

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY 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.

May 7: Let's Play the Game of Life!
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

May 14: What do you mean I can't say that?
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

May 21: Unleashing your inner geek
– Jan Mabie, Jolynn Ibanez, Joel Ibanez, Joël Kilchoer

May 28: The Power of Images
– Rev. Sian Wiltshire

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

Egypt is a fascinating and inspiring country! It has had so many rulers and occupiers, and the blend of the different cultures is amazing. Tom and I learned so much. If you want to know more, come to the Spring Auction and buy our dinner and slide show. I am still definitely working on all the ways diversity is a part of their culture. Our tour was very intentional about giving us access to the current people.

We can all learn from each other. Why do some people accept differences while others are intolerant? Muslim women in Egypt dress as they choose, from full birkas to western clothes. (The ones in shorts and t-shirts were tourists!) Although the woman we spoke with was adamant that it was her choice, I can imagine there could be family pressure. However, we rode the streetcar one day and certainly saw all forms of dress. This is certainly not the case in other Muslim countries. Being certain you are right is a dangerous thing, in my opinion.

We have another interesting month ahead of us as we prepare for the end of our fiscal year in June. Our Spring Auction approaches, we will be working on the budget (get those pledges in!) and figuring out how we feel about the proposed new Article 2 for the UUA Bylaws. As always, let me or any Board Member know if you have comments, questions, or concerns!

Nancy Loughrey, president@ocuuc.org

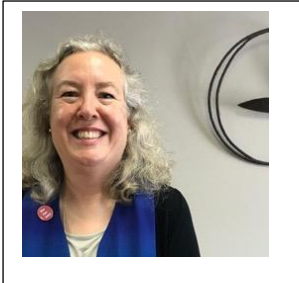
ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community



JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

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



So last month I asked people to let me know how they get through procrastination. And what a creative bunch you are!

Here are some of the responses:

- Sarah H: *"I do the hardest task first. Then cross it off. Makes the other items a little easier. Or go have a glass of wine."*
- Beth S: *"I bribe myself: I don't let myself do a fun thing until I do the dreaded task that I'm procrastinating on. And if I continue to procrastinate on a task, I examine the need to do it in the first place. Maybe it's not that important? Maybe it's time to shift something around that task?"*
- Diane J: *"I take care of [stuff] on Mondays where I have to do all those niggling life things. That way I only procrastinate until next Monday."*

I've been thinking about procrastination a lot lately and I realized how much it keeps me from being happier. And yet, it is completely within my control. But there is also a big difference between procrastination and letting myself rest and relax. I think we sometimes get them confused – we overbook our time or don't plan enough time to rest and relax and so we then beat ourselves up if something doesn't get done in the unrealistic time frame we set for ourselves. So next time you are procrastinating, you might ask yourself: Did I set enough time to do this? Is it really that high a priority? Have I made enough time in my life for fun and rest? Sometimes we need to think creatively about

those parts of our lives that aren't working. Maybe we just need to reframe it.

With love, Rev. Sian



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

May 7: Let's Play the Game of Life! Scientists from many different fields are looking at gaming and games as ways to understand how humans develop and are motivated. Come explore the spirituality of gaming with Rev. Sian (a long time "gamer")

May 14: What do you mean I can't say that?! Languages change, but what happens when you don't know the "right" thing to say? We humans are learning how to be kind with our language, but at what point does being "correct" stifle freedom of speech and our own responsible search for truth and meaning? This topic was chosen by Alan and Gabrielle Block for the "sermon topic" at the Fall Auction. Rev. Sian

May 21: Unleashing your inner geek: A guide to embracing creativity. Worship Associates Jan Mabie, JoLynn Ibanez, Joel Ibanez and Joël Kilchoer will discuss all the different ways that creativity comes in our lives and invite you to do the same!

May 28: The Power of Images: How we use images to both honor warriors and glorify war.

On this Memorial Day weekend, let's explore the ways we use images, in good and bad ways, to depict war. Rev. Sian



As we announced in the service about reparations last month, our church is going to put our money where our mouth is. African American spirituals are in the public domain, so when we sing or play spirituals like "Come and Go With Me," "Walk Together Children," "We Shall Overcome," or "When the Spirit Says Do," we don't have to pay for sheet music or pay a licensing fee to anyone. But starting this month, every time we sing a spiritual at church, we are choosing to donate money to National Association of Negro Musicians (<https://www.nanm.org/>), an organization that lifts up black composers and performers. This is one tangible way we can show our gratitude for the rich musical tradition of African American spirituals, born out of oppression and pain, and provide real resources for living black artists.

Orange Coast Choir will be wrapping up its season in mid-June. If you are interested in singing with the choir, though, it's never too late to hop on in. Email me if you are interested in seeing if the choir is a good fit for you. If any of you would like to perform a solo or small group number during the summer months, let me know.

I appreciate all the musicians, tech volunteers, and worship leaders who work together to create meaningful worship every Sunday morning. And I appreciate all the congregation members who sing and clap along, and who take our musical offerings into your hearts.

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

This month I would like to highlight our hardworking Nursery caregivers. These three wonderful people care for our little ones, ages 6 months to 5 years, on Sunday mornings and during special events throughout the church year so that their grown-ups can attend the service, socialize, and be active members of our community. Learn more about them here, and stop by to say hello to them in the Nursery some time!

Joël Kilchoer was raised in our church and bridged from our Youth Group. In addition to working in the Nursery, he is also a worship associate at OCUUC. We are very fortunate that he has remained a part of our community, and the kids love spending time with him on Sunday mornings. He is especially adept at engaging the children in active play while keeping everyone safe!

Tatiana Natsik was a great addition to our caregiver team in the fall. Her grandchildren participate in religious education at OCUUC, and her daughter, Tatiana Houser, is a member. We are blessed that many of our young Ukrainian guests join us in the Nursery on Sunday mornings, and Tatiana is able to communicate with them in their native language and help them feel extra welcome.

Katherine Osborne also bridged from our youth group, and many of you may know her from her time as a worship associate when she was still in high school. Katherine is a consistent and caring presence in our Nursery, and the children especially appreciate her gift of being an excellent listener that shows interest in what is interesting to them. Her creative abilities also shine through with the activities she gets the kids involved in.

Thank you Joël, Tatiana, and Katherine for making our Nursery a wonderful place to be for the youngest among us!



TACO 'BOUT AN AUCTION!

The live auction is May 20, 2023, 4:30. The deadline to submit your items and events is May 7, after which bidding on "silent auction" items begins. Both of these things can be done at:

www.togetherauction.com/ocuuc

While going online is the best and easiest way to submit and bid, if you are having difficulties, you can submit a paper form at the auction table on Sunday and request a proxy to assist with online bidding, or for live bidding on live items if you cannot attend on May 20 in person.

For those of you new to auction, allow me to elaborate! Twice a year, we fill our social calendars and acquire lovely things by bidding on them both through a website and in person at a fun-filled event.

Submissions of items is going on now and we are hoping for, longing for, and dreaming of, the many exciting, beautiful, thoughtful, enriching events and items only you can imagine! A walk in the park, a hike up a mountain or a slideshow of your hike up a mountain, a day at the beach or your pool, a game night or a night at a ball game, a

viewing of a movie, a live show or a sing along, a curated trip to a museum or a commissioned work of art, a crafting afternoon or a high tea, a dinner from a unique region or a favorite restaurant; the idea is that although we could do these things anytime, we decide to do them in this way, to give back to the church without which we would likely not know each other. As for the submission of physical things, like a bicycle, jewelry, books, vases, crafts and foods, we are looking for like-new items and things that you would find in a unique shop, rather than a yard sale.

Here are a couple of **guidelines** for submissions. First, if it is an event, we need to know the address where it will be held. Please include it in the description. People like to know what city an event will be in; it may affect their decision to bid. They need to know the date. It seems like "TBD" would be a good idea, but history has shown that without a set date, people will not want to bid on even fabulous events. We all know our schedules fluctuate, but if everyone involved gets their items offered/bought on their calendars early, they are likely to follow through. Whether you submit an item or event, a picture for the catalog is an absolute must. People want to buy what they can see. If you are offering a rock concert, a photo of a guitar would do well.

The online items are "silent" using your "paddle number" which is assigned when you register either online or in person. The online items will be open to bid for a week, closing at 9:00pm on the day of the live auction. The types of items biddable online are most of the tangible things that are donated with a few exceptions. You will know if an item is biddable because there will be a bidding option on the screen.

On Sundays before Auction, we ask for congregants to volunteer for various chores related to the live event, we sell dinner tickets so we will have an accurate catering

count, we ask for submissions for bidding, and we sell 50\50 raffle tickets.

For the live event, we have a dinner and live auction. This spring, our theme involves a dinner of tacos of different meats and veggies, rice and beans. When you arrive, between 4:00-4:30, you will check in, get your paddle, mingle and enjoy Markaritas. At 4:30 (approximately) dinner will be ready to serve. After our meal, we begin the live auction.

The types of items presented for live auction are most of the events, some services and some items. The auction committee determines which items will likely generate the most to benefit the church in either silent or live settings.

Our live auction works like most live auctions. We hand out paper catalogs the Sunday before the live event, May 14 and again at the event. The online catalog is now live and viewable as people add items to it daily. You decide what you would like to bid on. Opening bids are listed but of course we hope that the items sell for as much as people value them! Supposing a French dinner for 4 is offered with a starting bid of \$20.00, and the Jones family want 2 slots, they would hold up their bidding paddle AND two fingers indicating the two slots. If more than 4 paddles and/or fingers are being held up by participants (as one would expect for a French dinner) then the price will be raised in increments decided by the auctioneers until only 4 paddles/fingers remain. Those are the winning bidders. We will have items or events that have very few slots and some that have many or even unlimited slots. You should be able to come away having been a successful bidder whether your budget is very limited or lavish. In any case, you will have a great time!

After the live bidding, we offer dessert, and you may choose to pay for your winning

bids then. Once you get home, keep an eye on your silent online bids.

In summary:

NOW:

Submit your items

Volunteer

Buy Dinner Tickets

Buy 50/50 Tickets

MAY 14:

Get your Catalog

Bid Online Silent Items

MAY 20:

Attend Auction

Questions? Sunday table

or auction@ocuuc.org



STITCHWITS

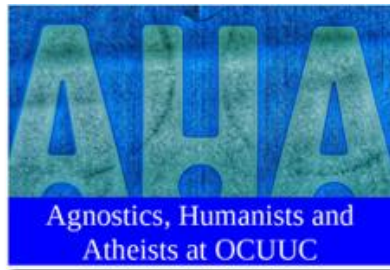
Do you knit, crochet, sew, or enjoy any other crafts? Do you believe in using your skills to help others? Then you might be a StitchWit! Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for **Stand Up for Kids**. Find the Zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website, or contact Barbara Schilling at harper0117@gmail.com



JOYS & SORROWS 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.



AHA – ATHEIST/HUMANIST/ AGNOSTIC GROUP

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 an integral part of the nature of the cosmos. **The Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom. The Zoom link is on the [church calendar](#).

For more information, email programs@ocuuc.org.



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 [here](#).

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



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA ASSEMBLY DELEGATES' REPORT

April 24, 2023

Randy Kokal and Nancy Loughrey were our OCUUC delegates to the Camp de Benneville Pines Annual Meeting on April 22, 2023. They both attended virtually. Randy is also our local “de Benneville Rep”.

Elections were held and six new and returning Board Members were elected unanimously. In addition, a Board Approved budget for the 23-24 fiscal year was presented and discussed. De Benneville has had many challenges in recent years, the pandemic, which closed the camp to campers for eighteen months, two major fires, a lightning strike, flash floods and record snowfall. The effect has been a significant loss of camper attendance. The new budget has only 45% of its revenue from camper fees, as management expects it will take five years to rebuild camper days to pre-pandemic levels. They are confident that they can raise the needed funds from new fundraising and reserves.

De Benneville needs our continuing support. OCUUC has a long history of supporting our favorite camp. A video at the end of the meeting included Birdie Reed, Clover and Paul Gethard, and Phyllis Kaplan! We continue our support through:

- Our OCUUC all-church weekend in the Fall (**October 6-8th this year**)
 - Sponsorship through plate-sharing of our children and youth at camp sponsored events
 - Using our communication systems to keep everyone informed of upcoming camps
 - Many people make regular or occasional contributions directly to de Benneville.
 - Volunteering at work parties and as camp program staff. Our own Randy Kokal is Dean of the Summer Break Camp for Adults & Singing in the Pines August 10-24, 2023.
<https://www.uucamp.org/camps-re-treats/adult-camps/2023-uu-summer-break-camp-for-adults-singing-in-the-pines/>

Nancy was able to hear a compelling keynote address by members of the local Chumash Tribe. They are actively seeking to have the area off the Central California coast designated as a Marine Sanctuary to help protect our ocean and coast. This process has been going for many years. A draft designation from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is expected in June, and they will be asking for letters of public support and comment. There was a full agenda from Friday evening to Sunday morning.

These assemblies are planned to continue annually. In 2024 the Ventura congregation will host and 2025 will be in San Diego.

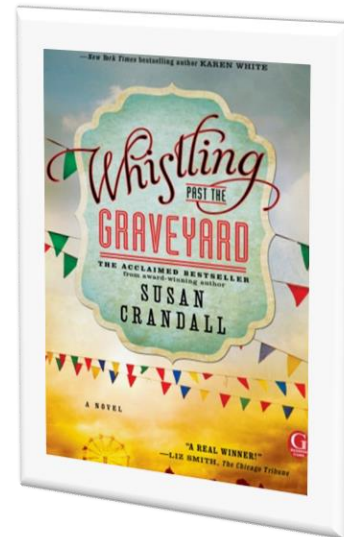
In the spirit of our beloved District Assembly, Camp de Benneville Pines will be sponsoring a traditional assembly to bring members of our 50 churches together to enjoy an engaging keynote speaker, UU-themed workshops, music, worship, and other activities.



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 sandie-martin@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

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group will meet on Monday, May 1st, online at 7:00pm to discuss "Whistling Past The Graveyard" by Susan Crandall. All are welcome to join our usual lively discussions.

Please find the link on the church [web-site](#). For further info contact co-chairs Eva Goodwin-Noriega or Marcia Hackett.



Monday, May 1

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

Thursday, May 4

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, May 6

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, May 7

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, May 8

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, May 10

Comm. On Ministry 6pm

Thursday, May 11

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, May 13

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, May 14

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

Tuesday, May 16

Life Changes 12pm on Zoom

Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, May 17

OCUUC Moviegoers (TBD) Regency SC

Finance Council 5pm Zoom

Thursday, May 18

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, May 20

Board of Trustees Mtg., 9am Victoria Room

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Spring Auction 4:30pm Daniels Hall

Sunday, May 21

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

Monday, May 22

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

Wednesday, May 24

Cluster Meeting, 10:00am

Thursday, May 25

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall & Zoom

Saturday, May 27

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Sunday, May 28

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, May 29 Memorial Day



StandUp for Kids - Orange County was launched in 2003 with a single focus: To end the cycle of youth homelessness in our community.

We work to provide basic needs, housing, mentoring support, care, and love to at-risk and homeless youth ages 12-24. In 2021, we adjusted programming to address COVID restrictions and changes.

View our [Programs](#) page to learn how we are continuing to grow in the scope and quality of care we provide to our youth.

Youth that have been served include sexually exploited youth, victims of abuse and/or neglect, LGBTQ youth, kids with disabilities, pregnant and parenting young people, and kids forced out of their homes. For information about StandUp for Kids visit www.standupforkids.org