

THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH



Sunday Services in July 2021

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

July 4: We Hold These Truths To Be Self-Evident

Rev. Rica Kaufel

July 11: Love Right Through

Rev. Carlton Smith

July 18: Surviving the New Normal

Rev. Arvid Straube

July 25: Banana!

Rev. Rica Kaufel

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

From Debra Quam, President, Board of Trustees

This is my last Reach article as President of the OCUUC Board of Trustees. I have served three consecutive one-year terms as President with this final year's term ending June 30, 2021. Reach articles are published on the first of each month with copy due the 25th of the preceding month so that is why I am writing the July article. I am glad to have one last opportunity to correspond with you via this platform.

Serving as President these last three years has been fulfilling, sometimes a challenge, and always an honor. Thank you all for allowing me to serve in this capacity. I am grateful to be part of all that has been accomplished by the remarkable people who are the members and friends, minister and staff of OCUUC.

Being President during the Sanctuary Capital Campaign and the decision by the Congregation to move forward with the new sanctuary project added a dimension to the position that has not occurred for a very long time at our church. And who would have thought we would have been dealing with a once in a hundred-year pandemic this last year and a half? These two circumstances caused us all to reach deeper into our resources of time, talent and treasure these past three years. So many people not only stepped up in these areas, but I would also say they leapt forward to accomplish our goals and keep us together during the pandemic. I am so proud of all of you.

ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Many Different Beliefs,
One Loving Community



JOIN FOR OUR SERVICES
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

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

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I could write volumes about the work done and accomplishments of all of you this last year. I won't do that of course, but if you wish to learn more about what has gone on this last year please [click here](#) to view last year's annual reports and other information presented at the annual meeting held June 13, 2021.

By the time you read this article, Nancy Loughrey will be the new President of the Board of Trustees. Welcome, Nancy! We will all be in excellent hands with Nancy at the helm of our OCUUC ship.

With gratitude and love,

Debra Quam



Rev. Sian is on hiatus/sabbatical this month...and we have a message from our beloved Rev. Rica Kaufel, who will be preaching several times this summer!

Dear wonderful people of OCUUC!

A few weeks ago, Elise and I attended one of your outside choir rehearsals. I had wanted to thank the choir in person for the really amazing songs they sang at my ordination, so when Beth told me that a bunch of wonderful, creative, hardworking volunteers figured out how to move the whole rehearsal outside – including not just an opportunity for people to also join from home, but also special singing masks and moving the entire sound system outside (!!!), I seized the opportunity and visited.

And I have to say: I was a little bit overwhelmed by how absolutely wonderful it was. Not just because of the music, and not just because the communal ingenuity that is

so emblematic for your community. But also because of the familiar, beloved faces in this familiar, beloved space. It was so good to see people, to *be* with people in real life. And it was good to be with OCUUC people. I have missed you all so much!

And because of that, I am so over-the-moon happy to get to spend some time with you this summer! It will be my absolute honor and pleasure to preach at OCUUC, twice in July and twice in August! I am already working on sermon ideas, starting with the July 4th sermon, where I plan to tell you the story of how my grandfather's best friend ended up drawing parrots and Italian landscapes in Nebraska. I hope you'll join, either as a roomer or as a Zoomer!

It will be so good to catch up with you all. So many things have changed for me since my internship with you, as I am sure they have for you, too. It has been an eventful year, to say the least. Even your space is starting to change! How utterly exciting!

But one thing has remained unchanged, and that is my love for you, and my gratitude.

I cannot wait to see you!

Rica



COFFEE IS BACK!

Coffee is awesome. But Coffee Hour is really about YOU and our lovely community! Your presence at OCUUC makes all the difference! Let's drink to that on Sunday! We look forward to seeing you soon.

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Worship in July 2021

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

July 4: We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident... What does the best friend of Rev. Rica's grandfather have to do with the 4th of July, and how can this help us to love this country even better? Come find out at church on Sunday! *Rev. Rica Kaufel*

July 11: Love Right Through When conflict arises in our lives, our human tendency is to fight, flee or freeze. While these reactions are understandable, they limit what is possible and go against our Unitarian Universalist values. This morning, we will explore what it means to face our challenges with love and compassion for ourselves, for those near us, and even for our adversaries. *Rev. Carlton Smith*

July 18: Surviving the New Normal What are the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges as we emerge from the pandemic, and look at the opportunities for spiritual growth? *Rev. Arvid Straube*.

July 25: Banana! Direct communication is hard, especially for those of us who are a bit conflict-avoidant. But can we build community without it? And what does this have to do with bananas? *Rev. Rica Kaufel*



Joys and Sorrows on Sundays

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, if you are attending the service in person, you may write your joy or sorrow for in-person share.



Transition is in the air. We are moving back to in-person church and Religious Education. We are shifting into summer mode with free and open days during the week and guests in our pulpit on Sundays. And we are changing over from one Director of Religious Education (DRE) to another.

Transitions are always a bit tricky. Like passing a baton in a relay race, there is always the danger that someone might drop the stick. Karen Magoon Pearson, our incoming DRE, Jacques Kilchoer, RE Committee Chair, and I have been in communication these last few weeks before my departure to ensure that things go well.

I hope my ministry with you as your DRE has made visible the importance of nurturing the spiritual lives of our children and youth. And how that enriches and renews our whole congregation. It has been a joy to work with so many dedicated and talented people: Our staff Rev. Sian, Sarah Jones, and Beth

Syverson. Our volunteer Board who has funded and supported the RE program. Our RE Committee: Jacques and Elizabeth Kilchoer, Maria Goode, Briana Malone, and Gabrielle Block and all our volunteer teachers too numerous to list. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity toward each other and our children and youth! You are a blessing.

As Karen Magoon Pearson takes the reins, the summer RE program for children and youth will continue in Estancia Park. What a great opportunity for a nature focus! *"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better,"* wrote Albert Einstein. And that's just what we will do.

Circle of Trees is a multigenerational program that nurtures our deep connection with trees, nature, and all living creatures. During the pandemic many found solace in nature. Across many cultures, trees are recognized as a symbol for life on earth. We will begin to understand trees as sustainers of life, purifiers of the air we breathe, and provides homes and resources for ever so many creatures, including humans.

Through stories, games, crafts, and meditation, children and youth will meet the goals of the program. They include identifying threats to trees and the web of life, finding a spiritual connection with trees and nature, living out our 7th UU Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part", and affirming that stewardship of the earth is an explicit act of our UU faith. Youth will concentrate on putting our UU faith into action as they research local groups that promote saving and planting trees, making sustainability the focus of their summer.

I leave you with this quote by an anonymous author, "Every part of the earth is sacred; every shining pine needle, every

sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every humming insect is holy."

May your heart be in a holy place.

Rev. Judy



We've been doing hybrid services now for several weeks, and it's been a real learning experience for all of us. Everything has gone very smoothly so far, and I'm so happy that we are able to keep Zoom worship going for those who prefer it, as well as having our physical doors open for those who prefer to attend in person. There is an enormous number of technical details to keep track of now. Big thanks to Steve Morihiro for heading up the tech team and shepherding us all into the hybrid space. And there are many more volunteers needed every week than in The Before Times. Thanks to all the volunteers who help make hybrid worship happen every week:

- Worship Associates
- Musicians
- Slideshow Creators
- Zoom MCs
- Virtual Ushers & Onsite Ushers
- Slideshow Operators
- Audio Engineers
- Camera Operators
- Zoom Ambassadors
- Pastoral Care Associates

If you'd like to be part of the worship production team, we'd love to have you. Volunteers work one Sunday per month (typically). Training, written instructions, and

shadowing are available to get you up to speed.

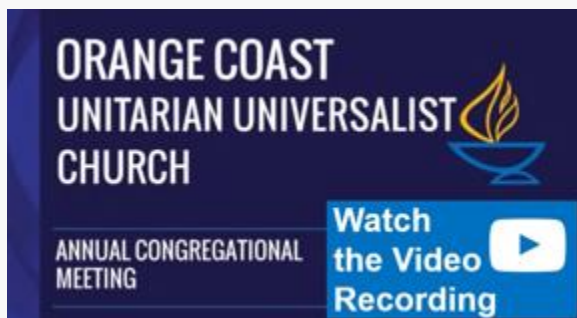
Orange Coast Choir is on hiatus until mid-August. I'm not sure if we will still be rehearsing in the courtyard and making virtual choir videos when we return. We *might* be in the choir loft again, but I am watching the news and advice from AUUMM carefully. Singing entails more risk than other activities, so I'm being cautious about bringing singing back on board like in The Before Times. Likewise, the in-person congregation (AKA Roomers) will continue to sway in Daniels Hall instead of singing, for just a bit longer. Thank you for your patience. I hope that when we finally are able to sing indoors together again, that we will all appreciate the amazing gift that is communal singing. I miss it so much! Do you?

Musically Yours,
Beth Syverson
Director of Music Ministries

Recording of the Annual Congregational Meeting (from 6/13)

If you missed OCUUC's Annual Congregational Meeting last Sunday, or you just want to watch parts of it again, the recording is posted on OCUUC's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJU7TBb7Cdc>



"High Bear" is one of 30 sculptures in the Isa Graves collection for sale. The terra cotta clay bust sculpture of a Native American man is 15" in height and priced at \$395.

Wine-Cheese-Art Event Set for Saturday, July 17th

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 17th from 4 to 7 p.m. because you won't want to miss a chance to mix and mingle in our beautiful courtyard with your OCUUC congregants and friends. This is a great opportunity to return to the church campus, and enjoy a glass of wine, sparkling water or lemonade accompanied by an assortment of cheeses and crackers.

Incoming and outgoing members of the board of stewards are organizing the event. They are Mary Smithberger (incoming), Marilyn Frenz, Don Martin and Craig Sperry (outgoing). Longtime member and steward Dave Carlson has been instrumental in arranging the donating, appraising, cataloging, transporting and over all coordination of the sculptures that will be featured for sale during the afternoon.

On display will be a sculpture collection created by "Isa" (Beatrice M. Isabelle) Graves, who was a long-time member of our congregation with her husband, Bob Graves. Over several years Isa created over 30 pieces primarily in terra cotta. Prior to her death she expressed her desire that the sculptures be

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given to OCUUC. Her daughter, Jana Young, has honored Isa's wishes by making them available to the church for fundraising. As per the stewards' arrangement, 50% of the sale proceeds will go to the new sanctuary and 50% will benefit the endowment.

Admission to the event is free. Craig Spery, outgoing chair of the stewards, is in charge of securing volunteers to help in donating wine, greeting, serving, setting up, tearing down and clean up. If you would like to lend a hand, contact Craig at craigspery@aol.com. To find out more about the sculpture collection, contact Dave at davecarlson715@gmail.com.

Live music will be performed in the courtyard during the event, first by Barbara Schilling on harp and followed by Phil Chipman on guitar.

To preview the sculpture catalog before or after July 17th click the link here. <https://ocuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/Isa-Graves-Sculpture-Catalog-2021.pdf>



Photo Caption: Isa Graves (left) and Linda Kraemer



Some events are Online

Friday, July 2

Social Hour, 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 3

StitchWits, 10:30 am

Writing Club 6:30 pm

Sunday, July 4

RE Class, 9:30 am

Meditation Group, 9:45 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

AHA Group, 12:15 pm

Monday, July 5

OCUUC Fiction Book Group 7:30 pm

Friday, July 9

Artists UUnite, 1:00 pm

Social Hour, 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 10

StitchWits, 10:30 am

Sunday, July 11

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

LGBTQ Action Group 12:15 pm

Friday, July 16

Social Hour, 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 17

Board Retreat, 9:00 am

StitchWits, 10:30 am

Wine, Cheese, Art 4:00 pm

Sunday, July 18

RE Class, 9:30 am

Meditation Group, 9:45 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30 pm

Monday, July 19

What Do You Think? 7:30 pm

Tuesday, July 20

Caring Circle, 12:00 pm

Wednesday, July 21

Finance Council, 2pm

Friday, July 23

Social Hour, 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 24

StitchWits, 10:30 am

Rainbow Movie Night 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 25

RE Class, 9:30 am

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Youth Group, 11:30 am

Women's Circle, 12:00 pm

Monday, July 26

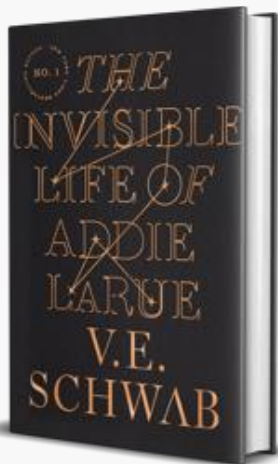
How to Be an Antiracist book discussion
7:00 pm

Friday, July 30

Social Hour, 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 31

StitchWits, 10:30 am



FICTION BOOK GROUP

The Fiction Book Group continues to meet on Zoom on the first Monday evening each month at 7:30pm.

Our July 5th book is "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V.E. Schwab. Please join us for our usual lively discussion.

Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett.



**COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE
Volunteer Opportunities**

Webmaster: Jonathan M-P. and Committee Chair Nina S. could use some help in their webmaster duties. Each week there are many updates and postings that need to be made to OCUUC's website. If you have basic web skills such as experience with Wordpress (our content mgmt system), and an hour or two a week in time to give, we could put you to work! Please reach out to webmaster@ocuuc.org if interested.

Content creator: Do you write? Or have design skills? The Communications Committee is always in need of volunteers to help with content creation on the OCUUC Facebook Group page and OCUUC Parent Group page (both private pages), as well as Instagram (public social media). An example of what is needed: someone to post regularly on the Group page about Social Justice item such as local events, programs, hyperlocal/community news (Costa Mesa), etc. If interested, please reach out to Nina S. at webmaster@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 are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for **Stand Up for Kids:**

If you would like to participate, please let Barbara Schilling know at 949/285-0918 or harper0117@gmail.com. Stitchwits meet on Zoom every **Saturday from 10:30 to 12:30**. Find the link on the calendar page of our website or contact Barbara.

SOURCES ON ANTI-RACISM NEW BLOG

SOURCES ON ANTI-RACISM

([HTTPS://OCUUC.ORG/SOURCESONANTIRACISM](https://ocuuc.org/sourcesonantiracism))

Sources on Anti-Racism is a weekly blog that contains a list of articles, time-sensitive virtual events and other resources compiled by Ralph Haller. The intent is to provide our community with selected sources on anti-racism to help in our yearning for racial justice and equity as an outgrowth of our seven Principles. Please check out Ralph's latest post: <https://ocuuc.org/sourcesonantiracism>



LGBTQ Action Group

LGBTQ Action Group's July meeting will be held on Sunday, July 11 at 12:15pm, in Suite 4 AND on Zoom. This will be our first time trying a hybrid meeting. Beth's art teacher colleague Katie Stubblefield will be sharing her story.

On July 11 (after our own meeting is over), we've been invited to Tapestry's First Annual Big Ol' Gay Potluck Picnic from 1-5pm at a park in Lake Forest. Contact Beth or Jan for more information if you missed the email.

Rainbow Movie Night on Saturday, July 24 at 7pm, is going to show a documentary about Provincetown called *Clambake*. The filmmaker, Andrea Meyerson, a friend of Debra Quam and Audrey Prosser, will be there for a discussion after the film. This event is free, open to everyone, and only on Zoom.

All our events are open to everyone, no matter which letter of the LGBTQ+ spectrum you're on, and we welcome our straight allies with open arms. If anyone who is LGBTQ+ would like to share their personal story at one of our upcoming meetings (typically on the 2nd Sunday of the month), please contact Beth Syverson (musicdirector@ocuuc.org) or Jan Mabie (janselectrical@gmail.com).

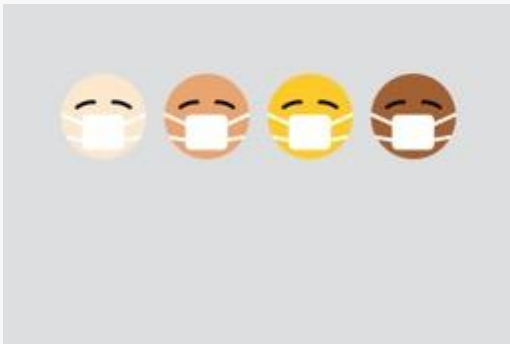
Beth Syverson (she/her/hers)



Women's Circle

Mark your calendars for July 23rd at noon when the Women's Circle will meet in the Victoria Room and on Zoom. The Women's Circle is one of the longest running church groups at OCUUC and is for women of all ages. Grab your cup of coffee or tea after the Sunday service and drop in the Zoom gathering. If you have not been to the Circle for a while or if it's your first time, no worries! Friendly faces are waiting to greet one and all.

The Women's Circle meets every month on the fourth Sunday. Find the zoom meeting link on the [calendar page](#) of the OCUUC website. Contact [Peggy Priver](#) or the church administrator at admin@ocuc.org if you have any questions. See you there!



UPDATE ON ONSITE SERVICES

With further improvement in Orange County COVID numbers and the elimination of the tier system statewide, we are back to full seating in Daniels Hall. We will continue with physical distancing in the Victoria Room and Suite 4 for those who prefer it. Masks will

be required in all rooms. Masks can be removed when outdoors in the courtyard if you are comfortable with it.

We will not have advance registration for Daniels Hall, but if you prefer social distancing, you can register for the Victoria Room and Suite 4. In order to reserve a seat in one of these rooms, please register after 9:00am on Saturday morning, by clicking this [LINK](#). See you Sunday!



Religious Education

Religious Education programming occurs in-person at Estancia Park nearby the church campus during the regular church service. All activities are outdoors and masks are required for all leaders and participants. Dropoff begins at 10:15 and pickup no later than noon.

Ages: Pre-K through 7th-grade

Contact Director of Religious Education with any questions. dre@ocuc.org

ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR!

7:30pm-9:00PM (via Zoom)

Every Friday: join us for Social hour! Bring your own drinks and snacks. Drop in anytime between 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm. Find the meeting ID on our website [calendar](#).



Sanctuary Construction Committee Update

by Craig Spery, Chair of the Sanctuary Construction Committee

On June 17th our Sanctuary Construction Committee was joined by Beth Syverson and Steve Morihiro for a productive planning session on Zoom with professionals from our acoustic-sound system consultant Sound Image of San Diego. Our architects from domsstudio led the discussion. Among the topics were the acoustics of the room and how adjustments in sound might be achieved through baffles and building materials. The consultants also focused on our audio and video equipment needs and placement for the new sanctuary and how to extend the audio and video into the courtyard, Daniels Hall and the Victoria Room.

We then reviewed revised concepts for the sanctuary that address the need to meet code requirements that are in place because the sprinklered sanctuary structure must be a certain distance from existing campus structures that do not have sprinklers. The revised concepts also reflected some changes needed to be made due to the increase in building material costs.

The architects are preparing new project renderings to reflect the newest refinements of the design. We look forward to sharing these revised plans with you in the near future starting on Saturday, July 17th at

the Isa Graves sculpture wine & cheese reception in the courtyard. We look forward to seeing you there from 4-7 pm.



Craig Spery is the chair of the sanctuary planning and construction committee, a subgroup of the Property Use Group (PUG).

JULY PLATE SHARE



STAND UP FOR KIDS — ORANGE COUNTY was established in 1990 and serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults 25 and younger. Programs in Orange County offer street outreach, mentoring, housing support and so much more.

Programs have the overall goal of leading homeless youth to self-sufficiency and preventing at-risk youth from gang involvement, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and from dropping out of high school.

Youth that have been served include, 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 Stand-Up for Kids contact them directly at 714 356-5437. www.StandUpForKids.org

**Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.
Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.**

- Words by Dan Berggren