

March 2021



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



March 2021
Dear Friends,

Here is a photo of the beautiful Sculpture by Gene Kain, newly planted on our Sacred Grounds campus. If you go there in the afternoon, you will see that as the sun passes through its glass globe, it shines small rainbows onto the surrounding grounds. I lit up when I discovered them! It shone rainbows onto my skin! Marvelous!

Art transforms our lives and lets us experience reality in an expanded way. It can bring deeper meaning, also joy and it all seems like a miracle to me. I am grateful to Gene. Grateful to the ones who planted that sculpture, who tend these grounds and the fragile eco system of plants and animals that survive around us. Thank you to those who chose to plant this community on this land. I call to memory those who lived on and worked these lands well before us. Most here now are descended from immigrants.

Going further, the land was here before any beings rose to live. Born of fire, rising up through seas, flowing through cracked plates that slide upon the molten center of this earth, continents were created with faults. Every thing created from the dust of dead stars.

In this artful act of creation we have an elemental structure forged by human hand out of human imagination that magnifies a daily living creativity. And we invite you to participate in that process. *

It is one year since we closed the building because of Covid. We continue to strive to keep Church open on Zoom, Facebook, on the labyrinth and in our hearts. To acknowledge the multitudes of experience this year, we invite you bring a stone that you have decorated or upon which you have written a word or phrase that has power and meaning for you. Then add your stone to the ground around this installation as a creative, empowering and humble act of memory, mourning, hope, persistence, maybe appreciation for what is. What word/s will you choose to put on your stone? What spirit will you endow it with?

As you ponder, I invite you to wonder what it is that your spirit seeks to magnify in this

world, now. 500,000 have died from this virus this past year. You and I are here, alive. Spared. By our life attitudes, actions, how we speak, what we say or don't say, we magnify a certain spirit of life. Like Gene's sculpture, you can be intentional and chose *what to magnify with your life*. And like the earth of which we are a part, we have faults.

Blessings and gratitude to all and a special thank you to Andrea Duran who has served us these past two years. Blessings for your future!

Rev. Barbara

- **Reflection Stones**

March 14 marks one year since we began virtual worship services. We invite you to come to UUCOD with a stone that you decorated with a word or phrase that tells what this year has meant to you and place it around the foot of Gene Kain's inspiring new sculpture. If you wish, send us a photo when you do. If you come Tuesday March 2nd between 4:00-5:00, or Wednesday March 3rd between 3:00-4:00, we can take your photo. We will put the photos together for the March 14th service. Come masked and stay distanced.

SERVICES

March 7, 2021

"Easing Into Infinity"

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

This Sunday last year, we were singing the Hokey Pokey in a full Sanctuary. A week later we were streaming worship to you on Facebook, and initiating safety protocols in light of a new virus that was rapidly spreading. This year has brought so many losses and challenges it can be hard to see the good and the gifts.

March 14, 2021

"Comfort and Change"

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

Why does change make us uncomfortable? What does love call us to do in the face of that discomfort? How do we live in right relationship with each other when we challenge each other's comfort? Rev. Ian shares the first of two reflections inspired by the winners of "Choose a Sermon" at this year's auction.

March 21, 2021

"Spring"

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

It is Spring. It is the season of Lent for Christians. It is a spiritual time to make room within to allow new life to take form and grow.

March 28, 2021

TBD -

We will be offering a worship experience that allows our tech team a weekend off. Stay tuned for details.--

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

COLLECTIONS BASKET



Touched by last Sunday's Service - Sacred The Body Part 1 ?

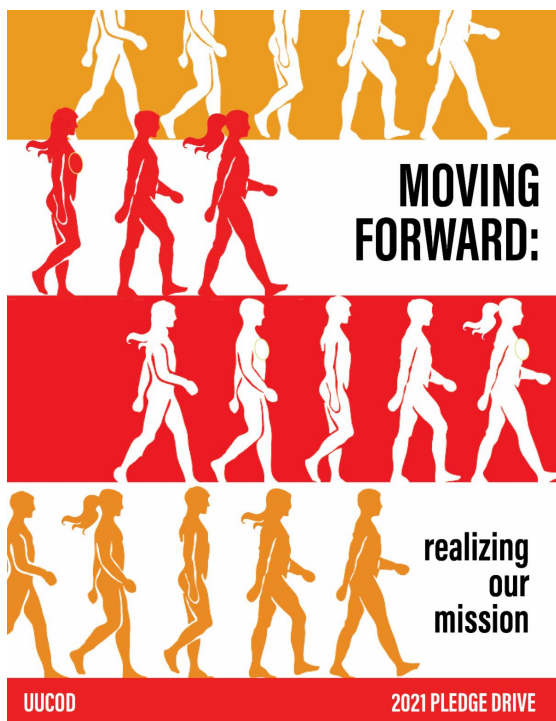
Join us at a *Conversation on Women's Bodies* at "Sunday Together" on
February 28 at 11:10 am
Facilitated by Jane Betts Stover

Sunday's service left many wishing for a chance to discuss and share their own stories related to the topic of "Women's Bodies". Social Justice Committee is hosting a meeting for all who wish to join the discussion. The discussion is designed as a get together for the Congregation to share their stories on the topics of Women's Bodies and reproductive rights and feel supported while they do.

You may sign into "Sunday Together" and request to join the group discussion in a separate room. *To create a safe space for all to participate, the door to the room will open at 11:10 and close at 11:15.* After it closes, no one will be allowed into the room.

This meeting is open to all - men included.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE REPORT



Our 2021-22 Annual Pledge Drive is in full swing and we need your help! Your financial assistance to our beloved community is vital so that together we are **MOVING FORWARD TO REALIZE OUR MISSION.** You can help by sending in your pledge form as soon as possible. If you've lost your pledge form you can download it here by pressing the button below and mailing it to our treasurer at:

PO Box 2853
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Or if you're technically savvy, you can scan your pledge form and email it to our treasurer at: treasurer@uucod.org

PROGRESS TO DATE:
87 Pledges Received
\$146,930 Amount Pledged
79.4% of Goal (\$185,000)

[Download & Print a Pledge Form](#)

CALENDAR

Friday, February 26
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting
1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, February 27
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy

Monday, March 15
3:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, March 16
9:00 am-Climate and Environmental
Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:00 pm-Board of Directors-**ZOOM Meeting**

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, February 28

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live**

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, March 1

6:30 pm-Care Team-**ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, March 2

9:30am Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging-**ZOOM Meeting**

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

Wednesday, March 3

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

Thursday, March 4

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

Friday, March 5

9:00 am-Men's Breakfast-**ZOOM Meeting**

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

Saturday, March 6

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

Sunday, March 7

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live**

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, March 11

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

6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, March 12

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

Saturday, March 13

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

Sunday, March 14

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live**

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together and Share the Plate-**ZOOM Meeting**

11:30 am-Finance Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

7:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

Wednesday, March 17

12:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

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

Thursday, March 18

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

2:30 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, March 19

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

1:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, March 20

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

Sunday, March 21

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live**

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

2:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, March 22

5:00 pm-Art Talk-**ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, March 23

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

Thursday, March 25

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

Friday, March 26

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

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, March 27

9:30am "Can You Hear Me Now? Listening Skills in Community" -- A Caring Workshop-**ZOOM**

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

Sunday, March 28

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live**

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, March 29

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-**ZOOM Meeting**

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

Stewardship Committee: Tuesday, March 2 @ 2:00 pm

Facilities Committee: Wednesday, March 3 @ 6:30 pm

UUCOD Men's Breakfast: Friday, March 5 @ 9:00 am

Climate & Environmental Justice: Tuesday, March 16 @ 9:00 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 BUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

SOCIAL JUSTICE

It's Time to Nominate Your Favorite Nonprofit for Share the Plate

The Social Justice Committee invites you to nominate your favorite nonprofit organizations to become Share the Plate recipients.

[Nomination Link](#)

Share the Plate enables our Congregation to extend our stewardship into the Coachella Valley community by supporting local social justice organizations that align with our principles. On the third Sunday of each month, half of the plate offerings are donated to a nonprofit organization that was voted on by our members, friends, and guests.

Nominations are open March 5th - April 7th and you may nominate as many organizations as you wish. All nominated organizations will be put to a congregational vote prior to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 16. The top nine that are selected via popular vote will become our Share the Plate recipients for October 2021 through June 2022.

If you have any questions or comments, contact either Ros Hoover or Denise Janssen Eager.

Share the Plate is March 21: FIND Food Bank

FIND (Food In Need of Distribution) Food Bank has, during its 38 years of service in the Coachella Valley, reached those in need over a 5,000 square mile area, from Anza in the west to Blythe in the east, Joshua Tree in the north to Salton City in the south, usually distributing fresh food seven days a week. Prior to the pandemic, FIND served some 90,000 in the Desert Region monthly. That number has jumped to an average of 150,000 during the pandemic, with a high of 190,000, which FIND has been able to serve even while losing 75% of its volunteers — adults over age 65, who needed to shelter from the virus. That FIND has been able to achieve this remarkable feat speaks volumes about its ingenuity and staff dedication. How efficiently does FIND operate? Every \$20 donated translates into 100 meals!

FIND is a healthy food bank with a strong food rescuing program, deriving some of its supply from big box grocery stores and farms, food that would otherwise go to waste — some nine million pounds of rescued food in 2020. FIND routinely collects food from 52 local grocery stores. In 2020, FIND distributed a combined total of over 24 million pounds of food to our Desert Region, doubling its pre-pandemic average!

To carry on this marvelous service during the pandemic, FIND needs hands as well as financial support. Interested in helping out? A special shift for seniors has been created outdoors (masks and social distancing). Call Ros or Earl Hoover for more information.

Please give generously in your March 21 Plate Offering for FIND. Hungry families need our support!

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, February 21, 2021: \$1,142 -- Planned Parenthood will receive \$571 as part of our Share the Plate program.

Living with the Salton Sea

A New Presentation by The Sierra Club, Tuesday, March 2, at 7:00 PM

“Endorsed to watch by both Rev. Barbara and Mack Rogers for the new Climate & Environmental Change Committee”

This event combines both video and remarks from Coachella Valley Salton Sea activists. Impacts from harmful air quality threaten our Eastern Coachella neighbors today and will spread throughout the region as the sea continues to recede.. You will learn the politics and promises related to the Salton Sea. Guest Speaker Dr William C Porter Ph.D., Department of Environmental Sciences at UC Riverside. Concrete steps will be presented about how to help make the Salton Sea a place that no longer threatens human health!

Follow the link below for further information

[More Information on Salton Sea](#)

All Men's Breakfast Discussion Group

Don't Forget, Friday, March 5th, 2021

Mack Rogers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. PLEASE NOTICE THE **NEW TIME: 9:00 AM** Be There!

We will discuss: Covid updates, what UUCOD Board says about resuming our “physical breakfasts” and a continuing discourse about our faith journeys and individual backgrounds.

This is our only, one time a month meeting, so please log on, join us and let's all catch up and provide support because we miss you!

Grab your coffee or tea and a snack and join part of your UUCOD family here!

UUA's CLIMATE CHANGE Focus Has incented UUCOD

There is now a new committee at UUCOD. It has branched off of Social Justice with Mack Rogers as the co-chair assigned to “Climate and Environmental Justice”. Anyone is welcome to attend our initial meeting next month on Tuesday, March 16th at 9:00AM, so mark your calendars now and come join us!:

Topic: Climate & Environmental Justice Committee

Time: Mar 16, 2021, 09:00--10:30am Pacific Time

Every month on the Third Tue, until Dec 21, 2021, 10 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Monthly: [iCalendar for Climate & Environmental Justice](#)

Join Climate & Environmental Justice Zoom Meeting

"Can You Hear Me Now? Listening Skills In Community"

A Caring Workshop

Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

How do we act as compassionate listeners with open hearts? How do we elicit sharing appropriately? How do we provide a loving presence in crisis and every day? Join Rev. Ian as we explore these questions and build some skills. Care Team members and all congregants are invited to this Zoom workshop.

News from the Care Team:

Friends,

I hope you have gotten or soon will be getting your Covid shots. That doesn't mean the rules have changed. We still need to mask, wash our hands and keep our distance. It also means we'll be sheltering in place and being extra careful for a while longer.

PLEASE reach out if you have an adverse reaction to the shot, or you're not well, need a meal or just want someone with a caring heart to chat with for a while. We're YOUR Care Team. So PLEASE don't be shy. Your well-being is important to us.

Bryna Blum
760 485 9289 for both phone/text.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Take advantage of an opportunity to celebrate Black history month. On Saturday, February 27th, join a caravan through African American history in Palm Springs.

Those taking the free tour will drive themselves along the route while listening to an audio transmission inside their cars. The Tour begins at 10:00 AM at the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs 1555 E Alejo Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Click on this link for complete information, see a map of the tour route, and register to attend.

Caravan | palmspringsblackhistory.org

WHO ARE WE CONNECTED TO?

We are part of a larger organization. The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert is a member of the Pacific South West District, which is part of the Pacific Western Region which in turn is part of the part of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The UUA is made up of 5 regions across the United States. Our region, the Pacific Western Region (PWR), is geographically the largest. We cover the 11 western states as well as Alaska and Hawaii. Our region, which consists of 4 districts, is the only region that still functions with a district model. Each district has its own board of directors and governance. Over time it has become difficult to find enough volunteers to staff 4 boards of directors.

Currently regional and district staff have been talking about disbanding the districts and

moving all the governance to the regional level. In preparation for this there will be forums held via zoom to share information with congregants and to get our feedback. Those forums will be held the first and/or third Mondays of the month in March, April and May from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Some of the topics to be covered are:

- **Chalice Lighters and Finance** – Chalice Lighters is a special fund that congregants donate small amounts to throughout the year. If 20% of a congregation donates to the fund, the congregation can apply for funds for special programs at the church. Currently each district manages its own Chalice Lighters fund. How the Chalice Lighters funds will be organized under the region will be discussed in this session.
- **Covenanting Communities** - “Covenanting communities” are alternative Unitarian Universalist spiritual communities that take many forms and maintain formal ties to the Unitarian Universalist Association. They include artist collectives, small meeting groups, campus ministries, housing cooperatives, community centers, and more. How these communities are organized within the Region will be discussed.
- **Widening the Circle**
- **Youth and Emerging Adults**
- **Topics to be Determined**

These forums are open to everyone. If you are interested in attending one or more of the forums you can register at

Forums: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/PacificWesternRegionUUA/LoveRightThroughForums>

If you would like to provide written feedback about particular topics or have questions you would like to be answered you can do that at this website.

Feedback: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/PacificWesternRegionUUA/LoveRightThroughFeedback>

If you have any other questions, feel free to reach out to our PWR staff at <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western>.

BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the February 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 March 16, 2021. At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on February 16, 2021 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to: Christopher Eager, Sarita Gonzales, Joni Paddock, Bill Masco, Roger Beaman, Larry Rogers, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Walter Gendell, Jack Fitzgerald, Rob DuWors.

New members welcomed by the Board included: Tom Burbank, Julia Alberg-Burbank, Michael Allen, Steve Toporoff, Gloria Kapp, Sandy Sladen, and Margaret Manson.

Confirmed that on March 22, 2021 Rev. Summer Albayati from the Pacific Western Region will facilitate covenanting between the Board and Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Ministry.

Approved a new Board appointed Denominational Affairs Liaison position.

Received a Facilities Report:

- Spectrum cable installation is pending approval of permits.
- Art donation from Gene Kain will be installed on 2/17.
- AV Project Update: The Spirit Grant composer, Rob DuWors reports that the Spirit Grant approval process has moved out a couple of months to April and remains very encouraging.
- Facilities member, Steve Kerr, is tracing all of our existing wire and cabling so we can begin wiring for the new system.

Agreed to establish criteria for determining when we move to our Phase 1, very restricted outdoor activities.

Approved a motion to adopt the Copyright Policy.

Received a report on a Right Relations Policy from our Committee on Ministry.

The Board approved an Administrator position upgrade to an Office Manager.

Received a report from the Treasurer on a draft of the 21-22 budget.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 24th: 2:00 - 4:00 pm -- Church Council (via Zoom)

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](#)

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