

April 2021

## UUCOD Monthly Newsletter



### MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

**April 2021**

Dear Friends,

I write during Passover week and in anticipation of Easter. The “Last Supper” as Christians name it, was a Seder. These holy days don’t always overlap now. Early on their calendars were both lunar, but as the Catholic Authorities of the Western church, increasingly sought to separate the traditions, the Christian calendar changed to a solar model. The phases of the moon still create moveable Jewish holidays. The Eastern Orthodox Christian traditions persist in having Easter after the Passover holiday.

I’ve been thinking of how our Universalist tradition was born of an early Christian faith that all beings are beloved by God. That faith grew to hold a vision of a Universal Community, that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all persons, and calls all people to live out the values of Love and Justice, for all. No exception. No easy task.

To hold onto a faith that, no matter what, out of profound brokenness, personal or systemic, can rise great love, that it must arise if we are to survive, means that we must participate in its co-creation. We have been endowed with the highest power, our conscience. We know what is beautiful and true and we know what is ugly and false.

Rev. Dr. King was assassinated April 4 1968. More people in our nation are seeing the ugliness of powerful systems that have been striving to push back hard won rights. The heart-rending evidence of George Floyd’s killing is now publicly presented at trial. The pandemic still kills. Brokenness seems to be everywhere. But that is not all there is. There are so many people striving to do the simple humane things every day, and bring solace and sustenance to those in need. The Passover story promises freedom for the people. It is Holy week and there is an Easter time coming. Keep faith.

Out of great brokenness must come great Love and healing. We are part of that *building*

*up devastations of old.* The courageous love that Dr. King lived and preached lives on in the current movements and lights up the lives of so many who persist in manifesting the best of human nature.

Faith is not just what's inside of us. Inherent. It is what is revealed by how we live and what we say and that requires practice. It is easier if you are not alone in your practice. It helps to keep faith and to restore it if it is lost, if we share the practice in community. When the community agrees about what it values most and makes mutual promises to foster those values, that is called Community Covenant.

We have chosen to live into and build up a UUCOD community that celebrates inclusivity and dedicates itself to the transformative power of love and acceptance. May we find ways to keep the promises we have made.

*It is Spring. May you be filled with loving-kindness. May your heart be free. Blessed be.*

*Rev. Barbara*

## SERVICES

**April 4, 2021**

**"Keeping Faith, Losing Faith, Finding Faith"**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast**

**Worship Associate: Betty Bender**

It is a full week of holidays and holy days. This is a service to celebrate community and personal moments of renewal with Rev Ian, Betty Bender and Choir.

**April 11, 2021**

**"Covenant and Community"**

**Worship Leader: Rev Ian W. Riddell**

**Worship Associate: Sarita Gonzales**

What does it mean to live in covenant with each other? How do we live into our promises and how do we deal with the breaking of those promises? Why does it matter that we center ourselves on the ways we choose to live together and not what we believe? Rev. Ian shares the second of two reflections inspired by the winners of "Choose a Sermon" at this year's auction.

**April 18, 2021**

**"Flower Communion and Volunteer Appreciation"**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast**

*A ZOOM Worship.*

We will celebrate our UUCOD Volunteers! There are so many of you and so much to celebrate!

**Worship Associate: Robert Rancourt**

**Please bring your flowers to the ZOOM service for sharing.**

**COMMITTEES PLEASE TAKE A "SCREEN SHOT" AND SEND TO**

**[uurevbarbara@gmail.com](mailto:uurevbarbara@gmail.com) by April 11.**

**April 25, 2021**

**"To Go On"**

**Worship Leader: Rev Tania Marquez**

**Worship Associate: Derek Moore**

A message about life after loss. This pandemic year has been a year of losses for all of us, and for some the loss has been greater and unimaginable. Loss is inevitable and this message explores the ways in which humans learn and move through grief and the role that our communities can play in the road towards healing.

Rev. Tania Y Márquez is the assistant minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of

San Diego. She is also a group leader of the UU College for Social Justice. She has a background on Latin American Literature and Spanish Linguistics, is married and has two teenage daughters. She has lived most of her life in the border region and her frontera experience has greatly influenced her ministry.

## SPECIAL BUDGET BOARD MEETING-- April 6 at 6pm

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

**Hurry, the Nomination process closes on April 7.** The Social Justice Committee invites you to nominate your favorite nonprofit organizations to become Share the Plate recipients. *Vote for as many organizations as you would like. If you don't have any ideas for new organizations, re-nominate some of your favorites from this year.*

The top 9 organizations will be our Share the Plate recipients for October 2021- June 2022.

If there are more than 9, we'll vote on the slate of organizations prior to the Annual Meeting on May 16.

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

### CALENDAR

#### **Saturday, April 3**

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

#### **Sunday, April 4**

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

#### **Streaming**

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

#### **Tuesday, April 6**

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

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

**6:00pm Special Board Meeting-ZOOM Meeting**

#### **Wednesday, April 7**

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

#### **Thursday, April 8**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-

#### **Monday, April 19**

3:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**

#### **Tuesday, April 20**

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

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

#### **Wednesday, April 21**

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

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

#### **Thursday, April 22**

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

#### **Friday, April 23**

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

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

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

**ZOOM Meeting**

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

**Friday, April 9**

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

**Saturday, April 10**

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

**Sunday, April 11**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live  
Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM  
Meeting**  
11:30 am -Finance Committee-**ZOOM  
Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 13**

10:00 am- Book Discussion- **ZOOM  
Meeting**  
3:00 PM- Chalice Circle Facilitators -  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
5:30 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM  
Meeting**

**Thursday, April 15**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
2:30 pm- Chalice Circle- **ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, April 16**

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

**Saturday, April 17**

1:00 pm- Boundaries in Community: A  
Caring Workshop - **ZOOM Meeting**  
5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy  
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Sunday, April 18**

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Flower  
Communion- ZOOM Service**  
10:00 am- Share the Plate-Coachella  
Valley Volunteers in Medicine  
11:00 am-Sunday Together

**Saturday, April 24**

2:00 pm- Church Council - **ZOOM  
Meeting**

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

**Sunday, April 25**

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

**Monday, April 26**

9:30 am-Climate and Environmental  
Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**  
2:00 pm - Super Seniors- **ZOOM Meeting**  
5:00 pm-Art Talk-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 27**

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

**Thursday, April 29**

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

**Friday, April 30**

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

**Saturday, May 1**

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

**Sunday, May 2**

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

11:15-EARTH WEEK Event --8 1/2  
minute video: VANISHING SALTON SEA,  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
2:00 pm - Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

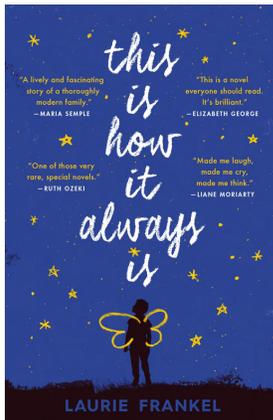
## STAYING CONNECTED

### Staying Connected

**Sunday Together:** Sunday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Care Team: Monday, April 5 @ 6:30pm**  
**DIBM: Tuesday April 6 @ 9:30am**  
**Stewardship Committee:** Tuesday, April 6 @ 2:00 pm  
**Special Board Meeting: Tuesday April 6, @ 6:00pm**  
**Facilities Committee:** Wednesday, April 7 @ 6:30 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

## LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Join us in April as we will be explore transgender issues through a book discussion of "*this is how it always is*" by **Laurie Frankel**



**Purchase this book from an independent bookseller or through Amazon.**



### Book Discussion April 13 @ 10 am - Noon Facilitator: Peter Mathews

In recent years we've seen an increasing number of memoirs from transgender individuals and from parents forging uncharted waters in order to help their transgender children live happy, healthy lives in a society that still largely defines gender by what's in your pants. In her novel *This is How It Always Is* Laurie Frankel takes those real-life experiences and puts them into a big-hearted story of family and secrets. When Rosie and Penn and their four boys welcome the newest member of their family, no one is surprised it's another baby boy. But Claude is not like his brothers. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl.

The nuances and unforeseen pitfalls of trying to protect your child from fear and hate while nurturing a sense of acceptance is daunting. What is private and what is a secret, and what is, really, nobody's business? Sometimes secrets have a way of materializing in the blink of an eye or the span of an innocuous question, and this novel is about the lengths we will go, as

Join us in May as we explore transgender issues in more depth through a film viewing and discussion of  
**"Mama Gloria: the Story of Legendary Trans Activist Gloria Allen",**  
directed by Luchina Fisher

**Saturday, May 15 @ 2 - 4 pm**  
**Discussion Leader: Luchina Fisher, Director**

**Official Trailer**



**Director's Statement**

I was introduced to Gloria because she was looking for someone to help her write her memoir. But after meeting her, I knew that her story would speak to people, because it spoke to me.

As a Black woman filmmaker raising a biracial transgender daughter, I see Gloria's story through a unique lens. For me, it's personal and it's urgent. One day while I was filming Gloria in Chicago, my daughter sent me a text saying that her life was "half way done." Gia had read online that the average life expectancy for a Black trans woman in Washington D.C., was 32. It was at that moment that I truly understood why I am making this film.

It's a gift that I want to show my daughter and other young trans people - - so they can imagine themselves growing old and having a long, meaningful life.

**Synopsis**

Mama Gloria is a feature documentary about Gloria Allen, a trailblazing 74-year-old Black transgender activist who started a charm school for homeless trans youth and is now aging with joy and grace. It is the story of a mother's love -- the love that Gloria's mother had for her and the love that Gloria has for her chosen children. And it is fueled by the love that filmmaker Luchina Fisher has for her teenage transgender daughter, Gia.

At a time when Black transgender women face escalating violence and make up the majority of transgender people murdered each year, Gloria's story is an inspiring portrait of aging seldom seen.

**Get Your Tickets Now**

**All Proceeds Go to Safe Schools Desert Cities**

(click on the logo for more information )

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine Our Share The Plate Recipient on April 11th

Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine (CVVIM) provides a local solution to a national problem – access to healthcare. They believe that everyone has the right to healthcare. The services they provide include primary medical and dental, among many others, at no cost to adults in the Coachella Valley who are uninsured or under-insured.

As a community safety net, the Health Center treats the whole person by addressing chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis. It also treats acute conditions, such as, colds, flu, preventive medicine, diet, and emotional health. In addition to direct patient care, health education and wellness programs are provided.

CVVIM's Health Center has been operating for 11 years and is the only no-cost health clinic in the Coachella Valley. It is staffed by a dedicated and diligent group of healthcare and community volunteers, who along with governmental leaders champion the cause of helping neighbors who are in need.

Join us on Share the Plate Sunday, April 11th, to learn more about this much-needed nonprofit organization.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Plate Collections for Sunday, March 28, 2021: \$165**

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### **A Caring Workshop "Boundaries in Community"**

Saturday April 17, 1 – 4pm (*Note time change*)

How do we maintain proper and appropriate boundaries when providing care? Where are our limits in terms of our expertise and expectations? How do we assess the appropriateness of levels of care? How do we practice self care, so that our priorities are others' needs? Join Rev. Ian as we explore these questions and build some skills. **Care Team members and all congregants are invited to this Zoom workshop.**

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

**Dear Friends,**

***I have been writing the Joys & Sorrows in our "prayer" book since March 15th, 2020.***

***It would be lovely if someone would offer to take it over from me.  
You can find my information in the directory.  
I thank you in advance,***

***Bryna Blum***

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

## EARTH WEEK EVENT

### Film presentation

Brought to you by **The Climate and Environmental Justice Team**  
Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Sunday Together (at 11:15)

Join us in viewing **VANISHING SALTON SEA** (8.5 minute video)  
followed by a panel discussion of community leaders

Find out why the issues of the Salton Sea have devastating consequences for frontline communities and eventually the Coachella Valley. There are some solutions beginning to evolve and we will update you along with this video.

Please support EARTH WEEK and join our congregation for this important discussion that involves our community and needs your input!

## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TEAM

**Climate and Environmental Justice Team Meeting**  
Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

*One of the following statements about the Salton Sea is false:*

1. *The Salton Sea is saltier than the ocean.*
2. *The Salton Sea has ships and planes on the bottom of the sea floor.*
3. *The Salton Sea was formed during the Paleozoic Era.*
4. *The Salton Sea has 451 types of migratory bird life.*
5. *The Salton Sea is possibly getting a new water inlet from the Sea of Cortez*

*Please mark your calendars and come to our next Climate and Environmental Justice Team Meeting to find out the answer!*

We have activities of all sorts to inform you, turn you into a saving Salton Sea advocate, and get behind something that has a great effect on all of us because we live here!

## BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the March 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 April 20, 2021.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on March 16, 2021 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to:

- Vikki Porter, Michael Allen, Jack Fitzsimmons, Sandy Sladen, Margaret Manson,

Jonathan Fast, Bryna Blum.

- Marion Ellison, Steve Kerr, and Hiroshi Yamaguchi.

Received a report from the Pledge Drive Chairs: Pledges have been received at 93% of the goal of \$185,000. The Finance Committee is looking at options to make up the difference with the planned budget.

Engaged in a review of the 2021-22 Draft Budget.

Approved a motion to accept the COVID Outdoor Phase 2 Protocols as proposed, and to tie entry into Phase 2 to Riverside County entering the Red Tier designation. (see Governance/Documents on the website)

Received a Facilities Report on the Irrigation system and the Patio Project.

In addition, with delayed approval of the AV grant, purchase and installation of the new equipment will occur over the summer. Allowing time for the team to work with the gear and get comfortable before going live, it may be Fall before we can invite congregants to join in-person services in the Sanctuary.

Approved the Life Span Spiritual Development movie event, "Mama Gloria", scheduled in May, as a fundraiser for Safe Schools. "Mama Gloria" is a film about a trailblazing 73-year-old black transgender woman.

Approved a request from Social Justice Committee to continue Share-the-Plate during the summer months.

Approved a motion to nominate Carol Lavoie for the open Nominating Committee position beginning July 1, 2021. The Board will forward her name for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting in May.

Approved the revised job description for the Administrator position.

Approved the Hiring Policy and Procedures.

Approved a motion to provide direction to the Worship and Production teams that full services need to be retained no more than 30 days, or less, depending on copyright release agreements.

## SAVE THE DATE

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