

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

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 [uuchurchlc.org/news-2/newsletter/](http://uuchurchlc.org/news-2/newsletter/)

## January Light

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 69, Num. 1

Services Every Sunday of the Year

We are a transformational Force for Love and Justice in Our Community

We gather to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community, seek truth, and work for justice.

Office Administrator, Cheri Coffelt is working from home; her hours are M-F 9:30-4:30

Join us for Zoom Worship Sunday at 10 AM, See past worship services on [our YouTube channel](#)

Deadline for Light submissions is the 25th of every month.

## Our Consulting Minister

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### The Reverend Gary Kowalski

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Starting in mid-January, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces will have two new “Consulting Ministers.” When I looked up the etymology, I discovered that the word “consult” comes from a Latin root that means to gather the Senate together, which seems an apt description of our job. All the wisdom, leadership and insight needed to rebuild this congregation into a strongly knit faith community is already present here in abundance. This church has done an incredible job of pulling itself together through the unexpected departure of Reverend Xolani Kacela and the public health crisis of the last three years. You are the elected ones, so to speak: the elders, the

people’s assembly, the decision makers. As your Consulting Ministers, Rev. Munro Sickafoose and I simply hope to gather and reflect back the learnings that we glean from our time among you.

My first task will be to listen to your hopes, concerns, passions and peeves. I want to hear from a wide spectrum of young and old, newbies and established folks to understand what keeps you connected to this congregation and to each other. Recognizing that the religious landscape within Unitarian Universalism and all across America is changing, what traditions do you want to hold fast and what changes do you think will be needed to help this church grow in fulfilling its mission: to open hearts and minds, to work for justice and care for creation?

Please get in touch if you would like to chat, get acquainted, and share your perspectives. My first weekend in Las Cruces will be January 13-15, Friday through Sunday. Whether you consider yourself a church insider or on the periphery, I value your thoughts and want to hear from you.

It is a great privilege to participate in this small part of your congregation's journey. We are all living in uncertain times, when old habits and ways of "doing church" are under review. Yet there has never been a greater need for people of conscience to join hands across lines of creed, color and condition to build a more humane and sustainable future. Together—in consultation—is surely the way forward.

Rev. Gary Kowalski, [RevKowalski@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:RevKowalski@uuchurchlc.org).

## **January 15 Worship Service, 10 AM, Crossing the Threshold**

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On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, I will ponder what it means to be a radically welcoming and inclusive community, and reflect on how crossing thresholds, literally and figuratively, can open opportunities for growth and personal transformation. There will be an opportunity for further engagement in conversation about the direction and purpose of the church after the service. You are also welcome to join me and my wife Dori afterwards at Habeneros Fresh Mex restaurant to extend the discussion.

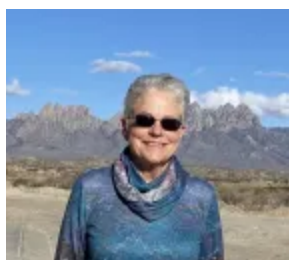
## **Our President**

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### **Susan Hychka**

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Happy New Year, Everyone!



On Thursday, January 5, at 7:00 pm via Zoom, our Consulting Ministers Rev. Gary Kowalski and Rev. Munro Sickafoose are planning to join our Committee Chairs and Project Leaders for the Community Round Up. All interested members and friends are invited to attend. The main purpose of this meeting is to begin to get acquainted with one another before their part-time ministry begins later this month. This is an opportunity to learn a little more about our

ministers and for them to hear from us. Also, Committee Chairs may give brief reports as to their plans and needs for more members.

Looking back upon recent successes, our Sunday Services Committee did a wonderful job of planning and delivering a variety of interesting and thought-provoking services, and the Choir enriched those services. Our Religious Education Committee is building a strong program for our youth and looking forward to adding Adult Education programming in the months ahead. Facilities Committee members have kept our campus in good repair, doing many of the jobs

themselves to minimize expenses. Social Justice ministries are strong. The Gallery Committee managed a full schedule featuring a wide variety of works of art. Leadership Development presented an excellent leadership program, and the Committee on Ministry will soon distribute their annual report. Hospitality and Caring Committees continued their ministries, and the Board and Finance Committee led the congregation through a difficult year. Our staff – Catherine, Kellie, Cheri, Michael, Claire, Brandon, and Lorenzo – did terrific work! Thanks to all of you!

Of special note: Desert Spirit Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) conducted a Sunday Solstice service and a Wednesday evening Yule celebration. The Yule service was interactive, and the two major stories (The Yule Spider and UU World's Story of Light and Darkness) were presented with costumes and props and audience participation. I particularly enjoyed the "Toasts, Boasts and Oaths" segment where individuals could choose to address the other participants – toasting people or Gods & Goddesses that are important in their lives, talking about a significant accomplishment in 2022, and sharing something they will strive to accomplish in the coming year. Catherine Massey, Cassie Calway, and Kevin Fitzgerald did an amazing job – Cassie directing the program, Kevin and Cassie presenting the stories, and Catherine playing good music and directing the songs. We hope to see more CUUPS services in the sanctuary in 2023. Huzzah!

## **Board of Trustees**

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### **Board Officers**

President: Susan Hychka

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Jan Thompson

### **At Large**

Jeanne Gilbert

Bill Fitzgerald

Jennifer Trantham

John Seeley

Skip Shelton

Carol Stanfill

Full board minutes are sent to church members in a private emailing.

## **Religious Education**

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### **Kellie Ingram, Director of Religious Education**

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As we all welcome in a new year and begin to think about what we would like to achieve with this fresh slate, I would like to take some time to remember accomplishments of the last year.

And what a year it was! Beginning with an enormous Thank You- to everyone who helped to make Religious Education's first donation drive a huge success! Due to the congregation's contributions, Las Cruces' public

school homeless students and their families will head into this new year receiving generous support. While Religious Education will be starting off 2023 with a New Year's Day Zoom Party, last year our first Zoom party was held to celebrate Valentine's Day. To mark the completion of Religious Education's year-long mural project, last April we hosted a Dedication & Signature ceremony. Youth, families, and members joined us to celebrate this climate conscious accomplishment.

Last year's Easter scavenger hunt was a lot of fun and brought smiles to the faces of church goers who watched, as our youth ran around on campus.



Spring brought truffle making sessions and summer saw us celebrate Juneteenth with a walking fieldtrip. In



July we participated in another successful year of Makers Camp! Complete with classes, singing, tai-chi, community, and more. One of my favorite events of 2022 was the Fall Pride on the Plaza collaboration with the Albuquerque Unitarian Universalist Youth Group. We began to close out the year with our return to the sanctuary, a Trunk or Treat,

and winter events including tree decorating, gift box wrapping and the ever so fun Candles and Coco!

As we head into this new year with plans for exciting and new accomplishments, Religious Education is certainly hoping to see and spend more time with members and the community. Keep an eye out for updates and events on our UUCLC Facebook page!

## Music and Choir

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### Catherine Massey, Director of Music

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#### MUSIC NOTES

I'm wishing you a very Happy New Year. This January the Soul Matters theme for worship is "Finding Our Center." With that in mind I'd like to invite you to turn inward in a special Taizé worship service and explore creating and supporting quality worship services at a worship training event. I believe that the Taizé tradition can help us in our inner work. And we have the opportunity to "find our center" as a congregation when we join together as a community on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Cox and I will lead a worship service in the Taizé tradition. The Taizé community in the Burgundy region of France was founded as an ecumenical monastic order during World War II by Swiss Lutheran Brother Roger Schutz. Its purpose was to create communion and reconciliation, with a devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The community is still thriving, with thousands from many different countries joining week-long meetings. This style of worship has spread throughout the world. Because of the diversity of nationalities represented, Latin was used as a common language for worship, but everyone is free to use their own language of choice.

To focus worship and prayer, Taizé is a simple style of worship expressed through music and simple rituals. The community believes that singing is an important form of prayer. Taizé songs are meant to be sung over and over, helping all to learn the chants and to allow them to become prayers of the heart. At its best, a Taizé service can suspend time, integrating silence as a vehicle to open our hearts, and use music to be a guide to internal peace. In our practice we will sing in Latin, Spanish, English, and other languages that we may choose. Taizé songs are meant to be accessible for all.

On Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> the Sunday Services Committee will host a Worship Training workshop. Come to explore and share what moves us, and makes for meaningful, memorable worship. This morning is open to all who value Unitarian Universalist worship—from those who have served as service leaders or service associates, to novices who just want to see what goes into planning and creating. All will have the opportunity to sign up for



helping in some way with a service, or even to join our wonderful Sunday Services Committee. Having been part of this group for more than 24 years, I can attest that this work is one of the most fulfilling and fun ways to be of service in our congregation. We will serve a light breakfast and end with lunch together.

## Administration

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### Cheri Coffelt

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#### Crushed?



We are often crushed by life. We find ourselves burdened with heavy responsibility and insurmountable troubles. The overwhelming global problems weigh heavily on us, and we at times feel hopeless.

Yes, we are crushed, but sometimes crushing produces good results. When olives are crushed, we are blessed with a beautiful oil for food, healing and restoration. We enjoy the result of crushed grapes and in wine, garlic and pepper season our life, and the crushing of flowers and plants create fragrant perfume. The intense pressure we feel in life, instead of making us miserable, if allowed can produce a gift. We can be more generous to those in need, because we have felt the shadow of financial duress, more caring and compassionate, after we have battled health issues, overcome addictions, and difficulties raising our families. All of these experiences can make us more compassionate to the needs of others.

Our ability to take what felled our dreams is what makes greatness. We all fail and experience grief. In this New Year let us find a way to use these experiences to help others. When we learn to be vulnerable and share with others, we build a better life and community. We also allow our experiences to benefit rather than crush our spirit.

## Committees and Programs

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### Committee on Ministry – [com@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:com@uuchurchlc.org)

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Current members are Peggy Devlin, Jack Welch, Katie Fitzgerald, and Julie Woody. Two current vacancies need to be filled during the first quarter of 2023.

### Communications – [webmaster@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:webmaster@uuchurchlc.org)

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#### Follow us on social media

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- Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/uuchurchlc>

- YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@uulascruces>
- Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/uuchurchlc>
- Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/uuchurchlc>

Following, liking, subscribing, and commenting on posts will help us increase our visibility, allowing others to see, enjoy and engage with our content, which brings growth to our online community.

If you have ideas for content that you would like to create for the church online, let us know and we would be happy to work with you. We're excited to take these steps into the future, together.

## CUUPS

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### CUUPS Newsletter Winter 2022

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**Serving With Grace Book Group • Testing Pagan Voices \* Online Field Trip for Winter Solstice Ritual \* Chapter and Member Support • Upcoming Rituals – [Read](#)**

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### Wheel of the Year

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**Yule:** Celebrates the winter solstice.

**Imbolc:** An ancient festival welcoming the first wave of spring.

**Ostara:** Celebrates the spring equinox

**Beltane:** Celebrates May Day

**Litha:** Celebrates the summer solstice

**Lughnasadh:** Celebrates the beginning of the harvest season

**Mabon:** Celebrates the autumnal equinox

**Samhain:** Marks the end of summer, and the end of the harvest season. It signals the beginning of winter. On this day, pagans believe the veil between the living and the dead is especially thin.

## Facilities by Charlie Scholz – [facilities@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:facilities@uuchurchlc.org)

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### Good news from Facilities Management

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This has been a very busy year for our committee. In 2022 we:

- Worked with a professional alarm company to equip the campus with a camera system so we can monitor any break-in
- Enhanced the audio/visual in the sanctuary by installing a monitor facing the podium so the speaker and choir could see what is being shown on the audience screens
- Installed a monitor in the lobby so late-comers and overflow crowds will be able to follow the Service
- Kept up the maintenance of the HVAC units
- Worked with HVAC professionals to repair units in the religious education building.
- Added deadbolts to kitchen doors in the religious education building and on the storage sheds to enhance security
- Cleaned out and organized all storage areas and assigned specific uses to each
- Sold a large amount of stuff at the annual Yard Sale.
- Repaired and/or replaced light fixtures throughout the campus for better safety and security
- Began work on an operations manual for the campus
- Placed locks on all external electrical boxes for safety and security purposes
- Cleaned and painted the lobby and the adjoining kitchenette
- Purchased lightweight folding tables for use at dining events

Special thanks to our hard-working volunteers including Bill Fitzgerald, David Rice and Steve Hychka

## Finance Committee by Katie Fitzgerald – [finance@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:finance@uuchurchlc.org)

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### Thank you!

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Many thanks to everyone who supported the budget process and gave us more than a quorum at the congregational meeting where we passed the budget and elected new board and committee members.

### Tick Tock

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That sound you hear is the clock ticking down the **end of the fiscal year** for our church. If you have not completed your pledge, or paid off your auction bill, there is still time to make it all good and help us “balance the books” for 2022. We don’t name names or publicly shame here at the church, but rather send out statements as a gentle reminder that the work of the church continues and for that we need YOU– your contributions of time, talent and yes, TREASURE.



To capture the spirit of the beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, you may pay by check, you may pay by mail, you can bring in some cash or go online and charge your credit card, it's not so hard. We try to make it as easy and painless as possible. THANK YOU for being such a giving and generous group!

## **Hospitality Rotation Schedule**

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This schedule is now permanently located on the Members page of our website under Sunday Hospitality Rotation. A new addition to the hospitality rotation is the Caring Committee, which will be handling 5th Sundays throughout the year.

## **Leadership Development Committee – [leadership@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:leadership@uuchurchlc.org)**

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Committee members in 2024 are: Marie Sauter, Scott McLaughlin, Jason Galbraith, and Robert Severance. Currently there are two vacancies.

## **Library by Rabbitt Loring**

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### **Book Sorting Volunteer Opportunity**

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Books have been arriving at the library, sometimes in large spurts. Big THANK YOUs to the donors who have answered the call for donations. When we have a pretty good pile of books, it is then time to sort them. I anticipate that this volunteer opportunity would also happen in spurts, perhaps only once a month or so. It is helpful to have more than one person working on the sorting. Some books are hard to categorize, and it is useful to have additional brains working on the task. Our categories are: 1) Perfect for our Library, 2) Great for our two Diane Taylor book carts, 3) Appropriate for the Little Free Library, which has been getting a lot of use lately, and 4) Better to take to COAS for credit to our church account. Keep those book donations coming! We love them!

**New Library hours on Sunday!** The library is open from 11:00 to 11:30am after the service during hospitality for your browsing pleasure. Stop by to check out our UU ewe's. Eunice and Edwina have new outfits! The Christmas clothing has been retired and, in its place, – a surprise! Come see what they are wearing now. See you in the library!



## **Membership by Lyn Pearson – [membership@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:membership@uuchurchlc.org)**

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Lyn Pearson, Cathy Cox, Jeff Harris, Lori Miller, Lindsay Neal, Carol Stanfill, and Mark Sukontarak are your Membership Committee. We meet every other Tuesday morning for an hour and a half.

The Membership Committee was revitalized in February of 2022. Although we had no stated mission or goals, we were able to: (1) establish when and how often the committee would meet, (2) develop a mission statement (see below), (3) conduct a New UU orientation class, (4) conduct a September InGathering event, (5) review, correct and update members, friends, employees, and other records in the church database, (6) contact by phone, ground mail, or email members who have not attended church recently, and (7) set clear goals for 2023.

The mission of the Membership Committee is to build a strong church community, welcome, orient and integrate new members and friends into our community, support all members, and assume responsibility for maintaining church membership data.

In support of our mission, these are some of our goals for 2023:

- Develop processes for contacting every visitor within 10 days from the date of their initial visit to the church, including a welcome email or letter and a phone call from someone from the Membership Committee
- Develop comprehensive guidelines for our greeters and ensure they are aware of them and understand them
- Ensure the smooth operation of 4 rounds of Circle Suppers (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)
- Assist in the conduct of 1 New UU orientation class
- Conduct 1 Building Your Own Theology class
- Participate in planning and executing the 2023 InGathering event

You can change your address, email, and phone numbers in [InFellowship](#) or simply contact Cathy Cox by email or phone.

## **Multicultural Awareness Group – Shirley Davis**

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Our first meeting in the new year will be January 15, on Zoom, at 3:30 PM. The meeting will last for an hour and a half. The new book we will be reading is *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

Do you know if the Piro-Manso-Tiwa tribe is a Federally Recognized tribe? What is the benefit of being a recognized tribe? Let's learn together. I hope you are curious and will join us on that Sunday.

## **Social Justice– [SocialJustice@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:SocialJustice@uuchurchlc.org)**

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## **2023-4 Change for Change**

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In a special meeting of the Social Justice Committee on December 4, members and friends of church selected charities to receive our Change for Change offerings during the period January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. The charities selected to receive our offerings are the Children's Reading Alliance, Border Servant Corps, Action Program for Animals, Mesilla Valley Hospice and Casa de Peregrinos. We appreciate the effort of those who nominated and presented for these and other local charities.

Three other local charities, NM Café, PFLAG and Dona Ana Arts Council, were considered but were not selected. We encourage members and friends to support these organizations in giving outside of our Change for Change offerings.

### **Sunday Services by Charlie Scholz and Katie Fitzgerald – SundayServices@uuchurchlc.org**

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The Sunday Service Committee has been very successful this year in filling the church calendar with a variety of interesting programs. We are especially pleased with the contributions of individuals, both members of our congregation and outside speakers who, while not on the committee, were nevertheless willing to lead services and/or work as service associates. This has allowed us to present a wide range of topics as well as a variety of religious points of view in our Sunday Worship.

Our initial task, as of January 2022, was to make sure that we had a functioning committee so we could plan worship services. This was enabled by the co-chairing of Katie Fitzgerald and Charlie Scholz, who took responsibility for organizing the group. Other members like Haney Pearson, Brooks Lewis and John Seeley, each contributed their special talents this year to lead services or to work as an associate at various times. (A full list of Sunday Service leaders and topics is archived on the website.)

Catherine Massey, our Director of Music, has been a great supporter of the efforts of the Committee and very helpful in the selection of hymns and videos, leading the choir and encouraging other musicians to fill in when she was not there. In this we especially appreciate the work of Cathy Cox, Mark Sukontarak, Nancy L Anderson, Rich Richins, and Dave and Nancy Carlsons.

Our monthly meetings on Zoom include discussions of topics and assignments for service leaders and associates. We have also made great strides in revising the standard order of service and the service associates' script to reflect current needs. As of June, we took over the responsibility of supervising the audio-visual technical staff that produces our in-person and streaming services.

### **Requests and Items of Interest**

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**Request: Committee members are needed**

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Committees are the lifeblood of the church; they provide a wide range of necessary services and programs. Please consider joining one of these committees.

Finance Committee: 2 people

Membership Committee: 2 people

Committee on Ministry: 2 people (these are elected or appointed positions; if you are interested, contact Katie Fitzgerald)

## **Request: Spring '23 – Call for Adult Education Instructors**

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Have an idea for a class you'd like to share with others? You may have many ideas and skills that could be shared. Here's a list of what has been turned in so far: Memoir Writing with Rabbitt Loring, A Taste of Tai Chi with Julie Woody, Silk Painting with Judy Licht, Hats for the Homeless with Sally Atkinson, a book study with Laura Jones, Leadership Refresher with Rev Nancy Anderson, Art with a Math Connection by Sara Thomas, and more still coming in.

UUCLC Adult Enrichment classes will begin in early 2023. Classes could be of all kinds: spiritual, book study, exercise, art, music, writing, cooking, language, etc. They could be offered as long as needed, for example all semester long for exercise, or offered once a week for a month for other subjects, or even just a weekend workshop. The number of sessions is completely up to the instructor's energy and availability. The instructor will get a class list to contact ahead of the first class about materials needed (if any). If materials are needed, the instructor will let participants know the cost involved and where to obtain them.

If you have an idea for a class you'd like to offer, please provide a one paragraph course description. Include a start date, number of classes, start time, end time, class location, minimum and maximum number of participants, and materials needed. Lastly, if open to all ages (like to our religious education kids) add: "Open to all ages."

An instructor proposal form with all the above requirements is available in the church library, or an electronic form can be sent to you by asking Sara Thomas.

Deadline for submitting your class proposals is Jan 10th, but please submit earlier if possible. After Jan 10th, a catalogue of all offerings will be sent in an e-blast to the congregation. Classes will have a charge of \$15 to register, payable to UUCLC.

Classes would be open to the community through word-of-mouth (invite a friend) and possible local postings. This outreach would bring more people in contact with UUCLC. Adult enrichment has many benefits: new skills, fellowship, possible new members, and more visibility for our church.

If you are interested in teaching a class or have more questions, contact Sara Thomas, Adult Education Coordinator.

## **Request: Give us your yarn!**

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Yarn collection is ongoing. You may have noticed a large basket in the lobby with a card on the handle marked "Yarn for Hats for the Homeless." One of our Adult Ed classes is collecting yarn of all kinds to make warm hats for the homeless. Please donate your unwanted yarn to this great cause.

## **Request: Give us your soft plastic!**

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Religious education is collecting "soft plastic." What is soft plastic you may ask? It's wrappers and plastic packaging of all kinds. Shrink wrap, bread wrappers, produce bags, and chip bags are all examples. You would not believe how much soft plastic actually goes through a household until you start setting it aside in a box or bag to collect it. Then bring in your collected soft plastic to deposit in the bins at church marked for this: one in the lobby and one in the religious education building great room. This will be an ongoing drive for several months for a youth project.

## **Request: Give us your empty 2-liter bottles!**

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Religious education wants your empty 2-liter bottles. Both the soft plastic and empty bottles are needed to create building blocks for a youth project. Please help us reduce, reuse and recycle.

## **Request: Help us to stock the The Little Free Pantry**

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The UUCLC Little Free Pantry continues to serve the unhoused in our community because ALL people deserve humane treatment and to have their basic needs met. Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all and that it is our moral obligation to provide some of those basic needs.

We need your help. First, we need 2 more volunteers who would help refresh the pantry one day a week. We will gladly show you the procedure and will welcome you to the "Pantry Crew."

Second, feeding the hungry is costly. Food prices have risen so that it is costing us about \$250-300 per month to keep the pantry stocked. Your donations of goods are most appreciated. Alternatively, we are happy to do the shopping for you. You may contribute by check with a note in the memo line that it is for the pantry or donate online to Social Justice and choose the sub-group of Little Free Pantry. If you choose to do your own purchasing, please remember that we are serving the homeless who have no means to cook and store items. They don't even have can openers, so just easy-open tops, prepared soups (not condensed), single-serving sizes, etc. Leave your donations in the little blue wagon in the Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays or in the Lobby Sunday mornings.

Your participation as a volunteer or as a donor for this all-church social justice project is greatly appreciated. The Pantry Crew

## **Generous Giving by Jack Welch**

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We continue to receive generous donations for our “Little Pantry”. During the past month Jane Asche, Cathy Carver, Dale Emmert, Jack Welch and Gayle Trantham have all supported the “Little Pantry” with their gifts. We receive a donation for our KRWG Fund from Carol Winkler who now resides in St Petersburg, FL. Thank you all.

## **Thanks to Our December Greeters**

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Our greeters are the first people visitors to the church are likely to meet. For their very important contributions to our six December services, the Membership Committee thanks: Ginny Herrick, Diane Lee, Gillian Leng, Haney and Lyn Pearson, Donna Racz, Linda Rogers, John Seeley, Robert Severence, Carol Stanfill, Mark Sukontarak, Gayle Trantham, Jack Welch, and Mary Whittemore.

## **Events of Note**

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### **Dec 25 – Clayton Flowers is 107!**

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Clayton is a living legend and a founding member of our church. He loves contact with church members and cards are always welcome. Yes, it's late for his birthday, but who needs a reason to send a card?

Clayton has his own Wiki page, among other achievements.



## **First Lieutenant James Clayton Flowers**

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<b>Born</b>	December 25, 1915 (age 107) Las Cruces, New Mexico, U.S.
<b>Allegiance</b>	United States of America
<b>Service/branch</b>	United States Army Air Force
<b>Years of service</b>	1940–1945
<b>Rank</b>	First Lieutenant1st Lieutenant (Army Air force)
<b>Unit</b>	99th Fighter Squadron 332nd Fighter Group
<b>Awards</b>	Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Evelyn Lorraine Flowers, 1919-2008
<b>Other work</b>	Teacher in New York

### **Jan 6 – First Friday Game Night Is Moving to The Library in January**

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Starting in January, Game Night will be held in the church library, due to Moonsisters being on the same night for a number of months in 2023. We will start at 6:30pm as usual. For January only, the first game will be White Elephant Bingo, so bring a wrapped gift if you want to participate. After White Elephant Bingo, it's games and snacks as usual. Bring a favorite game and snack to share. Hope to see you there!

Also, February's Game Night will likely be on the first Thursday due to a musical event being held at our church on Friday, Feb 3rd. Mark your calendars.

### **Jan 7 – Active Shooter/Dangerous Person Workshop**

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**10:00 am to 12:00 noon.** This workshop is for staff, Board of Trustee members, committee chairs, contact persons for groups who use our building, and our technical staff. The purpose is to learn protective actions and signaling/communication methods if the church should ever have an active shooter or dangerous person situation on our campus. The workshop will be presented by a trainer from the Las Cruces Police Department. *Janet Pitt (Coordinator for the Church Security Task Force)*

### **Jan 14 – Resin Casting**

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The UU Crafters welcome all to attend this session. Carol Stanfill will teach resin casting at 1:00 PM in the religious education building great room.

## Jan 15 – Multicultural Awareness Group

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Our first meeting in the new year will be January 15, on Zoom, at 3:30 PM. The meeting will last for an hour and a half. Subsequent meetings will be every other Sunday. The new book we will be reading is *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Contact Shirley Davis for more information.

## Jan 28 – Creating Mandalas

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The UU Crafters welcome all to attend this session. Sara Thomas will teach you how to create a mandala at 1:00 PM in the religious education building great room.

## Jan 28 – Worship Training Workshop

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The Sunday Services Committee will host a Worship Training workshop. Come to explore and share what moves us, and makes for meaningful, memorable worship. This morning is open to all who value Unitarian Universalist worship—from those who have served as service leaders or service associates, to novices who just want to see what goes into planning and creating. Everyone will have the opportunity to sign up to help in some way with a service, or to join our wonderful Sunday Services Committee. We will serve a light breakfast and after the training, share a lunch together.

## Jun 21-25 – 2023 UUA General Assembly

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Save these dates. General Assembly 2023 will be held June 21-25 in Pittsburgh as well as virtually from right here in Las Cruces. More information will be forthcoming. The theme is Faithfully Becoming.

We are at a threshold moment for our faith, and will choose the next path in our journey. We will consider new articulations of Article II (including our Principles and Purpose) and elect a new President to lead our Association. These are decisions that will shape who we are and how we respond to and grow through these times. These changes offer us possibilities for becoming more connected, courageous, inclusive, generous, and continuing our ongoing journey of becoming Beloved Community.

Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly website

## The Tombaugh Gallery

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### Phil Ochs exhibit

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The Tombaugh Gallery is pleased to present an invitational exhibit, focusing on the songs of the folk singer, Phil Ochs. Participants created artwork based on the songs of Phil Ochs. The exhibit opens with a reception on Sunday, January 15, from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM.

The show runs through January 28. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM until 2 PM, and Sunday 11 AM until 2 PM.

### About this show

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A Still Small Voice, a not-for-profit founded by Ron and Kathy Cooke, supports art, culture and community in the spirit of singer and songwriter Phil Ochs (1940-1976). His songs addressed the social issues of his time, most of which are pertinent today. Through art shows, folk concerts, scholarships and awards to artists, singers, songwriters, and academic researchers, A Still Small Voice seeks to bring Phil's music and dedication to social justice to today's audience.

You might be interested in this Washington Post [article](#) about Phil's music, protests, and continued

relevance.

### Regularly Scheduled Activities

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#### Every Tuesday

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**T'ai Chi**, 10-11 AM in the Religious Education Building great room.

**T'ai Chi**, 5:45-6:45 PM in the Religious Education Building great room.

**Library Hours** – 1-3 PM in the library in the Administration Building

#### Every Wednesday

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**Caring Conversations** meets on Zoom from 9-10

AM. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064121421?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064121421?pwd=QmNhYVlrUTltK1cxRDhSRVdOU01rdz09)

[pwd=QmNhYVlrUTltK1cxRDhSRVdOU01rdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064121421?pwd=QmNhYVlrUTltK1cxRDhSRVdOU01rdz09), Meeting ID: 870 6412 1421, Passcode: 564007

**Weight Watchers** meets at 9:30-11:30 AM in the Religious Education Building great room.

**The Bridge Group** plays bridge every Wednesday at 2 pm in the church lobby. If you want to play, contact Nancy Anderson by email, phone, or at church to let her know you would like to be on her weekly contact list.

#### Every Thursday

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**T'ai Chi**, 10-11 AM in the Religious Education Building great room.

**T'ai Chi**, 5:45-6:45 PM in the Religious Education Building great room.

**Library Hours** – 1-3 PM in the library in the Administration Building

## **Every Friday**

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**Yoga**, 12 noon until 1 PM in the Religious Education great room.

**T.G.I.F. – Zoom Together.** A great way to end your with your fellow Unitarian

Universalists. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09)

[pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09)

Meeting ID: 575 522 7281

Passcode: 7777777

## **First Friday Game Night**

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Unhook from those digital games and join your church friends for some face-to-face fun and fellowship. We have lots of games for all ages. Some people prefer to have a music jam and that's great. It is also a good time for a discussion of current events. Lots of options and lots of fun.

## **2nd and 4th Saturdays**

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### **UU Crafters**

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Our UU Crafters' Group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 1:00-3:00, except during holiday weekends. We welcome new ideas and all crafters. Notify Carol Stanfill at [CraftyUUUs@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:CraftyUUUs@uuchurchlc.org) to join our email list for details of each meeting.

## **3rd Thursday**

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### **Death Cafe**

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Please join us the third Tuesday of each month for an opportunity to sit with others and listen to our experiences with death and grieving. In the UULC Library 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact Brooks Lewis at [gendrafoxx@gmail.com](mailto:gendrafoxx@gmail.com) or leave a voice message at 512-826-1472.

## **3rd Saturday**

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**Desert Spirit CUUPs** is the Las Cruces chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. We practice and educate others on Earth-centered spirituality. We gather monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6 PM for a potluck and either ritual or an informative

class. All events are open to everyone interested in learning and/or growing in their spiritual path. Events held at the church unless otherwise noted.

Visit <http://www.facebook.com/desertspiritcuups> or email [ascrucescuups@gmail.com](mailto:ascrucescuups@gmail.com).