

March 20, 2020



## UUCOD Weekly Reminder

### SERVICES

**March 22, 2020**

***It's Spring: Honoring Our Sacred Grounds***

*ON SITE WORSHIP CANCELLED; Online Streaming Worship Service is Available*

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Josette Pacino

**March 29, 2020**

***I bore you on eagles' wings...***

There is something very powerful, encouraging and inspiring about that image! What can we learn from it? Relationships and encouraging each other... learning from the eagles!

Worship Leader: Rabbi Jules King

### CALENDAR

**Sunday, March 22**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ONLINE STREAMING ONLY**

11:30 am-Safety Committee Presentation-**Cancelled**

**Monday, March 23**

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery-**Cancelled**

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal-**Cancelled**

**Tuesday, March 24**

8:30 am-Weight Watchers-**Cancelled**

4:00 pm-Worship Committee

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal-**Cancelled**

**Wednesday, March 25**

6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir Rehearsal-**Cancelled**

**Thursday, March 26**

7:00 pm-Bridge-**Cancelled**

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal-**Cancelled**

**Friday, March 27**

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-**Cancelled**

### A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JANE

#### Our Community

We are a community. We are used to gathering in person weekly to share worship, sing Spirit of Life, feel uplifted by our Choir and inspired by Reverend Barbara; and after service, coffee, cookies, smiles, hugs, share meals, and wish each other well for the next week. Then we meet throughout the month in committee meetings, book groups, to play scrabble and bridge, for church business, and plan our social justice activities. Reverend Barbara has taught us that we are part of a shared ministry.

Yet here we are, our lives have changed dramatically in just the last week. We are all now facing a new reality. We are acutely aware of our 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part".

We now have phrases like "Social Distancing", "Flatten the Curve"; phrases most of us have never heard of prior to Coronavirus. Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz's webinar this past week indicated the Coachella Valley's population as a whole is very susceptible to serious consequences of the Coronavirus. Here's a link to his website with Covid-19 information:

<https://ruiz.house.gov/coronavirus-what-you-need-know>

Those of our congregation who live in Palm Springs have been living under "Shelter in Place" restrictions. Thursday afternoon, Governor Newsom placed the entire state under a "Shelter in Place." "Shelter in Place", as an order from the government, has specific restrictions for our daily lives. That includes primarily staying at home; going out to shop only for food, medical and other necessary supplies, keep medical appointments, care for an elderly person and/or care for family members. It means we are to engage in activities for the health and safety of ourselves and our family members. Overall, the message is to avoid any non-essential outings and follow strict physical distancing practices. Following those physical distancing guidelines, I found going for a walk in the neighborhood with Mel particularly calming. There was a cactus with a circle of red flowers around the top, a rosemary shrub whose fragrance drew me in to sniff, birds chirping their songs, plants waiting to be identified by the i-Naturalist app (thank you, Rod), and finding in cloud formations a heart and a whale.

There is no script for the time in which we find ourselves. We are all learning how to keep the vibrancy of our community and our connection to each other through phone calls, texting, emailing, Zoom, Facebook, and our neighborhood groups.

With those calls, texts, emails, and social media contact others in our community regularly; contact your friends, contact someone you may not know so well and make a new friend.

This is the time "Shared Ministry" has a deeper meaning for connection between all of us.

Your President,  
Jane

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Plate Collections for Sunday, March 15: \$180.00**

### **FYI: Email SCAM**

**Congregations are being targeted with email scams that include a message sent by what appears to be the minister asking for gift cards to support people with COVID-19.**

**Rev Barbara Does NOT do that.**

### **Volunteers Needed**

The Covid-19 virus and Governor Newsom's announcement about individuals staying at home present new challenges for all of us at UUCOD. We're rethinking how we communicate with and care for our members and friends, maintain essential ongoing operations, support Sunday services, and keep everyone safe and healthy. We need volunteers to help call congregants, assist with developing communications, provide members and friends with basic technical support with computers and software, and help with virtual Sunday services. We are developing a team to coordinate these efforts but we need others to join in helping us manage through these difficult times. With the exception of Sunday services support, you'll be able to perform all activities from home and won't require more than 4 – 6 hours per week. If you're willing to help, please contact Jerry L'Hommedieu at this email: [jlh1954@gmail.com](mailto:jlh1954@gmail.com)

### **How to Make Contributions, Donations and Pledge Payments**

UUCOD receives a considerable amount of its revenues through plate collections each Sunday. This includes cash donations and checks for pledge payments and contributions of record. As you might expect, our lack of active services has already impacted our revenues and this will continue for some time. Friends and congregants can mail their contributions by check to UUCOD at PO Box 2853, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 or pay by credit card. To pay by credit card, you can contribute by clicking on the "Contribute Now" button immediately below. We'll make this available each week in this newsletter. You can also make your donation through our website at [www.uucod.org](http://www.uucod.org). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and select the "Donations" option. If you'd like to have recurring donations withdrawn your checking or savings account or charged to a credit card, please contact our treasurer, Jerry L'Hommedieu, at [treasurer@uucod.org](mailto:treasurer@uucod.org).

[Make Donations Now](#)

### **News from the Care Team:**

Linda Savard and Larry Rogers are on duty for the Care Team for the months of March and April. Anyone in need of support, please feel free to reach out to Linda Savard (562) 505-7665 or Larry Rogers (918) 805-1085. If they can't be reached, team chair is Bryna Blum (760) 485 9289.

### **Butterfly Project:**

UUCOD is once again painting Butterflies for the Butterfly Project. We will be painting them in the Community Room on the first Sunday of each month, (next session is scheduled for April 5, 2020) beginning at 11:30 AM and continuing until we are finished for the day. You can paint half a butterfly, or as many as you wish.

The Butterfly Project is a call to action through education, the arts and memorial making. It uses the lessons of the Holocaust to educate about the dangers of hatred and bigotry and cultivates empathy and social responsibility. Participants paint ceramic butterflies that are permanently displayed as symbols of resilience and hope, with the goal of creating 1.5 million butterflies around the world—one for each child who perished in the Holocaust, and honoring the survivors.

UUCOD is the first Church to participate in this project. For further information, please contact Kevin Brandt at 760-625-5880.

### **What are the Sacred Grounds?**

Some months ago and with the encouragement of Reverend Barbara, a passionate group of UUCOD'ers got together to dream about how we could improve the ecological health of the sacred grounds upon which we worship and put into practice our 7th Principle. Some of the dreams that were envisioned include:

- Habitat spaces using indigenous or desert-appropriate plants that provide visual welcome and a sense of peace.
- Contemplation spaces for meditation, reflection, and remembrance of people and pets, connected by paths and benches that lay lightly and rightly upon the land.
- Meditation grove to provide welcome, quiet, and shade.
- Ceremonial spaces.
- Green wall and walk to shelter the sanctuary's west wall.
- Water features to nurture and sustain bodies and souls.
- Spaces for the creation and celebration of art in harmony with nature.

The Sacred Grounds team planned to share these dreams with you during the coffee hour on March 22. We will find other means.

We have conceptual illustrations and information for two projects - enhancing the plaza in front of our sanctuary more like the original plans and creating a Celebration Garden around offer metal sculpture for our communities pavers. We are initially focusing on efforts that can be easily accomplished and that will immediately enhance the appearance and usefulness of our sanctuary and benefit the existing ecosystem surrounding the building. We want your ideas, your passion, and your enthusiasm as you move from table to table. As our website states, let us bloom where we are planted.

In community,  
The Sacred Grounds Team



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVOCATION IN THESE TRYING TIMES**

Dear Members and Supporters,

In just a short period of time, our lives have been altered by a pandemic.

In times like these, we are reminded of the 7th principle of Unitarian Universalism: "Respect for the

interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part."

While many frontline workers and those in marginalized communities, already food insecure, face the greatest impact, essentially we are all in this together. It seems that with each passing day uncertainty looms larger. However, we must not allow fear to override our good judgement. It's important that our actions help flatten the curve of transmission of this virus.

Humans are social creatures, so it's natural for us to want to be in the company of each other. However, we have a moral responsibility to ourselves, our families, and members of our respective communities to err on the side of caution by following the guidance of health care professionals and local authorities.

While we are unable to enjoy each other's presence, we can remain connected by the many electronic means. Please reach out by email, text, Facebook and the old-fashioned telephone. Just remember: you are not alone.

From My Heart to Yours,

Rev. Addae Kraba  
President, International Women's Convocation

*If you need an uplifting, encouraging moment in these trying times, please follow the link to watch the video* filmed at the Monte Vista UU Congregation, CA In honor of March 8, International Women's Day, guest speaker Ms. Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo, Associate Dean of Study Abroad and International Programs at Pitzer College, Claremont, CA, shares her experience and insights about women's engagement in education, mentoring, restoration and micro-credit programs in Africa.

Take care, stay at home, and remember: we are all here for each other.  
The International Women's Convocation Team

[Click here to watch the video](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

### **May 7th, Harvey Milk Breakfast, Palm Springs Convention Center**

UUCOD is sponsoring a table of 10. See Jane Zaun for details.

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**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 3:00 pm, Fridays.

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