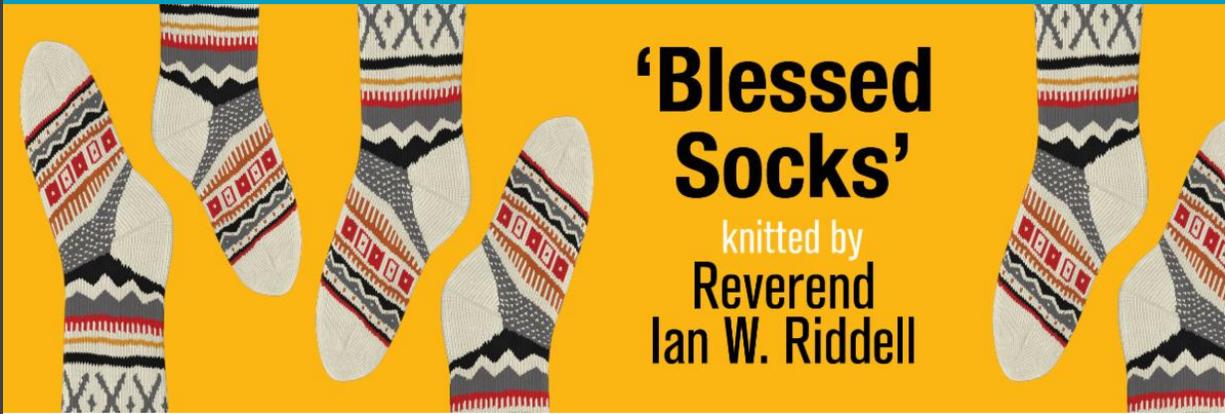


September 11, 2020



UUCOD Weekly Reminder

SERVICES

Click Here to Join Our Worship Services at 10:00 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 and welcome Rev. Ian. [ZOOM Link](#)

September 20, 2020

Change & Certainty: The Transient & the Permanent

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

This year has been one of disruption and change. How do we make ourselves ready? How do we keep ourselves open and curious? Join us as Rev. Ian introduces himself to the congregation and explores change and our UU tradition.

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

A SEASON OF INGATHERING

Dear Unitarian Universalists,

Across many congregations this is the season of ingathering. A time when our congregations have rituals and traditions to welcome the beginning of a new congregational year. The rituals vary, yet the message is often similar—it is a reminder of our fundamental interdependence and the life-saving, life-affirming power of religious community.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are not known for our rituals, but we do have them. And rituals, particularly over time, come to have deep meaning embodied in memory and anticipation. The lighting of a chalice, or the reading of a covenant, alert our senses and communicate intrinsically that this is a sacred time. Rituals that come with the seasons remind us of the cycle of the year and bring intention to transitions. They help us mark time and make meaning of our lives.

For many, this is the time of year when school begins. The time when summer recedes and congregations start up programs with renewed energy. This is always a time filled with activity, but this year, many of these transitions are fraught with stress and worry.

In this time of ingathering, we are held by and lifted up in beloved community.

This year, all of our rituals, all of these beginnings, will necessarily be different. And they are ever more important. Rituals offer containers for us to bring our hopes, grief, anger and our longings. They remind us that we are not alone in our experience and invite us into deeper compassion and care for each other.

The multiple pandemics of the coronavirus, systemic racism, police violence, poverty and climate destruction—which are disproportionately impacting Black, Brown and Indigenous people—are devastating our children, families, neighborhoods and future. There is so much collective grief and anger that needs expression.

Our collective expression matters. And it is not just about feeling the comfort of community. Being reminded through prayer, ritual and action of our shared strength, gives us the power to act for what we value and what we love. In these sacred moments, we glimpse the beauty, the truth, the justice that is possible—that is needed—in our lives and in the world.

The practice of gathering, no matter the distance, reminds us of our enduring connections. It helps us feel the ways that we are held by and lifted up in beloved community. It rekindles in us our commitment to keep living into our values and organizing for equity in all human relations.

We are all holding so much in our hearts this year. May your ingathering rituals, and all of the ways you come together, serve as a reminder that no matter how far apart, or how we gather, we are connected by unseen but real threads of care and intention for one another and for humanity. We are connected through our traditions of love and justice, and we are

connected in our shared faith as Unitarian Universalists.

As your communities mark this annual occasion, I invite you to share with your congregations my video message, sent with love during this time of ingathering.

Yours,
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President, Unitarian Universalist Association

P.S. Visit our [ingathering web page](#) for additional resources for your services.

Also, be on the lookout for [worship resources from UU the Vote](#) to mark National Voter Registration Day on September 22.

A MESSAGE FROM REV. IAN RIDDELL

Getting to Know You!

Rev. Ian here! I would like to invite you to some opportunities to get to know each other better. Normally I'd be inviting people to tea or hosting conversations at the church. Because of COVID isolation we're going to do this virtually over the next few weeks.

1. **One-on-One Conversations.** If you'd like to have a one-on-one phone call or Zoom call with me, just send me an e-mail at revianwiddell@gmail.com and we'll find a time that works for both of us in the next weeks for a half-hour conversation.

2. **Zoom Gatherings.** If you'd rather share as part of a larger group, I've scheduled several Zoom gatherings where I'll tell a little bit of my story and hope that you'll share some of yours. If you'd like to attend one of the gatherings listed below, just send me an e-mail at revianwiddell@gmail.com and I'll let you know how to join us. You can bring your tea (or other beverage) or knitting (or other crafting) to any of these gatherings, of course!

- Monday, September 14: 6:30pm to 8:00pm - Meeting ID: 945 7298 4084
Passcode: 740585
- Thursday, September 17: 6:30pm to 8:00pm- Meeting ID: 912 6902 4917
/ Passcode: 731994

Please don't hesitate to contact me at revianwiddell@gmail.com or 608-772-0957.

I can't wait to meet you all!

peace and love
Rev. Ian

"INSPIRATIONAL" QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

— Theodore Roosevelt

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 11-18

Finance Committee: Sunday @ 11:30am

Board of Directors: Tuesday @ 5:00pm. Agenda is on the webpage [Zoom Link](#)

BIOPOC: Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Board Retreat: Saturday @ 9:30am

Staying Connected

Sunday Together: Sunday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm [Zoom Link](#)

Loving Kindness Meditation: Thursday @ 12:00 - 12:30 pm [Zoom Link](#)

Coffee & Conversation: Friday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm [Zoom Link](#)

To Dial in by Phone

+1 408 638 0968

+1 669 900 6833

Sunday Together

- Meeting ID: 972 2940 8280
- Password: 596693

Coffee & Conversation:

- Meeting ID: 405 425 312
- Password: 010198

Loving Kindness Meditation:

- Meeting ID: 822 160 492
- Password: 284353

Social BUterflies Happy Hour:

- Meeting ID: 535 854 983
- Password: 926623

Board of Directors Meeting:

- Meeting ID: 923 5473 2966
- Password: 123320

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, September 6, 2020: \$174.92

Art Talk

Calling all UUCOD creative types! Join us for an informal Zoom conversation of Art Talk on Monday, September 28, 5:00 - 6:30 pm Pacific Time. Let's talk about what we are doing artwise, however we define that. Let's share, inspire, and support.

Screen sharing will be available: if you wish, take a jpg of your work and have it ready on your desk top. However, definitely not required.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Dial by your location

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 971 9143 0188

Passcode: 866224

Welcome Back Rev. Barbara and Welcome Rev. Ian:

To welcome both of you, 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. Everyone Join us!! [ZOOM Link](#)

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

Date: Sunday, September 20th 2:00 pm (for 90 minutes).

Presenter: Leslie Gebhart, MA, PCC

Come Join and Learn about UUCOD. You'll be glad you did. More information in the Lifespan Spiritual Growth Opportunities. Zoom invitation coming soon.

AUCTION NOTES

- This year's auction is especially important! This unusual time has had a negative impact on our bottom line. Please consider making a donation of your time or talents to help replenish our funds.
- Popular donations have been: pet sitting, window washing, gardening help, dinners (in person or delivered), home made anything - the sky is the limit!
- IN PERSON EVENTS WILL HAVE THE GUARANTEE OF A REFUND IF COVID CONCERNS CAUSE BUYER OR DONOR TO CANCEL.
- The earlier donation forms are submitted the better! Makes the lives of those doing the catalog and entering into computer a bit easier.
- Entry to the 'Drop In Silent Auction' as well to the 'Zoom Live Auction' is free. Complete detailed instructions on how to attend will be coming.
- You can donate by using the form sent to you through Constant Contact last week or you can contact Carol Lavoie at mclavoie@aol.com.
- You can also donate by clicking on the 'Donate Here' button bellow.

DONATIONS as of September 10:

- 4 Course Dinner on the UUCOD Board
- Monthly Local Produce Boxes
- Collection of Books by former UUCOD'er
- Reuben's Prize Winning Chili with 'fixins'
- Blessed Hand Knit Socks by Rev. Ian
- Take and Bake Enchiladas

[DONATE HERE](#)

ATTENTION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We ask for your participation!!

The 2020-2021 Directory for the church is on the drawing board, and we need YOU to partake in the fun!! The time has come again to correct your contact information and your participation is necessary for us to complete our goal.

Using your 2019-2020 Directory, is all the information correct in the listing for your name?

If there's a change, contact us at email: mel.wilkinson@yahoo.com. If there are no changes, then we are good to go and you don't need to contact anyone.

What is our GOAL?

A fresh, hot off the press Directory that will be *delivered to you personally...* when you come to do your bidding at the **Silent Auction on Friday, November 13 from 10am to 6pm**. If we don't see you there, we will mail them directly to your house; which is why you need to have the correct address, so we can do things like snail mail.

Remember: if there are any changes, additions or subtractions, email

The Deadline for your response is: October 10, 2020

Thank you, The Membership Committee

LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

New Lifespan Spiritual Growth Opportunities-Fall, 2020

UUCOD History, Courage and Connecting the Dots

Description: A brief history of the UUCOD

Leader: Leslie Gebhart, MA, PCC

Date: September 20, 2020

Time: 2:00PM-3:30PM (please note that you can log on as early as 1:45PM if you need to get comfortable with the technology)

Participant Limit: None

Note: Participants should have paper and something to write with available for an exercise that will be conducted during the program.

Questions about this course? Rob DuWors (rduwors@gmail.com)

Registration: mclavoie@aol.com

Diversity 101

Description: Diversity 101 will consist of opportunities for participants to explore wide and varied perspectives on race and racism. Prejudice, Unconscious Bias, Intention vs. Impact, and White Fragility and Privilege are a sampling of what will be explored in this forum. What roles do we play in perpetuating racism? What actions can we take to counter systemic racism in America?

Leader: Lauren Nile, JD

Dates: September 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Participant Limit: 30

Note: Ms. Nile is extending generous professional arrangements to the UUCOD for her work. In recognition of her generosity, we will provide participants the opportunity to offer up dana as an expression of appreciation. (Dana: A Buddhist tradition for practicing generosity through monetary contributions for teachings. This is not a fee or payment. It is a monetary expression of gratitude.)

Questions about this course? Peter Mathews (peter.mathews56@gmail.com)

Registration: mclavoie@aol.com

Building Your Own Theology

Description: I took Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) in 1989 and it was a revelation. It gave me the honest religious grounding that I was seeking. During that time, I looked deeply at my experiences and beliefs, reaffirmed some, let go of others. My small group companions honored each other's stories, as we heard our own. I had not known you

could do that at a church! I like to say, all theology is grounded in autobiography. In BYOT, you get to “sit at the feet of your own life” and grow.

Leader: Reverend Barbara Fast

Dates: October 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19

Time: 4:00PM-6:00PM

Participant Limit: 10

NOTE: There is no cost for this offering, but participants will need to obtain Building Your Own Theology, Volume 1 by Richard S. Gilbert. Please use the following link for ordering. <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Building-Your-Own-Theology-Volume-1-P16645.aspx>. Please contact Peter Mathews at the email address listed below if you cannot afford the book and he will work to alternate arrangements.

Questions about this course? Peter Mathews (peter.mathews56@gmail.com)

Registration: mclavoie@aol.com

Poetry

Description: Analysis of meaningful, spiritually based poetry that is created by course participants and others.

Leader: Peter Mathews

Dates: November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1, 8

Time: 10:30AM-12:00PM

Participant Limit: 10

Questions about this course? Peter Mathews (peter.mathews56@gmail.com)

Registration: mclavoie@aol.com

Ongoing Lifespan Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Coffee and Conversation

Description: A loosely structured gathering for Members, Friends, and others for sharing, catching up, and connecting.

Leader: Peter Mathews

Dates: Ongoing, Fridays

Time: 11:00AM-12:00PM

Participant Limit: None

Loving Kindness Meditation

Description: Give yourself the gift of a half hour of a guided meditation called loving kindness. Rev Barbara leads us through a process of first blessing ourselves, then opening our practice as we bless dear ones, and going wider, as we offer loving kindness to those unknown to us, finally coming back to ourselves and peaceful breathing. Refreshed and Centered.

Leader: Reverend Barbara Fast

Dates: Ongoing, Thursdays

Time: 12:00PM-12:30PM

Participant Limit: None

SOCIAL JUSTICE



UUCOD the Vote Virtual Presidential (& VP) Debate Watching Parties

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.

Correction: The date of **Information & Discussion of the 12 Propositions on November's 2020 California Ballot** is Sunday, October 11, 11:30-1pm. To attend, join Sunday Together at 11am & connect with your friends. At 11:30, we will break out in another room & record it for those who are unable to attend. Bring your ballot, booklet, & questions. Questions, call Gloria Kapp.

Be Safe and Well!

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 3:00 pm, Fridays.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
72425 Via Vail - Rancho Mirage CA 92270 - (760) 321-0694

