

February 2020



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

Dear Friends

Opelske is a word Swedish gardeners use. It is a word that describes a garden that is thriving because it has been well tended and loved into fullness. Opelske is a Swedish word for "loving up".

Our congregation is a garden of sorts. We are gardeners in shared purpose. Or as we put it every Sunday, "aspiration". *"May love be the spirit of this church, ..."*

Each of us is a gardener. Cultivating spiritual growth is a task we share. And we do it generation to generation. No legacy lasts forever. It is up to each one of us, according to our ability and our love, to cultivate the health and well being of each other and this community, each in our own way and together. It is a kind of passing it forward, sharing the burdens and basking in the blessings, all of it with an attitude of gratitude. Gratitude is a spiritual practice.

Spiritual practice is a conscious endeavor. Henry David Thoreau wrote, *"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor....every [hu]man is tasked to make his life, even in its details, worthy of the contemplation of his most elevated and critical hour."* Thoreau is one of our UU 'saints'.

For Thoreau, the ability of human beings to elevate their lives by conscious endeavor was *unquestionable*. How extraordinary! There is, as he puts it, *no more encouraging fact*. And he tells us, gardener of the human soul that he is, that we are *tasked* to make our life *..worthy of our contemplation*.

I want to acknowledge a UUCOD loved "saint" who passed away this week, our own Bob Woolfson. He cultivated the health and wholeness of UUCOD and Unitarian Universalism for decades. He will be missed. We will let you know when the Memorial service to honor his memory will take place.

The inherent integrity of every human being is a core value of Unitarian Universalism and we strive to encourage its growth and flowering. As we go into our annual pledge, drive please consider how you may want to support and nourish this UUCOD garden so that it will continue to thrive this year and for years to come.

Blessings.

Rev Barbara

SERVICES

February 2, 2019

The Power of Choosing Gratitude

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

February 9, 2019

Writing with Light

Expression, inner work, Art-as-Mediation. So many of us use creative hobbies to connect with something bigger than ourselves. In this sermon, Rev Don will share his experiences using the expressive arts in counseling, hospice work, and his own self-discovery. Expressive Arts are also a way to help make sense of a world out of control. Come and explore your creative side, like a child with freedom and a sense of curiosity.

Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

February 16, 2019

The Prodigal Son - Forgiveness Part 1

The characters of the iconic story are symbolic. We are invited to see them as aspects of the nature of forgiveness, given and received. Rembrandt's painting also helps. Join us.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Josette Pacino

February 23, 2019

Marvelous Error - Forgiveness Part 2

How do we forgive ourselves and make "sweet honey from old failures." Join us.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Ray Deveaux

CALENDAR

Saturday, February 1

7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

Sunday, February 2

Food on the First

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Pledge Drive Kick-Off

11:30 am-Chili and Corn Bread Cook Off

2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, February 3

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, February 4

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

2:30 pm-Facilitators

Wednesday, February 5

9:00 am-Safety Committee

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

6:30 pm-Facilities

Thursday, February 6

5:15 pm-Women's Night Out

7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, February 7

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 8

7:30 am-Second Saturday Stroll

Sunday, February 9

Socks on the Second

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:30 am-Finance Committee

2:00 pm-Centering and Resilience

Monday, February 10

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Monday, February 17

1:00 pm-Chalice Circles

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 18

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

5:00 pm-Board of Directors

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 19

3:00 pm-Chalice Circles

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 20

7:00 pm-Bridge

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Saturday, February 22

9:00 am-Weed Pull and Green Workshop

Sunday, February 23

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:30 am-New Member Orientation

11:30 am-Conversations with Board

Monday, February 24

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 25

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

4:00 pm-Worship Committee

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 27

5:00 pm-DOS Auction

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 13

6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee
7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, February 14

4:00 pm-Celebrate Us Variety Show Rehearsal

Saturday, February 15

9:00 am-2nd Saturday Stroll
7:00 pm-Celebrate Us Variety Show

Sunday, February 16

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

7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, February 28

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club
7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Saturday, February 29

9:00 am-Church Council

Sunday, March 1

Food on the First
10:00 am-Worship
2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, March 2

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

SOCIAL JUSTICE

February 2, 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 February 2 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!

**February 9, Socks on the Second for Homeless Persons**

Bring February 9 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!

February 16, Share the Plate

This month we share the plate with Well in the Desert in Palm Springs which provides a drop-in center, food, water, clothing and more to persons living homeless. Please bring your checkbooks on February 16 and be prepared to give generously.

Share the Plate Nominations

Thank you to the people who have nominated new local organizations for Share the Plate. We are far, though, from the 10-12 candidates we need for a congregational vote. The survey will close on February 15, so do not miss your chance to nominate your favorite organization or two. You *can* vote more than once. Contact Fran Hoag if you have questions or if you want to vote by email.

[Click here to vote through our secure link](#)

More Than 25 UUCOD Women & Men Rally at January 18th Women's March

Supported by many more who were not able to attend, more than twenty-five UUCOD women and men marched and rallied at the Women's March alongside more than 350 others who came from throughout the Coachella Valley. The female speakers came from diverse backgrounds and included a Native American college student, a transgender woman, a Dreamer, and an East Valley teacher, activist, and recent newcomer to UUCOD, Lorraine Salas. They passionately spoke about the need for feminism to be inclusive for all, immigration reform, the impact of our global warming crisis on women and families in the Coachella Valley, the need for women to be counted in the upcoming Census, and the need for everyone to vote for the Democrat presidential nominee in November. It was a wonderful event and great to see the East Valley represented! One of the comments overheard was, "We always know that UUCOD will be here to support us and rally with us!"

That's what it means to be on the side of love.



EVENTS



February 1, Script2Stage2Screen: Taking Care of Mimi

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.

February 6, Women's Night Out

With the help of Sheryl Eaton, we are having WNO at Jax Restaurant at Cathedral Canyon Country Club at 68311 Paseo Real, Cathedral City at 5:15 pm. They will provide separate checks for our group. Please RSVP and mark your calendars.

February 7, Social BUUterfly Event

Social BUUterfly event at Palm Desert Cactus Club at 6:30 pm. LIMITED reserved seating - - you MUST let me know if you are attending. I have been lucky to reserve 2 tables, on the patio for my FAVORITE valley singer, Gennine Francis. Full dinner, bar menus available & beverage service. NO cover charge (tips for singer gratefully accepted). Come join us for a wonderful evening of music (& dancing) under the stars. Contact Sheryl Eaton to reserve your seat.

https://youtu.be/hp-KC_MJTW8 - for video of Gennines "Essence of Whitney" show. □

February 8th, Second Saturday Stroll

This month we head to Pipe's Canyon to hike the Indian Trail Loop in the Pioneertown Mountains Preserve. Come explore this part of the Sand to Snow National Monument in the transition zone between the Mohave Desert and the Transverse Mountains. This is a highly rated hike, though more challenging than most of our Strolls: 6-7 miles with some steep areas and some rocky footing, and a potential one mile side trip up Chaparrrosa Peak. It is worth it with great views!

Meet at UUCOD at 7:30am to carpool, or 8:30am at the trailhead on Pipes Canyon Road 4-5 miles past Pioneertown. Please register so we know who is coming. Afterwards we can stop at Pappy & Harriet's for lunch and return to UUCOD mid-afternoon.

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

February 15, 2020: 'Celebrate UUs!' Variety Show

You Are Cordially Invited to Celebrate You!

Join us at the first UUCOD Variety Show Saturday, Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m. Free Admission*

Come join together for a collective pat on the back (and champagne toast) to all of us! Enjoy entertainment by our own talented congregants:

Margaret & Roger Beaman
Shirley & Terry LeMaster
Patti Gallagher
Kurt Jordan & Jonathan Fast
Jim Swanson
Velma Wagner & Friends

Mary Ellison
Reverend Barbara & Jonathan Fast
Dundas Winn
John Hammond

with Peter Mathews as the emcee.

Free raffle tickets for a Jensen's chocolate goodies basket
Contact [Carol Lavoie](#) with questions.
**Donations happily accepted for our music program.*

February 19, Choir Invitation

There will be a choir open house at 6:15 pm followed by an open choir rehearsal. Come enjoy and sing.

February 22, Weed Pull for our Sacred Grounds!

From 9:00-11:00 am, we'll have a party to pull invasive weeds on the church grounds. The Sacred Grounds Initiative (led by Jack Fitzsimmons and Rod Belshee) has begun dreaming of ways the congregation and the wider community can become better caretakers of the land. Come join us for a morning of fun, learning, weeding, and community building. More details to follow.

February 24, Afternoon Book Group

The afternoon book group will have their February meeting on the 24th at 1:30 at Jeanie Milliken's. The book is "Know My Name" by Chanel Miller.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The UUCOD directory is for the exclusive use of Members and Friends of UUCOD. It may not be shared with anyone outside the UU congregation. It also may not be used for any other charity or business purpose.

Pledge Drive Kickoff

Plan to stay after service for our pledge drive kickoff. Enjoy over a dozen different chili recipes or cornbread delights. It's time to clean out your pockets, the bottom of your purse, and the car and bring that spare change to vote for your favorite chili and cornbread.

Plate Collections for Sunday, January 26: \$311.00

February 2, Scrip Sunday

This is SCRIP Sunday. Order your gift cards before or after service on the patio.

CONVERSATION, COFFEE AND COOKIES

This is valued time following our worship service where we share with each other and receive a little nourishment. After many, many years of caring for us, our valued Kitchen Angels have notified us that they are stepping back. We cannot imagine our Sunday conversation time without coffee, cookies, cheese, and crackers!!

Now new folks are needed to step in and help out. We will teach you how to make coffee, set up cookies, make lemonade, and clean up the kitchen. Please consider helping out; there will be a sign up sheet in the foyer on Sunday.

Let's all work together to prevent a COFFEE and COOKIE CRISIS.

More Beauty Coming!

You may have noticed all of the improvements: a freshly painted stage, a better organized foyer, and new stage lighting. And it is about to take an even bigger step.

Gene Kain has generously offered to donate two metal sculptures for our grounds. The Board appointed an ad-hoc team to evaluate and jury the offer and found it to be amazing. Installation will occur this month. Join the Board in expressing a huge thank you to Gene!

Making the UUCOD Community Safer

It was one year ago in February that the UUCOD Board created an ad hoc committee to assess the safety and security of our campus and, most important, our congregation.

That committee -- comprised of board members Vikki Porter, Jerry L'Hommedieu, Jane Zaun, Carol Lavoie, and Rod Belshee -- has evaluated everything from the systems that protect us from fire and break-ins to trip hazards and outdoor lighting. Fixes followed with most of those improvements being done by Rod and an amazing team of volunteers.

The Safety Committee also developed policy and plans for reacting to major emergencies that could happen at any time we are gathered together. Those plans cover four specific possible emergencies: Medical, Fire, Earthquake and Intruder/Active Shooter.

Now it's time for the committee to share those plans with the congregation and begin training key volunteer responders on what to do in these emergencies. In the coming months of 2020, the Safety Committee will be sharing plans in various ways, including: emails containing critical information for congregants on emergency procedures; training sessions on evacuation procedures and emergency responses; and planned drills with the entire congregation during the year.

The committee still needs your help to ensure our community is safe and secure.

Dylan, Joni, Leonard and Me: Suzanne Sheridan in Concert

The concert on Friday, January 24 was a rousing success. Suzanne had us singing along and dancing in the aisles as well as listening quietly in the intimate moments. We had an attendance of 98 people, many of them newcomers to UUCOD. We also raised \$1454 for the music program.

This would not have been successful without the efforts of our incredible volunteers. So many hearts coming together created a really magical moment that sent everyone home tingling. Steve Kerr, along with Rod Belshee and Jim Scott, worked countless hours to install new stage lights. Vikki Porter and Diane Carmony advertised in so many online venues that our concert was at the top on the search list. Glenn Yamaguchi painted the stage. Fran Hoag gathered furniture and lamps to decorate the stage. Jack Fitzsimmons created the anti-war posters. Mel Wilkinson ran the lights and sound. Pam and Robert Rickey, Peter Matthews, Glenn Yamaguchi and Fran Hoag decorated the stage. Sandy Sladen, Margaret Manson, Jerry L'Homidieu and Joni Paddock took tickets. Ted St. John and Jonathan Fast tended the bar and cookie sales. Carol Lavoie was a cherished advisor. And thanks to Reverend Barbara Fast for creating this opportunity and hosting Suzanne and Rosie.

Thank you to all who attended and worked behind the scenes.



BOARD NOTES

NOTES FROM JANUARY BOARD MEETING

These board notes do not constitute official minutes of the Board of Directors meeting but are intended to inform the congregation of matters discussed at the meeting. Official minutes of this meeting will be available after the next Board meeting on February 18, 2020.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on January 21, 2020 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude Cards were sent to Sheryl Eaton, Joni Paddock and Bill Masco, Bryna Blum and Marty Gronewald, Glenn Yamaguchi, Steve Kerr and Jim Scott.

The Board:

- Moved for UUCOD to sponsor a table of 10 at the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast on May 7, 2020. Tickets to be sold to members and friends for \$65.00.
- Agreed to promote the Caesar Chavez Breakfast on March 31, 2020. Members and friends may purchase tickets at a cost of \$25.00.
- Moved to allocate our share of proceeds from the Suzanne Sheridan concert to the music budget.
- Agreed on revisions to Building Use Form that requires restrictions on the serving, sale, consumption and storage of alcohol at UUCOD.
- Moved to accept a metal art sculpture donated by Gene Kain.
- Discussed the new CA law AB5 regarding classifications of employees vs. contractors.
- Reviewed information from the Treasurer and the Stewardship Committee regarding their research on attendance and participation of our members and friends. Information is being shared with Membership, Caring, or the Minister.
- Discussed "Conversations with Board" after Worship on Sunday 1/26 with a topic of Leadership in the New Year.

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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