

# September 2020



## UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

### MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

September 2020

*“Power without love is reckless and abusive...  
love without power is sentimental and anemic.  
Power at its best is love implementing the demands of  
justice...”*

*Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

As I look back on my beginnings, I think a “north star” of my life compass was a belief that fairness mattered. As a girl, ‘play fair’, ‘share fair’, ‘follow the rules’, be fair and as I grew, try to make the world more fair. Simple! It seemed to be the path “We” were on. I did get lost in the woods, as Dante describes. I reflect on some of the ‘deadly’ sins that can still work on me at times. They arise as a result of that most cunning chemistry, *fear*.

This summer I have been observing that *fear* based forces are burdening my heart and mind. They are disturbing my faith in the fabric of American values and the very promise of ‘We, the People’. As deeply flawed as it has been, to my mind, the ‘work’ was to keep perfecting the promise, was to keep ‘*love implementing the demands of justice*’ until all are free to fairly pursue the Dream. I am of an age and caste where I had the benefit of rising up the class ladder of America, on a wave of social movements. And the purpose of having gained that power and of enjoying those benefits is to continue to ‘widen the circle’, so more share in them.

What is our national “north star” now? People speak of a crisis of faith. Is that what I am losing? ‘Faith’? faith in the system and Constitution and vision of a nation that cares about fundamental fairness. Cares about its people’s health and welfare and true happiness and is led by people who value serving the common good.

The National Archives Museum, streamed a live 100th Anniversary program on the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment where Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Susan B Anthony were interviewed. I knew about the decades of work, the set-backs and successes, the arguments about strategy, the marches, the brutality of the police as they arrested and beat women protesters. With Alice Paul, they locked her up. When she and others went on hunger strike, force-fed them. I noticed that a very few posts from men on the live chat said that we need to take away that 19th Amendment. That women’s voting has “weakened” America. These days, I wonder if they real people?

Sojourner Truth offered this advice, for those seeking to continue to fight to gain the vote for women and equality in all things for not only white women, but women like herself. It was her address to the First Annual Meeting of the American Equal Rights Association (1867). *I am for keeping the thing going while things are stirring; because if we wait till it is*

*still, it will take a great while to get it going again.*

However we are feeling about the state of our times, we must *keep stirring*. Allowing Love to *implement the demands of Justice*, in our hearts, minds and communities, empowers us and keeps fear at bay. We will learn how we can 'Widen our Circle' to dismantle racist systems and become more fair. It gladdens me to be back with you this year. So much is stirring inside me.

Blessings  
*Rev Barbara*

"A message from our [UUA Pacific Western Region](#) "

## SERVICES

**August 30, 2020**

***Spirituality and Climate Justice***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder**

**Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt**

In this sermon, Rev. Don will present climate change data from the Climate Reality Project. He will show us the important ways that our lived spirituality as UUs are directly related to the climate justice issues here in the Coachella Valley.

**September 6, 2020**

***Beyond the Water's Edge***

**Worship Leader: GA Service--Rev. Joan Javier-Duval**

Our faithful and skillful Sunday Service Tech Team has a Sunday off for Labor day. We decided that there was great value to stream the UUA General Assembly Closing Worship for UUCOD as a community. You will be challenged and encouraged by the vision, inspired by the power of the message, comforted by the shared prayers and lifted up by the songs. After, please join us for our Zoom Meeting at 11:30 AM.

**September 13, 2020**

***A Free Heart; Part 1***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast**

**Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales**

I have missed you! I have missed being with my community as a religious practice! Knowing that you are out there, gives me strength when my heart is troubled by the unnecessary suffering human beings create. I am glad we are here now. And the choir has some surprises for you!

Join us in Sunday Together for a BYOICS (Bring Your Own Ice Cream Sundae) to welcome Rev. Barbara back.

**September 20, 2020**

***TBD***

**Worship Leader:**

**Worship Associate: Joni Paddock**

**September 27, 2020**

***A Free Heart; Part 2***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast**

**Worship Associate: Bryna Blum**

A path into freedom is a lifelong pursuit. In Zen there are the Ox-Herding Pictures. In the civic arena there is the call for justice. Ideals are wonderful, but, as someone said, "you

cannot eat democracy.” Dr. King wrote: “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” In Judaism, these are the High Holy Days, a new year’s time, out of ordinary time. It is a solemn and celebratory time, a time to take inventory and see what we need to let go, into order to stay on the path into liberating freedom.

## COLLECTIONS BASKET

## "INSPIRATIONAL" QUOTE OF THE WEEK

You are invited to send your favorite inspirational quote to [admin@uucod.com](mailto:admin@uucod.com) for publishing in our Newsletters. Let's all work to keep each other's spirits lifted!

This quote compliments of Leslie Gebhart: “...it may take months or years for a wish to come true, but it’s far more likely to happen when you care so much about a wish that you’ll do all you can to make it happen.” ~ Fred Rogers

## CALENDAR

### **Saturday, August 29**

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Sunday, August 30**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

### **Tuesday, September 1**

1:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Wednesday, September 2**

6:30 pm-Facilities-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Thursday, September 3**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**  
3:00 pm-Tea Time with Terry-**ZOOM Meeting**  
5:15 pm-WNO-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Friday, September 4**

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast-**ZOOM Meeting**  
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Saturday, September 5**

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Sunday, September 6**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

### **Tuesday, September 8**

6:00 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM**

### **Sunday, September 13**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**  
11:00 am-BYOICS-**Zoom Meeting**  
Join us for our BYOICS event to welcome back Rev. Barbara.  
11:30 am-Finance Committee-**Zoom Meeting**

### **Tuesday, September 15**

5:00 pm-Board of Directors-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Wednesday, September 16**

5:30 pm-BIOPOC-**Zoom Meeting**

### **Thursday, September 17**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Friday, September 18**

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Saturday, September 19**

9:30 am-Board Retreat-**ZOOM Meeting**  
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

### **Sunday, September 20**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

### **Tuesday, September 22**

4:30 pm-Worship Committee-**Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting**

**Thursday, September 10**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-

**ZOOM Meeting**

6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-

**ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, September 11**

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

**ZOOM Meeting**

**Saturday, September 12**

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Thursday, September 24**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-

**ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, September 25**

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

**ZOOM Meeting**

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-

**ZOOM Meeting**

**Saturday, September 26**

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Sunday, September 27**

10:00 am-Worship Service-

**Live Streaming**

11:00 am-Sunday Together-

**Zoom Meeting**

**Monday, September 28**

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-

**Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 29**

5:00 pm-First President Debate-

**Zoom Meeting**

## STAYING CONNECTED

### Staying Connected

**Women's Night Out:** Thursday Sept. 3 @ 5:30 pm

**UUCOD Men's Breakfast:** Friday Sept. 4 @ 8:00 am

**Sunday Together:** Sunday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Loving Kindness Meditation:** Thursday @ 12:00 - 12:30 pm

**Coffee & Conversation:** Friday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Social BUUterflies Happy Hour:** Saturday @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

### To Dial in by Phone

**Sunday Together**

**Coffee & Conversation:**

**Loving Kindness Meditation:**

**Social BUUterflies Happy Hour:**

**Women's Night Out:**

**UUCOD Men's Breakfast:**

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Plate Collections for Sunday, August 23: \$167.53**

Welcome Back Rev. Barbara!

We hope this summer you were able to spend long days and restful evenings with your family. To welcome you back we have a special Ice Cream Sundae Social Planned for September 13th. This is a **BYOICS**. Bring Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Social!! We will

meet in our Sunday Together to share ice cream, discussion and welcome your return.

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### **The Light: Why Artists Live in the Desert--Thursday, September 3 at 3:00 pm.**

This show is about art, but it's not just for artists. Everyone in the community is invited to join in the fun during this biweekly event, hosted by Terry Hastings.

This week's show will explore the lure of the desert for artists, who have been attracted to this area for decades, displaying the beauty of the desert in all of its light and shadows.

Also on this episode: Public art and Covid-safe art journeys you can take in your car across the Coachella Valley. Guests will be our own Dan Spencer, designer of the Peace Labyrinth in Rancho Mirage, and Marconi Calindas-Cafege, who will be talking about the benches he painted in downtown Palm Springs.

Join Terry on Zoom to meet artists, discuss the work, and discover more about our vibrant arts community! Free.

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

The Care Team is here for you. Anyone in need of support, please reach out to either Margaret Beaman or Bryna Blum. They are on call through the end of September. We care about what you need to share....

Our information can be found in the UU Directory.

Stay safe and be well.

Bryna

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### **Stewardship Committee**

Stewardship is the act of responsibly caring for something. You can be a good steward of your family, your home, the earth, your job, your church, or any other organization you support. We tend to be good stewards of things that are important to us, things that matter. We care for these things with our time, talents and money.

Take a moment to think about being a good steward of your family and home. What does that look like for you? Does it mean you try to ensure you and your family members are happy, healthy and safe? Are everyone's basic needs met? Is your home your castle, whatever that means to you? Do you and your family members participate in things that bring them joy? It could be sports, the arts, reading, cooking, vacations or any other activities.

UUCOD is part of our extended family. Over the next few months we will explore what it means to be a good steward of our family at UUCOD. That caring will look different for each of us. We can each be a good steward in some way to support our church. I hope you will join me in the journey to learn more about stewardship and what it means at UUCOD.

Written by Linda Savard on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **A Message from the Social Justice Committee**

All of us at UUCOD have a powerful legacy of showing up to address the social inequities we see happening in our front & back yards within the Coachella Valley. One way we do this is through holding monthly Share the Plates for local nonprofit organizations that are on the frontlines working with people and animals who have been pushed aside by biased policies created by leadership within our local, state and national governments.

Our seven principles demand it and the members of the Social Justice Committee are committed to this vision because we know you, our beloved community, will always show up and give as generously as you are able. We don't seek recognition for what we do. But, still, it's nice to be recognized.

To our surprise and delight, Palm Springs Chapter of Veterans for Peace - whom we Shared the Plate with last month and donated \$462.67 to - will be honoring UUCOD at their International Day of Peace virtual celebration on September 21, 2020. We see this honor as an acknowledgment of all that you are doing every month.

Of course, this recognition doesn't mean that we on the Social Justice Committee can slow down and rest on our laurels. Instead, we are committed to living on the side of love and as the recently-departed Representative John Lewis had said "... to get in trouble. Good trouble, necessary trouble." Thanks for getting into trouble with us.

If you would like to attend this event or are interested in being on the Social Justice Committee and help us fulfill our vision, please call Denise Janssen Eager.

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***"Well in the Desert is Totally out of Men's and Women's Clothes!  
Can you help us?"***

This is the appeal Well in the Desert president Arlene Rosenthal shared recently on FaceBook. Many of the 100 or so women and men who daily walk through their doors have only the clothes on their backs and very little else. They rely on the Well to get clean clothes.

The Well needs clean men's and women's shorts, lightweight pants, short-sleeved shirts, tank tops, and underwear. If you have cleaned out your closets and have any of these clothes to donate, call Bryna Blum. Next week, she will pick up your donated clothing & deliver it to WITD's Cooling Center on 441 S Calle Encilia in Palm Springs. Thank you.

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**Well in the Desert is September's Share the Plate Recipient**

**Well in the Desert**, our September 20th Share the Plate recipient, is a small, grassroots 501(c)3 organization that has been operating for 23 years. In a normal year, they serve more than 1000 people who are affected by poverty throughout the western end of the Coachella Valley. However, with this pandemic, they are seeing 100 clients walk through their doors every day.

Recently, the Well suffered a crushing blow when the city of Palm Springs informed them that the city will no longer be able to provide the \$75,000 that the city has been providing the Well in annual funding, and may not be able to provide the Well the \$45,000 that had been promised from COVID-19 Relief funding. The money from these two city sources formed the largest part of the budget for Well in the Desert. This funding loss will severely impact the Well's ability to continue providing the services which its homeless clients rely on to survive. These include:

- Nutritious meals 7 days a week
- Emergency food assistance
- Weekly supplemental food distribution
- Showers & personal care products
- Clean clothing
- An address that clients can use to vote in the upcoming election
- Case management for medical, mental health, and dental services
- Advocacy

Most of all, the Well provides a place where people can be treated with dignity and respect, which, when you think about it, is our UUA first principle. Please give generously to our Share the Plate for Well in the Desert.



## Postcards Written To Date!!!!

Thank you to all our 37 volunteers who, over the past 2 weeks, wrote 1000 postcards to Texas voters reminding them to vote early! This tops our first postcard action of 25 volunteers writing 500 postcards to Florida voters. And who can forget the texting couch party & telephone banking we did earlier this summer. And we're just getting

started!

With less than 10 weeks to go until Election Day, we're already planning our next action. Want to join us & do your part to protect our democracy? If you're on FaceBook, click on this link, [UUCOD the Vote](#) to join. If you are not, call Gloria Kapp to sign up.



Check out who attended our first ever UUCOD the Vote Virtual Postcard Writing Party!

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## UUCOD the Vote Virtual Presidential Debate Watching Party

The conventions are over and the candidates have finally been nominated by their parties. Now it's time for the debates! Will YOU be watching?

Mark your calendars, grab your snacks, beverages of choice & join us for the first (of what we hope will be annual) UUCOD the Vote Virtual Debate Watching Party. Together, we will watch the debates, chat via Zoom about what the candidates said, and afterwards hash over the evening. We may even play Debate Bingo!

Schedule:

Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 5:50 - 8pm First Presidential Debate

Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 5:50 - 8pm Vice Presidential Debate

Thursday, October 15, 2020, 5:50 - 8pm Second Presidential Debate

Thursday, October 22, 2020, 5:50 - 8:00pm Third Presidential Debate

Stay tuned to this newsletter for more information as September 29th draws closer.

## AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR S2S2S

Script2Stage2Screen won 22 nominations for the 2020 Desert League Star Awards. Even though their 2019-20 season was cut short due to the pandemic, they presented some great plays. DTL will announce the winners in October. We'll keep you posted

## AUCTION NOTES

We need your help more than ever!

Step #1-Please make a donation for our silent or live auction. An acquisition form will be

sent out to all next week with instructions on how to return.

Please consider donating the ever popular dinners. Because the situation is so fluid with COVID we have decided that if the dinners do not occur before July 1st the winning bidders money will be refunded. It will be totally up to the individual bidders if they feel comfortable enough to attend. Also, if the donor feels uncomfortable all winning bidders will receive refunds for that item.

Watch future newsletters for updated lists of donated items! Contact Carol Lavoie at [mclavoie@aol.com](mailto:mclavoie@aol.com) with questions.

## SAVE THE DATE

**October 10, 10:00 am-12:00 pm Church Council Zoom Meeting**

More information coming soon.

**November 13 -- Silent Auction**

**November 14 -- Live Auction-- by Zoom**

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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 pm, Fridays.

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[Visit our website](#)

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