

November 12th, 2021

UUCOD WEEKLY REMINDER



SERVICES (In-Person and via Zoom)

Worship Service/Sunday Together

November 14, 2021

The Work of Justice, Change, and Love II: Beloved Conversations Among

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

We continue our exploration of the work of inclusion, belonging, and diversity we are doing in our community. This week join us for an introduction to the Beloved Conversations learning that many of our members have been doing and that our congregation will be exploring in this coming year.

November 21, 2021

Thanksgiving: If You Have a Table Blessing

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt

As we prepare ourselves for gathering around a table in thanks, what is in our minds and hearts. Who do we carry with us as we feast and offer gratitude?

November 28, 2021

The Earthiness of the Buddha-Dharma

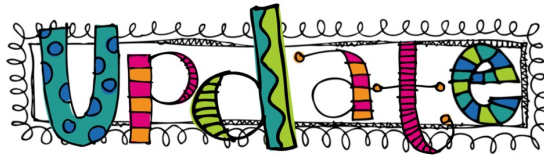
Worship Leader: Ian Challis

Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

One of the most beautiful aspects of Buddhist teaching is the way we are invited to

remember our deep interconnection to the planet and all life -- to honor and care for Earth as our source, great teacher, and witness. Growth and freedom arise from deep knowing of this earthly experience.

COLLECTIONS BASKET



Covid-19 Update Sunday Services

Good news!

The board has decided to open Sunday Services up to fully vaccinated visitors. All of our protocols are still in place for all of those who decide to attend in person services. Let's keep everyone safe!

To attend:

- Everyone must show proof of full vaccination once.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times when indoors.
- We ask you to please observe social distancing when indoors.
- No singing or coffee hour at this time.
- Please exit the building after services and enjoy socializing outdoors.
- Please attend on Zoom if you are sick.
- Please either wait two weeks to return to in-person service or receive a negative Covid test after you have been in a potentially higher-risk situation. Some examples include travel by plane, train or ship and/or being in a large (500+) indoor setting where vaccination status is unknown. We encourage you to use good judgment to help ensure the health of our congregation.

Remember Zoom services are available for everyone.

CALENDAR

Meetings

Greg Solt's Celebration of Life: Saturday, November 13 @ 2:00pm

Sunday Worship Service: Sunday, November 14 @ 10:00am

Sunday Together: Sunday, November 14 @ 11:00am - 12:00pm

Finance Committee: Sunday, November 14 @ 11:30am

Work Party: Monday, November 15 @ 9:00am - 10:00am

Monday Meditation: Monday, November 15 @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm In Person with masks

Awakening to the Grace in Aging: November 15 @ 10:00am

Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, November 16 @ 5:00pm

Chalice Circle: Wednesday, November 17 @ 1:30pm-3:00pm

BIOPOC Meeting: Wednesday, November 17 @ 4:30pm

Grief Labyrinth Walk: Thursday, November 18 @ 8:00am

Chalice Circle: Friday, November 19 @ 1:00pm-2:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Collections for October November 7, 2021: \$189.89



Sunday Sanctuary Flowers

We want our space to be beautiful and welcoming during Sunday Services. 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, please sign up in foyer or contact Rev. Ian.



WOMEN'S NITE OUT IS BACK!

Monday, Dec 13th at 6pm we have reservations on the patio at Burgers n Beer- just East of UUCOD.

Sheryl Eaton is organizing the December dinner & Joni Paddock will organize the January dinner. We are asking that each person take a month, pick the restaurant & send out the email invite.

For more information contact Sheryl Eaton. Please RSVP by December 10th so the restaurant knows how many people will be there. We look forward to seeing you on December 13th.



Our Cup Runneth Over!

It has come to our attention that we are packing so much wonderful information into our UUCOD Monthly and Weekly newsletters that some email programs like Gmail are not showing the newsletter all the way to the bottom. If you don't see info about Pam's office hours at the bottom of the newsletter display, look for a blue link to click to display entire message so that you won't miss Lifespan Learning, Social Justice and other articles that sometimes get caught "below the fold." Lots of people at UUCOD are doing great things they want you to know about, so please read our newsletters all the way to the end!



November is Native American Heritage Month and is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of Native People. It is also a time to acknowledge their important contributions and to raise awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present. This commemorative month also aims to provide a platform for Native people to express to their community their concerns and solutions for building bridges of understanding and friendship in their local area. We invite you to learn more about their culture, traditions,

BOARD NOTES

The November Board Meeting is this Tuesday at 5:00 pm on zoom. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

At our last board meeting we discussed the need to update the Building Use and Rental Policy and the Facility Use Fees. This discussion will continue at the upcoming board meeting. Sunday Service Protocols continue to be a discussion by the board. Between the last monthly board meeting and a special board meeting, we have now opened Sunday Service to visitors as long as they have proof of full vaccination and follow all of our other protocols.

Other items from our last agenda included planning for the Church Council Meeting, discussion of the Paying Off the Mortgage plan and the beginning of a discussion on the new Communication Policy and Procedures. Paying off the Mortgage and the Communication Policy discussions will continue at this month's board meeting. In addition, we will begin to discuss our financial priorities for the next fiscal year, in preparation for the pledge drive. Please see the posted agenda for all of the items the board will be addressing this month.

All of your board members hope to see you at our meeting.

Linda Savard
President, UUCOD Board of Directors

AUCTION UPDATES



The 2021 UUCOD Auction Raised \$20,000!!!

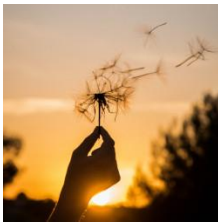
We had a wonderful night on Saturday bidding on Auction items via Zoom! Thank you to all of the donors, bidders and volunteers who made this possible! This is truly an amazing community! Your generosity is appreciated!

In case you missed out on winning an auction item here is your second chance on the following items:

- Original photo on canvas-*Taos Pueblo* (16" x 32") by Rev. Dr. Stouder - **\$100**
- Moonlight walk led by Rod Belshee (who will have a 'bat sonic detector' so all can hear the canyon bats). Date: March 16 or April 14 - **\$15 a person**
- Danbury Mint pewter bald eagle statue - **\$20**
- PBS DVD set: *Jazz*, a film by Ken Burns - **\$20**
- Better Homes & Gardens dishes - service for 8 (gray) - **\$30**
- Stone & Lain dishes - service for 8 (brown) - **\$35**
- Homemade Turkey Vegetable Soup Delivered To Your Door - **\$20 each (3 available)**

You may purchase any of these items by contacting Barbara Storms. You should have received your receipt for the items you've won. If you have not received an receipt or have questions please contact Fred Bloss.

LIFE SPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH



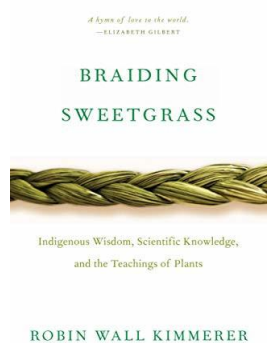
Awakening to the Grace in Aging Facilitated by Peter Mathews and Bryna Blum

Tuesdays, 10 am to Noon,
November 16th, 23rd and 30th at the Church 10:00am-12:00pm

Recommended Reading:
The Grace in Aging: Awaken as You Grow Older
by Kathleen Dowling Singh

Registration Limit: 20 participants

This potentially transformative workshop will take place at the Church. Participants will be invited to share their insights on the advantages of aging, on their challenges and solutions regarding aging, and on their plans to acquire additional spiritual growth in the future. Participants will reflect on their experiences which arose from reading the recommended text. Please contact Peter Mathews or Bryna Blum if you are interested in participating.



Lifespan Book Club Discussion

Braiding Sweetgrass
By Robin Wall Kimmerer

Join us in a discussion on
Tuesday, November 30 @ 10:00am – 11:30 am
Location TBD

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.



Lectio Divina: Contemplative Practices Facilitated by Rev Ian

Mon. Nov. 29, 1 - 3 p.m. in person
and/or 7 - 9 p.m. on Zoom

Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture or other texts contemplatively in ways that offer discernment and perspective. We'll explore the history and method of this ancient practice and find ways to explore a variety of texts. This is the first of three offerings this year by Rev. Ian on different spiritual practices.

Contemplative spiritual practices help us build space in our hearts and minds and offer us new ways to see ourselves and the world.

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES



Socks on the Second is Sunday, Nov. 14th

Socks on the Second is a program of the Social Justice Committee whereby we collect new socks for women, men, & kids on the second Sunday of each month that you bring in. They will be delivered to *Well in the Desert* at one of their five lunchtime sites in Palm Springs and distributed to any person in need who comes in.

Can't make it to church on Nov. 14? We've got you covered. Simply drop them off in the brown bin in the lobby at UUCOD the next time you are there. Easy Peasy!

So the next time you are shopping, add socks to your cart then bring them to UUCOD the next time you are there.

A person in need will thank you.



November's Share the Plate Holiday Gift Drive to Benefit for SafeHouse of the Desert & Harrison House

Once again, we will soon Share the Plate with one of our favorite local organizations: SafeHouse of the Desert. Like last year, due to continuing Coronavirus restrictions, we will not be able to deliver our presents in person, but that won't prevent the youth & young adults from getting them. On Sunday, November 21, instead of buying their requested items, your generous Share the Plate donation will be used to purchase Target e-gift cards from our Scrip program, which they will use to buy their own presents.

Safehouse of the Desert, part of Operation SafeHouse, which has been doing its important work in our county for more than three decades, is a life-saving shelter for youth ages 11 to 17 who have run away from home or whose parents no longer want them there. One national runaway organization estimates that there are more than two million young people who run away annually! Some have been victims of human trafficking, especially in recent years, and have no place to go once they are picked up by police.

SafeHouse operates two shelters, one in Riverside and the other here, that provide approximately 600 runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth with over 4,000 bed nights annually. Harrison House is transitional housing for young adults 18 to 21 years of age, some who have "aged out" of the foster care system and have limited ability and resources to live on their own. Besides housing, it also provides on-site schooling, including GED classes, individual cognitive behavioral therapy, group counseling, financial education, employment assistance, and life skills. SafeHouse's transitional living programs serve approximately 40 youth and their children (yes—their children) annually.

Your donation will provide a happier holiday for these youth and young adults who have literally nowhere to go and need everything. Please give as generously as you are able. For more information, please contact Bob Rancourt.



COACHELLA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM'S CHRISTMAS PARTY FOOD BASKET & TOY DRIVE

The Social Justice Committee is thrilled to announce that UUCOD will be participating in CVUSD's Migrant Education Program's Christmas Party Food Basket & Toy Drive. This much-loved program helps our migrant families who live in the East Valley have a more joyful Christmas. Due to Coronavirus and the need to practice social distancing, migrant families will have a Caravan Christmas Party. Plated dinners, a box of food and toys for the children will be given to each family member in their car upon their arrival at the Migrant Education Center.



Toy Drive

For the Toy Drive, instead of purchasing toys and bringing them to UUCOD, we will be collecting donations electronically via a toy drive donations button, much like the weekly Virtual Offering Basket for Sunday Services. The total funds collected will be converted into a Scrip e-gift card and emailed to the Migrant Education Program. They will then shop for toys, which will be handed out to each child and youth when they drive up. Currently, there are 1,650 migrant children & youth in kindergarten through grade 12 within CVUSD. For most of them, if it wasn't for our generosity, they would simply not receive anything at Christmas. Please note that the last day to donate is November 26th.

[Toy Drive Donations](#)



Food Basket Drive

Each day in November until Thanksgiving, please add the unexpired item listed to a box.

On December 3, bring the completely filled box to UUCOD between 3-6 pm. A Lowe's small packing box is perfect and only costs \$1.10.

We'll deliver it to CVUSD's Migrant Education Program before their Christmas Party. Email [Joni Paddock](#) for details & to sign up.

- November 1 - Box of Cereal
- November 2 - Peanut Butter
- November 3 - Cooking Oils (corn, canola, vegetable)
- November 4 - Flour (corn-masa harina or all-purpose flour)
- November 5 - Macaroni & Cheese
- November 6 - Canned Fruit
- November 7 - Canned Tomato Sauce/Paste
- November 8 - Canned Tuna
- November 9 - Dessert Mix (ex: brownie mixes & already-made pudding cups)
- November 10 - Jar of Applesauce
- November 11 - Canned Sweet Potatoes
- November 12 - Dried Herbs/Spices (cinnamon, oregano, bay leaves, salt, sugar)
- November 13 - Bag of Beans (beans, lentils)
- November 14 - Box of Crackers
- November 15 - Package of Rice
- November 16 - Package of Oatmeal
- November 17 - Package Pasta
- November 18 - Spaghetti Sauce
- November 19 - Chicken Noodle Soup
- November 20 - Canned/Powdered Milk (evaporated, condensed, & powdered)

November 21 - Can Corn
November 22 - Can Mixed Vegetables
November 23 - Can Carrots
November 24 - Can Green Beans
November 25 - Canned Chiles (jalapenos in vinegar sauce)

If you would rather someone from our team assemble and fill the box for you, please contact Joni Paddock. *The cost of a box filled with all the items is \$55.* Please note that the last day to donate is November 26th.

Food Drive Donations

Script2Stage2Screen Updates

SCRIPT2STAGE2SCREEN PRESENTS THE NEW DRAMA “CRYING ON TRAINS” IN DECEMBER

Script2Stage2Screen, which reopened on October 23 to a full house, will present its second performance of the season on Dec. 3 and 4, 2021.

“Crying on Trains,” by David Hanson of New Jersey.

“Our next show is about living, loving and coping with life’s challenges,” said Steve Fisher, Script2Stage2Screen’s artistic director. “Two unlikely companions travel life’s tough, yet rewarding, journey together. We’re proud to have Chet Cole directing the play. He is an experienced actor and director, who also happens to be an award-winning teacher.”

Fisher also said: “I want to send a special ‘thank you’ to all patrons who have responded to our COVID precautions without a complaint. We have done our best to create a safe environment for everyone and will continue to do so.”

Script2Stage2Screen is the performing arts project of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert (UUCOD), 72425 Via Vail in Rancho Mirage. All staged readings take place at UUCOD at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

COVID PREVENTION POLICIES

Script2Stage2Screen is following the Church’s policies on preventing the spread of COVID.

Script2Stage2Screen:

1. Is requiring proof of **full** vaccination to attend its performances. All cast and crew will be fully vaccinated, and wear masks except when acting.
2. Is asking patrons to register in advance and provide contact information, in order to perform contact tracing if needed.
3. Is requiring attendees to wear masks.
4. Is setting up seating to allow social distancing.
5. Is requiring ticket purchases or RSVPs in advance (www.script2stage2screen.com).
6. Is offering refreshments outdoors in front of the church; to be consumed outside.

The remainder of the group’s season:

“I’m Not Rick Springfield,” a comedy by Vicki Vodrey (Kansas), to be performed Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and 22, 2022.

“A Night in Puglia,” a drama by David M. Wolgin (Rancho Mirage), to be performed

Friday and Saturday, February 25 and 26, 2022.

"Inez's Birthday...and Then Some," a comedy by Jason Hull (Palm Springs), to be performed Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, 2022.

Script2Stage2Screen is an innovative performing arts organization for the development of original productions on the stage. Formed in 2010 by a small group of playwrights, S2S2S started as a vehicle to premiere original plays. Since then, it has developed into a diverse performing arts organization in the Coachella Valley with the mission of highlighting social justice, families, sexual equality, the dignity of humankind, and the joy and humor of life. www.script2stage2screen.com

NEWS FROM THE CARE TEAM



What is "Caring?"

It is looking out for the others in your community,

Please step up to support the Care Team. It needs "Kitchen Angels" (Cooks and bakers) and those willing to drive when needed.

If that might be a fit for you, please contact me at the number below.

Bryna Blum

Care Team Chair

Save The Dates for the UU Regional Assembly

Save the dates: *Reflect, Rejoice, Renew*, PWR Assembly, Friday, February 4 through Sunday February 6, 2022. This is a Regional Assembly held virtually and on site in San Diego, CA. More information to come on this great opportunity to participate in our Regional Assembly.

Office Administrator News

Pam's Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:15 am - 2:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

(Please note Pam may be on errands during office hours so please call 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, please call or email Pam asking to reserve space. The newsletter will be posted on the website by 3pm on Friday.

Just a quick reminder that I will need your December Newsletter articles by 10:00am on November 22nd. The monthly newsletter takes more time to build and it is a short week with Thanksgiving on 11/25. I will be scheduling the December Newsletter on 11/24 to be emailed on 11/26. Just a note that I will be out of town after 11/24 so it is important to get

me those articles on time. Feel free to send articles in early if you have them ready.
Thanks so much!

If you have information you would like included in the printed version of announcements that are included with the printed version of the Order of Worship please send the information you would like included to Pam on Tuesdays by 12:00pm. Space is limited so submit your information as soon as possible.



"To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind."
— Pearl S. Buck

[Visit our website](#)

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

