

Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

 uuchurchlc.org/news/newsletter/

March Light

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 70, Num. 3

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 Ministers

The Reverend Gary Kowalski



On My Mind

Churches are weird.

As religious institutions, churches elevate the ultimate questions of human meaning and destiny. No other organization—not the university, not government, not even the arts (well, maybe the arts) attempts to address the issue of what makes life worth living. And yet churches can get entangled in the most miniscule and arcane quibbles.

Churches are like nothing else. They resemble families and may be embroiled in both the feuding and the higher loyalties families engender, but they are not families, or businesses, or advocacy organizations, or concert venues. They are impractical and inefficient, like

holidays are inefficient, like kindling candles when light bulbs would be easier,

And what about ministers? Are they friends, scholars, entertainers, therapists, employees, coaches, fundraisers, managers? All of the above, I would suggest, and none of the above. They are a breed apart whose role includes psychopomp, shaman, confessor (and sometimes sacrificial lamb) in addition to everything else.

What do people bring to church? They bring their yearnings to live more deeply and authentically, to rise above the quotidian concerns of getting and spending in order to become kinder, more thoughtful, more fully realized and happier human beings. But they also bring all the inevitable baggage of egos and personalities that can be cranky as well as charming.

Churches are weird and wonderful. They are liable to disappoint and can make your spirit soar. They measure success by intangibles. They are in the world but not entirely of the world.

Your faith, patience, good humor and tolerance are what make this curious hybrid possible.

Rev. Gary Kowalski, RevKowalski@uuchurchlc.org.

The Reverend Munro Sickafoose

Stitches



The earliest known sewing needle – with a sharp point and a hole in the other end for sinew – is a 50,000 year old bone needle from Siberia. It's hard to imagine today the significance of this technological breakthrough. It meant that different furs and hides could be stitched together to create fitted clothing and shoes, as well as bags and pouches for carrying tools and supplies. It also meant that things could be repaired, be stitched back together, an important ability in a world where everything was handmade and precious. A set of bone needles were critical survival tools. Eventually, humans began to use needles to stitch up wounds. The earliest records of surgical

suturing date to 3000 BC in ancient Egypt, and the technology has evolved from there to stainless needles and sterile threads that dissolve when their work is done.

Things stitched back together are never quite the same, but they can be whole again. The stitches and patches are more or less visible, depending on the skill of the tailor. The sutured wound scars, a memory of the repair of skin and muscle and organs. They record our encounters with the world, our accidents and mishaps and mistakes. A record of being

repaired and repairing that which we need and that which we love: The old cherished sweater, more darned than original. The scar tracks across an abdomen, where a life was saved.

Some things, of course, cannot be stitched back together quite so easily. Broken hearts, broken relationships, broken social contracts, the aftermath of violence. We sew with invisible needles and threads on invisible wounds, praying that our repairs will take, and hold long enough for healing to take place. Healing takes time, and the repair is rarely invisible, nor should we expect it to be. But to repair is divine. We are patchwork, repaired time and time again. And the stitches and the scars are part of our beauty and our strength and our way forward. Let us cherish them for the saving grace they are.

Our President

Susan Hychka



It is with gratitude that I tell you that the most exciting news this month is that our Contract Minister Search Team has posted our Congregational Profile on Unitarian Universalist Association's MinistrySearch Jobs Board! Now candidates can view our job description and express interest. Our Profile includes a description of our history, a statement of who we are and what we see in our future, and a description of the qualities and behaviors we most desire in a Contract Minister.

Chair Rabbitt Loring and members of our Search Team created a clear and professionally presented document. Thanks to members who responded to the Team's request for feedback and suggestions, and thanks to all who participated in our Listening Circles, Visioning Circles and Visioning Action Day. Your thoughts, critiques and suggestions for the future informed this document. It was sent to the congregation via an email from Cheri Coffelt on February 17.

Reading it will make you proud! If you cannot locate it, ask president@uuchurchlc.org for a replacement copy.

A new venture is underway. Following the advice of our Lead Consulting Minister, Rev. Gary, the Board agreed to identify individuals interested in Right Relations Team Training. Seven individuals will attend six training and practice sessions led by facilitators from the Unitarian Universalist Institute. Participants have also agreed to share what they learn with members of our congregation. The goal is to help all of us live by our Congregational Covenant of Right Relations and better handle future conflicts and grievances. Thanks to those who agreed to serve the congregation in this way.

Here are two facilities updates. First, those of you who have attended our services through Zoom will be glad to hear that Pace Audio will come to our campus on February 28 to install microphones for the choir. This will make it possible to hear and enjoy the musical portions of our services! Pace will also address some glitches with the operation of our soundboard.

Second, you may have noticed that the fascia on our library/office wing is being repaired, and metal cladding is being installed. The structural integrity and the appearance of our facilities will be greatly improved. Hurray!

Finally, please mark your calendars for our Spring Services Auction on Saturday, April 22, a great way to celebrate Earth Day. Consider offering at least one service or event. Share an interest or talent, offer an event at your home or in our community, or think of a novel way to participate. A key shared value is being part of a community, and your contributions make that possible throughout the year.

Board of Trustees

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

Kellie Ingram, Director of Religious Education

March is the month of expectation. -Emily Dickinson

While I'm just about positive that Emily was not necessarily speaking directly to "expecting" as in motherhood, I was certainly expecting a miracle in March one year.



My youngest son and fourth child, Owen came into this world very ill in 2011. My husband and I, already being parents to three and a family of five, were as prepared as we could have been to welcome another life into our home.

However, nothing could have ever prepared us for the roller coaster of ups and downs that became our new normal. One out of every 2,229 infants are born with what is called *Gastroschisis*, a condition that leaves newborns with an “open stomach” at birth. His 9th birthday (fittingly enough) also happened to coincide with the first week of the pandemic hitting Las Cruces. Both occurrences being a farewell to the life we had all known, while establishing the beginning to a resilience that we did not know we had! When it comes to different ends of this spectrum, some newborns are able to head home within days of being born, some are in far more serious conditions and require much more care, and unfortunately some babies never make it home at all. Owen was born on March 21st (the day of the Spring Equinox) and came home on August 4th (the day of my oldest daughters 11th birthday)



Owen reading a poem at the Camerata Del Sol – Celebrating Black History Month – February 3rd

To date, Owen has had 19 surgical procedures and countless hospital stays, although to see the smile on his face and the spring in his step, you would have no idea his life started off as chaotic as some would say these last few years have been. If anything, life has taught me that I believe all families, infants, individuals, communities, and even churches are more resilient than they realize. Especially when faced with hardships and even more so when they are willing to work with, lean on, and draw from each other's strengths.

Music and Choir

Catherine Massey, Director of Music



MUSIC NOTES

The season of Lent is a big part of the community we live in, beginning with Ash Wednesday. I like to learn from significant observances such as this. They can help inform us in how to deal with the challenges of the world. My heart becomes heavy when I think about the people facing war in Ukraine, or those digging out of the earthquake rubble in Syria and Turkey. The symbol of ashes seems fitting.

I've learned from and attended many workshops led by worship design consultant Marcia McFee. Our congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and Association for UU Music Ministries have all hosted her and co-created worship with her guidance, and I regularly read her newsletters. She recently re-shared this prayer she wrote a few years ago for Ash Wednesday:

“the dust of dreams deferred
the ashes of burned bridges
the dust of worn out, dead end paths
the ashes of destroyed relationships
the dust of years of accumulated unfinished business
the ashes of neglected passions
we are marked by both love and sorrow
dreams and disappointment
fear of death yet undying hope
we are wholly yours
we are yours, holy one
Amen.”

Marcia points out that nature shows us over and over again that life is the natural order of things; it is incessant. This month holds the beginning of Spring to remind us of that fact, and in worship Brooks Lewis will help us internalize the season with words and song. The Negro Spirituals service that our Director of Religious Education, Kellie Ingram, leads this month will remind us of hope born even during impossible times. Spring couldn't come at a better time—but let's embrace the wisdom that both joy and sorrow bring. Amen.

Administration

Cheri Coffelt



Vulnerability

Recently I heard a speaker giving the definition of vulnerability. *Being vulnerable means being in a position where other people can hurt you.* Okay, I'm not very good at being vulnerable. My first instinct is to protect myself from being hurt.

In Israel we went to the place where Jesus delivered the famous "Sermon on the Mount", now it is the site of the Church of the Beatitudes. It's a beautiful location on a hill, more like a garden now. The words of the sermon are beautiful and inspiring. Jesus spoke these words over 2,000 years ago, yet the message is still resonates today. Simple and filled with love. It challenges me each time I read it.

Those who were blessed in this sermon, were not the strong and powerful. Rather they were the meek and poor in spirit. The merciful and the pure in heart. It isn't who finishes the race first that wins, but ultimately the one who stops to help the wounded and fallen that gains the greatest reward. All our efforts to finish the race are nothing without kindness and compassion. The greatest gift we give is love, and we can't love well without being vulnerable, willing to get hurt.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Committees and Programs

2023 Auction Committee Report

The DOWN TO EARTH AUCTION is rolling along. We've been busy collecting your donations, soliciting donations from businesses, rounding up volunteers to staff the Auction and organizing activities which will take place during the event.

We still need your donations of Events, Services or Goods. Grab one of the Bright Green Auction donation forms in the Foyer or in the Library, fill it out and turn it in to a box in the Foyer or a place in the Library or you can fill out this easy online form, press the Submit button and you're done. The Deadline for donations is March 19.

If you can help us by soliciting a donation from a business or a service organization in Las Cruces, contact Hale Huber or Steve Hychka. They'll walk you through the procedure and provide you with the forms you'll need.

Please volunteer to help with the Auction on Saturday, April 22; we need people to set-up, tear-down, serve food, serve drink, check-in and collect fees, monitor the silent Auction, and spot for the live auction, contact Sara Thomas.

Two special activities are planned for Auction Day: A children's auction where the youth will be given play money to bid on toys and games. For more information, and how you can donate, contact Donna Racz or Kellie Ingram.

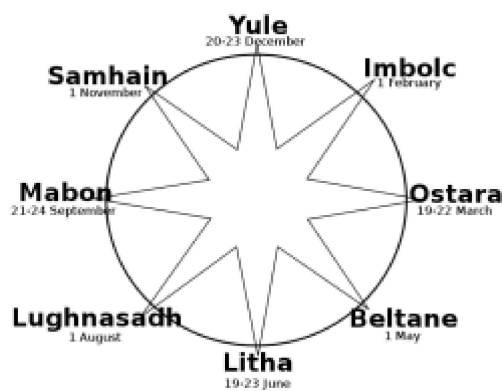
Building on the great success of our Hat Fashion Show last year, this year we're going to do a DOWN TO EARTH FASHION SHOW. It's easy to enter. All you have to do is come to the Auction dressed up to celebrate Earth Day. There are no rules; the choice of design and materials of your costume is up to you. 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.

We're starting auction events 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 PM.

CUUPS

March 20, is Ostara, a celebration of the Spring Equinox. Ostara, the ancient Germanic goddess of the spring, transformed a bird into a hare, and the hare responded by laying colored eggs for her festival.

The CUUPS group will celebrate Ostara on Saturday, March 18, 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!



Wheel of the Year

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

Good News From Facilities

As we chip away at the little repairs and refurbishments on our campus we are happy to report the results of three big projects.

- The Lexan safety covering had been attached to the Tombaugh Window and it is now open for all to see.
- The metal cladding of the fascia on the Office/Library wing, something that has been needed for several years, is finally installed. That means we won't have to paint that fascia again.

- If all goes well, as of Sunday, March 5, we should have microphones for the Choir which will allow the ZOOM audience to finally hear its sweet sounds.

The Committee has also considered plans for additional seating in the Sanctuary in light of our growing Sunday attendance. These plans include maintaining the width of the aisles and the exit door access required by fire code.

Hospitality Rotation Schedule

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.

Membership by Lyn Pearson – membership@uuchurchlc.org

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.

Circle Suppers

Our next round of Circle Suppers will be in April with signups for both hosts and diners taking place in march. Look for emails about these meals.

Greeters

If you are a greeter, you've noticed a lot of changes in procedures this year. The greeter station moved, you're asked to keep counts of people in the sanctuary, the lobby when there are overflow services, and on Zoom, we've had overflow attendance at services that require you to take an active role in maintaining silence in the lobby, we're asking you to do more than ever before. We know this and it's one reason we endeavor to have three or more greeters every Sunday. We hope you know how much we value you and your willingness and ability to make visitors feel welcomed into the church. Each of you is the most important person to every visitor walking through our doors.

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



DOÑA ANA COUNTY BRANCH – UNIT 6102

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

P.O. Box 1796 – Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Dr. Bobbie Green, President Dr. Lili Rodriguez-Johnson, 1st Vice President Stephen Jones, 2nd Vice President
Jamar Cotton, 3rd Vice President Terry Tolbert, Treasurer Howard Guion, Secretary

January 26, 2023

To: Unitarian Universalist Church – Las Cruces
2000 S. Solano Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001
Attn:

To the Unitarian Universalist Church Family,

Thank you for your support of MLK 2023 Weekend. This was an extremely important weekend because as you know, violence and hate crimes are on the rise in our state. We thought it was important to highlight Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's principles of nonviolence as a way to educate our community about ways we can reduce the violence and spread a positive message, particularly to the young people in our community. Our theme "*This is Power*" was a reminder to everyone that there is a better way and the change begins with all of us.

Our specific goal was to discuss the principles of nonviolence at our events. We began with a Rally at the Downtown Plaza on January 15th, which would have been Dr. King's 94th birthday. We ended our commemorations with a breakfast at the Las Cruces Convention Center to a packed house! Our young MLK Ambassadors (ages 13 to 17) were able to present their messages of how Dr. King's principles can make our community a better place. We were able to spread a positive message because of your generosity.

Because of the support of UUC-Las Cruces, including your attendance, and your generous donation, and your Change for Change Grant, we were able to increase the awareness about a very important, message of brotherly love which is so important right now.

Thank you so much for being a faithful supporter of the Dona Ana County NAACP. Thank you for allowing us to use your beautiful facility for our meetings, and thank you for your support of our MLK 2023 commemoration! You are a true example of what it means to love one another!

Sincerely,

Dr. Bobbie Green
President – Dona Ana County NAACP



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

For Our Animal Ministry

- We urge you to give to the Change for Change offering benefiting the Action Program for Animals
- We encourage you to drop your aluminum cans in the collection barrel in the church library.

Every little bit helps our animal friends.

Our Climate Action Group

We meet weekly, Mondays at 7:00 PM. We share news, try to keep an eye on New Mexico legislation and voice support for climate-related initiatives. We are putting together an auction “basket” and we have been staffing an information table in the lobby each Sunday.

There seem to be an almost unlimited number of Zoom meetings and webinars, so much that things are hard to digest! One interesting group is Interfaith Power and Light, an organization supported by the Unitarian Universalist Association and other denominations. It provides advice about making a green transition. The February 21, webinar was about evaluating a church’s energy use and creating an action plan. For instance, many churches are trying to get to net zero by 2030. We plan to discuss this and Green Sanctuary questions. As mentioned, we meet Mondays at 7:00 PM [TinyURL: tiny.cc/ClimateActionGrp](https://tiny.cc/ClimateActionGrp)

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

At our last meeting we finalized the line-up of Service Leaders and Service Associates for March. While they include services by our two consulting ministers, we will also have a special service on Negro Spirituals led by our Director of Religious Education, Kellie Ingram, and a service on Art as a Spiritual Practice with four artists from our Congregation, Judy Licht, Roy van der Aa, Mark Hohnstreiter, and Karl Kohl, participating.

We’ve also been discussing how to deal with the overflow attendance that has happily been a feature of Sanctuary for the past two months. We’ve developed a proposal for Two Sunday Services which we’re currently circulating to the Committee. When we have everyone’s input, we’ll present it to the Board.

Requests and Items of Interest

Request: Auction Volunteer Sign ups!

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. Volunteer sign ups will be Mar 19, Mar 25, and Apr 2 at 11:00am 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!

Generous Giving by Jack Welch

We received many special gifts during February. A generous memorial gift was made by Jeanne Gilbert in memory of her beloved late husband, Bill. Jeanne also made a memorial gift in memory of our former member, Paul Pirtle. We give a special thanks to Jeanne for these thoughtful and heartfelt gifts.

We continue to receive support for our "Little Pantry" and thank the following: Nancy L Anderson, Cathy Carver, Jeanne Gilbert, David and Ginny Rice, Rosemarie Sanchez and Jan Thompson.

Special donations received for the repair of the Tombaugh window were made by Cathy Carver and Roger Hartley, Bill and Katie Fitzgerald, Lori Miller, David and Ginny Rice, Jack Welch and Gayle Trantham and Julie Woody.

Marie and Karuna Warren and JD and Irene Schultz contributed to our Youth Holiday Boxes fundraiser.

We thank Elwin Nunn for the funds raised in the Valentine truffle sale and Jean Gilbert for her generous support of Savannah Skow's Girl Scout cookie sale.

Our profound thanks go to all of the above who continue to show that we are a congregation of generous givers.

Thanks to Our February Greeters

Our greeters are the first people you and our visitors are likely to meet. In February, our greeters were: Sara Thomas, Rabbitt Loring, Jean Gilbert, Diane Lee, Mary Whittemore, Carol Stanfill, Julie Woody, Ginny Herrick, Lisa Peterson, Jack Welch, and Gayle Trantham.

Events of Note

Mar 3 – Game Night Back on First Friday (for Now?)

Game Night is returning to the First Friday of the month, March 3rd at its usual time of 6:30 PM in the Religious Education Building Great Room. But will it remain there? Perhaps there's a better night for Games and Music Jams. Those attending Friday will discuss this before bringing out the games and snacks. If you haven't attended because it doesn't work for you, please send suggestions to Sara Thomas before 6pm Friday. Also, we are strongly encouraging musicians to bring their instruments, along with singers and folks who enjoy listening to music. The jam session will be held in a nearby room so gamers can play games and socialize. Please join us!

Mar 16 – Death Cafe

Death Cafe, Thursday, March 16 at 6:30-8:00 PM in the library.

Mar 17 – Eating Out by Janet Martinique – EatingOut@uuchurchlc.org

Eating Out for March will be on March 17 at 5:30 PM. Make reservations for El Sombrero Patio Cafe at 363 South Espina Street corner of Amador Drive. Reservations are needed and can be made through March 15th at EatingOut@uuchurchlc.org, by filling out this linked form or email directly to Janet Martinique.

Mar 24 – Chat and Chew

Reverend Kowalski and his wife Dori will be in Las Cruces the weekend of March 23-26. Join them for a brown bag chat-and-chew in the library on Friday the 24th at noon. No pre-registration needed. Just show up for good company and convivial conversation.

Mar 25 – New UU Class (1/2-day)

This short half-day class, led by the Rev. Gary Kowalski, is for who those are contemplating membership in the church or who are unfamiliar with Unitarian Universalism and want to learn more about the faith.

Please complete this registration form if you want to attend this 1/2-day class to be held the morning of Saturday, March 25, 2023. It is scheduled for 4 hours and will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 AM.

This short class will provide you with some great information, and includes:

- A light continental breakfast with time for meeting and chatting with other folks in the class.
- Time to share your own religious history.
- An overview of Unitarian Universalist history.
- An overview of our Religious Education program.
- Explanations of our church's governance, organization, finance and stewardship.
- Key committee chairs and program leaders will provide brief overviews of our Social Justice, Covenant Groups, Adult Enrichment, and Tombaugh Gallery programs.
- Time for general discussion, questions, and an explanation of how to become a member if you would like to join the church.

Please direct questions to Lyn Pearson at membership@uuchurchlc.org.

Mar 25 – Worm Charming Workshop

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Celebrate spring with this introduction to the noble art and science of charming worms suitable for all ages. Bring a pitchfork, tomato stake, length of rebar or other tine to insert into the ground along with a saw, fiddle bow, wood file or other implement to induce vibrations into the vertical stake or stob.. Kazoos, drums, harmonicas and other musical instruments have all been known to lure these humble but sensitive invertebrates from their burrows. Sara Thomas and Master Charmer Gary Kowalski invite you to join them on the grassy portions of the church lawn to see what (or who!) comes up.

Apr 22 – 2023 Spring Auction

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.

Jun 21-25 – 2023 UUA General Assembly

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

Trashformation





The Tombaugh Gallery is proud to show the work of Julia Masaoka. The opening reception will be on Sunday, March 5th from 11 am – to 1:30 pm. Julia has been doing art for over 40 years. She originally worked as an abstract landscape painter before transitioning to creating mixed-media shrines and assemblages.

She feels fortunate to have had residences at the Vermont Art Center and the Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos. She primarily works with metal, hardware and iconic images, using objects from scrap yards, thrift stores, and the desert. She calls her art “Trashformation” – beauty from trash. Themes range from the sacred to the humorous, often with a sense of mystery. Julia says she is inspired by the art of Mexico and Outsider artists. She works intuitively and is informed by the process of creating each piece.

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

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Every Tuesday

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

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

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

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
Meeting ID: 575 522 7281
Passcode: 7777777

Every Sunday

Library Hours — 11:00 to 11:30 AM.

First Friday Game Night

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

UU Crafters

UU Crafters welcomes all to attend the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 1:00 pm in the RE Great Room.

In March, Crafters will meet on the 2nd Saturday ONLY, not the 4th Saturday. That's March 11th at 1:00 PM in the Religious Education Building Great Room. RoseAnn will be presenting beaded key fobs and purse fobs. Level – very easy. Bring large beads if you have them, otherwise all supplies provided. Also, bring any hand crafted items you'd like to have included in the Crafters' auction basket.

3rd Thursday

Death Cafe

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 or leave a voice message at 512-826-1472.

3rd Saturday

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 lascrucescuups@gmail.com.