

March 1, 2019



## UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

AT THE HEART OF IT MARCH 2019

*"A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;"*  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Principle that we as a UU Congregation covenant to  
"affirm and promote".

All our life is a spiritual practice. We are here, at UUCOD and the world, for nothing less than to live life to the full of our possibility, into a wholeness of spirit, to give of our best selves, as we are able, to cultivate and encourage the spirit of love within us and to share in the spirit of justice alive in this world. Everything is connected.

That is why we are talking so much about shared ministry. Ministry just means to serve. Everything we do here at UUCOD can be thought of as a ministry that we are responsible for and to. It matters. You matter.

The kind of ministry we share is up to us. As we share out of our life stories, the hurts and hopes, we create a fabric, a quality of life here at UUCOD. Is it a giving and forgiving fabric? As we are free, we are responsible for ourselves and to each other.

In a congregational community we get to practice: how we talk to each other; how we treat each other; and, how we treat ourselves. You build the spirit of this community week to week with everything you do and say and all you attend to: from hiking, to worship, meditating, to cleaning, from the tending to each other's care to the mending of relationship or carpeting. It is all ministry.

I have been getting to know you these past 6 months and meeting with you and your committees. Your leaders are learning, discerning and guiding our next steps toward the developmental goals you chose last year. Your council of committee chairs will bring these goals back to their teams, and begin a process of setting specific goals for the coming year consistent the committee's mission, framed by the living vision of an enlarged holistic sense of stewardship.

Each of us is a steward of the health and wholeness of this congregation. As we search for the deeper truth of what stewardship can mean, we hope that search will help us be stewards of a "common good". Stewardship is so much bigger than finance, though you need that. It is about the care you give your spirit, how you share the responsibilities, nurture each other, support new leaders, communicate joys and sorrows, celebrate and mourn. It is lifespan spiritual growth and building justice in our world.

Imagine that you are a *messenger* of the spirit of UUCOD, Sunday and everyday. What is the message you are giving? The values we profess and seek to live have a dynamic power to liberate the spirit! And we are not alone. There are communities in this Valley and the larger UU movement that share them.

It is a privilege to be a part of a larger movement that liberates as it encourages a free investigation of human values and spiritual paths. Let all we plan and do be worthy of our spiritual inheritance and may our actions foster those values for generations to come. Let us strengthen our capacity for love and justice.

***Blessings,***

## SERVICES

**March 3, 2019**

**Free and Responsible**

In this time of incivility, we may experience opinion whiplash and engagement fatigue. What good can our UU Principles call us to? What does our first principle require of our behavior? What can we learn if we examine ourselves in the light of a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning"? This year's Auction sermon topic is chosen by Denise Jannsen Eager.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast  
Worship Associate: Shirley LeMaster



**March 10, 2019**

**"Poetry, Ethics, and the Life of a Hospital Chaplain"**

Many, if not most people have trouble understanding the calling of a minister who just wants to work in a hospital. In this sermon, Rev. Don will share an intimate insider's view of how we make meaning in some of the most joyous and tragic moments of our lives, while sharing what it means to be "there if you need me".

Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder  
Worship Associate: Rob DuWors

**March 17, 2019**

**Belonging**

*We can have all the world has to offer in terms of status, achievement and possessions, yet without a true sense of belonging, our lives feel empty and pointless. ...the hunger to belong is at the heart of our nature.*

Irish Philosopher John O'Donohue from his book *Eternal Echoes*

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast  
Worship Associate: Josette Pacino

**March 24, 2019**

**TBD**

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast  
Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

**March 31, 2019**

**TBD**

Worship Leader: Supervisor Manny Perez  
Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

## A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF STEWARDSHIP

Our annual Stewardship Drive has begun. Our elders actualized their vision and raised money to build this beautiful building and grounds. Now we are stewards of their vision: tasked to invest our time, talents, and treasures honoring what our elders gifted us. Our annual pledge drive has begun. But is our pledge drive stewardship or just a part of what it means to be a steward?

What is our vision of stewardship now in 2019?

What about our community, our relationships, and our feeling of belonging here at UUCOD? Are we just shepherds of the physical plant and grounds or are we shepherds of each other too? Those questions about building community are driving our leadership to re-examine our historical concept of stewardship. There has traditionally been a pledge drive (sometimes called a stewardship drive) raising funds to keep the ship afloat. However, we have begun to build a broader view of stewardship



that includes:

- Deepening our relationships
- Making a commitment to generosity of spirit
- Deepening collaboration and cooperation between leadership and congregation in all areas of church life
- Sharing a partnership in service to our community
- Honoring our commitment to our spiritual home
- Increasing welcoming hospitality to visitors, new members, and each of us

We have established an ongoing Stewardship Steering Committee to assist in establishing a multi-year strategy to help us all consider stewardship in a new broader view.

A couple of our initial programs have already begun:

- We have a newly formed Mentoring program to assist new members in becoming more fully involved in congregational life.
- We have a newly formed Social Committee to source, plan, and communicate to us a variety of engaging social activities, which we may enjoy together, throughout the year.

Stewardship is one way to minister to each other. We are all involved in shared ministry and stewardship with and to each other. Let us gratefully build our vision of stewardship within our community.

## CALENDAR

### **Friday, March 1**

8 am-Men's Breakfast

### **Saturday, March 2**

9:30 am-Church Council Meeting

1 pm-Drop in Scrabble

### **Sunday, March 3**

Stewardship Drive

10 am-Food on the First

10 am-Worship Service

11:30 am-India Presentation Social

11:30 am-New Members Meeting

### **Monday, March 4**

5:30 pm-Meditation

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Tuesday, March 5**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Wednesday, March 6**

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

### **Thursday, March 7**

10 am-Stewardship Steering Committee

5 pm-DOS Choir

5:15 pm-Women's Night Out

7 pm-Bridge

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Friday, March 8**

7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

### **Saturday, March 9**

9 am-Second Saturday Stroll

7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

### **Sunday, March 10**

Stewardship Drive

10 am-Socks on the 2nd/Well in the Desert

10 am-Worship Service

10 am-CRE Class

11:30 am-Facilities Committee

### **Sunday, March 17**

Stewardship Drive

10 am-Share the Plate

10 am-Worship Service

11:30 am-New Members Meeting

### **Monday, March 18**

5:30 pm-Meditation

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Tuesday, March 19**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

5 pm-Safety Committee

6:30 pm-Board of Directors' Meeting

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Wednesday, March 20**

4:30 pm-CRE Class(UUCOD Community Event)

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

### **Thursday, March 21**

5 pm-DOS Choir

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

7 pm-Bridge

### **Friday, March 22**

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club

6 pm-Purim Service

### **Sunday, March 24**

Stewardship Drive

10 am-Worship Service

10 am-CRE Class

11 am-Let Us Eat Cake!

### **Monday, March 25**

5:30 pm-Meditation

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Tuesday, March 26**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

4:30 pm-Worship Committee

7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

### **Wednesday, March 27**

**Monday, March 11**  
5:30 pm-Meditation  
7 pm-Evening Book Group

**Tuesday, March 12**  
8:30 am-Weight Watchers  
5:30 pm-Membership Committee

**Wednesday, March 13**  
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

**Thursday, March 14**  
5 pm-DOS Choir  
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee  
7 pm-Bridge

**Saturday, March 16**  
1 pm-Mom's Demand Action Meeting  
1 pm-Drop in Scrabble

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

**Thursday, March 28**  
5 pm-DOS Choir  
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal  
7 pm-Bridge

**Sunday, March 31**  
Scrip Orders Due  
10 am-Worship Service

**Monday, April 1**  
5:30 pm-Meditation  
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

**Tuesday, April 2**  
8:30 am-Weight Watchers  
10 am-Stewardship Steering Committee  
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

**Wednesday, April 3**  
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### **March 3, Food on the First for Oasis Pantry**

Don't forget to pick up some food items for the Oasis School migrant education families. 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.



### **March 10, Socks on the Second for homeless persons**

Thanks to all who donated 95 pairs of socks in February!. Socks still so needed! Bring them March 10 or leave ahead of time in the Well in the Desert brown bin in the UUCOD lobby before the 10th. Bring new socks, darker colors very welcome. Well in the Desert Palm Springs distributes to local people living homeless. Your socks cushion footsteps during long treks on foot, provide a sense of comfort and dignity, and keep feet warm and dry. Due to limited space, socks only. For other items, please contact Well in the Desert or another charity and transport those items yourself. Thanks!

### **March 17, Share-the-Plate Desert AIDS Project**

Founded in 1984 by a group of community volunteers in the face of the AIDS crisis, Desert AIDS Project (D.A.P.) has been the Coachella Valley's primary not-for-profit resource for those living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV/AIDS. Today D.A.P. is a federally-qualified health center providing primary medical care, HIV and hepatitis specialty care, dentistry, behavioral health and social services, all under one roof, to more than 5,000 clients. The majority of their clients are low-income, medically under-served members of our community. The vision of D.A.P. is for healthy individuals, families and communities. Bring your checkbooks March 17. Make checks payable to UUCOD so our treasurer can divide the non-pledge contributions 50-50 between UUCOD and D.A.P. Please give generously. Thanks!

## EVENTS



**Sunday, March 3rd Incredible India:** Suzanne & Jerry Hogsett will be showing photos & telling us of their experiences over many years of traveling to their INCREDIBLE INDIA. If you would like to attend & haven't signed up yet, you can email Sheryl Eaton (muffingolf@gmail.com) A potluck salad bar will be offered following coffee hour. The presentation will follow in the

community room. You can contact Sheryl to indicate what you will be contributing to the salad bar.

### **March 8 and 9, Script2Stage2Screen Presents "Breakable," A Drama about Grief & Faith:**

Rancho Mirage, Calif., Feb. 12, 2019 – Grief over a serious loss is a part of life—a painful, unfortunate part of life. That stirring subject is what Script2Stage2Screen (S2S2S) will present in its March 2019

staged readings of "Breakable," by Kansas City playwright Vicki Vodrey. "So much of life is breakable—relationships, trust, people and hearts. How we mend those breaks is the challenge," said Artistic Director Gina Bikales. "Vodrey masterfully explores this strong subject with grace and sensitivity."

The theatrical group – celebrating its tenth anniversary -- showcases new plays. Performances of "Breakable" are Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. All S2S2S staged readings take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. Tickets are \$10. They're available at the door or online at [www.script2stage2screen.com](http://www.script2stage2screen.com).

S2S2S has staged other Vodrey plays, including "Hanky Panky," a dark comedy about the death of a family's patriarch; and "The Frowning Vajayjays of Shady Pines," a comedy about how female friends in a nursing home cope when a new roommate arrives.

**Sunday, March 10, Special Congregational Meeting:**

The Board has called for a short single-topic Congregational meeting after service on Sunday, March 10 at 11:30. The Board supports a Facilities Committee proposal to increase Capital Repairs spending this year to paint the front entrance pergola and replacement of the foyer carpeting.

**Saturday, March 23rd, Tour of the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center**

Everyone is invited to join us and tour the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center in Indio at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was an activity selected last year by the kids in Religious Education and would be interesting for us adults as well. The center was envisioned by Linda York as a way to care and rehabilitate injured and sick wild birds, such as owls, hawks, and geese with the ultimate goal of releasing them back into their habitats. Formed in 1986 and opened to the public in 1995, the Center has grown to accommodate an increasing number of wild birds from the Coachella Valley and beyond. Birds ranging in size from hummingbirds to pelicans and eagles move through the doors of this important rehabilitation center each year.

The CWVBC is located at 46500 Van Buren Street in Indio-between Hwy. 111 and the I-10. The exit from 111 or I-10 is Golf Center Parkway. Take Avenue 45 east which turns into Van Buren. Contact Marion Ellson if you have any questions, 760-347-9386. See you there.

**Sunday, March 24, Let Us Eat Cake!:**

Calling all joint-replacement UU's! Please join Evelyn Kain after the worship service for cake in celebration of 1,000 "mountain" miles of hiking on her new knee. We'll light candles and sing "Happy New Knee/Hip/etc. to You" in gratitude for these miracles of orthopedic surgery.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**UUCOD GREETERS:**

You, too, can be a 'Greeter' ----

Responsibilities: Arrive by 9:20. Help fold 'Order of Service' sheets and put on the round table in the foyer. If that is already completed, ask Randy Steele if he would need you to help with other duties.

- We need 2 'Greeters' each Sunday; one (1) to stand at each Sanctuary door.
- Introduce yourself, **WELCOME all**, hand them the 'Order of Service.'
- If they don't have a name tag (Guests/visitors), direct them to the table by the entrance to check in, get a temporary one from Randy or Maxine.

If there is a line, Keep it moving!

How easy is that? It's really an enjoyable task as you get to meet all friendly, wonderful people!

**Each Sunday there is a clipboard on the table by the name tags or on the center round table.**

**Each page has 2 Sunday dates at the top, and spaces for you to sign up.**

**CHOOSE THE DATE WHICH IS MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU!**

If you have any questions, call me (Judi) at 760.345.3897, or email at [jksmills@windstream.net](mailto:jksmills@windstream.net).

(And, if something unexpected necessitates your cancelling, just let me know; I'll call a substitute.)

**Coachella Valley Chapter of Mom's Demand Action:**

If anyone is interested in getting involved with and/or attending Mom's monthly meetings, the Coachella Valley chapter is now reinvigorating the group. They will be meeting at UUCOD on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from February through November of this year. They will be meeting in the Community Room from 1-2:30 pm. No need to sign up, just show up if you are interested in hearing what they want to pursue in an effort to support the main Mom's organization and their efforts to have sensible gun laws passed. Any questions, please contact Joni Paddock at [joni@palmcitybooks.com](mailto:joni@palmcitybooks.com).

**Rev. Barbara's Sermons on YouTube:**

If you miss one of Rev. Barbara's sermons (or just want to hear and see it again), be sure to check out her sermons on the UUCOD YouTube channel or on our UUCOD website ([uucod.org/worship](http://uucod.org/worship)).

**Financial Information:**

Did you know individuals 70 ½ or older can make contributions directly from their IRA to a qualified charity and it is deemed a non-taxable donation? For some, this may be a great way to pay pledges or make other contributions to UUCOD **and** save money! Some restrictions apply so be sure to check with your tax professional before pursuing this payment method.

**Saturday November 9, 2019 UUCOD Auction, Lemon Meringue:**

Pie making lesson (from scratch) courtesy of Rusty Kaplan is the first auction donation! It's not too early to imagine how your talents can translate to a donation for our 2019 UUCOD Auction on Saturday, Nov. 9. Contact Carol Lavoie at [mclavoie@aol.com](mailto:mclavoie@aol.com) if you would like to work on a 'no meetings' committee, have suggestions or ideas for auction items.

**Drop-In Scrabble Update:**

Beginning Saturday, March 16 the UUCOD Scrabble 'wordsmiths' will begin playing at 2:00 p.m. instead of our regular 1:00 p.m. Everyone, regardless of ability, is invited to join us for two hours of conversation, laughs and a bit of Scrabble. No need to sign up-just show up! Contact Carol Lavoie with questions at [mclavoie@aol.com](mailto:mclavoie@aol.com)

**In Lieu of our UUCOD Garage Sales:**

While the UUCOD garage sale crew is taking a break for the summer (will begin again in October) we will still be collecting certain items to be donated to Shelter From the Storm. Items on their wish list include: kitchen items (dishes, small appliances, etc.), clean towels, baby items (diapers, formula, new stuffed animals). Items can be given to either Carol Lavoie or Cindy Selburg after service on any Sunday.

Also, Carol Lavoie would be happy to sell selected items on eBay with all proceeds going in to the Reverend's Discretionary Fund. This past month a Minneapolis Snow Globe and antique kerosene lamp found new homes with eBayers. Call Carol if you have items that may go to a new home. Keep in mind that large, heavy items will not sell on eBay.

**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](mailto:mclavoie@aol.com) or nancy boyce. at [byorktown2@gmail.com](mailto:byorktown2@gmail.com).

If you have suggestions or ideas of a social event that you would like to have our group enjoy, please share your ideas with Sheryl Eaton.

We are having a contest to name our new social group- - send your suggestions to Sheryl. Some ideas for consideration are "UU'ers on the Go & "the Butterflies" (as in social butterflies). Contest Winner prize is your name in the newsletter & you get to decide where next social outing will be!

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**Rock 'n Roll Work Party was a huge success!**

Twelve kind souls joined us to spread rock to protect the parking lot from erosion, to have some fun, and to support each other. The work was finished is just over an hour, and everyone had lots of time to converse with each and perhaps meet new people, or learn new things about each other. Thank you, thank you, thank you. This is what stewardship and fellowship looks like!



**2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly  
Registration is Live.**

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?

Join Rev. Barbara and 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 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."

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!



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **June 19-23, Spokane, WA General Assembly 2019** **(The Power of We)**

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.

The 2019 Ware Lecturer is Richard Blanco. Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role.

### **Spokane**

General Assembly 2019 will take place at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201. [Google map](#). The Spokane Convention Center is an attractive, LEED certified facility located in downtown Spokane, featuring accessible parking, automatic entrance doors, and wheelchair accessible elevators. There is natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows, which look out over the Spokane River.

Are you interested in being a Delegate to represent UUCOD? Contact a Board Member to let them know you are interested. There is limited funding to cover registration and some travel expenses.

**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.

[Visit our website](#)

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