



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter September 2021



uucod 2021 auction

Join us for an
almost serious
tour of the
palm springs
art museum

donated and led by
psam docents
jack fitzsimmons &
walter gendell

(you will never look at modern art the same way)

MINISTER'S MESSAGE "Bread not Stone: Beginning to Return"



Gently. Intentionally. Flexibly. Kindly. Carefully. Caringly. Joyfully.

These are the words in my heart as I think about our return to in-person worship with members and friends this month. It has been so long since you've been together in worship in the same room, and September 12 will be the first time I am with you in person for worship. My heart is full of hope and excitement. Finally!

And those words up there are in my heart as well. It would be so wondrous to fling wide the doors and pile together joyfully—to sing vibrantly—to hug and shake hands and pat shoulders and dance—to just go back to the way things were before the world turned upside down. I know you can imagine it and feel it in your bones.

And we are called to caring for our community in body as well as in spirit. And so, our return must be as intentional as it is joyful, as careful and kind as it is certain.

We are learning. Learning how to care for each other in this transition time. Learning daily about the ongoing impact of virus variants and vaccines. Learning about what our new "together" will look like.

Your Covid team and Board have been meeting and learning together since last year. Keeping an eye on statistics and trends, exploring recommendations from county, state, and UUA sources. Finding out how you are all feeling. And making decisions for the health of our members. That work continues as we enter this new phase.

We will gather. We will come together. And we will be glad of that, deeply. And we will also hold and care for those who choose to wait, for whatever reason.

I hope that you will read the newsletter and other communications and be aware of what we are asking of each other—masking, distancing, small steps toward full return—in this transition time. Please be willing to heed advice and follow our announced protocols when we are in the building together.

I'm inviting you to meet the needs of these days with flexibility, kindness, grace, and forgiveness.

Always choose to be kind!

in peace and love
Rev. Ian

SERVICES

September 5, 2021

What Does Labor Day Mean to You

Worship Leader: Ginger Hemingway

Worship Associate: Linda Savard

What does Labor Day mean to you? When did it become a holiday? Learn a bit of history and how the UUA principles connect with the fight for workers.

September 12, 2021

We Share the Sacred Breath: Returning to Presence

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

It is the breath of life that binds us together. And it is something carried by our breath that has kept us apart these past long months. As we start our journey back to begin with each other face to face this week let's ponder together our connections and greet each other as we enter new realities together.

September 19, 2021

Housing is a Human Right

Worship Leader: Megan Beaman Jacinto

Worship Associate: Sarita Gonzales

What is a home? Do we have a human right to housing and shelter? In her work as a civil rights attorney, Megan Beaman Jacinto will share some of her experiences working to ensure that everyone in our valley has access to safe housing. She will share a historical context for the health and safety concerns in the Oasis Mobile Home Park and other mobile home parks in the east valley.

September 26, 2021

Atonement and Forgiveness

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

Our Jewish neighbors and kin recently honored the traditions of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. As we build and rebuild our community each day, how can we learn from a practice of seeing and being accountable for the wounds we give and experience?

Worship Service/Sunday Together

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is enjoying their last few weeks of rest and renewal before our new church year begins. Ginger and I spent a wonderful week on Squash Lake in Northern Wisconsin thanks to Karen and Jim Brown and our 2020 auction. The cabin is situated in the trees on the lake. The sights, sounds, smells and weather were heavenly. Ginger keeps reminding me that all we have to do is close our eyes and be transported back to the beauty and tranquility of the lake. I plan to remember those words when I get busy this fall and winter and start to feel anxious or overwhelmed. I hope you found a visual touchstone for yourself as well.

I look forward to seeing many of you on September 12th as we return to in person services. Please remember to be patient with one another as we navigate how to remain safe with the ever-changing landscape of covid-19. In order to assure everyone's comfort and safety, we will have new protocols in place, as well as livestreaming for those who are unable to join us in person. Don't be surprised, there will be glitches as we learn new ways of doing things. Take time to thank our technology gurus, our worship leaders, worship associates, ushers, and greeters as they help us enter into our new way of being together.

Please remember to be flexible, nimble, and safe. If during church you begin to feel anxious, close your eyes, breathe, and bring to mind your touchstone. We can do this, and we can keep each other safe. See you in church or on zoom.

In Peace,
Linda Savard
President of the Board of Directors of UUCOD



CALENDAR

Saturday, August 28

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

Sunday, August 29

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

Monday, August 30

Tuesday, September 14

3:00 pm-CC Facilitators Meeting
5:30 pm-Membership Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 15

12:00 pm-Chalice Circle-Zoom Meeting
4:30 pm-BIOPC-Zoom Meeting

Thursday, September 16

8:00 am-Grief Labyrinth Walk

2:00 – 3:00pm-Super Seniors-Zoom Meeting

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, August 31

1:00 pm-Craft Circle

Wednesday, September 1

Thursday, September 2

Friday, September 3

8:00 am- Men's Breakfast

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, September 4

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

Sunday, September 5

10:00 am-Worship Service-ZOOM

11:00 am-Sunday Together-ZOOM Meeting

Monday, September 6

Labor Day: Office will be closed

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

6:30 pm-Care Team-ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, September 7

9:30 am-DIBM Meeting-ZOOM Meeting

2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, September 8

Thursday, September 9

9:30 am-Communications Meeting-Zoom Meeting

Friday, September 10

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, September 11

9:00 am - Second Saturday Stroll

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy

2:30 pm-Chalice Circle-Zoom Meeting

Friday, September 17

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

ZOOM Meeting

1:00 pm-Chalice Circle-Zoom Meeting

Saturday, September 18

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

Sunday, September 19

10:00 am-Worship Service

10:00 am-Share the Plate

11:00 am-Sunday Together

2:00 pm-Chalice Circle-Zoom Meeting

Monday, September 20

3:00 pm-Chalice Circle-Zoom Meeting

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, September 21

5:00 pm-Board of Directors

Meeting-ZOOM Meeting

7:00 pm-Chalice Circle-Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, September 22

6:30 pm - Facilities- ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, September 23

Friday, September 24

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

ZOOM Meeting

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-ZOOM

Meeting

Saturday, September 25

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

Sunday, September 26

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

Monday, September 27

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-Zoom Meeting

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Hour-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, September 12

10:00 am-Worship Service **In Person**

11:00 am-Sunday Together

11:30am – 12:30pm Finance

Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Monday, September 13

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, September 28

4:30 pm-Worship Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, September 29

Thursday, September 30

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

Sunday Together: Sunday, August 29 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm **Stay in Zoom After Service**

Monday Meditation: Monday, August 30 @ 5:15 pm **In Person**

Craft Circle: Tuesday, August 31 @ 1:00 pm **In Person**

Men's Breakfast: Friday, September 3 @ 8:00am **In Person**

Coffee & Conversation: Friday, September 3 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday, September 4 @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Sunday Together: Sunday, September 5 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm **Stay in Zoom After Service**

Labor Day: Monday, September 6

Monday Meditation: Monday, September 6 @ 5:15 pm **In Person**

Care Team: Monday, September 6 @ 6:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for August 22, 2021: \$59.67

Rev Ian's Weekly Schedule

Sundays: I'll be with you in worship online and working from home

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays: I'll be in the office from 10am to around 4pm

Thursdays: I'll be working from home and available for appointments by phone and Zoom

Fridays and Saturdays are my days off

in peace and love,

Rev. Ian

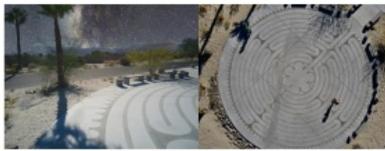
Sunday Sanctuary Flowers

When we return to Sunday mornings together we want our space to be beautiful and welcoming. So, we'd love to have volunteers sharing flowers in our Sanctuary each Sunday. If you'd be interested in volunteering to bring flowers on a Sunday in September (12, 19, 26) or October (3, 10, 17, 24, 31), please let Rev. Ian know.

Labor Day

The office will be closed Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day. Rev. Ian will be available via phone or email.

GRIEF LABYRINTH WALK



Monthly on the Third Thursday, 8-9am.
UU Church of the Desert
72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Reliance Hospice and UU Church of the Desert invite those grieving the death of a loved one to participate in a monthly experience of remembrance and healing with a labyrinth walk. This is a free community event.

The journey of walking the labyrinth becomes a metaphor for one's grief. The feelings of not knowing the way, feeling lost, or simply feeling as though no progress is being made are common in grief---and in walking the labyrinth. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only a single path to the center. It has no dead ends, and there is no possibility of getting lost. Instead, the path leads us to the center, a sacred place, where tears, regret, sadness, guilt and anger are often released. When walking out of the labyrinth many become aware of a sense of release, a letting-go of at least some of what was brought into the labyrinth. Many report feeling a sense of peace and hope for the future.

Led by the Rev. Dr. Don Stouder, Grief Counselor at Reliance Hospice and UUCOD Community Minister. For more information, please call Dr. Stouder at 760-423-6924. There is no cost, and no RSVP is required.



We're Getting Ready
-to-
OPEN

Are you looking for a way to ease back into life at UUCOD and ease the boredom of isolation? Join other volunteers in preparing our building for re-opening. We also have a few on-going tasks that may interest you. Please contact Fran Hoag for more information.

Now:

Paint new conduit in the sanctuary
Apply tinted film to Rev Ian's office window
Water Sacred Grounds
Work with the UU Handypeople

Ongoing:

Greeting at worship services
Distribute food and sock donations to charities
Write newsletter articles on the comings and goings of our Members and Friends

2021 AUCTION UPDATES

Please consider joining Jack and Walter in donating to the annual UUCOD Auction (see top of newsletter)! The auction is our biggest fundraiser and helps sustain our beloved community.

Some donation ideas:

- meal delivery (homemade or takeout)
- dessert delivery
- errand running
- a few hours of 'help around the house'
- cooking/art class (virtual or in-person)
- hand made creations, basket of favorite literature, gift certificates

The sky is the limit!!

Contact Carol Lavoie for more information. (She has a ton of 'wish list' items if you are stumped.)

How to donate:

Pick up a donation form from the auction display on the UUCOD foyer table. Completed forms can be returned to the rear of the same display or you can click on the Auction Donation Form button and complete the form online.

FORMS DUE BY OCT. 7 (the earlier the better)

Donations will be updated weekly and listed in the newsletters as well as on a poster in the lobby.

'Best Bid' Silent Auction (at UUCOD) Friday, November 5 from 10 am- 4 pm

Live Zoom Auction Saturday, November 6 from 5:45 pm - 8:30 pm

[Auction Donation Form](#)

SEPTEMBER 12th SERVICE JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY

The service will also be live streamed on Zoom – you may choose to attend in person or online.

Covid infection rates continue to rise so we are tightening up our Covid Protocols for the September 12th re-opening to do it safely. Attendees must be fully vaccinated, wear masks, maintain six feet of separation, and only one family may enter a restroom at a time. Only UUCOD members and friends at this time, no guests or general public. Please do NOT attend if you feel ill or if you recently traveled or attended a large indoor event. We will also take other steps such as Contact Tracing, providing hand sanitizer and masks if you forget, and other mitigations.

Please take a minute to complete the RSVP form in the emailed newsletter to help us plan the seating arrangements. If you sent your RSVP from the August 20 Newsletter you do not need to RSVP again.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Galilee Center is September 19th's Share the Plate

Our congregation has long championed the work of Galilee Center in Mecca. When we brought in canned goods for *Food on the First*, that food went to Galilee Center. Located in the east valley, they help some of the neediest people in our area. The center is open 24/7 and serves three meals a day. In addition, they provide school supplies for children, diapers and baby food for infants and senior services. The Center provides rental and utility bill assistance to help people stay in their housing. Galilee Center works with Our Lady of Guadalupe to provide emergency shelter, showers, laundry and food. Their two thrift shops have reopened but provide only a limited source of funding. On September 19th, your donation is greatly needed and will be much appreciated. Please give as generously as you are able.

Lifespan Spiritual Growth Program Offerings

Your Lifespan offerings in October include:

- a book discussion of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*
- a film series entitled *Film Through a Cultural Lens*

Later this fall we will release information on other workshops and book discussions.

CARE TEAM NEWS

Friends,
I hope you have gotten your Covid-19 shots. That doesn't mean the rules have totally changed. Wear a mask and/or keep your distance if you are unsure of your environment and continue to wash your hands to be extra safe.

PLEASE reach out if 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

Office Administrator Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Friday: 9:30 am - 2:45 pm

*There are times she may be on errands. Please make an appointment to ensure she is in the office.

Newsletter Deadlines: The deadline for the Newsletter is always **Wednesday morning**.

If you are going to be late, call or email Pam at admin@uucod.org asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3 pm, Fridays.

[Newsletter Calendar](#)

[Visit our website](#)

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
~ Eleanor Roosevelt

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

