

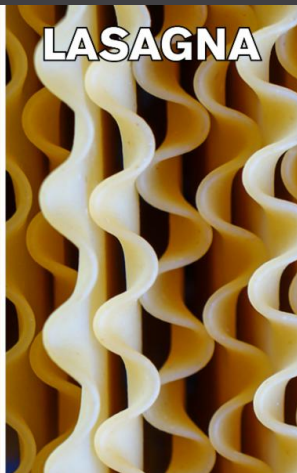
October 2020

WINE



for
FOUR

LASAGNA



SALAD



right to your
DOOR

UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

Of course loss is the great lesson.
Mary Oliver

Ruth Bader Ginsburg has died. Her dedication changed laws that, perhaps, changed minds and hearts. She changed the way I have been able to live and work, for the better.

I write this during the 10 Days of Awe of the Jewish New Year. It is a solemn time for reflection, a time to let go of the past, set goals for the future year. It is a personal time and a communal time.

Our new Congregational year has begun, and the UUCOD Board has been updating goals, discerning a vision for our next year. As part of that, I have been asking, "How do we want to live together as a community in the year to come?"

It is Autumn. The earth is tilting to shorter days, and thankfully our days may grow cooler. I write as the fires rage in the West, the virus flares up in our country, and the president has discarded any pretenses that he respects core principles of American democracy. You may disagree with me. If you do, I hope we could talk it over. Maybe agree to disagree.

I do worry, these days, that it will be a challenge for Americans who differ to talk to each other, much less, work and live together? Whichever way the election goes, how will we come together in the year to come? What vision will we make into reality?

In the midst of turmoil and loss, I turn to this.

*After the final no there comes a yes
And on that yes the future world depends...
One thing that was firm,
even no greater
than a cricket's horn no more...
One thing remaining, infallible, would be
Enough.*

From Wallace Stevens

One thing firm...Our values. I have faith in UUCOD's leaders, in our values, in our yearning to widen our circle for diversity, inclusion and belonging, that calls us to live into a vision of our highest values, no matter the times.

Yes: we can remain faithful to a vision of love and justice prevailing in people's heart. Yes: we can see past our differences and into the common humanity we all share. We can say yes to life as it is and keep on trying to make things a bit better, kinder for the future world, having faith that *would be enough*, even if we don't get there to see it.

May we keep faith, as we live into that vision in the months to come.
Rev Barbara

SERVICES

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.

October 4, 2020

Fear and Love: The Doctor, the Gospel, and the Novelist

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

An African American novelist, an anonymous Gospel writer, and a Time Lord walk into a sermon ... join us as we explore how fear and love guide our lives.

October 11, 2020

#VoteLove and #DefeatHate

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Join UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, the UU the Vote team, and a lineup of powerful, prophetic UU voices as we explore the intersections of faith, justice, and democracy in this collective virtual service.

October 18, 2020

ABC's and Z of Community

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt

What do we need to be able to sustain healthy lives? It has something to do with hugs and a sense of Belonging. How will we deepen our sense of community while safely distancing is a good question. Perhaps a sense of shared purpose.

October 25 2020

Pride! My connection to the past...present... and our guide through and to the future!

Worship Leader: Rabbi King Jules

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

I am what I am! Our journey and struggles continue... however we will overcome together. It is our personal and collective responsibility!

COLLECTIONS BASKET

"INSPIRATIONAL" QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King Jr., [A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches](#)

"Resilience is like a willow in the wind, able to bend in the fiercest storms."

CALENDAR

Saturday, September 26

10:00 am-Diversity 101-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, September 28

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-Art Talk **ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, September 29

5:50 pm-First Presidential Debate-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, October 1

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-WNO-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, October 2

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

Saturday, October 3

10:00 am-Diversity 101-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, October 4

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**
11:30 am- Learn about Worship Committee and Production Team-**Zoom Meeting**

Tuesday, October 6

2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, October 15

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**
4:00 pm-BYOT Class-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:50 pm-Second President Debate-**Zoom Meeting**

Friday, October 16

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

Saturday, October 17

10:00 am-Diversity 101-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, October 18

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

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 22

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**
4:00 pm-BYOT Class-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:50 pm-Third Presidential Debate

Friday, October 23

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

Saturday, October 24

10:00 am-Diversity 101-**ZOOM Meeting**

Wednesday, October 7
5:50 pm-VP Presidential Debate-**ZOOM Meeting**
6:00 pm-Facilities-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, October 8
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, October 9
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, October 10
10:00 am-Diversity 101-**ZOOM Meeting**
2:00 pm-Church Council-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, October 11
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**
11:30 am-Finance Committee-**Zoom Meeting**
11:30 am-Social Justice: Discussion about Ballot Propositions-**Zoom Meeting**

Tuesday, October 13
6:00 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

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

Sunday, October 25
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**
11:30 am-Conversations with Board--Quarterly Update on Budget and other Items-**Zoom Meeting**

Monday, October 26
2:00 pm-Super Seniors-**Zoom Meeting**

Tuesday, October 27
4:30 pm-Worship Committee-**Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, October 29
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-BYOT Class-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, October 30
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**
1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, October 31
10:00 am-Diversity 101-**ZOOM Meeting**

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

Women's Night Out: Thursday Oct. 1 @ 5:30 pm
UUCOD Men's Breakfast: Friday Oct. 2 @ 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, September 27: \$1,084.00

\$542 will be sent to Well in the Desert as our Share the Plate recipient.

Solar installation is happening!

The long trail of approvals is done and installation is happening! It started yesterday (September 24) and will take about one week. We will then be Net Carbon Neutral, a huge and meaningful step for our Green Sanctuary Congregation. Hurrah! If you need access to the building during the installation week, coordinate with Jerry.

Care Team Update

One of the strengths of a community like UUCOD is our ability to offer care and support to each other—and to ask for help when we need it. Your Care Team, working with Rev. Ian, is here to support you in challenging times. Reach out if you need help. You can contact Rev. Ian or Bryna Blum. Our contact info is in the Directory. And stay tuned for more from your Care Team in the coming months!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship is Shared Ministry

There are many ways to practice good stewardship and to share your gifts and talents with our UUCOD community. Every Sunday we are blessed and inspired by a full Sunday Service while we sit at home unable to gather in person. It takes a cadre of people to put the service together each week and we thank them for their tireless service. Let me share some of what they do.

We start with the worship team. The team is made up of Rev. Barbara Fast, Minister, Rev. Ian Riddell, Assistant Minister and Rev. Dr. Don Stouder, Affiliate Community Minister and our four Lay Worship Associates. The team meets monthly to calendar the Worship Leaders and Worship Associates for future services. Issues and ideas about enhancements to the Sunday Worship experience are also discussed.

The Worship Associates (“WA’s”) work with the Worship Leader for each service to assist the Leader in developing the service. If the Leader is someone other than our 3 UUCOD Ministers, the WA also assumes the responsibility for building the service around the Leader’s sermon topic, identifying readings and hymns that complement the sermon. The WA videotapes their portions of the service and uploads them to the church Dropbox (very easy to do) The Production Team then assembles the various videos into the final Sunday Worship Service.

The Production Team is all about making sure the message of the Worship Leader(s) and the Worship Team get delivered to the congregation as smoothly and creatively as possible. Sunday, Sept. 27, marks the 29th Virtual Service the UUCOD Production Team has brought to our community in the age of COVID 19.

It started with a serendipitous “team” of five in answer to how do we get Sunday service to our community when we cannot be in our physical space together. Today the Production Team has evolved into true collaboration of eight people you never or hardly ever see.

The diversity of our volunteers’ talent is not about the technology. It’s about their attention to detail, managing projects, artistic creativity and a sense of shared ministry.

The curious are welcome to sit in production meetings at 9:30 am Mondays. Here the team talks about the message and theme the Worship Leader wants to share. They talk about what art can be provided and how hymns and music will be integrated into the service.

The Production Team and the Worship Committee are looking for new members to join

them. To hear more about these two services join us following the Sunday Service on Oct. 3, 2020. We will have a breakout room from the Sunday Together zoom meeting. We will breakout at 11:30 for those who are interested. If you are ready or curious about being a good steward in one of these groups you can reach out to Joni Paddock at joni@palmcitybooks.com for more information about the Worship Committee and Vikki Porter at vporter@usc.rdu for more information about the Production team.

WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN

At the Board meeting on September 15th the Board agreed to support the Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIOPOC) group recently formed within our congregation. In addition, the Board established the Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Group which will help guide us as we work to become a more diverse and welcoming community. The Board is committed to a cultural change process.

The Board established the following parameters for the Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging:

- There shall be 7 members with 4 selected by our BIOPOC group.
- The remaining 3 members shall be selected by inviting congregants to self-apply. The Board will conduct a vetting process and select the three candidates deemed most qualified.
- Applicants must be active members or friends in our UUCOD community, demonstrate a commitment to the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism, and possess a willingness to participate in UUCOD institutional change.
- Preference is for individuals willing to make a 1 to 2-year commitment.
- In addition, the Minister and a Board representative shall be ex-officio members.

Anyone interested in self-applying for the Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Group should submit a letter, no later than October 23, 2020, outlining their qualifications and reasons for interest to Jane Zaun at jnzaun@yahoo.com or by sending to UUCOD, PO Box 2853, Rancho Mirage, CA. 92270.

BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR (Special Interest Group)

BIOPOC --

Do you identify as Black, Indigenous or Other People of Color? In this time when the whole nation and our denomination is exploring ways to work toward racial justice, we have found that Black, Indigenous and Other People of Color may need a safe space to hang out, have time for self-care and honest loving conversation. The group meets monthly for spiritual practices that refill, renew, and support wholeness from our unique perspective as People of Color.

Meets: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm via Zoom
Contact: Sarah Gonzales
Email: sgonz50@gmail.com

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 mel.wilkinson@yahoo.com

The Deadline for your response is: October 10, 2020

Thank you, The Membership Committee

LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES



Diversity 101

Leader: Lauren Nile, JD
Dates: September 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM
Participant Limit: 30

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?

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.)

[Click Here to Register](#)

You will receive the zoom link for this event in your confirmation email

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

Building Your Own Theology

Leader: Reverend Barbara Fast
Dates: October 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19
Time: 3:00PM-5:00PM
Participant Limit: 10

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.

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.

[Building Your Own Theology Workbook](#)

Please contact Peter Mathews at the email address listed below if you cannot afford the book and he will work to alternate arrangements.

[Click Here to Register](#)

You will receive the zoom link for this event in your confirmation email

Questions about this course?

Peter Mathews (peter.mathews56@gmail.com)

Poetry

Leader: Peter Mathews

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

Time: 10:30AM-12:00PM

Participant Limit: 10

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

[Click Here to Register](#)

You will receive the zoom link for this event in your confirmation email

Questions about this course?

Peter Mathews (peter.mathews56@gmail.com)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

October 18: Share the Plate with Galilee Center

Remember when we used to meet for church in person, and collected "Food on the First"? That food was donated to the Galilee Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, located in Mecca.

On October 18, we will Share the Plate with Galilee Center. Since COVID-19, Galilee's needs have grown in our eastern Coachella Valley. The Center is now open 24/7 and serves 3 meals a day. Besides food and shelter, the center provides rental & utility bill assistance as well as food boxes. The Center operates the Our Lady of Guadalupe overnight temporary emergency shelter, and offers laundry, showers, and meals.

Due to the pandemic, their two thrift shops, which had been a source of funding, have been closed. Your donation can help fill the gap. Galilee Center is the first Share the Plate recipient that we, the UUOD congregation, voted on last May. Please give generously. See the October 18 collection basket email for link.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Vote your Values

Postcard Action Results:

UUCOD Members and Friends have been busy over the summer writing postcards urging people in Florida and Texas to mobilize voters. That's an impressive effort in challenging voter suppression!

We are sponsoring a number of events in the weeks before the election. Read on to find out more about how you can participate.



**Presidential Debate Watching Party
Tuesday, September 29 at 5:50 - 8:30 pm**

Put on your t-shirts & presidential badges and get your snacks ready then join us for UUCOD the Vote's First Virtual Presidential Debate Watching Party!

Together, we will watch the debates, chat via Zoom about what Biden & Trump are saying, and afterwards hash over the evening. We may even play Debate Bingo!

To participate in conversations during the debate, you will need to be on your computer or on the Zoom app on your phone as we will be using the Chat feature with our audio off. After the debate has ended, we will turn your audio back on & discuss the debate.

Questions? Call Denise Janssen Eager

**What's On Your Ballot?
California's Ballot Proposition Discussion at Sunday Together**

Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 11:30 am to 1 pm

Join "Sunday Together" via the established Zoom link. At 11:30 we will move to a separate "ZOOM room" for the ballot propositions discussion.

Criminal justice, rent control, affirmative action, employment status, taxes and health issues are all addressed in one or more of the twelve ballot propositions on your California November 2020 ballot. *But what do they mean?*

Join us for a discussion of the issues along with pros and cons of each proposal. We will use the California Voter Guide (which should arrive in your mailbox soon if you have not already received it) as our basis for understanding the implications of a each proposition and will review the positions taken by the UU Justice Ministry of California (UJMC) as well as endorsements from other organizations, including the League of Women Voters.

Questions? Contact Gloria at gkapp@dc.rr.com.

Resources for your review before the ballot discussion:

[*UU Justice Ministry of California 2020 Ballot Recommendations*](#)

[*VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE*](#)

AUCTION NOTES

TIME IS RUNNING OUT... to help replenish our church coffers by making a donation to our annual auction. Every donation is much appreciated. Just click link below to fill out easy to use donation form or contact Carol Lavoie at mclavoie@aol.com who will fill in information for you!

[DONATE HERE](#)

DONATIONS as of September 16:

- 4 Course Dinner on the UUCOD Board
- Monthly Local Produce Boxes
- Collection of Books by former UUCOD'er
- Generosity Challenge - \$2,400
- Flourless Chocolate Cake
- Singing Bowl
- 3 Deliveries of Fresh Flowers
- Lasagna Dinner for 4
- Notecards - New Designs
- Flourless Chocolate Cake
- Homemade Berry Cheesecakes
- Homemade Shortbread Cookies
- Tea for 2 & Poetry Basket
- Reuben's Prize Winning Chili with 'fixins'
- Blessed Hand Knit Socks by Rev. Ian
- Take and Bake Enchiladas
- Monkey Bread
- Banana Bread
- Democratic Blue Prize Winning Cornbread
- 'MATCH GAME' - Donor will match up to \$500
- iPad Tablet
- Mono Print Workshop
- Linoleum Prints
- Mono Prints - 7th Principle
- Greg Louganis Signed Book

BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the September 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 October 20, 2020.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on September 15, 2020 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

- Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to Sheryl Eaton for hosting the weekly Happy Hour.
- Jonathan Fast for bringing the choir to the next level of community and performance.
- Board sent an e-card of gratitude to the entire UUCOD choir for magnificent virtual sound results particularly last Sunday!
- John Hammond, Joyce Adams and their family for their joyful performance of "This Little Light of Mine" during the September 13 Worship service.
- Heard a report from Facilities that Solar Installation is waiting on approval from IID and should begin in a week or two. **Additional note: solar installation is to begin on September 24, 2020.
- Received and discussed a report from the Communications Overview Task

Force. Approved a motion to establish a group to start exploring the items defined in the Communications Program Development Guidelines.

- Received a Budget update from the Treasurer who emphasized the generosity of our members, friends, and new visitors attracted to our online Worship services. Even so we currently project a deficit for the year, largely due to the loss of rental income. ****Additional Note:** Look for an opportunity in late October for all congregational members and friends to receive an update on the budget.
- Heard concerns from UUCOD BIOPOC (Black, Indigenous and Other People of Color) members and friends regarding aspects of “Widening the Circle of Concern” at UUCOD.
- Approved a motion to establish a new Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging.
- Agreed to form the structure of this new Ministry of Diversity on 9.19.20 during the Board retreat.
- Received a first read for the recommended Copyright Policy and Procedures. Discussed needed clarification before the policy is brought back in one month for Board approval.
- Agreed to form a task force to look at the first incremental steps toward re-opening the building. The initial focus will be meeting on patio (during the silent auction) with a plan to present to the Board in October.

SAVE THE DATE

October 10, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm Church Council Zoom Meeting

More information coming soon.

November 13 -- Silent Auction

November 14 -- Live Auction-- by Zoom

Texting Parties with Reclaim Our Vote

We don't have all the details yet, but we will spend the final weeks of the campaign season sending text messages to mobilize voters. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

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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