gift drive for SafeHouse of the Desert will run until December 9. Give a gift! UUCOD has a long tradition of reaching out and giving generously to make Christmas a little brighter for SafeHouse and Harrison House residents (see the program description under "November Share-the-Plate" elsewhere in this newsletter). Each participant in their residential programs provides a short list of special items they would love, including gift cards. How to help? On Sundays during the gift drive, stop by our table on the patio. There you can purchase a gift from the list or order a gift card from the Scrip program to brighten the holidays for SafeHouse/Harrison House residents. Questions? Contact Fran Hoag (fhoag2002@hotmail.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Tolerance Education Center SUNDAY Dec. 2, Hanukkah**

Last spring the religious education students chose some activities for everyone. The baseball game and hiking were suggestions. Our next event will be a trip to the Tolerance Education Center (4 long blocks from our church) for a program for Hanukkah on **Sunday, December 2nd**. There will be activities through the day. It will be a chance to taste latkes. The COD Religious Classes invites you join us after church (about 11:30 am) to visit the Tolerance Education Center to celebrate Hanukkah activities. **Everyone is welcome.**

**Holiday Season Support for UUCOD Members** As was announced in last week's newsletter, Carol Lavoie and Nancy Boyce are organizing a yard sale that will benefit the UUCOD. (Thank you, Carol and Nancy!) Specifically, the funds generated from their efforts will be used to support members who could use a modest amount of financial support during this holiday season. Please email Reverend Barbara (uurevbarbara@gmail.com) if this additional support would be helpful to you or if you are aware of any UUCOD congregants who could use some help.

**Christmas Cheerleaders** A committee has been formed to help bring a little Christmas cheer to members of our congregation that might benefit. Composed of Rev Barbara, who will accept names from the congregation, and aided by Carole Lavoie and Nancy Boyce, gifts will be chosen and delivered to our own members this holiday. This effort is being made possible from monies earned by the garage sales conducted by Carole Lavoie and Nancy Boyce. Questions contact Rev Barbara, Carole Lavoie or Nancy Boyce.

**Christmas Day Potluck at Sheryl Eaton's:** Sheryl Eaton is hosting a UUCOD & friends Holiday dinner December 25 @ 45389 Club Dr Indian wells. 2 pm gathering & fellowship, dinner at 3 pm. Sheryl will provide the ham. Please sign up on lobby table or by emailing Sheryl at MuffinGolf@gmail.com and indicate what dish you will be adding to the festivities.

**s2s2s Presents:** The World Premiere performance of Polly's Amorous Adventure, a comedy that asks: Can you love more than one person at a time? **Friday, December 7 & Saturday, December 8 at 7:30pm.** There will be a wine and chocolate reception to meet and talk with playwright, Denis J. LaComb after each performance. Tickets: \$10 at the door or online at [Script2Stage2Screen.com](http://Script2Stage2Screen.com). [www.script2stage2screen.com](http://www.script2stage2screen.com).

**Afternoon Book Club:** The afternoon book group will meet December 28 at 1:30 at Linda Davis-Brede's home. The book is "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng.

**When it's Chilly outside it's time to put Chili inside!** It's never too early to start thinking about our 3rd annual **Chili and Cornbread Cook offs on Sunday, January 13, 2019 after church.** Do you make a delicious chili? Do your friends ask you to bring your chili to potlucks? Are you wanting to try a new chili recipe? This is your chance. Will your recipe be able to unseat the reigning vegan chili grand prize winner from last year? If you're not the chili maker, maybe you make a wonderful cornbread. This year we'll have a contest for the favorite cornbread, too. More information and entry forms available mid-December. Questions? Ask Denise Janssen-Eager or Barbara Storms

**Pageant of the Masters - Laguna Beach Trip - Summer 2019** If you are interested in seeing the Pageant of the Masters on a Saturday evening next summer please sign up (church entry table on Sunday) and/or let Frank Riela know (frank.riela@yahoo.it). Tickets go on sale December 1st and sell out quickly. We will go on the Saturday date the majority chooses: (7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17 or 8/24) Our general plan will be to carpool from the Coachella Valley on the chosen Saturday morning

and check into our hotel in Laguna Beach (hotel to be determined). Optional group dinner before the show on Saturday early evening. Optional group brunch on Sunday morning, then mid-day carpool back to the desert. The estimated cost will be about \$300 to \$400 per person for hotel, 1 ticket and meals - obviously if you are sharing a hotel room it will be less. My list will close on Sunday 11/25 after church and during the subsequent week I will reach out to determine the best date and let everyone know which Saturday. I will order tickets on 12/1 for all those who commit, and expect reimbursement as soon as possible, preferably the next day at church because tickets are will be \$100-\$125 each. So far 15 have signed up already! -- Frank Riela

## FRIENDS AMONG US



### Welcome our Newest Members!!

These are some of their Bios. Enjoy meeting them and getting to know them. Additional new members/bios will be featured in our January Friends Among Us.

**Willis Caughlan** is a semi-retired 'creative' from the SF Bay Area. He says he grew up in a multi-generational 'transcendentalist' family, exploring many spiritual and cultural traditions. He is delighted to celebrate it all with UUCOD and grow our ideals and virtues together.

**Judith Riddell** says she is from Allen Park, Michigan. She attended Santa Monica City College, San Bernardino College of Nursing, and UNLV where she obtained a BA in Social Work. She also received a teaching credential from Lewis & Clark University in Oregon and a Master of Science in Special ED from Central Washington. She has one granddaughter who is 14 yrs.

**Sandra Lucia Chavarria** was born in Guatemala where she lived until age 18. She lived in Los Angeles from 1984 to 1997 when she moved to the desert. She has attended California State University San Bernardino; Universidad de Granada, Spain, and recently Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. She has 3 adult children (Sandy, Sal, and Sam). She says no grandchildren, yet. She is an elementary teacher at Coachella Valley Unified School District. She also works for the Migrant Program after school. She describes herself as a Unitarian Universalist by nature.

**Susan J. Deveaux** was born in Dubuque, Iowa. She has lived in Minnesota as well as, most recently, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. She has 2 sons, and 8 grandchildren. Her hobbies include exercise, politics, UU-ism/community. She is learning about California and especially the history of the desert. She has experienced several UU Communities.

**Ben White** has for several years pursued a "Nonviolent Communications" approach to conflict resolution, personal growth and social change. He is a retired corporate lawyer and law leadership consultant. Recently he led grant projects focused on carbon sequestration in agricultural soils to help address global warming and ecologically-focused youth job skills programs. Major interests include dialogue; group process facilitation; organizational leadership, dynamics and effectiveness; social construction theory and positive aging; and building social support for healthy lifestyles and managing illness. Ben grew up, attended schools, and worked out east where his three grown children live.

## CHANGES

**NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** UUCOD's new office administrator is dorys forray (she prefers to not capitalize her name). dorys has been a long time resident of the Coachella Valley where she has been very active in politics and as a volunteer at Eisenhower Medical Center. For many years she was in the promotional items business for the entertainment industry in Los Angeles and in banking where she trained bank employees in effective office management. Her office hours at the church will be Tuesdays from 11 am to 3 pm along with Thursdays and Fridays from 11 am to 4 pm.

**NEWSLETTER AND WEEKLY REMINDER GUIDELINES:** In order to use our church's Human Resources more effectively, we will be moving to one monthly newsletter and short, weekly reminder emails. The deadline for both will still be Wednesdays. New announcements for the weekly reminder emails should be short, preferably 100 words or less, and should be repeated no more than three consecutive weeks.

**Newsletter Deadlines:** The deadline for the Newsletter is always Wednesday morning. If you are going to be late, call or email the Administrator at [admin@uucod.org](mailto:admin@uucod.org) asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3 pm, Fridays.

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