



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM UUA PRESIDENT



Hold on to Hope: A Holiday Message from UUA President

How are you doing this holiday season?

How is your spirit?

It's all right—you can be honest.

Are you feeling exhausted? Worn down or overwhelmed by the tragedies across our country and world? Frustrated by stories of corruption and greed on the daily news? Are you holding heartbreak, anger, even fear? It's okay not to feel cheerful. This has been an especially difficult year for so many. One of the things that gives me hope and strength when fear and despair move into my heart is all of you and this faith that we share. The practice of religious community calls me back to my humanity, to a practice of compassion, and to the power and importance of the values of love and justice, equity and interdependence.

It is in religious community that I find a place to bring my heartbreak, and to bring my fear— and in that collective sharing my strength and my spirit are renewed. I find hope in the witness that Unitarian Universalists and so many other leaders are providing, showing up for human worth and dignity, showing up in resistance to protect the precious resources of the earth, showing up in partnership for the long haul work of justice.

And I find courage in the knowledge that we are in this together. There is comfort in being part of a diverse religious community like Unitarian Universalism. For although our beliefs and rituals of this season vary, we are united by traditions rooted in collective resistance. This time of year, we can think about how those traditions call us to seek justice now and to do that work of justice together.

When you're feeling down, remember that you're not alone. You are part of a global community that cares about you and your well-being. You are held by a Love greater than any one of us.

So lean into this love and this hope. Lean in to the hope of who we are together.

Our hope will carry us as we seek justice in the new year.

Our hope will sustain us as we continue to seek accountability from our leaders, communities and ourselves.

Now is not a time for a casual faith, but for a deep and hopeful one.

Mindful that there are so many beautiful traditions of this season and in the turning of the year. May you find moments of joy and gratitude, moments of peace and beauty, and the courage and strength that comes from faith and community to carry you in to the new year.

Many blessings and much love to you, to your families and to your communities.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

December 30, 2018
The Work of Christmas

Keep alive the dream. For as long as we have a dream in our heart, we cannot lose the significance of living". The holidays are over and a new year beckons. How shall we face it as Unitarian Universalists? Perhaps the life and words of theologian and civil rights leader Howard Thurman can help us find our way.

Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder
Worship Associate: Bryna Blum



January 6, 2019
As Close As Breathing

As Unitarian Universalists we have no central narrative, no creed to call our own. Given this, how can the work of understanding our place in the family of things around us, and grant us direction? What is a theology of belonging, and how might we develop our own, so that we may live from that center?

Worship Leader: Rev. Carolyn Prince
Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

January 13, 2019
Annual Pledge Drive Kick-Off

This service is the beginning of our 2019 Annual Pledge Campaign. We ask you to join us to keep focused on our vision to make UUCOD a stronger, more compassionate, beloved community--a beacon of light and social justice in our Coachella Valley.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

January 20, 2019
To Be Announced

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Worship Associate: Betty Bender

January 27, 2019
Multiple Species Plan-Biodiversity

Worship Leader: Dr. Cameron Barrows
Worship Associate: Rod Belshee

PLEDGE DRIVE KICK OFF

UUCOD Annual Pledge Drive

As we begin our 2019-20 Annual Pledge drive, we ask you to join us in **Energizing our Community** to do the work of peace, hope and justice as we live out our 7 principles through action and generosity. As part of the year's pledge drive, we would like to not only support the Board's goal of *ensuring UUCOD's sustainable financial stability* through your financial support, but also introduce you to another key strategic objective: *a new concept of stewardship*. Our redefined concept of stewardship encourages that each of us assume ownership and responsibility of our community and calls for more people to become more engaged in church activities and work. We believe that actions that support UUCOD will nourish your soul by making our sacred community a better place. *Stewardship is a combination of strengthening relationships, deepening quality of belonging, increasing connection to others, building community and developing resources.*



3rd Annual Chili Cook-off (and Cornbread Bake-off)

As we've done in the last 3 years, we are beginning our 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Drive with a fun, social event! Show off your great



cooking skills and enter the 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off. If baking is really your thing, then enter the Cornbread Bake-off.

Sign-up lists for Chili/Bake offs are on the round table in the foyer. Sign up today!



Past Chili Cook-Off Winners

- 2017 Grand Champion Chili Master Pamela Ralston Cummings is surrounded by this year's winners:
- 2018 Tami Carmer has bragging rights as the Grand Champion Chili Master with her chili, "Tami's Spicy Peaceful Chili".
- Jack Fitzsimmons won the Favorite Vegan Chili award for his "Dilly of a Chili".
- Barbara Storms takes home the Favorite Meat Chili award for her "Gobble Down Chili".
- Bruce Elwood dominated in two categories: Spiciest Chili & Best Chili Name & Booth for his "Road Kill Chili".

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 30
10 am-Worship

Monday, December 31
5:30-Meditation

Tuesday, January 1
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4 pm-SUBUD

Wednesday, January 2
6:30 UUCOD Choir

Thursday, January 3
5 pm-DOS Choir
5:15 pm-Women's Night Out
7 pm-Bridge

Friday, January 4
8 am Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 5
1 pm Drop in Scrabble

Sunday, January 6
10 am-Worship Service
10 am-Food on the First
11:30-Facilities Committee

Monday, January 7
5:30-Meditation
7 pm-Evening Book Group

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

Wednesday, January 9

Wednesday, January 16
6:30 UUCOD Choir

Thursday, January 17
5 pm-DOS Choir
6 pm-Worship Committee
7 pm-Bridge
7 pm S2S Rehearsal

Saturday, January 19
TBA-Saturday Morning Stroll
1 pm-Drop-in Scrabble

Sunday, January 20
10 am-Worship

Monday, January 21
5:30-Meditation
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday January 22
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4 pm-SUBUD
7 pm S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 23
6:30 UUCOD Choir

Thursday, January 24
5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Bridge

Friday January 25
1:30pm-Afternoon Book Group

Sunday, January 27
10 am-Worship

Monday, January 28

6:30 UUCOD Choir

Thursday, January 10

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

Saturday January 12

4 pm-Enchilada Dinner Prep
5 pm-Service Auction Enchilada Dinner for 24
Advanced Purchase Necessary

Sunday, January 13

10 am-Worship Service
10 am- Socks on the Second
10 am-Annual Pledge Drive Kick-off
11:30-Chili Cook-off and Corn Bread Bake-off

Monday, January 14

5:30-Meditation
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Evening Book Club

Tuesday, January 15

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4 pm-SUBUD
6:30-Board of Directors' Meeting
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal

5:30-Meditation
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 29

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

Wednesday January 30

6:30 UUCOD Choir

Thursday January 31

5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Bridge

Friday, February 1

8 am Men's Breakfast
7 pm-S2S Performance

Saturday, February 2

1 pm-Drop-in Scrabble
7 pm-S2S Performance

Sunday, February 2

10 am-Worship
10 am-Food on the First

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Food on the First Jan. 6 restocks Oasis Pantry; Oasis School students will soon return from winter break. These are eastern Coachella Valley families working in agriculture, but whose incomes may not stretch to cover enough protein, fruits and vegetables. Buy them items during holiday season sales for savings. Sealed packages of non-perishable staples improve nutrition and free up household funds to buy fresh foods. Check packages to be sure they are not out of date. Most needed: 1) dry goods: corn masa flour (Maseca, Torti-Masa, etc.) for tortillas, 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.



Jan. 13 Socks on the Second for homeless persons: Bring on Jan. 13 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!

January 20-Share-the-Plate with Planned Parenthood-January 20 we will share the plate with the Planned Parenthood branch for our region. Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest's mission is to ensure broad public access to sexual and reproductive health care through direct service, education and advocacy, envisioning a world where sexual and reproductive rights are basic human rights, where access to health care doesn't depend on who you are or where you live, and where every person has the opportunity to choose their own path to a healthy and meaningful life. Planned Parenthood operates 19 health centers in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties, which served over 130,000 patients in 2017. Their health centers in Coachella and Rancho Mirage serve over 15,000 local patients. Please bring your checkbooks and be prepared to share your generosity.

Patient testimonial:

"I am thankful that Planned Parenthood provided me with reproductive education and health care when I was younger. Here in Coachella Valley, we have a shortage of health care providers. Now I am standing up for Planned Parenthood to make sure that the people in my community continue to get the care that was so valuable to me."
Neftali, Coachella

EVENTS

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

STILL NEEDED- Donations of items for the garage sale. Funds raised will be used exclusively for fellow UUCODers in need of assistance. Please contact Carol Lavoie at mclavoie@aol.com or nancy boyce. at byorktown2@gmail.com.

Note Date Changes: Second Saturday Stroll will take place on January 19

Women's Night Out will be on January 3: At Acqua California Bistro at The River at 5:30.

Help Needed: Men's Breakfast Club seeking a new coordinator. The coordinator sends out the monthly notices to participants for the Breakfast Club If you are interested, please call Timothy Hill at timothy.hill.713@gmail.com or 717- 224- 573. *Men's Breakfast will be January 4.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Year's Resolution: Start buying scrip through the church--it's easy to use and raises money for UUCOD. But how do I do that? Ask Sheryl Eaton, Bryna Blum or Barbara Storms and they'll get you started. Scrip orders are due the last Sunday of each month.

Facilities working on heating settings: At last, the HVAC units (heating and cooling) are functioning well and can now control the heating and cooling effectively. Thank you for your patience through periods both too cold and too warm.

We are now working to establish good working temperatures. US EPA and Dept. of Energy guidelines suggest heating to just 68F (and cooling to 78F) when the building is occupied. That may be too cool for our congregants so we will be asking for feedback and looking to find an agreeable setting. In the spirit of Green Sanctuary, however, we would like to try the guideline during cooler winter temperatures and encourage congregants to dress accordingly in layers with a sweater, jacket or shawl and see how it goes. Let us know at facilities@uucod.org.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2019

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2019 is for you! Four Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Our program is truly the best way to visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave

Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly Registration Goes Live January 1

The keynote speaker for the 2019 PSW District Assembly has been announced and he has a few simple questions for every member of every UU community:

1. Are you engaging your congregants on the deepest and most meaningful levels possible?
2. Are you impacting their lives through your worship services to the point that they want to go out into the highways and byways to spread compassion, grace and radical hospitality?
3. Are you ready to "upcycle" your community's worship?

If so, then you need to attend the 2019 **Pacific Southwest District Assembly** April 26-28, 2019, at the UU Church of Long Beach, California.

Donald Milton III, director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, will lead the keynote presentation entitled "Upcycling Church Music for Deeper Engagement." Together we will explore new ways of approaching hymns, music, readings, rituals and sermons to make them more meaningful, impactful and fully engaging.

Donald Milton III is the director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, the

largest UU congregation in the Southeast. Milton runs one of the most eclectic and exceptional music programs in the UU movement. He wrote a chapter on upcycling church music for the recently released book, "Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities."

Registration for the 2019 PSW District Assembly will be available Jan. 1.

The district assembly's theme will be "From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities."

Along with Milton's keynote presentation, there will be opportunities for worship, workshops, a youth con, social justice field trip and plenty of chances to connect with UUs from throughout Southern California, Arizona and Southern Nevada. Plan to be there: April 26-28 in Long Beach!

FRIENDS AMONG US



Happy News:

- Roger and Margaret Beaman's granddaughter is recovering nicely from her spinal surgery.
- Christmas Day was brighter for over 40 folks thanks to Sheryl Eaton who opened her beautiful home and hosted Christmas dinner. We all enjoyed each other's company, stories, food! and hugs. Thanks to Sheryl for her precious gift to each of us.

Condolences:

We offer sincere condolences to Dorian McWain, our Choir Director, in the death of his mother. Cards can be sent to Dorian at his address listed in the directory. In lieu of flowers, Dorian's family request donations to the UUCOD Music Program. His mother was extremely proud of Dorian's musical contributions to our community.

Meet a New Member:

Seek out our new members and get to know them!! We welcome another new member, [Ray Deveaux](#). Here is his bio: I grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts. High School was in Waltham; I went to College at Brandeis University. I have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. My interests include reading, current affairs, exercise, travel, community, and UUCOD.

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 asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3 pm, Fridays.

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