

October 16, 2020



## UUCOD Weekly Reminder

## SERVICES

[Click Here to Join Our Worship Services at 10:00 AM](#)

**October 18, 2020**

***The Way We Really Are: Economic Injustice***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast**

**Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt**

Covid has revealed the many fault lines that were already there in our economic systems. This inequality was created by monetary and tax policy decisions over decades. It is damaging the health and stability of families. Tens of millions are food insecure and experiencing disrupted housing while health care costs are still bankrupting budgets. It doesn't have to be this way. Do we want to change it?

**October 25, 2020**

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

**Worship Leader: Rabbi Jules King**

**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!

## "INSPIRATIONAL" QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops at all."  
— Emily Dickinson

## CALENDAR OCTOBER 16-23

**Board of Directors:** Tuesday @ 5:00 pm

**BIOPOC:** Wednesday @ 5:30 pm

**Building Your Own Theology Class:** Thursday @ 3:00 pm

**Afternoon Book Club:** Friday @ 1:30 pm

**Diversity 101:** Saturday @ 10:00 am

### Staying Connected

**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

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BOARD

### SUNDAY TOGETHER, OCTOBER 25 @ 11:30!! PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR.

This is your opportunity to hear an update on our budget plus our new strategic goals for 2020-2023. Join your fellow members and friends in learning where we are now and the direction we are heading!!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Plate Collections for Sunday, October 11, 2020: \$246.00**

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### Getting to Know You!

Rev. Ian here! It's been wonderful having conversations with many of you so far! I would like to invite you to some more virtual opportunities to get to know each other better.

1. **Zoom Gatherings.** If you'd rather share as part of a larger group, join me for a gathering on Monday, October 19, or Wednesday, October 21, 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 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, October 19, from 1pm to 2:30pm
- Wednesday, October 21, from 1pm to 2:30pm

2. **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 and we'll find a time that works for both of us in the next weeks for a half-hour conversation.

Please don't hesitate to contact me.

I can't wait to meet you all!

peace and love  
Rev. Ian

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**Zoom info for Monday, October 19 meeting:**

Topic: Time with Rev. Ian  
Time: Oct 19, 2020, 1:00--2:00pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Zoom info for Wednesday, October 21 meeting:**

Topic: Time with Rev. Ian  
Time: Oct 21, 2020, 1:00--2:00pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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**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!

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**Art Talk: Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.**

Calling all UUCOD creative types! Join us for an informal Zoom conversation of Art Talk on Monday, October 26, 5 pm PT. Let's talk about what we are doing art-wise, however we define art. Let's share, inspire, and support.

Screen sharing will be available but not required.

Topic: Art Talk  
Time: October 26, 5:00-6:30pm

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**Stories of Pride**

UUCOD recently announced that the 2020Pride Parade has been canceled. Insight Community of the Desert would like to invite UUCOD to participate in their event honoring 2020 Pride Day on November 8. Stories of Pride will present life-stories of members of the Coachella Valley LGBTQI+ community. Listen to [this audio invitation](#) to share **your** stories of coming out, of love, of growth, of loss, or perhaps of an interesting chapter in your life. After listening to the invitation you can schedule your interview with Adrian Estrada at [mindfuladrian@gmail.com](mailto:mindfuladrian@gmail.com).

More information on the event will be forthcoming.

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**Say Their Names: Honoring Black Lives Lost to Violence**

On July 19, 2020 Insight Community of the Desert honored black lives lost to violence. The powerful zoom presentation included saying the names of the victims and what they were doing before their death. Many in the UUCOD community have been interested in viewing the video of that event. It has recently become available on the ICD blog. The video can be downloaded at the end of the blog.



### Say Their Names: Honoring Black Lives Lost to Violence

On July 19, 2020 we hosted an event which was an interruption of the usual, the comfortable. This post contains a video of that event. The interruption was necessary to make space for the recognition of a painful trend of violence towards the...

[Read more](#)

[desertinsight.org](http://desertinsight.org)

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### Are You Organized? Have Some Extra Time? Want To Help Out?

Here's your chance to help administer and organize a Children's Story Time. We have approximately 13 children and youth with whom we are not connecting during this Covid19 period. A group of concerned UUCOD folk, including parents, hope we can zoom "story times" with the children.

We would appreciate help with sending emails, reminding parents/families of the time, keeping track of storytellers. The estimated time involved would be around 1.5 to 2 hours/week. If you can help out, please email Jane Zaun.

## EQUIPPING THE SANCTUARY FOR LIVE STREAMING

Although we do not know when we will fully return to the sanctuary, we expect that someday, when services do return to the sanctuary, we will start with tiny audiences that increase very gradually. We will not want to fully occupy all the seats for a very long time, and some congregants might not be comfortable returning until long after the protocols are relaxed. There will be a substantial period of time where most of us will still be watching online, even once the services are conducted in the sanctuary.

Let's make lemonade out of the lemons! Some generous donors plus a matching grant may provide us the ability to equip the sanctuary permanently for streaming without affecting the church budget. We could then provide services into the future for our snowbirds, congregants living remotely or who are infirm. Live streaming will also help serve as outreach to our community both near and distant.

We assembled a couple of groups of congregants (22 in total) to discuss the idea and found great enthusiasm for streaming and also for adding large screens to the sanctuary. There are challenges to figure out – most notably how to make this simple enough to sustain with our volunteers – but we are working through the challenges to develop a proposal.

We will discuss the topic at the October 20 Board meeting. Questions: give Rod Belshee a call or email [rbelshee@hotmail.com](mailto:rbelshee@hotmail.com)

## SELF APPLY FOR OUR MINISTRY OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

**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 or by sending to UUCOD, PO Box 2853, Rancho Mirage, CA. 92270. This will be an exciting time for our Church as we increase diversity and welcoming in our community.**

At the Board meeting on September 15th the Board established the Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Group.

The Parameters for the Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Group are:

- 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.

## CARE TEAM

With his permission, I am sharing what was posted on Facebook by Rev. Don Stouder...

So here's the thing; the next 4-12 weeks are likely to be among the most chaotic that any of us have ever lived through. I cannot stress enough the need to hunker down and protect yourself, and one of the best ways to do that is to actively cultivate gratitude and hope. They are amazing antidotes to chaos and despair. The darkest side of ourselves is about to show itself; do not let it in, do not let it win. Take care of yourselves, together, and be more attentive to your needs and the needs of those you love right now. Saving the world might be asking too much right now; work on keeping your mental, spiritual, and physical health well tended-to.

To reduce stress and anxiety, write your happy thoughts down. To read the article in its entirety:

<https://tinyurl.com/yaah6mw7>

Bryna Blum  
Care team Chair

## AUCTION NOTES

**DO NOT LOOK AWAY! RSVP TODAY... to the invitation to the UUCOD Auction!**

**DONATIONS as of October 14:**

- 4 Course Dinner by UUCOD Board
- 3 Months of Local Produce Boxes
- Collection of books by UUCODer
- Generosity Challenge-\$2500
- Flourless Chocolate Cake
- Tibetan Singing Bowl
- Delivery of Fresh Flowers
- Lasagna Dinner for 4
- Notecards-New Designs
- Homemade Berry Cheesecakes
- Homemade Shortbread or Chocolate Peanut Butter Chip Cookies
- Tea for 2 & Poetry Basket
- Cookbook Basket
- Metal Print of Irish Bridge
- Black Authors Book Subscription
- Unique Necklace
- Pewter Frame
- Nature Walk with Master Gardener
- COACH Clutch Purse
- Cardamon Bread
- Sermon of your Choice- Rev. Ian
- Master Gardener Consultation
- Star Trek Face Masks
- Gorman Print
- Cork Placemats
- Greg Louganis Autographed Book
- Car Tour of Joshua Tree
- Spanish Paella Dinner for 4
- Mystery Themed Basket
- 4 Night Stay at CO 'Buddha House'
- Reuben's Prize Winning Chili + 'Fixins')
- Blessed Knit Socks by Rev. Ian
- Take and Bake Enchiladas
- Homemade Banana, Monkey and Pumpkin Bread
- Prize Winning 'Democratic Blue' Cornbread
- MATCH GAME - Donor will match up to \$500
- iPad Tablet
- Linoleum Prints
- Mono Prints - 7th Principle
- Julian Pies - Delivered
- Reuben's PB & Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Beef Brisket Dinner for 4
- Homemade Soups
- Hand Woven Shawl
- Hand Woven Runner
- Neck Pillows
- Hummel Plates
- Pet/House Sitting
- Mexican Dinner for 4
- Air Museum Tour & Lunch
- Homemade Breads
- Idyllwild Lunch
- Newport Beach Get-Away
- Albertson's'/Von's Gift Certificates

**You must register in order to bid on any of the auction items listed above. Simply click link below to RSVP. It is easy and FREE!**

**RSVP**

## LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES



### ***Building Your Own Theology***

Leader: Reverend Barbara Fast

Dates: October 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## COLLECTIONS BASKET

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### Join UUCOD the Vote for Our Final Push to Get Out the Vote in Key Battleground States

Depending on when you read this, there are 19 or fewer days until November 3. Knowing that this election will decide the future of Democracy in our country, UUCOD the Vote has set up several opportunities for you to phone- and text-bank eligible unregistered & reluctant marginalized voters in key states that will decide who will be leading our country for the next 4 years.

#### Phone Banking Dates

Phone banking with *UUA the Vote* is a fun way to reach voters in key states. Even introverts do it without fear. We'll make it easy for you!

- Wednesday, 10/21, 4 - 6pm: to Wisconsin voters
- Saturday, 10/24, 11am - 1pm: to Pennsylvania voters
- Tuesday, 10/27, 3 - 5pm: to Florida voters
- Monday, 11/2 Election Eve, 3 - 5 pm: to Florida & Wisconsin voters

#### Text Banking Dates

Join our *When We All Vote Texting Team* to help us reach eligible voters across the country! New to texting? Don't worry! We'll get you set up & ready to go.

- Thursday, 10/15, 2 - 4pm
- Tuesday, 10/20, 2 - 4pm
- Thursday, 10/22, 2 - 4pm
- Tuesday, 10/27, 2 - 4pm
- Thursday, 10/29, 2 - 4pm

We want to make sure every voice is heard through voting, so email Denise Janssen Eager today the dates you want to make phone calls and text voters. Or sign up on FB's UUCOD the Vote. Questions? Call her.

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### COACHELLA VALLEY VOTING INFORMATION

You Have 3 Ways to Vote & 1 Way to Track Your Ballot!

#### VOTE EARLY

Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25  
10:00am - 4:00pm  
Westfield Mall  
72-840 Highway 111  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

or

#### AT A VOTER ASSISTANCE CENTER

Find one near you:

Voter Assistance Centers - Riverside County

Saturday, October 31 - Monday, November 2

9:00am - 5:00pm

&

Election Day, November 3



7:00am - 8:00pm

or

**DON'T WAIT IN LINE!**

**Vote your ballot at home & drop it off in a secure ballot drop-off box available at Westfield Mall or at any of these locations:**

**Ballot Dropoff Locations - Riverside County**

**October 5 - November 2**

**Monday - Friday only**

**&**

**Election Day, November 3**

**Hours Vary - Check for Times**

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE**

**Use this link to track whether your ballot has been received**

**[Track My Ballot](#)**

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### **Social Justice Ballot Propositions Discussion Was a Success**

Examining the recommendations of fourteen nonprofit organizations & those paid ads by for-profit organizations, 13 people attended the Ballot Propositions Discussion to parse out the intention of each measure and what it's outcome could potentially mean for us Californians. If you were unable to attend and want to see the recording of the discussion, please email Denise Janssen Eager. If you haven't filled out your ballot, check out these sources to help you make your decisions.

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

**[California Voter Guide](#)**

## **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](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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***Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert***

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