

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL 2023

Please note that given the changing nature of the world, topics may change to address the needs of our times. Below are the topics being considered currently.

Apr. 2: Pay Up, Buttercup!

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Apr. 9: Egg-sistentialism: A Unitarian Universalist's Guide to Finding Meaning in Easter.

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Apr. 16: Who, me?

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Apr. 23: How do we Resist Becoming Overwhelmed by Climate Change?

--Wendy Karn

Apr. 30: Change is Good—You Go First!

– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

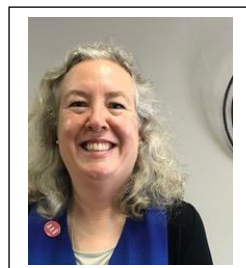
THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

President, Nancy Loughrey, is off on adventures in Egypt and environs. We will hear from her next month.

SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



Resistance

I've been thinking about procrastination a lot lately. Procrastination is a form of resistance that shows up in all of our lives. For me, I've noticed that I procrastinate often when either I have anxiety about the subject, or I just plain don't want to do it. I procrastinate on household cleaning chores, for example, even though I know that I'll like a cleaner house. Other procrastination comes from uncertainty – either I'm not sure how to do something or I'm afraid what will happen when I do the difficult thing. But the most insidious type of procrastination/resistance that shows up for me is pleasure. That is, I often have something way more fun to do! For example,

ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community



JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

<https://zoom.us/j/3931579606>

Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community

2845 Mesa Verde Drive East
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714-556-2882

P.O. Box 3770
Costa Mesa, CA 92628
ocuuc.org

watch Netflix, play banjo, talk to my sister, shop, etc.

We humans are endorphin addicts and doing pleasurable things gives us that endorphin hit we crave. But we also often confuse pleasure with happiness and so we choose the pleasure of *now* over the happiness of later. How do we combat this resistance, the procrastination of pleasure? I'll give you one way: I make lists of stuff and when I tick off "done" I get a lovely little endorphin hit – *and* it leads to my on-going happiness.

What tips or tricks to you use to get over procrastinating? Let me know! And I'll share with everyone these tips at a later date: revsian@ocuuc.org

With love,
Rev. Sian



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April 2: Pay Up, Buttercup! Reparations is a real hot button in our politics and culture these days. How in the world can modern societies make up for the atrocities of the past? Should they? Let's explore these ideas together centered in love! Rev. Sian

April 9: Egg-sistentialism: A Unitarian Universalist's Guide to Finding Meaning in Easter. Easter, in a traditional sense, is a tough topic for UUs, and so we resist

talking about it. Yet it can also provide us with a lot of meaning and hope. Come join Rev. Sian as we explore the various meanings of Easter.

April 16: Who me?! Why is it that we humans often resist who we are called to be, and hide our light under a bushel? What is this spiritual resistance and how do we get past it? Rev. Sian explores this resistance in part with her own story.

April. 23: How do we resist becoming overwhelmed by climate change? On this Earth Day weekend, we'll examine some reasons to remain hopeful for our beautiful home planet. Wendy Karn

April 30th: Change is good – You Go First! Change brings risk and risk brings resistance. How do we trust the process of change? Or even make sure we have a good process? Rev. Sian tackles changes going on in our denomination, including Article II. We will have an opportunity after the service for people to go deeper into discussion about Article II and give feedback.



Thank you as always to Orange Coast Choir members and other musicians for their dedication and artistic integrity, to Steve Morihiro and Susan Shaw for handling music while I'm on my days off, and to Avery Brown and the volunteer tech crew for making seamless hybrid services every week.

Over the past few years, I've been trying to do bring more equity and inclusion to our worship services. I'm especially keen to bring the voices of people of color - especially African Americans - to our space. Every week I use at least one song that was written or performed by a black artist (via video or live performance). That way, we are literally bringing their voice into Daniels Hall, plus we are either buying their sheet music or paying licensing fees to use their song. When we sing African American spirituals like "*Guide My Feet*," "*This Little Light of Mine*," and "*When the Spirit Says Do*," we are not required to pay a licensing fee because those songs are in the Public Domain. Going forward, we are going to be donating to a nonprofit that supports African Americans every time we sing an African American spiritual. We are going to intentionally create a mechanism where we as a church will pay -- from the Music Budget - to enjoy these rich traditional songs in our worship services. It's a small way to demonstrate our commitment to equity and our acknowledgment that these musical gems were born out of extremely difficult lived experiences of enslaved people. If you have a suggestion for which nonprofit to contribute to, I'm open to your suggestions.

Don't miss our *Music Under the Stars* event on Saturday, April 29 at 7pm. Watch the Blast for more details as it gets closer.

Musically Yours, Beth Syverson,
Director of Music Ministries
MusicDirector@Ocuuc.org

FORMING FAITH

Religious Education News
Karen Magoon Pearson
Director of Religious Education

Summer will be here before you know it, and registration is now open for all youth camps at our beloved Camp de Benneville Pines. Camp de Benneville Pines is located in the San Bernardino National Forest, about 90 miles east of Los Angeles, at an elevation of 6,800 feet. Camp operates as an independent nonprofit. It is supported by the 50+ member congregations of the Pacific Southwest Service Area of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Due to this commitment, generations of Southwest UUs have been nurtured by Camp. In turn, campers have built up a well-maintained and well-loved resource.

In January, the OCUUC Board passed a resolution that "Members' children (and parents when they are required to attend) receive a 50% scholarship when going to Camp de Benneville Pines as long as there are funds to do so in the scholarship holding account." The funds are available now and all youth (and their parents, for Family Camp) attending Camp de Benneville this summer will receive an automatic 50% scholarship!

Check out the details of the camps being offered this summer by following the links below.

[UU Elementary Summer Camp](#) -- Sunday, July 9 – Saturday, July 15, 2023

"Circles of Connection" This camp is designed for campers who completed

2nd through 6th grades during the 22/23 school year.

[UU Counselor-in-Training Program](#) -

- Sunday, July 9, 2023 – Saturday, July 15, 2023

All applicants must be between 14 and 18 years of age. A formal CIT application will be sent upon registration and receipt of deposit.

[UU Junior High Summer Camp](#) -- July 16, 2023 – July 22, 2023

“Free to Learn Together” This camp is designed for campers who completed 6th through 8th grades during the 22/23 school year

[UU Senior High Summer Camp](#) -- Sunday, July 23 – Saturday, July 29, 2023

“Camp ForwUUrd” This camp is designed for campers who have completed 9th through 12th grades in the 22/23 school year.

[UU Family Summer Camp](#) -- Sunday, July 30 – Saturday, August 5, 2023

“Light, Spirit, and Harmony” Families come in all shapes and sizes. We love all of them!



TACO 'BOUT AN AUCTION!

Mark your calendars! Our Spring Auction will be on **Saturday, May 20th at 4:30.**

We will honor our dear friend Mark Renshaw by serving his famous

MarkaRitas as you check in, followed by fresh hot tacos and then our live auction!

For now, though, your submissions of fabulous events and delightful goods are very much anticipated.

Submit and browse at www.togetherauction.com/ocuuc

More details to come. Thank you for your generosity!



The Pledge Drive is Happening!

Each year we run a new Pledge Drive for our FISCAL year, which is July 1-June 30. The pledge drive is conducted annually so that yearly pledges can be used by our Finance Committee to complete an annual budget. We can only count on pledges made or renewed each year in producing that budget.

All members and friends should be in receipt of a pledge card by now. Pledge cards were distributed after the March 19 and 26 church services. Those who were unable to pick up their card on those dates have been mailed a pledge card.

You can also pledge online by opening this link:

<https://ocuuc.org/support/pledge/>.

There you will find an online pledge card, a letter from the minister and board president, a pledge brochure, a giving guide, and frequently asked questions.

Those who have turned in a pledge will be eligible to participate in a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card to be held at the end of the church services on Sunday April 2, 9, and 16th. Get your completed pledge card in early to have more chances to win a gift card!

Thank you to all who have already turned in a pledge for fiscal year 23/24. Pledges comprise much of our yearly operating budget, which is used to pay the minister and staff, provide programming, maintain the church buildings, and keep the utility bills paid.

If you have questions about how to make a pledge, please contact the bursar at bursar@ocuuc.org.

Debra Quam
Pledge Drive Committee Chair



STITCHWITS

Do you knit, crochet, sew, or enjoy any other crafts? Do you believe in using your skills to help others? Then you might be a StitchWit!

Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items.

Find the zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website.



...ON SUNDAY

If you would like to express a Joy or Sorrow to be read during the service on Sunday, you may send an email by 9:00 am on Sunday morning to joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org, type in the chat during this part of the service, or, when attending the service in person, you may write your joy or sorrow for in-person share.



This is a discussion group supporting humanists, agnostics, atheists, deists, and others who view human activity as the basis for moral systems, and view humans as integral parts of the nature of the cosmos. The Zoom link is on the [church calendar](#). **The Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom.

For more information, email programs@ocuuc.org



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA ASSEMBLY--APRIL 21-24

In the spirit of our beloved District Assembly, Camp de Benneville Pines will be sponsoring a traditional assembly to bring members of our 50 churches together to enjoy an engaging keynote speaker, UU-themed workshops, music, worship, and other activities.

The assembly will take place at the San Luis Obispo UU Fellowship and will also feature the camp's annual business meeting with updates.

This is intended to serve the former district or is a 'district-wide' assembly with workshops, including keynote speakers that will interest all UUs.

I'd like to encourage you to join with other 'district-wide' or Camp's Service Area UUs **on April 21 - 24** in beautiful San Luis Obispo (SLO) for the 2023 PSW Service Area Assembly.

Beyond the assembly, SLO will be celebrating Earth Day all weekend, and the city has many great activities planned. We hope you stay an extra day to enjoy time in the area.

Ministers, DREs, Camp Champs, social justice advocates, delegates, and church members are all encouraged to join together in covenant to share ideas, concerns, and solutions with one another at this dynamic gathering.

Flyer here:

<https://www.uucamp.org/2022/02/07/2023-pacific-southwest-service-area-assembly/psw-service-area-2023-save-the-date-flyer/>



The Spring Men's Renewal Weekend
at deBenneville Pines Camp
April 28-30, 2023.

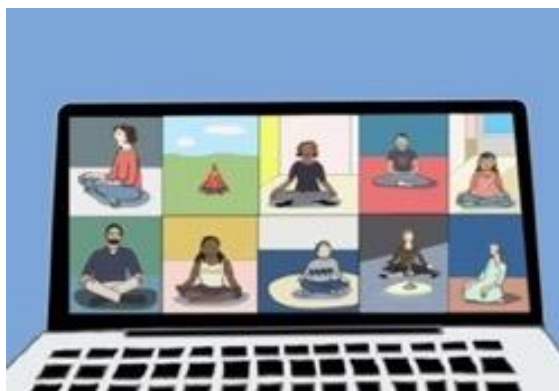
"Masculinity: What Stories am I Living?"

What stories do I tell myself about what it means to be a man in these challenging, changing times? Whose story am I living? Is my story getting in my way of living or is it hurting others? What's not true about my story? How do I feel about my story and what am I going to do about it? We will explore these and many other questions. If you are interested, a link to the registration form below.

Our Unitarian Universalist Men's Renewal welcomes men of all ages, backgrounds, and diversities. Scholarships are available, so that no brother will be denied for financial reasons. The Camp is located near Angeles Oaks in the San Bernardino Mountains at 6800 feet elevation. Questions can be directed to Cory Brown at KG6EP@AOL.COM. I encourage those interested to sign up early.

To register use:

<http://tinyurl.com/UUMF-Renewal-Registration>



MEDITATION GROUP

Our Meditation Group meets every Sunday at 9:45am — in person and via Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community. We will conduct a short but nourishing guided meditation, then share our experiences along the path. All are welcome!

Find the zoom link on the OCUUC website calendar page by clicking [here](#)!



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to sign-up for flowers to celebrate someone or for yourself, please see [Sandie Martin](#) after the service to reserve your date. You can also email her at sandiemartin@mac.com.

Let her know if you'd like to bring your own flowers on a particular date, or she can make an arrangement for you at a cost of \$20 cash.



FICTION BOOK GROUP

Please join the Fiction Book Group online on Monday, April 3rd at 7:00pm to discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

We welcome newcomers to our usual lively discussions. You can check out our link on the church [website](#).

Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COSTA MESA EARTH DAY

OCUUC will once again staff an information table at the City of Costa Mesa Earth Day Festival on the City Hall lawn at 77 Fair Street to promote our *Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival*.

Volunteers are needed from 10 am - 2 pm on **Saturday, April 22**, to hand out wildflower seeds with a Save the Date reminder of OCUUC's 5th annual film festival on September 30.

To volunteer for a 1-2 hour shift, contact lindaspery@gmail.com.



... a Short but Hopefully Helpful
Overview

April 16th, 11:45am to 12:30pm

Dave Carlson, a 25-year member of OCUUC, and a Lecturer at the University of California Irvine Business School, will present *"Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrencies...a Short but Hopefully Helpful Overview."*

It will be held in the sanctuary after the service with just enough time to get coffee first. Please join us.



Saturday, April 1

Exploring Our UU Values, 10am UU

Tapestry

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, April 2

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7

AHA Group, 12:15 pm on Zoom

Monday, April 3

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, April 6

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, April 8

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Passover Seder 5pm Daniels Hall

Sunday, April 9 Easter Sunday

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Writing Club, 11:45am Victoria Room

Monday, April 10

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, April 12

Comm. On Ministry 6pm

Thursday, April 13

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, April 15

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, April 16

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

RE & Youth Group, 10:30am on site

Nonfiction Book Club 12:30pm on Zoom

Cryptocurrency Presentation, 11:45am Daniels Hall

Tuesday, April 18

Caring Circle 12pm on Zoom

Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, April 19

OCUUC Moviegoers (TBD) Regency SC

Finance Council 5pm Zoom

Thursday, April 20

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, April 22

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, April 23

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom

Women's Circle, Victoria Room and Zoom

Monday, April 24

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, April 26

Cluster Meeting, 10:00am

Board of Trustees, 7pm on Zoom

Thursday, April 27

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, April 29

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Music Under the Stars 7pm Courtyard

Sunday, April 30

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Room and on Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and on Zoom



ERIC NOËL

Eric grew up coming to OCUUC with his father Dan, late mother Fabiola and brother Philippe, where he participated in religious education, youth groups, and Camp de Benneville Pines. After spending many years searching for a sense of community and belonging, he has once again found it in this church.

He still lives in Costa Mesa and has a job in the software industry. He also works with local groups struggling for economic and social justice in Orange County, walking picket lines and organizing protests and political campaigns. In his spare time he enjoys playing board and video games with friends, tinkering with computers, traveling and riding his bike on sunny afternoons.

STACY SMITH

Stacy has been coming to OCUUC since July 2013. She originally came for the choir but stayed for the people and the principles of the UU faith. Stacy has spent 13 years working in the nonprofit sector in Irvine. Before that she spent 10

years working in the music industry in Los Angeles.

Currently disabled, she does her best to enjoy her lifelong hobbies of reading, music, writing poetry and being staff to her cats. Stacy is also humbled and honored to have "*We Gather Together*" sung as the offertory song at church, a song she co-wrote with Linda Kraemer. Stacy lives in Santa Ana with her wonderful partner Jeff and her two black cats, Laverne and Shirley. Stacy can think of no better day to officially join this loving community than on her birthday.

EMILY SCHERPING

Emily began attending OCUUC at the tail end of 2022 after spending many years as a solitary atheist pagan following her own sense of the interconnected Divine in the universe and evolving her activism as a central part of her understanding of herself in that collective.

When she first got here, she quickly found that she had more or less come to the same conclusions UUs have and jumped in with both feet! She's hoping to reignite interest in pagan and earth-centric exploration of our Seventh Principle with like-minded folks at OCUUC.

Emily currently resides in Irvine with her twin daughters Lily and Rose, who are four years old and *almost* ready to find out what church is, her spouse Raphael, and their cat Cinnamon Sugar Fingerprints.

GLENN HIGHLAND

Growing up in west LA, in the 1960's Glenn's family were members of the

Santa Monica UU Church in his teenage years. He spent a couple of summers working at Camp de Benneville Pines when it was just in a formative stage.

After earning degrees from both UCLA and USC, Glenn worked in a series of international tech businesses. When there was change in the air, he took a very early retirement and focused his energy on sailing and studying French. Both worked out pretty well as he was the Commodore of Balboa Yacht Club in 2014, and lived in the south of France half the time for nearly a decade.

He lives in Corona del Mar, currently with his lovely chocolate Labrador Piper.... who is just waiting to create havoc at OCUUC's Blessing of the Animals service in October. Glenn started attending OCUUC six months ago and officially joined the Church not long after when he realized it was a comfortable congregation with a gifted minister, excellent music (thank you Beth) and friendly people to talk to.

LINDA DE VILLERS

Linda's first involvement with UU began when she was going through a divorce in her 30s. After her divorce she relocated to her hometown of Santa Monica and became very active in the Santa Monica UU Church. Because of her status as a psychologist, she became the lead facilitator for the thriving weekly singles group held each Friday night.

She moved to Laguna Woods in OC nearly four years ago and started sporadic attendance at Tapestry UU. Her friend Marcia Hackett encouraged her to attend an OCUUC auction two or three

years ago and she has often been attending on Zoom or in person since then.

In her professional life, she is an Adjunct professor on two campuses and has specialized in Human Sexuality for decades. She also maintains a small private practice. She has many diverse interests, including tennis, outdoors--walking/light hiking in nature--and museums, film, reading, music and theatre. Linda loves international travel and is fluent in French. She also enjoys cooking and has written an Aphrodisiac cookbook. Her volunteer work is with the Laguna Beach Assistance League.

JENNIFER THOMAS

Jennifer is a long time OC resident, having moved here a few years after college. She is an adoptive single parent of three girls, who are now adults. The oldest is married with two sons aged 6 and 8.

Jennifer is a real estate broker with Seven Gables Real Estate. Her hobbies include bee keeping, hiking, traveling, drawing, gardening and Kempo karate. She was happy to find out that her long-term boyfriend John's parents, Elmer and Harriet Phibbs were members of OCUUC for many years. Jennifer never met Elmer, but acknowledges that he seems to have been well known.

Her goal in life is to help others and to make the world a better place. Toward that goal, over the past year Jennifer has opened her home and heart to our Ukrainian families at OCUUC. She found OCUUC on-line by searching for churches that did not push what we can't do, but what we can do. She feels blessed to

have found such a welcoming group of people.

PHYLLIS KAPLAN

Phyllis was born in Vienna, Austria. She and her family emigrated in 1934 to New York City. She then moved to Los Angeles with her parents to live in Westwood. Phyllis married a Brooklyn boy in 1951 and they raised five sons and two daughters in Garden Grove. She joined Anaheim UU near Disneyland around 1975, earned a BS Healthcare Administration and a license as a Nursing Care Administrator. However, she chose not to give up her full-time job with the State of California in EDD as a worker's comp state representative. After going through a divorce, she moved to San Diego where she joined the UU church. There she was active in choir and Discovery group and started Friends of Camp de Benneville Pines. She is currently enjoying her 14 grandchildren and soon to be 10 multi-ethnic great grandsons and her affiliation with OCUUC.

PAT LARKIN

Pat moved to California decades ago and had a rewarding long-time career in Orange County as a speech therapist, special education teacher and accent modification trainer. She lives in Huntington Beach. For a long time she was a member of the UU congregation in Long Beach but began attending OCUUC and getting involved about a year ago. She serves as an usher and has been a part of the welcoming teams for refugee families we have "adopted" from Afghanistan and the Ukraine.

In her free time she loves world history, nature, movies, poetry and humanism. Her favorite travel experience was to the Ancient Silk Road in Central Asia.

KAREN ROBINSON

Karen currently teaches Early Childhood Education classes at Orange Coast College and also at Santa Ana College. She is retired from the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District and holds BA, MS and MPA degrees.



Pat Larkin, Jennifer Thomas, Eric Noël, Glenn Highland, Emily Scherping, Stacy Smith, Linda De Villers (Photo credit: Craig Sperry) Not pictured: Phyllis Kaplan, Karen Robinson



Flower arrangement by new member, Emily Scherping
Photo credit for flowers: Linda Sperry

APRIL PLATE SHARE



Build Futures provides immediate, essential services to help forgotten and abandoned youth return to society.

With their job training and housing programs our youth have a 73% success rate keeping off the streets.

The 18- to 24-year-old youth population is the most underserved homeless demographic with the greatest potential to re-enter society and lead a successful life.

Build Futures makes a direct impact on youth by providing immediate housing, bus passes, food, and hygienic products.

Website: buildfutures.org

(This plate share was nominated by Adam Goldman)



Build Futures
Providing the Key to Youth Success

