

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

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

Directions from your current location

**2000 South Solano Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001**

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Office hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM, except for holidays, (575) 522-7281.

## Newsletter

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### February Light

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 72, Num. 2

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.

Church Office Open: Monday thru Friday 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 Minister

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### The Reverend Rod Thompson

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#### Rod's Ruminations



At their January Board Meeting I created my personal and professional Goals for 2024, so for this issue of the Light, I decided to share with you.

- To get better at Half-Time scheduling and boundaries.
- To get better at using my OFF time to explore New Mexico, for my passion of making music, and for my renewed passion for coaching swimming.
- To continue to provide thoughtful, effective, and energetic Sunday Services.

- To continue to be available for folks with personal issue, for pastoral emergencies, and ceremonies.
- To continue to be available to meet with individual members to talk about their ideas and concerns for the good of the church.
- To continue to provide leadership while working collaboratively with the congregation's leaders and staff.
- To continue to work directly with the Board, Sunday Services Committee, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Caring Committee, and the Committee on Ministry.
- To work with those who are working on reviewing and revising our Policies and Procedures.
- To work with the Pacific Western Regional Staff, as needed, and attending the Regional Assembly, April 19 and 20, in Denver.

I would welcome your feedback, questions, support, and encouragement as I work to fulfill these Goals. See you in church!

## Our President

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### Susan Hychka

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“Love is the doctrine of this church.” We recite this each Sunday as the opening statement of our covenant with one another. As Service Associate Kevin Fitzgerald brought back the power of the “Love In” at our Sunday Service a few weeks ago, we sang together about the dawning of the Age of Aquarius when “peace will guide the planets, and love will steer the stars.” We talked a lot about love that morning, recalling when those of a certain age believed that love was powerful enough to bring all people together in peace. As we often do, we joined in a Meditation on Breathing by Sarah Dan Jones – “When I breathe in, I’ll breathe in peace; When I breathe out, I’ll breathe out love.” Its simple words and beautiful melody remind us to begin with ourselves, coaching us to feel the power of peace and love and share that power with others.

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, it’s a great time to continue our focus on the power of love. We strive to be a “Beloved Community,” a group that values all our members and friends and freely shares our love for one another. This does not mean we are without conflict, but it does mean we focus on how to work through the tough times and continue to care for and respect each other. We feel joy when someone shares a joy with the congregation. We feel sad when someone shares a sorrow. And we gather each week for

coffee and conversation just to enjoy being together. As we often say when our services end, “May it be so.”

In news from your Board of Trustees, when we met on January 17, we elected officers for 2024. I will be serving as your President for one more year. Jan Thompson will continue to serve as our Treasurer. New Board member Linda Ruchala will serve as Vice President, and new Board member Laura Jones will serve as Secretary. Together with the other Trustees – Bill Fitzgerald, Margaret “Rabbitt” Loring, Carol Stanfill, Jean Gilbert, and Kevin Fitzgerald – we are developing plans for 2024. They will include reviewing our mission and vision and involving you in deciding how we live into those statements and what changes are needed. We plan to work with Rev. Rod to review and simplify our current Policies and Procedures. We will ask for your involvement in establishing goals for the coming year regarding how we hope to grow and to continue to serve one another and the larger community.

Thanks for being part of what makes UUCLC great!

## **Board of Trustees**

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### **Board Officers**

President: Susan Hychka

Vice President: Linda Ruchala

Secretary: Laura Jones

Treasurer: Jan Thompson

### **At Large**

Rabbitt Loring

Bill Fitzgerald

Jean Gilbert

Carol Stanfill

Kevin Fitzgerald

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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“If January is the month of change, then February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers... February is for doers.”

As I sit in my classroom office, I can hear the laughter of our young people echoing throughout the hallway of the Religious Education building. Which is just incredible



considering that those students are currently being taught OWL (Our Whole Lives a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities)! While I'm not sure what subject could possibly be that amusing, I'm grateful to hear that they are all getting along and enjoying the lesson.

What an amazing gift our OWL facilitators are, they've managed to take an important, serious, curriculum and turn it into an important, joyful, experience! My sincerest gratitude goes out to this dedicated group of folks. Since the majority of our older students will be continuing OWL classes throughout February, our younger students will spend Black History month crafting and learning about the hidden figures, hero's and inventors of our nation's history.

Religious Education is always looking for volunteer teachers to help lead these lessons, please reach out to me (DRE Kellie Ingram) or anyone on the RE committee if you are interested in being part of this important, joyful program!

## Music and Choir

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### Catherine Massey, Director of Music

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## Music Notes

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Being in a choir and singing or making music in worship are really good for you! Of course I would say that—but I'm not the only one!

Last year's annual conference of the Association for Unitarian Universalist Ministries featured a fabulous keynote speaker: Amelia Nogosi, DMA, and coauthor of the widely used book *Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle*. (The other author is her twin sister Emily, PhD.) This is an evidence-based work that gives people the tools to minimize the effects of stress. The focus is on the human body's biological response to stressors (fight, flight, or freeze), and what to do to shift the body physiologically back to a non-stressed state

so that we are not “stuck” there.

We’re living in a time (“post-COVID”?) and a society in which I believe we all have suffered trauma and its aftereffects. People in different roles may experience it in specific ways. I observed it in the high school classroom among students of various ages, and among my educational colleagues. In religious settings we’ve seen vast numbers of clergy and other religious professionals of all denominations leave their professions during COVID. We can all see the damage among the people around us, and unhealthy behavior because of it.

COVID and our widening political gap have been major stressors, and they are not going away. So I am really glad to have heard Amelia talk about specific things we can all do to take our bodies out of fight, flight, or freeze mode and help our bodies find relief and safe ground. According to the Nogosi sisters, the evidence shows that music making in groups actually encompasses all but one of the stress-cycle-completing activities.

They say that wellness is the freedom to oscillate or shift after our initial response to stressors. The most efficient way to complete the stress cycle is physical activity. This is what the body understands, and it’s what we do in real flight: Flee the tiger! Any physical movement at all is very helpful. Every kind of music-making involves physical movement. Another related activity is breathing: taking deep, mindful breaths. Other activities that help are positive social interaction, laughter, affection, crying, sleeping, and using the imagination (or creative self-expression). One would assume we’re not going to sleep or regularly cry while singing, but all the rest of the suggested strategies are easily accessible through music in groups.

Our choir members pretty much know all this already—that’s why they spend so much time doing the work of music for worship. And for those not in choir: We have opportunities for singing together in every worship service. Physical movement, breathing, affection, self-expression, positive interaction, and laughter are all there for the taking. Come and enjoy!

## **Administration**

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### **Cheri Coffelt, Church Administrator**

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Cheri Coffelt

## February

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The Church Office will be open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please call the church at 575-522-7281 or e-mail if you need assistance.

Dear Congregation,

It is with a sense of fulfillment and joy that I write you my final Light article. I came to work at the UUCLC because of the kindness and generosity of our former minister Rev. XK. He convinced me that a “Christian” would be welcome at the UUCLC and he was right.

Thank you for the past four and a half years, it has been a pleasure to serve this congregation. We have weathered storms together and have emerged a little battle scarred but stronger and hopefully more resilient. I leave you in capable hands, and endeavor to keep this transition smooth and seamless.

The flaming chalice will always represent to me the best of this congregation. Individuals who strive to put the Eight Principles into practice every day. It has been my pleasure to serve you and I have a grateful heart for all you have taught me. My final words to you are one of my favorite quotes:

*Do not be dismayed by the brokenness in the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention.*

*So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is in you. – L.R. Knost*

Blessings to you my friends,

Cheri

## Committees and Programs

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**CUUPS by Cassandra Calway –  
575-249-5372**

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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*

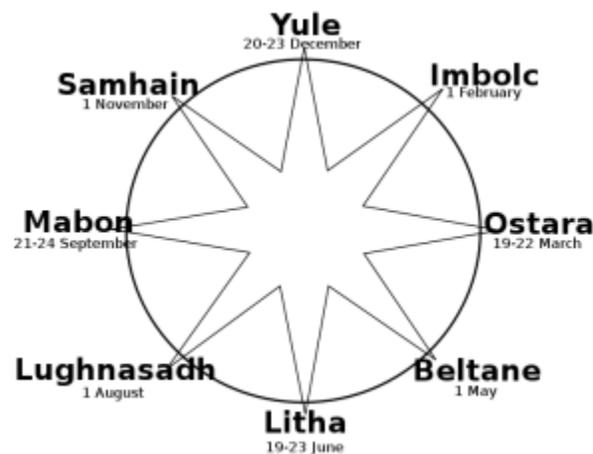
Imbolc is Pagan holiday that symbolizes the halfway point between the winter solstice (Yule)

and the spring equinox (Ostara). The word "Imbolc" means "in the belly of the Mother", because the seeds of spring are beginning to stir in the belly of Mother Earth.

The Celtic goddess Brigid is also celebrated, she is the goddess of fire, hearth, home and fertility. This year the Lunar New Year will happen the week before and this is the year of the dragon, so some of that will be mixed into our ritual.

**\*\* SAVE THE DATE\*\***

CUUPS will hold its fundraiser for Pagan Pride Day this year on May 19. Its called a Divinitea, a day of tea, snacks and divination. More details on time, place and tickets to come! It is always a popular event and a lot of fun!



The **Wheel of the Year** is an annual cycle of seasonal festivals, observed by a range of modern pagans, marking the year's chief solar events (solstices and equinoxes) and the midpoints between them.

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 (Loo-nas-ah): Celebrates the beginning of the harvest season

Mabon: Celebrates the autumnal equinox

Samhain (saa-wn): Celebrates the end of harvest season

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.

## **Facilities by Charlie Scholz –**

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We've been keeping up with repairs and renovations this month.

- We built Storage boxes for the Choir in back of the front wall in the Sanctuary and installed the new wall racks for pamphlets in the Foyer.
- Air Serv, our HVAC contractor, installed a ventilation system to bring fresh air into the Sanctuary through the existing furnace. This is a temporary fix we're making in anticipation of the complete replacement of the HVAC systems in the near future.
- We checked out the west wall of the Gallery for water damage. While we know the windows need to be replaced because they are leaking, there doesn't appear to be much more damage other than the stucco on the outside of the wall. We are getting estimates for both the window replacement and the stucco repair.
- By the time you read this, the old shed in back of the Minister's office should be gone. This will provide a clear view of the street down that walkway. We will be installing an additional light fixture by the back door, which will be on a photocell like the other lamps on campus. In addition, we plan to move the table and bench currently on the ground near the south parking lot, to that walkway.
- The new cement parking bumpers for the North parking lot have been ordered. They should arrive around the end of February or the beginning of March. We intend to install them ourselves using a rented forklift.
- Next month we will be doing some interior and exterior painting.

## **Finance by Ed Long –**

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As the new chair of the Finance Committee, this is my first contribution to The Light. I took over as chair on January 1 and have been very busy learning this job. In all honesty, there is more to learn than I expected, but the entire committee (Jan Thompson, Shirley Davis, Annette Turrentine and Steve Hychka) has been very helpful in helping me to make the adjustment, as well as former chair Katie Fitzgerald.

We are busy reviewing all of the 2023 information in an effort to "close out the books" by early February. But preliminary figures indicates that we collected approximate \$214,000 in pledge payments (just under \$2,000 per pledge unit), along with over \$35,000 in other contributions.

On the expense side, we were able to fund all anticipated expenses as well as putting new fascia and soffit on the office building, paving and striping our handicapped parking spots and provide additional protection for the window in the Tombaugh Gallery.

A balanced budget for 2024 was presented by the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors and passed by the church membership at our annual meeting on December 10. I

am looking forward to a productive and educational 2024 and taking good care of the money that you have so generously given to our church.

## **Generous Giving by Jack Welch**

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We offer our thanks to Ed and Rorie Measure for their memorial gift in memory of our late member, Warren de Boer. Mickey Tuttle made a gift in honor of her dad, Elwin Nunn.

Nancy L Anderson and Jack Welch and Gayle Trantham donated to our Minister's Discretionary Fund.

The following individuals donated to our youth fundraiser in support of homeless students in our public schools: Mary Ann Ford, Jean Gilbert, Bill and Katie Fitzgerald, and Eric Kanim, and Anne Haney.

Generous Change 4 Change donations were received from Thomas Christopher, Shirley Davis, Ed and Rorie Measure, and Marie and Karmin Warren.

For each of our generous donors we say many thanks.

## **Hospitality**

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Thanks to the various covenant groups and committees that take turns supplying the goodies, setting up and cleaning up for fellowship after our Sunday services. You may have noticed the plexiglass box on the serving table inviting your free will donation. Your donation helps cover the cost of tea, coffee, creamers, cups, etc. that the Hospitality Committee ensures is on hand each Sunday so we can concentrate on the goodies and each other! Thanks for your generous support. *Ed Gomolka and Bill Fitzgerald*

## **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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### **New Sections in the Library!**

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You might have noticed the new book section Climate Justice on the west side of the library, near Social Justice, containing many of the books James Caufield has been highlighting recently in the lobby. He has also provided a list of the titles with a brief summary of each. Please come check them out to get more informed about the developing climate crisis on our

planet and what we can do about it.

Also new to the west side, near the checkout station by the door, is an area we are calling Building Beloved Community. It encompasses three new sections: Community Building, Conflict Resolution and Leadership. Information from these areas of our church lives will help guide us in building the Beloved Community we want here at UUCLC.

Many generous donors have added to our collection. Some of the newest have come as a gift from Rev. Nancy Anderson's extensive library and are now available for us to research these topics. Some books already shelved under Unitarian Universalist will be moved to the new sections to make finding specific information easier. Make sure you look on both sides of the library. The UU section is on the east wall of the library and the Beloved Community collection is on the west.

Our two book carts, one in the lobby and one in the library, are always available for you to find a wonderful book to purchase. Proceeds are a donation to the church library fund. See you in the library!

## **Membership by Lyn Pearson –**

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Membership Committee: Cathy Cox, Lyn Pearson, Janet Martinique, Carol Stanfil, Mark Sukontarak and our newest member, Rita Decker. CUUPS will send a representative to our monthly meetings and we will be helping them, as needed, to recertify with the Unitarian Universalist Association.

We are working on two new projects: developing a protocol for how people sign the membership book and starting work on recertifying our Welcoming Congregation status; this will be an annual endeavor in the future.

## **Thank You Facilities Management**

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Charlie Scholz and Bill Fitzgerald did a great job installing a new pamphlet rack in the lobby. This rack, which currently contains 36 slots, take the place of the inadequate table and counter displays we were using. Nearly all of the slots are now filled, either with pamphlets produced by the Unitarian Universalist Association or ones developed to showcase our church's programs: CUUPS, Social Justice, Respectful Relations, Fun and Fellowship, and others. Additional pamphlets are in the works. Please take a look at what's offered in the rack and let us know what we're missing.

## **Thanks to Our January Greeters**

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In January, our greeters were: Jane Asche, Diane Lee, Tom Packard, Lisa Peterson, Tayle Trantham, Carol Stanfill, Sara Thomas, Mark Sukontarak, Susan West, and Jack Welch.

We can always use more greeters and it's one of the best ways to become more familiar with our members who love to see a smiling face on Sundays. If you're interested in becoming a greeter, contact Mark Sukontarak at .

## **Social Justice –**

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### **NAACP Sends Thanks!**

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Dear UUCLC Family!

Thank you for sponsoring tables at the MLK 2024 Breakfast. We are pleased that you were able to attend and grateful for your ongoing support of the Dona Ana County NAACP! It is wonderful to have such generous donors. I am so proud of UUCLC for your continued acts of kindness and advocacy.

Bobbie Green,  
President, Dona Ana County NAACP

### **“Barking News and the Cat’s Meow”**

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The Green Amendment New Mexico state-wide task group is collecting “sign-on” signatures for a letter that will ultimately be delivered to our state’s elected officials, once a yet to be determined critical mass has been assembled. We are hoping to have hundreds, if not thousands of signatures from across the state. Please go to the following New Mexico Green Amendment Link and sign on. When the letter is finally sent it will include your name and city only. Please sign-on and show your support for adding the **RIGHT** to a healthy, clean, sustainable, environment to our state’s constitution. Questions? Contact Dave Steele at Thank you!

### **Border Servant Corps**

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The Border Servant Corp is in need of a few supplies for our immigration guests, any donations will be greatly appreciated. Needed are: blankets, feminine hygiene products – no tampons, infant formula for babies under one year old, and jackets for children 5 years old and under. There will be a collection box in the Religious Education Great Room. Any questions? Irene Schultz will be happy to try and answer.

### **Change for Change**

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#### **Please submit nominations for our next Change for Change competition**

The Social Justice Committee invites Members and Friends of UUCLC to make nominations of local organizations which will receive donations made to our Change for Change offerings

for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Four local (Las Cruces or Dona Ana County), charitable organizations will be selected.

**The deadline for submission is Friday, March 1, 2024.** Selections will be made on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

If you want to nominate one (or more) of your favorite local local charities, please contact me, David Rice to obtain complete details expected of a nomination. You may also direct questions about our process to me. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

### **Change for Change — Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2024**

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Casa de Peregrinos (House of Pilgrims) was selected to be the recipient of our Change for Change contributions from January 1 to March 31. C de P is our local emergency food program working to meet the needs of low income families that are experiencing food insecurity. Their mission is to end hunger while providing mobile pantries and resources that build strong, diverse, and inclusive relationships and partnerships in the community. When the government ended its pandemic stimulus program that had pulled many New Mexico children out of poverty, we have seen a steep increase in the number of families having to receive food assistance. Your contributions can help keep kids nourished and ready to learn at school. Please be generous.

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

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We got some climate books! SJC contributed \$150 for climate books for the library; James selected 10 books. Rabbitt has been giving support to our book ambitions and we are looking forward to a section. The books were all chosen for their low score on the “Caufield Depressometer Scale,” so mostly cheery reading, insofar as is possible. World religions are represented by the Dalai Lama, the Pope, an evangelical Christian, and a New Age sage. There are of course secular and scientific, but again with a focus on ethics and values. There’s one “Cli-Fi” novel that imagines a best-case scenario, and there’s Fire Weather, that is a true story that reads like an adventure tale.

The Green Sanctuary/Environmental Attitudes Survey results are in; 41 responses, some representing households. People do understand there is a problem, and want to help.

CAG is glad to see the Green Amendment supported by the church. Maya K. Van Rossum will be on local radio KTAL (101.5 FM) on 1-24-23, 8:30 AM. She is the author of the book The Green Amendment (We have copies in the library.)

For those interested in legislative action, the NM legislature is meeting now. FYI, Friday Feb. 9 2024 is the environmental day.

CAG is now meeting only 1 time per month, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. For the Zoom Link please contact James Caufield at .

## **The Little Free Pantry**

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Clients of our LFP continue to clean it out daily! Jan Thompson's 7-member crew restocks the pantry daily and demand is brisk. Your donations of useful items (small size, easy to open, shelf stable foods/beverages, toiletries) and money are greatly appreciated. This is one way we serve those in our community in food stress. You can donate to this worthy cause by clicking [here](#) or on GIVE at the top of the website.

## **Sunday Services by Charlie Scholz**

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### **SundayServices@uuchurchlc.org**

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After a series of very interesting and inspiring services in January, we are looking forward to a wonderful round in February starting with "What I Learned From Ground Hog Day" on February 4. Kevin Fitzgerald will be "Checking One's Moral Compass" on the 11th. Our own Rev. Rod will be doing two services "Come As You Are and Bring A Friend" on the 18th and "Unitarian Universalism in One Sentence" on the 25th. As always, the music led by our Music Director Catherine Massey and supported by the Choir and special soloists, will add to your enjoyment. It should be a great month of services.

We also excited because several members have indicated their interest in joining our Sunday Service team to help us plan and present new services.

## **Tombaugh Gallery by Lurene John –**

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### **Docents Needed**

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It's always a thrill it was to sit in the gallery surrounded by all the history, beauty and stories that accompanied our exhibitions. You can enjoy this opportunity, too. Just sign up as a docent. Your commitment is only two hours a week when there is an exhibit. It's a great time to catch up on your reading, needlework, or anything that requires some quiet "me time." Interested, contact Cathy Cox at .

## **Requests and Items of Interest**

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## **Kudos to the Congregation from Religious Education**

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The Religious Education program would like to thank the congregation for their generous



donations to Project Link over the last 2 months. Not only did you donate mountains of supplies and hygiene items for homeless teens, but \$754 was collected at the church to give to the Las Cruces Public School program as well. We received a certificate of appreciation from the program in gratitude. (\*See certificate sent in separate email\*).

## Religious Education needs your help!!!

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**Request** – Religious Education is looking for several items to finish their eco-brick project. You may have noticed we are no longer collecting soft plastic since we stuffed LOTS of 2 liter bottles with soft plastic. Next, we need **foam padding** (at least 2 inches thick) and **strong fabric** in lengths of at least a yard and half.

Anyone with sewing skills is also very much needed. The project is sewing 2 pieces of fabric together and hemming so it's fairly easy. Please give your donations or volunteer your sewing to Sara Thomas.

## Sign Up for Qi-Gong+Indian-Club Movement for 2024-SESSION 1

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Carol Allen, the instructor, invites you to participate in the current session of Qi-Gong+Indian-Club Movement.

A gentle class that increases strength, balance and concentration. 7 students maximum per class.

- Tuesdays at 1:45 pm from Jan 9 to Mar 26 (12 classes) – 2 spaces available .
- Wednesdays at 12:00 pm from Jan 10 to Mar 27 (12 classes) – 0 spaces available.
- Location in the RE Building great room.

*A free class is available in February 2024 for new potential students.*

Any classes after that in Session 1 are \$2 per class.

If interested please contact by email Carol Allen or the church office.

## **Department of Energy Grant by Katie Fitzgerald**

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In the fall of 2023, the church learned that Tierra del Sol, a local 501c3 charitable organization was approved as the prime recipient of a US Department of Energy grant for approximately \$4 million. Their mission is to work with approximately 10-12 other eligible 501c3 organizations to plan and execute energy saving capital improvement projects over the next three years. Specific targets are projects that will result in long range energy cost savings as well as the reduction in the use of fossil fuels.

We have been working with Tierra del Sol from the beginning with the understanding that we will be one of the sub-recipients of grant funds. This is a decision that will be made by the Department of Energy which makes the final "GO-NO GO" decision of which projects the grant can be used for. What we know for sure is that the grant will NOT cover the installation, repair or improvement of solar panels or arrays.

What the church has on its wish list for the grant is the replacement of aging gas HVAC systems with newer, more efficient electric units, new energy saving windows for the office complex, improved insulation and a new membrane for the roof to the library and Sanctuary building as well as replacing gas water heaters with electric, on-demand units. We will have to augment the power coming into campus to support these improvements which we have added to the list.

Not all of these costs will be born by grant funds; the church will need to provide 20-25% of in-kind funding either in cash or sweat equity. We have \$30K in the 2024 budget for this purpose. We are anticipating an upcoming meeting with all the sub-recipients to get a better handle on the timelines, and paperwork requirements, etc. so expect another update when there is more to share.

## **Events of Note**

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The UU Crafters meet the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 in the Great Room. Come share your projects, learn new crafts, and make things this month with jewelry supplies.

All are welcome, teens, adults, members, and friends. Get in touch with Sara Thomas or Carol Stanfill for more details or to be added to our email list.

## **The Tombaugh Gallery**

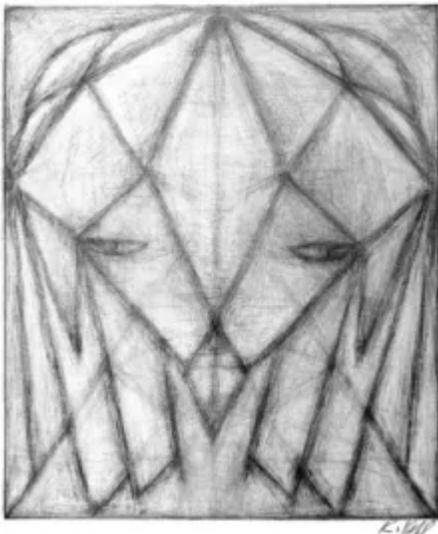
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## **Tombaugh Gallery Features**

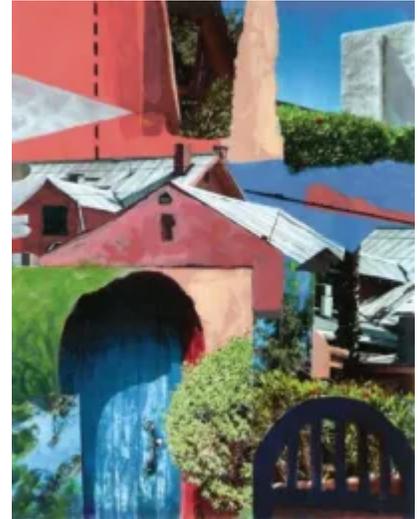
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In February, the Tombaugh Gallery will present *Between Heaven and Earth*, an exhibit of pencil and mixed media drawings by Karl Kohl and mixed media painted collages by Roy van der Aa.

Karl Kohl creates pencil drawings of imaginary mythological figures which are cropped tightly to the faces containing no clues as to where they are from or what environment they inhabit. They started as sketches for paintings and evolved over time. The smaller scale helped him express ideas that had been percolating for a while. In this process, indigenous and Buddhism play an integral role.



Roy's painted collages are imaginary landscapes which are saturated in color. They contain no figures but create a dreamlike atmospheric location.



The artists hope that by showing their individual approaches together, a more complete story is created through the eyes of the viewer that speaks to our common humanity.

The exhibit opens with a reception on Sunday, February 4 from 11am–2pm. The show runs through February 25.

The Gallery, located in the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2000 S. Solano Drive, is regularly open

Thursday–Saturday 10am–2pm and Sunday 11:30am–2pm. For details, call the church office at 575-522-7281.

## **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?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 week with your fellow Unitarian Universalists. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09>  
Meeting ID: 575 522 7281  
Passcode: 7777777

## **Every Sunday – Library**

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Library Hours — 11:00 to 11:30 AM.

## **Every Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct – Circle Suppers**

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Join members and friends at small, intimate dinners in the homes of our volunteer hosts. We recruit hosts and guests in December, March, June, and September for dinners held in January, April, July, and October. If you would like to learn more, please email .

## **2nd Friday – Game Night**

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Join us at 6:30 PM in the Religious Education Building Great Room. Bring a snack to share

and a favorite game. Hope to see you there!

### **3rd Thursday – 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 or leave a voice message at 512-826-1472.

### **2nd Saturday – UU Crafters**

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The UU Crafters Group meets the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 in the Religious Education building. Come join us to learn new crafts, share your projects, and have fun. All are invited, guys, gals, teens, members, non-members, new crafters, and experts. We share project ideas and always learn fun new crafts. In November we will be sharing our projects and learning something new: origami ornaments. Some supplies to bring, if you have these: origami paper, beads, thread or string.

November 11th at 1:00 p.m. Carol Stanfill and Sara Thomas. Questions? Email

### **3rd Friday – Eating Out**

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Eating Out will resume in February at 5:30 pm Feb 16th.

We will be going to Sakura Japanese House habachi restaurant. We'll be resuming there because that was the restaurant we had the most fun at. Reservations absolutely required as there are only 2 Habachi tables setting 12 people each. RSVP to Janet Martinique or send email to .

### **3rd Saturday – Desert Spirit CUUPs**

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This 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 .

### **2nd Saturday in Feb, May, Aug, Nov – Fine Dining Experience**

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Dinner at the J Paul Taylor Detention Facility with a group of 14-21 year-old young men. Contact Haney Pearson if you would like to participate.

