

May 2019



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

At The Heart Of It

I attended the Pacific Southwest District gathering with Jane, Jonathan, Josette, Reign and Thera and 200 other UU's. While our youth spent time with UU youth from other congregations in the District, adults enjoyed a plenary meeting where we sang a lot (!) while being encouraged to bring more music into worship. We read lyrics off screens flanking the pulpit.

The program confirmed what Dorian and I already enjoy doing: creating thematic worship where we can take strands of the theme into the music, weave lyrics from the music into the body of the service and have the emotional energy flow lift up the whole Sunday morning experience.

In the afternoon, I chose the Deconstructing White Supremacy workshop that was humbling and empowering. Jane learned about starting and hosting a 'Death Café'. Jonathan was inspired by the workshop, Singing and Meditation. Josette and I are bringing back to UUCOD all we learned about the adaptive challenges and emerging structures of UU Religious Education for children and youth. We are not alone in this concern. Most congregations are experiencing a significant decline in

enrollments.

I appreciated the warm hospitality of the Long Beach UU congregation, the hugs, smiles, good signage, and that all the food was vegan, gluten free and delicious! If you want to know that you are not alone in this work, get revived and challenged at a UU conference or the Annual General Assembly.

I am charged with facilitating and strengthening our developmental goals, especially deepening the meanings of Stewardship. The shared ministry of lifespan spiritual growth of spirit, body, and mind is part of that focus. Such programming sustains our spirits, reveals our deep connections, and enlarges our heart strengths so we can better live our values. In addition to the wonderful groups already meeting, Rev. Carolyn will offer a program on the book, "Being Mortal" later this May.

While at the District gathering, we learned that there was another terrible shooting: this time at the Poway Chabad in San Diego. Some colleagues attending from San Diego know that community. The shooter is now charged with murder and with setting a fire at a mosque a few weeks before. Coming on the heels of other mass shootings, murders and suicide bombings around the world, these losses and violence penetrate the spirit and depress the soul. We condemn hate in all its forms.

I want you to know that the UUCOD Safety Committee has been looking at our campus regarding general issues of safety as well as emergency preparedness. Rod, Vikki and I recently attended a workshop sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Desert for leaders of places of worship and non-profit agencies called Community Security Through Resiliency and Empowerment. Law enforcement and emergency response personnel were also in attendance. We participated in exercises that challenged us to assess and create response plans for our places of worship that empower us. We are stronger together.

Sunday is CELEBRATION SUNDAY! We will be lifted up by worship and our Choir and musicians at our MUSIC SUNDAY CELEBRATION. We will appreciate our volunteers, and all that has been contributed in volunteer time, talent and treasure. After which we will practice one of our foundation principles – the democratic process- at our ANNUAL MEETING. Then we will eat pizza!! I hope you come to support and

enjoy the spirit of UUCOD. Support his holy space and place for us to gather in peace.

"*May nothing evil cross this door,*" is the first line of our first hymn. Its title used to be "A Prayer for this House". "This house" is the building, our beautiful Peace Labyrinth and the whole campus. It is also the home of our all too human heart. The final lyric is, "*may [we] keep hate out and hold love in.*" May it be so.

Bless everyone, no, exception, including your precious self.
Rev. Barbara

I will be away from the church starting Thursday, May 16th and will return to the office Monday, June 4th.

SERVICES

May 5, 2019

Music Sunday Service

Come enjoy the beautiful music and our wonderful choir. Let your spirits be lifted and your hearts expanded by poetry and songs. **All of today's contributions will go to our music program fund.** Following the service, we will have our UUCOD Annual Meeting.



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

May 12, 2019

Flower Communion Sunday

Our Flower Communion Sunday is a simple process of sharing: We bring a flower to UUCOD and place it in a vase on the altar table ..and when we go home, we take another flower with us. In between those times we see radiant beauty before us as we are encouraged to see the beauty within and among us. Come for the blooming.

BRING YOUR FLOWERS FOR SHARING.

Rev. Barbara Fast and UUCOD Youth

May 19, 2019

The Geography of Hope

Wallace Stegner, giant of western literature, liked to speak of the importance of place, especially in the West and in the wilderness. He described "the geography of hope" that human beings need to survive and to be whole. Today's sermon explores this notion. It asks us each to consider where our own places are, in the external world, but also internally. It asks how moral geography is formed and practiced. Finally, it asks what happens when we "lose our place," either upon the landscape of this earth, or in our own inner places, the ones we depend upon to tell us who we are.

Worship Leader: Rev. Carolyn Price
Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

May 26, 2019

The Paramis: Ten Essential Elements of the Bodhisattva Path

It is said that over countless lifetimes the Buddha-To-Be brought to fullness ten beautiful qualities of integrity and the heart: Generosity, Virtue, Renunciation, Wisdom, Energy, Patience, Truthfulness, Resolve, Loving kindness and Equanimity.

These qualities are available to each of us and support our spiritual growth, we'll explore these powerful doorways to greater peace and wisdom, and how we can rejoice in finding them in ourselves, each other and in our communities.

Worship Leader: Ian Challis
Worship Associate: Shirley LeMaster

CALENDAR

Friday, May 3

7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

Saturday, May 4

Saturday, May 18

1 pm- Moms Demand Action Meeting

2 pm-Drop In Scrabble

5 pm-B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony/Service

2 pm-Drop In Scrabble
7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

Sunday, May 5

Food on the First
10 am-Worship Service
11:30 am-Annual Meeting

Monday, May 6

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7 pm-Evening Book Group

Tuesday, May 7

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4:30 pm-Care Team
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 8

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, May 9

5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S2S
7 pm-Bridge

Saturday, May 11

8 am-Second Saturday Stroll
2 pm-Kurt Jordan's Fundraising Recital

Sunday, May 12

10 am-Worship Service

Monday, May 13

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Evening Book Club

Tuesday, May 14

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
10 am-Stewardship Steering Committee
5:30 pm-Membership Committee
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 15

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, May 16

5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Bridge

Sunday, May 19

Share the Plate
10 am-Worship Service

Monday, May 20

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 21

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
6:30 pm-Board of Directors
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 22

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, May 23

5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Bridge

Friday, May 24

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club
7 pm-S2S2S Performance

Saturday, May 25

7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

Sunday, May 26

10 am-Worship Service
11:30 am-Rev. Carolyn Price Discussion Group

Monday, May 27

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 28

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4:30 pm-Worship Committee

Wednesday, May 29

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, May 30

5:30 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-Bridge

SOCIAL JUSTICE

May 5th & June 2nd – Last two Food on the First of school year

CVUSD students are starting their last five weeks of school before summer. Help farm worker families stock up their cupboards for nutritious eating during school vacation. The migrant education healthy food pantry provides canned and packaged goods to stretch family food budgets, which frees up some funds to buy fresh items. Check all packages you donate to be sure they are not out of date. Bring to 5/5 Sunday service or leave ahead in UUCOD lobby in Oasis School bin. 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. Thanks!

May 12th – Socks on the Second for homeless persons



With lower attendance in April we still received 36 pairs of socks which were taken to Well in the Desert for distribution. Let's catch up and pass that mark in May. Bring May 12 or leave ahead in the Well in the Desert brown bin in the UUCOD lobby. 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 at night. Due to limited space, socks only. For other items, please contact Well in the Desert or another charity and transport those items yourself. Thanks!

May 19th –Share the Plate with Safe Schools Desert Cities

Safe Schools Desert Cities empowers area Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex youth (LGBTQI+), their allies and Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) advisors and offers opportunities that foster a sense of community and individual growth by providing education, guidance, advocacy, resources, recreational activities and opportunities for self-expression. Safe Schools Desert Cities works directly with the GSAs at 20+ high schools and middle schools in the desert area and beyond. Annual programs and activities include the Rainbow Youth Summit, Pride Prom, GSA groups marching in the Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade and youth participation and attendance at the annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast in Palm Springs. Please bring your checkbooks May 19 and prepare to give generously to support these efforts.

Through your generous donations in April, a check for \$719.84 was sent to Galilee Center in Mecca to help them keep the overnight shelter open to house grape harvest workers in our area for the next months. Thanks so much!

EVENTS



Sunday, May 5th – Annual Congregational Meeting:
Important: Annual Congregational Meeting, after Worship To Elect Board Officers and approve 2020 Church Budget.

Pizza Party Celebration:

Pizza Party Celebration after Worship this Sunday for our Volunteers and our Hugely Successful Pledge

Drive.

A very Special Music Sunday:

In addition to our Annual Meeting and celebration of our volunteers, Sunday, May 5th is also **Music Sunday**. It will be the last performance of our choir until the Fall and we anticipate a special day of music. It is also an opportunity to support our Music Program through your generous contributions. Unless specifically designated otherwise, **all contributions** received that day will be directed to our Music Program Fund. Your support will enable us to continue to provide the high quality music program we all so enjoy.

Saturday, May 11th – UUCOD Music Program Fundraiser

Please join us next Saturday, May 11th in our Sanctuary from 2:00 – 4:00 PM to hear the world premiere of our own Kurt Jordan's new work "The Houses." Kurt's composition takes us on a journey through the 12 astrological houses of his own natal chart. Through it he musically shares feelings, challenges, and triumphs of his life through the lenses of the astrological perspectives and observed reality. There are highs and lows. Laughter and tears. To celebrate this world premiere, Kurt has generously asked that **all proceeds from tickets sales benefit the UUCOD Music Program**. Please join us for this spectacular event and help Kurt celebrate this major accomplishment.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased with your credit card by accessing this website:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=iqz6kh6ab&oeidk=a07eg60v0sje968ed0c>

You may also pay by cash, check or credit card at the church prior to or on the day of the event.

Please contact Jerry L'Hommedieu at treasurer@uucod.org or (562) 761-7889 to secure your reservation for the concert.

Saturday, May 11th – Second Saturday Stroll: Sunnylands Garden

We're going to take an easy stroll in May! We'll walk the two nature areas on either side of the Sunnylands Gardens entrance and then circle the Great Lawn. Each of these loops is about a quarter of a mile. Afterwards we'll sit on the patio and sip beverages or nibbles from the cafe. A very civilized Stroll this month! Come join for the social time.

Meet at the Sunnylands Visitor Center at 8:30 am next Saturday, May 11th. Parking and admission is free.

Click to register if you plan to join: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=iqz6kh6ab&oeidk=a07egae3esgc2b23537>

Questions: contact Rod Belshee.

Sunday, May 26th – Adult Program - *Being Mortal*:

There is still room in Rev. Carolyn Price's adult program based on physician Atul Gawande's renowned book, *Being Mortal*. Join her and fellow UUCOD folks from 11:30 to 1 PM as we reflect upon what Gawande calls the "final frontier" of human existence: the end of life. We'll ask some perhaps hard, but important questions, and explore our responses, together. Class is limited to 12 so that all may participate, and everyone is asked to finish the book prior to May 26th. For more information or to sign up please email Rev. Carolyn at uurevclprice@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

June 15th, Bowling Party at Fantasy Springs 3:30-5:30 PM:

More information will be given as date approaches.

June 19-23, UUA General Assembly-"The Power of We":

In Spokane, WA. For more information, <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Do you want to be a delegate? See a Board member.

July 21-26, SpiritRest Silent Retreat:

SpiritRest is a facilitated five-day silent retreat for Unitarian Universalists and other spiritual seekers. Our 2019 gathering will be in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. This retreat is led by UU ministers Sharon Wylie, Arvid Straube, Stefanie Etzbach-Dale, and Lucy Bunch.

Retreatants meet with a spiritual director for a half hour each day. In addition to the practice of silence, there is guidance for meditation, labyrinth walks, prayer, art journaling, Qi gong, and InterPlay. There is also time for singing together. Each day closes with a vespers service at sundown. Learn more at our website www.spiritrestretreat.com

July 4th, Palm Springs Power Baseball Game with Fireworks:

More information will be given as date approaches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Social BUUterflies have been invited to join the "Second Stroll"

Next Saturday, May 11th, 8:30 am at Sunnylands. Parking and admission is FREE. If you want to take the "stroll", they will be walking two nature areas on either side of the Sunnylands Gardens entrance and then circle the Great Lawn. Each of these loops is about a quarter of a mile. Or, you can just enjoy some social time, after the walk by meeting them on the patio and sip beverages or nibbles from the cafe. For more information, contact Rod Belshee - the "Stroll Master" If you would like to register for the event click on the link below!

[http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?
llr=iqz6kh6ab&oeidk=a07egae3esgc2b23537](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=iqz6kh6ab&oeidk=a07egae3esgc2b23537)

GREETERS: WELCOME!

There are many members who've indicated a willingness to be a Sunday Greeter. For 'Newbies,' this simply entails arriving around 9:20, helping to fold the 'Order of Service,' and then standing by one of the two Sanctuary entrances. **WELCOME** the folks as they arrive, and hand them an 'Order of Service.' If they are visiting or don't have a White name-tag, ask them to go to the entrance desk where Randy or Maxine will welcome them and give them a name tag. If you can donate a Sunday to this you will enjoy it, and you will be performing a Service to UU.

All you need to do is sign up on the Sunday of your choice with your name and contact information on the monthly schedules clipboard located on the center foyer table by the upright sign that says "Greeters."

I will call you on the Fri. or Sat. prior to your Sunday to check that you are still available. If something should change, you may get someone to sub for you, or let me know and I'll contact someone on the Sub. List, which will be the last page after the monthly sign-ups on the clipboard on the center foyer table.

Any questions, please email me at jksmills@windstream.net or call (760) 345.3897



These just came in! Comfy choir chairs!! Thank you Facilities!

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.

[Visit our website](#)

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