

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

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

## April Light

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 70, Num. 4

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 Working Remotely M-F 9:30 – 4:30

Church Office Open: Tuesday thru Thursday 10:00 – 1:00

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 Ministers

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### The Reverend Gary Kowalski

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## On My Mind

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Several years ago I took a motorcycle rider education course and bought myself an old Honda Nighthawk 750. Along the way, I learned some important lessons that apply to ministry.

On a motorcycle, there is no reverse gear. You can't back up. There is only forward motion. (Motorcycles do have a neutral, but you certainly don't want to get stuck there!) In churches, much as we might want to relive the past or bring back the "good old days," it's not going to happen.

Look ahead. Steering a motorcycle is not at all like riding a bicycle. Your eyes do most of the work. Try to see down the road, especially around the twists and turns, as far as you possibly can. The machine almost magically goes wherever you visualize.. Fixate on a pothole or a gravelly patch of pavement and that's exactly where your front wheel winds up. Target your vision beyond the next bend and you will find yourself just where you need to be. In congregations, keep your eyes on the open road rather than the obstacles you face.

Riding can be scary. The terrain ahead is unknown. You feel very exposed. The natural reflex is to tighten up and feel anxious. The best way to remain in control, however, is to breathe deep, relax and stay loose on the saddle. Lean into the curves. In church life, remember to enjoy the ride. Don't clench. Give yourself over to the adventure.

My advice for you in Las Cruces going forward is stay safe, glide into the next section of road, and try to have fun. Keep your rubber side down. Ride on!

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

## Our President

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### Susan Hychka

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It's April already! UUCLC's Auction plans are in high gear, and the Auction Catalog is nearly ready. Saturday, April 22, is Earth Day, and it's the day of our Spring Auction. Please mark your calendar and plan to join in the fun. Read the Auction Committee's report in this newsletter for more information.

In recognition of April Fool's Day, consider these quotes about fools, which I believe are related to UUCLC's Right Relations Covenant.

The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.

*Winston Churchill*

Our covenant asks that we “Listen with an open mind, seeking to understand and empathize with each other while embracing our diversity and differences.” We are also urged to “Acknowledge the right to express opinions freely, seeking to be constructive by making sure our communications are true and expressed in a kind and helpful manner.”

We’re fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance.

*Japanese Proverb*

By truly committing ourselves to our covenant, “We shall build an environment of trust that promotes free and responsible discussion of ideas while cultivating an atmosphere of joy and celebration in our church community.” So, let’s dance!

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt.

*Attributed to Abraham Lincoln*

There’s disagreement as to whether this quote is something Lincoln said. No matter who coined the phrase, it seems like solid advice to me. After all, our covenant’s first point begins with, “Listen with an open mind...”

We were young, we were foolish, we were arrogant, but we were right.

*Daniel Ellsberg*

Ellsberg, an ardent protestor of the Vietnam War, leaked what became known as The Pentagon Papers. Ellsberg still says he took this action in the hope of shortening the war and to point out the grave danger of threatening to use nuclear weapons in the conflict. If the US won’t take a strong stand against using these terrible weapons, how can we expect other nations to do so?

Let us hope that the world’s powers will, as our covenant recommends, “Endeavor to understand the behaviors, needs, and limitations of ourselves and others,” and that they will “Remain engaged during discussions, and place the well-being of the community above disagreement.” May it be so.

## **Board of Trustees**

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### **Board Officers**

President: Susan Hychka

Vice President: Bill Fitzgerald

Secretary: Jeanne Gilbert

Treasurer: Jan Thompson

## **At Large**

Rabbitt Loring

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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**“April is the kindest month. It gets you out of your head and out working in the garden.”**

Religious Education is certainly looking forward to April, and we’ve even got a garden to see! Earth Day is a pretty big deal for RE, our students are aware of climate change and the impacts it has on our planet. This year students and volunteers will be invited to join in a walking field trip to nearby Gomez Park. Not only will the youth get the

chance to check out a community-owned & operated garden, we will also participate in repotting plant roots, in an effort to recycle what nature has given us!

Later in the month of April, Religious Education will experience the return of the Children’s Auction!

Plans are in motion to hold the auction directly following church on Sunday the 16th.

Possibly assisted by an “auction buddy” students of all ages will take part in bidding on items from a generous pool of fun and educational options! A big Thanks to everyone who will be helping bring this event back to our program.

Bunny Buddy’s are back again! This program is designed to be a fun way to build community and make

connections. Bunny Buddy’s will get to know each other through letter writing, “get to know you” forms, and small gift exchanges. Then, sometime around this year’s Easter Treasure Hunt, Bunny Buddy’s will participate in a reveal party (where, based on all of the info exchanged in letters & gifts, our youth will try to guess which participating adult is their Buddy! If any UUCLC members or friends have any interest in joining Religious Education for any of our events, please reach out to DRE Kellie Ingram, or any of our committee members.

## **Music and Choir**

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### **Catherine Massey, Director of Music**

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## **MUSIC NOTES**

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Birds love to sing! Someone flipped the Spring switch recently, and now the mockingbirds and robins are sharing their happy songs. The choir and I have been enjoying having a full season of singing in person. This has allowed us to sing old and new choral pieces, and to welcome new or visiting choir members. In the past month we have offered a classical work by Lully, a Sondheim song from Into the Woods, and African American Spirituals to support Kellie Ingram's fabulous recent homily. We're looking forward to more great musical choices before we close out this season in May.

David and Nancy Carlson are helping out with their beautiful English horn/piano pieces while they are in town. We have the Old-Time Pharmaceuticals, a musical group, headlining a service on resistance. Emma's Revolution will be on campus for a concert on April 19<sup>th</sup> (see separate announcement). And there will be some great musical guests for Easter. Spring is here, and music is everywhere.

## **Administration**

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### **Cheri Coffelt**

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## Let's Play More!

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My dogs would agree that I don't play enough. Jack is always ready to chase a ball, and Fritz is busy hiding a bone or digging up my garden. We spend so much time working and being serious, that we often forget the benefits of just playing.

In March I had the opportunity to take two of our Adult Enrichment classes. They have brought me so much joy and fun! I was thrilled to take the Silk Painting Class taught by Judy Licht, an accomplished artist. During the class, I asked classmates how to begin, and they said "Just Play"! So, I did – and all my stress and anxiety melted and I spent the morning "playing" with color and watching my classmates create beautiful works of art.

The second class I'm taking is taught by Rabbitt Loring and it's the "Memoir Writing" class. It has been amazing. Rabbitt is such a talented teacher. At times it's been painful remembering the past, and yet, so much fun to share with the other people in the class. The stories we share are sometimes delightful, sometimes sad. It has helped us form a bond we may have missed if we hadn't taken this class together. We are learning to get out of our own way, and just write!

I highly recommend taking advantage of the Adult Enrichment classes when they are offered again. You will learn a lot, but you will also connect on a deeper level with others and have fun playing!

With the Auction coming up in April there will be many more opportunities for connection. Let's Lighten Up, and Play More this year! We may find the camaraderie and friendship we have been missing, and we may have fun just playing!

## Committees and Programs

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### 2023 Auction Committee Report

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#### EARTH DAY (April 22) AUCTION COMMITTEE

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We are happy to report that donations came pouring in during the week leading up to March 19 deadline. We now have more than 160 donations including at least 40 events. In the coming days we will be putting together the catalog and sorting out what will be offered in the Silent Auction and what will be offered in the Live.

We still need a few Volunteers to help with set-up and tear-down and to act as Spotters in the Live Auction. Contact Sara Thomas to volunteer.

Remember, we're starting earlier this year. The Silent Auction in the Gallery will run from 4:00-5:45 PM with the Live Auction in the Sanctuary beginning at 6 PM.

Food and drink will be served in the Tents on the Lawn from 4-6. By the way, we are appointing a Proxy Bidder who will be able to act on your behalf if you can't attend this event. Sara Thomas is the contact person for this. And, you can invite your non-member friends to participate. There will be a separate registration for non-members, and separate bidding numbers. They will also have to fill out a brief information form.

Don't forget the DOWN TO EARTH FASHION SHOW. It's easy to enter. All you have to do is come to the Auction dressed up to celebrate Earth Day. There are no rules; the choice of design and materials of your costume is up to you. During the Silent Auction, the judges will circulate, evaluate and make decisions as to the winners in four categories; Most Original, Most Economical, Most Beautiful and Most Utilitarian. The winning costumes will be modeled and prizes will be awarded during the Live Auction.

Finally, the Raffle is returning. For one of the big ticket items, we will have 200 tickets, for \$10 each. Non-members can purchase them and you need not be present to win.

You can buy your 2023 Earth Day Auction GATE tickets right now. [Click here](#), complete and submit a very simple form, and voila! a ticket or tickets will arrive in your email box. Tickets are still only \$5 and remember, that cost includes supper and drinks.

*Questions about ticket purchases? Contact Lyn Pearson*

## **Communications by Lyn Pearson – webmaster@uuchurchlc.org**

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### **Church Sound System**

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In the past two months, the Technical Group has been struggling with Zoom and many sound issues. We are grateful for everyone's patience as we work out these problems. People who tune in on Zoom and have supplied comments about the sound have been critical to helping us pinpoint some of the sources of our problems. We are now working closely with a professional sound engineer and expect that our list of issues will begin to disappear. The engineer is familiar with the make and model of our sound board and other equipment and will continue to work with us on our admittedly complex system.

Some of our issues have to do with the latest release of Zoom, which unknown to us, treats music as background noise that should be deadened. With tongue in cheek, we must say that they did a fine job and we are adjusting our settings as necessary. We had an issue with one of the signal splitters used to deliver A/V to the entire church audience, including Zoom. We now have two backup splitters available if one fails. Finally, we've been told by the

engineer that our mics are very “live” that they actually can overpower one another. That’s another way of saying our mics are very sensitive. That’s not a bad thing but it does mean that we will be coordinating the mics in a different way.

Be assured that we have a host of people working to resolve what turns out to be cascading issues.

## **Church Calendar**

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Please take a look at the new, and we hope, improved church calendar. You can access it from the home page of the website in the lower left quadrant where you will see three large buttons: Ahead This Week, Ahead This Month, and Events Calendar. The calendar is also available on many webpages in the right sidebar.

The new color coded calendar will make it easier to see what’s happening in the church. There is also a convenient search feature. Everything is explained to help you find what you’re looking for. Color coding was suggested by Rev. Sickafoose.

If you want to see what church events are occurring as a result of the upcoming 2023 Auction, just enter A: in the search box. Auction events are preceded with A:. Many of them are already entered in the calendar, but there are more to come.

## **Scams**

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I’ve been receiving regular notices from the Social Security Administration about current SSA and SSDI scams. From other sources I’ve received warnings about current and upcoming tax scams. In addition, I receive regular email scams from many places where I routinely shop: CVS, Home Depot, Best Buy, Best Buy’s Geek Squad (which I’ve never used), and Target. These scams look uncomfortably convincing. For example, the Home Depot email had all the right logos, graphics, and a very realistic ad. There was also a large picture and the “offer” was to “click here and claim your new [whatever].” That’s called Phishing and the goal is for me to open the link which will do one of several things, none of them pleasant. The link could drop ransomware onto one of my devices thereby disabling it until I literally pay the price to regain access. The link could drop a virus that will cause the device to behave very badly and likely I’ll end up taking it to a specialist to have it cleaned up. In other cases, the link could drop a keylogger into my computer, which will record all of my keystrokes, including passwords and other personal information, and forward them to the scammer. There’s more but you get the idea. Click [here](#) if you want to visit an FBI site and learn more about Phishing, Vishing, Smishing, and Pharming, which are some of the varieties of scams you can look forward to this spring and summer.



## Email Hacking

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Your email address is the gateway to your world. If a hacker gets into your email, you'll have big problems. Note: just using your email address without your permission is bad, but it is not the same as hacking *into* your email box. The first thing you should know is that email addresses are easy to get hold of, they're everywhere, and that includes all of the church's business email addresses. But while getting an email address is very easy, getting an email password should be very, very hard. The first thing you should do to protect yourself is use a complex email password. I know that people hate passwords in general and complex ones even more so but really, would you duct tape your front door closed when you leave home instead of using a key? A great password consists of 8 or more upper and lower case letters, numbers, and special characters. Password management software can help and is often free. I don't recommend using your computer's operating system or your browser to store passwords, although they really want to. Why not? Because the next time you take your computer in for service, you will be handing over all of your locally stored passwords. Use a password manager that operates in the cloud; i.e., on the Internet, not on your local device.

One suggestion for developing a complex password is to include an easy to remember phrase with some numbers, letters and special characters. We used passwords like this on government servers: 3rd-redskinswillwinthisyear or 2000dinosaursarepeopletoo. Granted, we didn't need to access the servers very often so you'll probably want a shorter password. A loved one's obscure middle name preceded by a birth month and followed by a birth year and for good measure stick a couple of !! on the end — JuneEsmer1922! or H@ns0n1922!! or !!Mason1916!! Finally, change your password as often as you're willing. Every 6 months is acceptable IF you use a complex password. Here is an excellent little video I hope you'll watch because it describes the signs of a true email hack as well as phishing and other nasty things. It's under 5 minutes. Fair warning, it is a promotional video but the facts outweigh the inconvenience of the advertising, which is reasonably low key.

## CUUPS

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"Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

The Sixth Source of Affirmation  
of the Unitarian Universalist Association

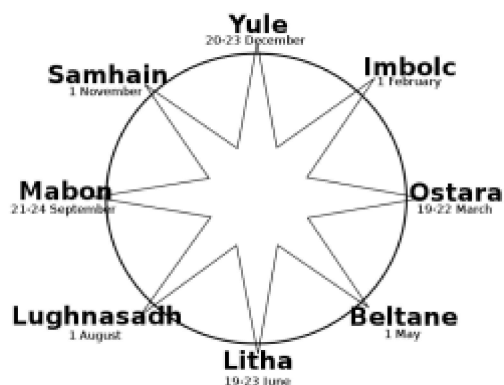


Monday, May 1, is Beltane, a Pagan holiday, and one of the eight Sabbats. It falls about halfway between the spring equinox (Ostara) and the coming summer solstice (Litha). The holiday celebrates spring at its peak and the coming summer. Beltane also sometimes goes by the name May Day. It is a celebration of fertility in the literal sense, for the many things we can accomplish in our lives, and dreams that can become reality. In many Pagan traditions a May Pole dance is held in celebration.

Our Maypole will be erected and the dance will begin after the Beltane service on April 30, join us. Many hands make the work light and we will all be less dizzy!

You are invited to join CUUPS on April 15 at 6 PM. We begin with a potluck at 6:00 and ritual at 7:00. Come meet our CUUPS members, bring a dish and, if you like, stay for the ritual. Join us, you'll need a break from tax preparation!

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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.

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The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalist religious professionals.

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) was chartered by the Unitarian Universalist Association at the General Assembly in 1987 for purposes of enabling:

- networking among Pagan Identified UUs; providing outreach of Unitarian Universalism to the broader Pagan community continentally.
- providing educational materials on Paganism for Unitarian Universalist congregations and the general public.
- promoting Pagan – Jewish & Christian dialogue; encouraging the development of theo/alogical and liturgical materials based on earth and nature centered religious and spiritual perspectives.
- encouraging greater use of music, dance, visual arts, poetry, story, and creative ritual in Unitarian Universalist worship and celebration.
- providing support for Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalist religious professionals and ministerial students; and *fostering healing relationships with our mother the Earth and all her children.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

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### **Good News From Facilities**

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Our new seating plan, with side of the room seating and two four-foot wide aisles, is now in place. This arrangement adds ten seats to the room to better accommodate the number of people who have been attending. And, it makes the room look more spacious.

Now that the choir is fully miked, we are continuing to work on the ZOOM transmission to improve the music quality to the ZOOM audience.

We had another round of vandalism last month. Two people attempted to break into the White Storage Shed. They managed to break off one of the locks but couldn't do more than damage the second lock which has since been repaired. Their images were captured on our camera system and have been sent to the police.

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

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### **REBATE REVENUE**

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Well, the legislature has completed its work and it seems that taxpayers in New Mexico will be receiving a rebate once again this year. For some of us, this is a welcome relief with the cost of living rising (especially groceries!!) and for others it's a boon but...

If you find yourself in the second category, the Finance Committee hopes you will consider donating a portion or all of your rebate to the church. WHY? You ask. Well, there have been a few things we didn't

account for as we built the budget for 2023, such as the enthusiastic response to the adult enrichment

program has brought greater traffic to our Religious Education building. There have been some requests to increase the attention paid to the cleanliness of our facilities—that takes \$\$ we didn't plan on. The Facilities Committee is working on a proposal to bring to Finance who will then forward it to the Board, ...you know how it goes. It would be great to tell the Board of Trustees that we have a funding source.

Also, any other funds we can accrue to help "sweeten" the compensation package for our proposed contract minister would be great. Money talks in negotiations, not as loudly perhaps as having such a

dynamic congregation such as ours but it doesn't hurt our cause either. Please consider sharing – note on your check, envelope or electronic donation REBATE REVENUE, so we can be sure to use these funds as described.

### **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.

### **Library by Rabbit Loring**

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#### **Library Staff Picks**

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Have you seen the new shelf in the library called Staff Picks? As you walk in, look across the room to the left of the Church Business area. It's brightly framed. You can't miss it! We will highlight several books

on stands and a card for each saying who is recommending it. Actually, our definition of "staff" is a bit

broad since the actual library staff is pretty small. We are inviting committees and groups of

all sorts to  
have the library highlight a book they are reading or using in their work. Does your group  
have a book to  
recommend?

For April, we are bringing your attention to a book the Multicultural Awareness Group read recently. My

*Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by

Resmaa Menakem addresses the generational trauma of racism in America and offers a way to heal

from it. Menakem introduces the concept that racism is not only in our heads, how we think, but also in

our bodies, as a wound that can be healed. The intergenerational trauma of white supremacy affects us

all as a deep, personal soul injury, a visceral pain that must be acknowledged if we are to achieve racial

justice and healing. Intellectually stimulating and practical, *My Grandmother's Hands* is described by

Robin DiAngelo as "a revolutionary work of beauty, brilliance, compassion and ultimately, hope." Come

check it out.

Does your group have a request for the library to acquire? Last month, we highlighted *The Green Amendment: The People's Fight for a Clean, Safe, and Healthy Environment* by Maya K. van Rossum. It is

on our Staff Pick shelf, recommended by the 7 th Principle Climate Action Group.

Let us display your favorite. 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, Janet Martinez, Lori Miller, Jodie Nachison, Lindsay Neal, Carol Stanfill, and Mark Sukontarak are your Membership Committee. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month in the library.

## **Wonderfulness**

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Sometimes we all just need to sit back in church and contemplate the wonderfulness of everything. All the hard work of our Board of Trustees, committees, and program leaders. Our services have been better than ever, we're getting a grip on our quite complex sound system, we average 15-20 people every week on Zoom and a full sanctuary. Many programs

that we'd lost during the plague have come back new, improved, better and stronger than ever. We've started up Circle Suppers, which seem like they're filling a need. On March 25, Rev. Kowalski conducted a 1/2 day New UU class that prompted 4 people to sign the membership book! Jeff Harris (Covenant Group coordinator) finished leading a Building Your Own Theology class and we have one brand new Covenant Group and two more coming up in the fall.

While it's not my job to promote the upcoming auction, I can't help but comment on it since I'm working on the catalog. I'm deeply moved by the number of people who have donated items, services, and fabulous events. And the list of folks willing to work on auction day/night is nothing short of wonderful. The volunteers and the quantity and quality of everything being offered tells me that our church community is caring and willing to step up on behalf of this beloved institution.

## **Our Covenant Groups**

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It's worth mentioning our Covenant Groups since they work quietly in the background: Herrick, Richins, Good Sam's, and Snowbirds. Our newest group is Moonshadow facilitated by new member Kevin Fitzgerald. Kevin just finished Building Your Own Theology and received training to facilitate a Covenant Group from Jeff Harris. This new group is earth-centered. Kevin put an announcement on the welcome counter on Saturday, March 25, to recruit members. He came to church on the 26th and pulled the announcement because his group has already filled up. Now that's wonderful.

## **Circle Suppers**

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Our next round of Circle Suppers will be in April with four hosts volunteering. Signups will be in the lobby every Sunday until all of the dinner slots are full.

## **Greeters**

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Greeting is an extremely important job. Even more so now that the church is more active than ever. I've seen the lobby filling up before the service, which can be a real challenge to a greeter who may want to speak graciously with a member, while trying to keep an eye out for new visitors and handing out programs and hymnals. That's why we need three greeters every Sunday and one of them must be a "spotter" at the greeter station who identifies visitors to the church.

You can change your address, email, and phone numbers in InFellowship or simply contact Cathy Cox by email or phone.

## Roundtable

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As scheduled, a group of members interested in the future of our Roundtable program gathered at the Roundtable scheduled for March 19, 2023. Our task now is to meld the interesting ideas that surfaced into a model or models that we can test for feasibility in terms of management structure and desirability on the part of attendees.

As of the deadline for this issue of the Light we have the following session scheduled for 2:00 PM on April 30. This session is sponsored by our UUCLC Climate Action Group.

*Don Kurtz – Electrify Everything: Four and a half personal decisions that will save the planet. A worldwide move toward electrifying transportation, buildings and industry offers the best path to addressing a rapidly warming climate. This presentation will discuss that movement and what it means for each of us personally. Don is a professor at NMSU and the author of several books in addition to being a climate activist.*

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

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The Social Justice Committee supports several needs in our community for our various ministries.

## Change for Change

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The Change for Change recipient for the second quarter (April through June) of 2023 is Border Servant Corps. This charitable organization operates a Hospitality Center to help asylum-seekers get to their sponsors in the U.S. Migrants usually only spend one or two nights at the center. As they exit the ICE buses that bring them to Las Cruces, it is their first breath of freedom in this country and is a very special moment for them, the Center staff, and for the volunteers. At least 8 members of this congregation volunteer at the Center.

FEMA and Homeland Security provide funding for basic services. Your Change for Change donations will be used for items not supported by federal funding such as books, toys and playground equipment for the children. More than 11,000 children and their families (more than 32,000 people) from more than 50 countries around the world were served by Border Servant Corps in 2022.

## **Our Climate Action Group by James Caufield**

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This group meets every Monday at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Please join us!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911933049?pwd=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09>

The Climate Action Group (CAG) had a busy legislative season, trying to understand and promote those bills which most addressed the climate crisis. Obtaining information was a major hurdle, and we are still trying to figure out which bills passed! Unfortunately it seems that only 1 of the 11 bills we were tracking actually passed, SB 8 GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. We will have more definitive news soon.

We have spent much of the last month transitioning toward other projects. A number of us attended meetings of Unitarian Universalist Association Green Sanctuary, Interfaith Power and Light, Climate Reality Project, Cool Congregations, etc., gathering information about this process. That kind of research will continue, but we also look forward to implementing some of the recommendations, and are looking for volunteers, for instance to measure buildings, gather data, etc., so we can benchmark our energy usage.

We are also exploring other possible projects and activities. Mark Sukontarak and Ginny Herrick have been busy deciding on and procuring our auction items (an induction burner, a diffusion plate, and a skillet). I will staff a booth at the auction. Charlie Welch has been trying to tame the monster that is our El Paso Electric billing and contracts, and Shirley Davis worked on this before, as did I. There is some progress!

Cathy Cox, Jane Asche, and I presented a summary of CAG activities to Social Justice and to the Community Roundup, broaching the idea of a Green Sanctuary and asking for support. The response was positive. I contacted a local energy audit company, which recommended that we wait until April, when the Inflation Reduction Act rules should be clearer. We are looking into grants, and are planning to coordinate with the Facilities Committee on the work toward a Green Sanctuary.

We have organized another Roundtable—Don Kurtz, an author and professor and one of the motivating forces behind the PowerUp exposition, will present on April 30 at 2:00. The talk is entitled “Electrify Everything: Four and a half personal decisions that will save the planet.”

Charles Nichols and Nevada Baker have been helpful in recommending greater organization!



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

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### **April Services**

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- April 2 Haney Pearson and the Old Time Pharmaceuticals Musical Group get us into the Resistance mode. In fact, Resistance is the theme for April.
- April 9 Easter Rev. Gary “Tuesdays with Jesus” What do Jesus and Morrie Schwartz have in common besides being Jewish?
- April 16 Brooks Lewis and James Caufield “Celebrating Spring Equinox”
- April 23 Rev. Munro Sickafoose “The Red and the Green.” I’m not talking about chiles, I’m talking about that forgotten holiday, May Day.
- April 30 CUUPS celebrate Beltane with us and rumor has it that there will be a Maypole in need of decorating

We have 5, count them FIVE Sundays in April, so there will something for everyone. Come and join us either in the Sanctuary or livestreaming.

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

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#### **Request: Auction Volunteer Sign ups!**

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Our Down to Earth church auction on Earth Day, April 22nd, needs volunteers to run smoothly.

Shifts are short, with a range of jobs from kitchen help in the morning to beverages and silent auction helpers in the afternoon, and spotters in the live auction in the evening. The next volunteer signup will be Apr 2 at 11:00 AM, right after the service. Please see Sara Thomas at the Volunteer Sign up Table to reserve your slot. If you aren’t planning to be at church, please feel free to call her. We appreciate our volunteers without whom the auction couldn’t happen!

#### **Request: Sign Up For Qi-Gong**

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Carol Allen, a trained instructor, invites you to sign up for her April 5 – June 21 Qi-Gong classes. There is a \$15 registration fee for the series and all money goes to the church. Carol teaches Qi-Gong with Indian club movement. It is a gentle movement class that increases strength, balance and concentration. Classes are Wednesdays at 11:45 AM in the Religious Education great room. Seven people can signup for this class. Please use this electronic signup form.

## **Generous Giving by Jack Welch**

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Our generous members continue to support our Social Action Committee's "Little Pantry." During the past month we received donations from Nancy L. Anderson, Dave and Ginny Rice and Jan Thompson. We give a special thank you to Dave and Ginny for their three (yes three) contributions. Thank you all.

## **Thanks to Our March Greeters**

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Our greeters are the first people you and our visitors are likely to meet. In February, our greeters were: Diane Lee, Jane Asche, Robert Severance, Sara Thomas, Ginny Herrick, Nancy Anderson, Mark Sukontarak, John Seeley, and Tom Packard.

## **Events of Note**

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### **APR 19 – Emma's Revolution is Back! (Open to the general public)**

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Experience the fun and inspiration you'll get from hearing these women sing in our Sanctuary at 7 PM on Wednesday, April 19. Buy your tickets now and save: \$20 for early birds, \$25 at the gate. There will also be CDs and other merchandise available. Click [HERE](#) to buy your early tickets. *Note: this link will redirect you to Emma's Revolution ticket purchase site. They use PayPal for ticket purchases.*

"Fervent and heartfelt" ~ *The New York Times*

Known for fearless, truth-telling lyrics and melodies you can't resist singing, Emma's Revolution is the dynamic, award-winning activist duo of Pat Humphries & Sandy O. The duo are in their 20th year performing together. Emma's Revolution's songs have traveled around the world and have been sung for the Dalai Lama, praised by Pete Seeger and covered by Holly Near.

With one eye on the news, Emma's Revolution consistently writes songs about critical issues happening in the world and enthusiastically lends their voices to the movements those issues inspire.

### **APR 21 – Eating Out by Janet Martinique – EatingOut@uuchurchlc.org**

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The next Eating Out will be April 21st at 5:30. It will be at Paisano Cafe, 1740 Calle de Mercado, Mesilla (Las Cruces). Elevated Mexican cuisine with vegan/vegetarian options. All are welcome but reservations needed by April 19 at 10:00 AM. Call Janet Martinique, send email to [EatingOut@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:EatingOut@uuchurchlc.org), or save yourself time and aggravation by filling out this very simple linked form.

## **APR 22 – 2023 Spring Auction**

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**The Annual UUCLC Spring Auction is coming soon!** Fun, food, drink, and entertainment for all!!

Save the date: Saturday April 22, Earth Day 2023. Please start thinking about what you can donate: events, talents, items, services, etc. Send comments and questions to: Carol Stanfill and Steve Hychka, 2023 Auction co-chairs, [auction@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:auction@uuchurchlc.org).

It's time to buy your gate tickets. They're still only \$5 and remember, dinner is included. What a deal! Just click on this great little form, fill it out, pay for the ticket and you're done. Your ticket will arrive almost immediately in your email box. Just bring it with you to the auction.

## **APR 30 – Roundtable**

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2 PM on Zoom. Don Kurtz – Electrify Everything: Four and a half personal decisions that will save the planet.

## **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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### **The Tombaugh Gallery is Closed in April**

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### **It will reopen in May**

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The Tombaugh Gallery is normally open Thursday through Saturday, from 10am to 2:00pm and Sunday, 11:00am to 2:00pm. [Gallery@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:Gallery@uuchurchlc.org)

## Regularly Scheduled Activities

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### Every Monday – Climate Action Group

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Mondays at 7:00 PM March 27 through December 18, 2023, join us on Zoom for a Climate Action Group meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911933049?pwd=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09>

### 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?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.

**Qi-Gong** meets at 11:45 AM-1:00 PM 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?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09>  
Meeting ID: 575 522 7281  
Passcode: 7777777

## **Every Sunday**

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Library Hours — 11:00 to 11:30 AM.

## **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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Crafters will meet on the 2nd Saturday ONLY in April, not the 4th Saturday (can you guess why?). That's April 8th at 1 PM in the Religious Education Great Room. Sara and Carol will be demonstrating beginning crochet with making a cotton dish cloth. Level – easy. Bring a ball of cotton yarn and crochet hook size F or G. Some extra crochet hooks will available as loaners. For those not interested in crochet, bring an adult coloring book and your favorite coloring materials. We can socialize and discuss our next projects.

## **3rd Thursday**

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### **Death Cafe**

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Please join us the third Thursday of each month for an opportunity to sit with others and share your experiences with death and grieving. In the church Library 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact Brooks Lewis at [DeathCafe@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:DeathCafe@uuchurchlc.org) 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 [lasrucescuups@gmail.com](mailto:lasrucescuups@gmail.com).