

January 2020



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

At The Heart of It.

January 2020

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! We are entering 2020 with deepening commitments to each other, our neighbors, and this earth. I am glad to be here with you and to have spent the last season working with you to grow the depth of our expanding ministry at UUCOD.

We are growing opportunities for members to share the care needs of UUCOD members and friends. We are fortunate to be engaging the pastoral care wisdom and guidance of Rev. Dr. Don Stouder. Come hear his sermon this Dec 29, and learn about the shape of his Community Ministry here at UUCOD.

We are connecting with one another through chalice circles, spiritual celebration in the sanctuary and at the labyrinth. Jeffrey and the choir are uplifting us all with their voices. Our leadership is clarifying sustainable and meaningful congregational goals. Our UUCOD social and environmental justice work will seek to involve all of us, as we are able.

I want to **highlight Friday night, Jan. 24**, for your calendar! My dear friend, the gifted singer, musician **Suzanne Sheridan is in concert here at UUCOD**. She will inspire us with the music of Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. Come! Be inspired, refreshed, and energized as she rocks this house! Tickets are \$25.

Check out her website: suzannesherdanmusic.com.

The changing of the year is often a time to build on what makes healthy sense for your whole life as well as a time to discern what gets in your way. To practice "*letting go*". That is January's Chalice Circle topic. If you want to join a circle get in touch: admin@uucod.org. We are planning to start another group if there is interest.

Here is a story that reminds me to reflect on the meaning of "*letting go*".

A monk...after years of meditation practice decided! He threw his bundle over his shoulder and started on a path up a mountain to find a cave and meditate until he reached enlightenment or died trying. As he climbed up the path, an old man was coming down the same path with his own bundle over his shoulder. When they met, the old man asked the monk where he was going. (This old man was really a Bodhisattva. That is one who has become enlightened and stays in this realm to help others. He appears at the moment they are ready.)

The monk replied, "I am going up the mountain to a cave where I will meditate until I reach enlightenment or die trying. The monk paused for some reason, and then he asked the old man, "Do you know anything about enlightenment?"

The old man dropped his bundle. Just like that (!) the monk was enlightened.

Then the monk asked the old man, "Now what?"

The old man smiled, picked up his bundle and continued on his way.

I will be on a silent retreat in Joshua Tree from Jan 2-8. *If you have a critical pastoral need I am grateful that Rev. Don is available, and as always, we have our Care Team.*

Universal Blessing as we enter the path of the year 2020.

SERVICES

December 29, 2019

There If You Need Me

The sermon title is taken, of course, from UU Minister Kate Braestrup's best-selling memoir about her journey as a chaplain for Maine Game Wardens. But what exactly is a community minister/chaplain in the UU tradition? Rev. Don will help us understand the role, and why it is such an important, if misunderstood, ministry in our faith."

Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

January 5, 2020

Bridges to Liberation

Psychologists agree that there are a number of voices we share in common within ourselves that can be, to one degree or another, a cause of suffering in our lives. In addition, living with groundlessness or ambiguity can be a challenge for many people, as we so often yearn for solidity, clarity, and safety. Feelings, too, can create the narratives that contribute to suffering. Through metaphor and allegory this talk will address a practice for surviving, if not embracing, our inner feelings and demon voices. As well, this talk hopes to shed some reality regarding the discomfort that we attribute to our feelings and the ill-at-ease we may experience from what we perceive as "groundlessness."

Worship Leader: Peter Mathews

Worship Associate: Joni Padduck

January 12, 2020

The Song of Songs

How do we find our center as Unitarian Universalists? What do we do with the concept of evil? Of goodness? Sin? Salvation? As TV shows like the popular *The Good Place* explore what makes a person good (or not so good), today's sermon asks what happens when such concepts are not predetermined through doctrine or scripture, but instead come to us as choices, ones made real by how we live our lives.

Worship Leader: Rev. Carolyn Price

Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

January 19, 2020

Love and Justice

In his Letter from a Birmingham jail, Dr. King wrote: *The time is always ripe to do right.* What are our times ripe for now? Michelle Fiore will be singing.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

January 26, 2020

Women's Rights?

Roe v Wade, the Supreme Court case that gave a woman the "right" to terminate a pregnancy up until what was called "viability" of the fetus. It was decided January 22, 1973. It is still controversial and may be reversed by the current court.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Joni Padduck

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am-Worship Service
2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, December 30

OFFICE OPEN-10:00am-2:00pm
5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, December 31

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 15

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, January 16

7:00 pm-Bridge
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Saturday, January 18

9:30 am-Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 19

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

Wednesday, January 1
OFFICE CLOSED-New Years Day

Thursday, January 2
OFFICE CLOSED
7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, January 3
OFFICE OPEN-10:00am-3:00pm
8:00 am-Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 5
Food on the First
10:00 am-Worship Service
11:30 am-Sign Making for Women's March
11:30 am-Chalice Circles
2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, January 6
3:30 pm-Sacred Grounds
5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, January 7
8:30 am-Weight Watchers

Wednesday, January 8
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir
6:30 pm-Facilities

Thursday, January 9
2:00 pm-Chef's Table
1:30 pm-Stewardship Committee
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee
7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, January 10
UUCOD Women's Retreat

Saturday, January 11
UUCOD Women's Retreat
9:00 am-Second Saturday Stroll

Sunday, January 12
UUCOD Women's Retreat
Socks on the Second
10:00 am-Worship Service

Monday, January 13
5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Tuesday, January 14
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
5:30 pm-Membership
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Share the Plate
10:00 am-Worship Service
11:30 am-Chalice Circles
2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, January 20
1:00 pm-Chalice Circles
5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Tuesday, January 21
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4:00 pm-Alarm System Training
5:00 pm-Board of Directors
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Wednesday, January 22
3:00 pm-Chalice Circles
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir
6:30 pm-Wisconsin Wind Orchestra Concert

Thursday, January 23
7:00 pm-Bridge
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Friday, January 24
1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club
7:00 pm-Suzanne Sheridan Concert

Saturday, January 25
10:15 am-Writing Group
3:30 pm-Andy Harmon Twilight Salon

Sunday, January 26
10:00 am-Worship Service
11:30 am-Conversations with Board

Monday, January 27
5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Tuesday, January 28
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4:00 pm-Worship Committee
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Wednesday, January 29
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, January 30
7:00 pm-Bridge
7:00 pm-S2S2S

Friday, January 31
7:00 pm-S2S2S Performance

SOCIAL JUSTICE

January 5, Food on the First

We continue collecting food only for the Galilee Center and their overnight shelter. They distribute food to seniors and families in need in the Mecca area, as well as feeding migrant farm workers in season and asylum applicants in transit staying at the overnight shelter. Bring to January 5 Sunday service or leave in marked brown bin in UUCOD lobby. Check all packages you donate 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. Thanks!



January 12, Socks on the Second for Homeless persons

Bring January 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 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!

January 19, Share the Plate

From Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest: Our mission is to ensure broad public access to sexual and reproductive health care through direct service, education and advocacy. Our vision is 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. We operate 19 health centers in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial County that served over 130,000 patients in 2017. The health centers in the City of Coachella and Rancho Mirage serve over 15,000 local patients.

PPPSW is our honoree for the January Share-the-Plate. Please bring checkbooks, be prepared to give generously, and make check payable to UUCOD so our treasurer can send them a single check for their share. Thanks!

EVENTS

January 5, Sign Making for Women's March

Come & make a sign on Sunday, January 5th, at 11:30am in THE COMMUNITY ROOM. BRING POSTER BOARDS, ART SUPPLIES, & YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS. Some supplies will be provided. Questions? Call Denise Janssen Eager.

January 9, Chefs Table

Chefs Table will be at 2:00 PM (but get there early), featuring Mary Cardas, from Rio Azul. She will prepare and offer tastings for attendees. This is a FREE event at the Palm Desert Community Recreation Center 43-900 San Pablo Ave.

January 10-January 12: Women's Retreat in Borrego Springs

Contact: Vikki Porter

January 11, Second Saturday Stroll

The UUCOD Second Saturday Stroll will head to the Mecca Hills for the Ladder Hike in Painted Canyon. This is one of the most famous and beloved hikes in the Coachella Valley. We will hike through amazing slot canyons and rock formations, and will need to ascend a few ladders. Once we exit the canyon we have great views from the top. The hike is about 5 miles and includes hiking in loose sand which can be tiring. Bring a snack or lunch and water. It may be chilly within the canyon so dress appropriately.

We will meet at the trailhead at 9:00 AM where Painted Canyon Road ends. It is a long drive (10 miles northeast of Mecca) and the last couple of miles is a rough road so carpooling in high clearance vehicles is advised. For those who wish, meet at the UUCOD parking lot at 8:00 AM to informally arrange carpools.

Click on the button bellow to register for Second Saturday Stroll!

[Click Here to Register for Second Saturday Stroll](#)

January 18, Coachella Valley Women's March

IT'S TIME TO MARCH AGAIN & EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The 2017 Women's March inspired hundreds of women to run, millions more to vote, & dozens to win elected office. The 2020 Women's March marks THREE years of resistance, THREE years of training new activists, & THREE years of building power. And this time, we're coming back with an agenda!



On January 18, 2020, we're going to flood the streets of Indio, CA, & cities across the globe. Details below. To march with UUCOD's contingent, be sure to sign up this Sunday on the circle table in the lobby.

January 22, Free Concert, featuring Wisconsin Wind Orchestra

There will be a FREE concert at The Four Seasons in Palm Springs at 6:30 PM featuring the Wisconsin Wind Orchestra. The BUUterfly organizer will be spreading her wings and flying home that evening from a week of spoiling her grandsons on the garden isle of Kauai. Denise Janssen Eager, who is a fan of this group will bring her butterfly net & herd all interested folks who would like to attend.

January 24, Dylan & Joni & Leonard & Me: Suzanne Sheridan in Concert!

Mark your calendar for Jan. 24, 7:00-9:00 pm, for a rare West Coast concert by singer/songwriter Suzanne Sheridan at UUCOD. Suzanne, a favorite of East Coast UUs, will perform the music of social justice icons Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen as well her own originals.

Buy your \$25 ticket for this fundraising concert ASAP. Click on the button below the concert description to purchase your ticket. If you prefer to not go online, fill out the paper registration form found in the foyer

We also need your help to create the atmosphere of a 60s-70s coffee house for this fund-raising concert! If you have concert posters, album covers from your favorite folk singers, some acoustic guitars, some pole lamps or table lamps and small table and chairs, please let Fran Hoag know! And, of course, those fun lava lamps would be great to add to the setting.

Let your friends know too! It's a great way to introduce people to UUCOD on a fun, socially conscious evening.

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

Centering and Resilience : Self-Sustainability for Activists

Facilitated by Constance Clare-Newman
Hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Social Justice Committee

January 12-February 9, 2020

Sundays 2pm-4pm (skips Feb. 2)

UUCOD, 72-425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage

Shore up presence, resilience and self-rejuvenation. Continual burn-out and illness is not necessary and does not help our causes.

We will explore individually and as a group:

- How has being an activist impacted your body?
- How does "being different" create hyper-vigilance?
- What do overwork and depletion do to your mind-body being?
- What self-sustaining practices can work for you?
- Can you re-center in challenging moments?
- How can holding space for change be a source of strength?

You will explore how some patterns and habits have become stuck in your body and what options you have to change. You will learn mind-body skills to center and balance, during times of rest and during times of activism and action.

I want this training to be accessible to as many people as possible so I am asking people to pay what they think it's worth to them, given their individual financial situations.

RSVP, or more info: constance@constanceclare.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for the Christmas Eve service were \$902 with \$451 going to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and the other \$451 go to the UU Service Committee.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Your generosity during our Holiday Drive has made the holidays merrier for the 14 residents living at Harrison House. You stepped up & gave 54 gifts requested by the residents as well as greatly needed items like bus tickets & for both Harrison House and SafeHouse of the Desert. If that wasn't enough, your generous Share the Plate donations in December, which totaled \$519.50, will be used for their ongoing community



support, emergency shelter, intervention and outreach services to youth in crisis. **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who wrapped presents at the Holiday Wrapping Party.

Coming February Event:

UUCOD Member, Gene Kain will teach 4 weekly classes in a Monoprint Workshop. Class size is limited to 8 & will be the first 8 who sign up & pay the supply fee of \$55.00. Dates to follow, time will be during the day. For more information, ask Gene during coffee hour.

Greetings to you who may have space available for a couple who could trade housing for a donation to the UUCOD

*Professional couple with a small 35 pound rescue dog needs a place to call home for the month of March 2020. They've sold their home in Lake La Quinta and new home in Arizona is not available **until April 1st.***

If you have a studio or home available for a short 30 day term, please let us know. Or, if you are traveling anytime in the month of February or March, we would love to "house-sit" your home and/or animals for you. Huge animal lovers! Thanks for any ideas you may have!

Leslie g 760-218-8865

SAVE THE DATE

More info to follow on each of these upcoming events as their dates draw nearer:

February 2, Calling All Chili Chefs & Corn Bread Bakers

Join us February 2nd when **UUCOD's 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off & Corn Bread Bake-Off** kicks off our 2020 Pledge Drive. Last year, Vikki Porter took home the trophy for her *Vikki's Roots Hold Me Close Chili* & Sally Weitzel took home the trophy for her *Sally's Sumptous Corn Bread*. Do YOU have what it takes to be the 2020 Grand Champion Chili Chef or Corn Bread Baker? Contact Barbara Storms to sign up to be a Chili Chef, Corn Bread Baker, bring a dessert, or assist with the event.

It takes a village to have a cook-off:

You can help make the annual Chili Cook-Off & Corn Bread Bake-Off a success by volunteering on February 2nd, 2020. We need help:

- Setting up before service
- Setting up the sanctuary and then resetting it
- Enlisting chefs and bakers
- Helping with the awards

Contact: Barbara Storms

Saturday, February 15, 2020: Cabaret Night

Contacts: Peter Mathews and Carol Lavoie

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

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