

# THE REACH

OCUUC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ORANGE COAST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH



## SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER 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.*

October 1: Good Sam

--Wendy Karn, Intern Minister

October 8: Crossing Borders: Global Unitarian Universalism

--Rev. Sian

October 15: Is "I was here" enough of a legacy?

-- Rev. Sian

October 22: Dùthchas and Cianalas

--Rev. Sian

October 29: All Souls Remembered

--Wendy Karn, Intern Minister

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Nancy Loughrey, President, Board of Trustees

We are in the middle of a very busy Fall, and I am excited about all the energy. It is a busy time!

In the middle of it all, we are still trying to start construction on our new sanctuary. Despite our best efforts to reduce the costs, it is still going to cost more than we expected, a lot more. We need another \$700,000 in pledges and authorization from the congregation to get to groundbreaking. It is not going to get cheaper! The good news is that we already have \$381,000 of it from just a few households. We can do this hard thing!

This is not going to be a typical fundraising campaign. We don't have time and we are too busy! Members and friends will be getting letters in the mail with more information. We would like to have a special congregation meeting in early November, but we need to know that we can pay for the sanctuary. Please return your pledges as soon as possible – we need to know for the Congregation Meeting. There will be a running total in the Blast each week until then.

We are an awesome congregation, and I am convinced we have the capacity if we have the determination. Together, we will get there.

Nancy Loughrey

## 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

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## SIAN'S SHENANIGANS

From Our Minister: Rev. Sian Wiltshire



### Heritage

Beth Syverson, our former Director of Music Ministries, left quite a heritage and legacy at this church from her 22 years with us. She started as our accompanist, growing into the Music Director, then Choir Director positions and then finally the Director of Music Ministries. She told me once that she didn't "get" Unitarian Universalism until she went to her first yearly conference of UU Music Directors and Musicians. There her colleagues taught her to connect the music with the themes of the service and to also help the choir members and the congregation understand the importance, history, spirituality and communality of the songs. But they also taught her that music was more than just for Sunday morning. She learned the power of music to inspire justice and the power of music to soothe the aching soul. And in doing so, she created *ministries* here at this church, from the choir taking care of one another, to singing at the bedside of those who were ill, encouraging singers and musicians to share their gifts and expand them, and by leading chants at marches and demonstrations. Part of her legacy for us is teaching us the power of music to move the world and ourselves, and we are forever blessed by it.

As we look now to hire a new Director of Music Ministries, we want that heritage, that legacy, to continue. The new person may or may not have that perspective right off – she didn't! – we *do* require that they go to the annual

conference. But I also, with your help, will be coaching them to be a Director of Music *Ministries*, moving us ever deeper into relationship with our best selves and one another.

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*

**October 1: Good Sam.** What makes a good story stand the test of time? Can what was inspiring to our earliest UU ancestors still give us something to think about? We'll examine how the parable of The Good Samaritan story from the Gospel of Luke still has relevance in today's world.

Wendy Karn, Intern Minister

**October 8: Crossing Borders: Global Unitarian Universalism.** Did you know that Unitarian Universalism is found all around the world? From India to Africa; from the UK to Romania; Canada to Mexico; Australia to the Philippines. What might we learn from these other ways of being Unitarian Universalists?

Rev. Sian

**October 15: Is "I was here" enough of a legacy?** Not everyone will cure a disease or pass on great wealth (or even great genes!). So how might we all leave a legacy that will make the world a better place? And how might we do that right here in Orange County?

Rev. Sian.

**October 22: Dùthchas and Cialalas.** The Scottish Gaelic concepts of Dùthchas and Cialalas invite us to consider our relationship to the land; that perhaps we don't own the land, but the land owns us. How might that change the

way we understand our relationship to the land we live on?

Rev. Sian

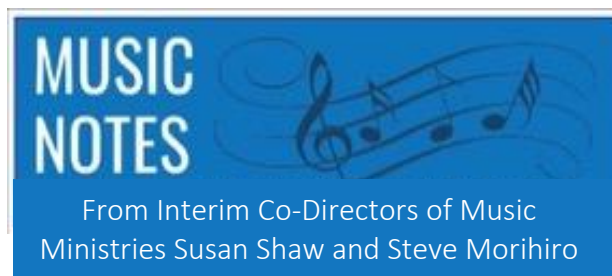
**October 29: All Souls Remembered.** Many cultures see this time between Fall and Winter to be a time of remembrance. *Dia de los Muertos*, *Samhain*, and *All Souls Day* are just some of the holidays happening at this time. In this service, we will look at these traditions. How do we honor the legacies of our loved ones who are no longer with us? What were some of the beautiful gifts they shared?

Wendy Karn, Intern Minister



On September 10th we kicked off a year of Passport to Spirituality in the Elementary Class (K-6th), a curriculum that will guide us in exploring the spiritual practices of world religions. At each country we "visit", the children will receive a passport sticker, learn about a different religion, engage in a spiritual practice utilized by that religion, and pick up a souvenir. What's more, the Maker Space was such a huge success this summer that we have decided to continue with it throughout the year! We will be alternating Sundays between Passport to Spirituality and Maker Space all year long.

I'm also thrilled to announce that we are offering the essential Unitarian Universalist program Coming of Age this year. We are using a curriculum developed in the last couple of years that supports youth as they explore, develop, and articulate their personal values and faith identity. I am particularly encouraged by the way racial, class, and environmental justice are woven throughout the entire program. We kicked things off with a mini-retreat on September 24<sup>th</sup> with six youth in attendance.



September has been a big month of transitions and change throughout our music program. When Susan Shaw and I started in our roles as Interim Co-Directors of Music Ministries, we, with trepidation, thought our theme song would most accurately be described by Roy Zimmerman's "Hope, Struggle, and Change." However, as we reflect on our wonderful experiences throughout September and what we are anticipating in October, we think a more appropriate song is Hal Walker's "Amazing Gratitude"—with train whistles and all. ["Amazing Gratitude" by Hal Walker with Margot Micetich](#)

We are both filled with Amazing Gratitude for the many people who pitched in to organize a memorable Saturday luncheon so that we could give Beth Syverson a warm sendoff. Amazing Gratitude for:

- Sheri Loeschen, who led all our efforts to organize the luncheon for Beth;
- Luncheon-organizing committee members Patrick Bui, Phil Chipman, Steve Morihiro, Barbara Schilling, Susan Shaw, Craig Sperry, and Amy Tompkins;
- JoLynn Ibáñez, our intrepid and gracious Master of Ceremonies;
- Rev. Sian Wiltshire, who reminded us of the MANY songs Beth has taught us throughout her tenure at OCUUC;
- Nancy Loughrey, who helped to put Beth's many contributions at OCUUC over the past 22 years in perspective;
- Judith Stamper, who created the beautiful quilt for Beth;
- Susan Shaw, who invited choir members and musicians to explore their visual arts abilities to create a scrapbook of our

favorite songs and music-related puns for Beth;

- Stacy Smith, who wrote a lovely poem of Beth-isms that we'll always cherish;
- Phil Chipman for his inspiring words about Beth's impact on the church;
- Tom Loughrey, for creating a heart-warming video of Beth's life in our church;
- The many people who stood up and thanked Beth for her enormous impact on the church collectively and on so many of us individually.

Amazing Gratitude for the privilege of working closely with Beth for so many years and for being part of the loving community that she nurtured. The many people who spoke during the luncheon expressed how profoundly grateful we all are to Beth, far more eloquently than I could hope to do here.

Amazing Gratitude for Rev. Sian and Wendy Karn for their assistance, patience, and understanding, and for bringing such joy to the process of selecting music for each Sunday!

Amazing Gratitude for our wonderfully talented and kind-hearted choir and other musicians, who have graciously offered their participation, support, encouragement, and feedback to Susan and to me.

Amazing Gratitude for Avery Brown and all the AV volunteers who, each week, share their time and talents to ensure that we have a successful worship service.

Amazing Gratitude for the Director of Music Ministries Search Committee, whose members have all put in tremendous efforts and time to find a long-term DMM who will continue nurturing our church community—Rev. Sian, Wendy, Nancy, Amy, Maureen McConaghy, Barbara Morihiro, and Debra Quam.

Amazing Gratitude for the many mistakes that Susan and I have made and will continue to make. We've decided that we're grateful for our mistakes because they help keep us humble!



**Autumn Auction: Saturday, Nov 4, 2023**  
**3:00pm Check-in, cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres**  
**4:00pm Auction**

## AUTUMN AUCTION

The live auction is Saturday, November 4, 2023, 3:00pm. The deadline to submit your items and events is October 22, after which bidding on "silent auction" items begins. Both of these things can be done at:

[www.togetherauction.com/ocuuc](http://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 Nov. 4 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.

Submission 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 auction website on the line of the item.

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 food, drinks and live auction. This fall, our theme evokes fall and shareable foods. We are heartening back to earlier days of OCUUC auctions where rather than lunch or dinner, appetizers were served. We are offering a choice, if you bring hors d'oeuvres, you need not buy a ticket. If you would prefer, you may simply buy a food ticket in advance.

When you arrive at 3:00pm, you will check in, get your paddle, get your appetizer plate,

minge, and enjoy wine, *Markaritas*, beer and soft drinks. At 4:00pm (approximately) 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, October 29, 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 by Oct. 22  
Volunteer  
Buy "Dinner" Tickets  
Buy 50/50 Tickets

**OCT 29:**

Get your Catalog  
Bid Online Silent Items

**NOV 4:**

3:00 Attend Auction

We hope to see you all there!

Questions? Sunday table or [auction@ocuuc.org](mailto:auction@ocuuc.org)



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 P.M.**

Plan to gather on October 14 to celebrate Reverend Sian's 10th anniversary at OCUUC.

We will have a short ceremony at 4 pm with a party to follow. Appetizers, cake, wine and soft drinks will be provided.

If you have questions or to let us know you are coming, please contact Judith at [programs@ocuuc.org](mailto:programs@ocuuc.org).



**Sunday, October 1**

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Rm/Zoom  
Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall and Zoom

RE, 10:30am on Site

**Monday, October 2**

Fiction Book Group 7:00pm on Zoom

**Tuesday, October 3**

Sci Fi Group 7pm on Zoom

**Thursday, October 5**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

**Friday, October 6-Sunday, October 8**

All Church Camp at deBennville Pines

**Saturday, October 7**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, October 8**

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

RE, 10:30am on Site

Writing Group, 11:45am Victoria Room

Dream Group, 12pm Suite 7

**Monday, October 9**

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, October 11**

Comm. on Ministry 6pm

**Thursday, October 12**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

**Saturday, October 14**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

Rev. Sian's 10-year Celebration, Daniels Hall, Courtyard

**Sunday, October 15**

Meditation Group, 9:45am Youth Rm/Zoom

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall/Zoom

RE, 10:30am on site

**Tuesday, October 17**

Life Changes Group 12pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, October 18**

Finance Council, 5pm Zoom

**Thursday, October 19**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

**Saturday, October 21**

StitchWits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, October 22**

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall/Zoom

RE, 10:30am on site

Women's Circle 12pm Victoria Room/Zoom

**Monday, October 23**

Anti-racism Reading Group, 7pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, October 25**

Cluster Meeting, 10am Youth Room

Board Meeting, 7pm on Zoom

**Thursday, October 26**

Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Daniels Hall

**Saturday, October 28**

Stitchwits, 10:30am on Zoom

**Sunday, October 29**

Worship Service, 10:30am Daniels Hall/Zoom

RE, 10:30am on site

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm on Zoom



## 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 Stitch-Wit! Stitchwits meet on Zoom every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and are knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for different needs. Find the Zoom link on the [calendar page](#) of our website or contact Barbara Schilling at 949/285-0918 or [harper0117@gmail.com](mailto:harper0117@gmail.com)

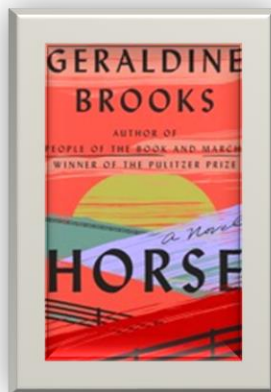


## AHA – ATHEIST/HUMANIST/ AGNOSTIC GROUP

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 Zoom link is on the [church calendar](#). **The Atheist/Humanist Group** meets on first Sundays at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom and in person in the Victoria Room.

For more information, email [programs@ocuuc.org](mailto:programs@ocuuc.org)



## FICTION BOOK CLUB

The Fiction Group meets online on Monday, October 2nd at 7:00pm to discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. This book is based on a true story of one of our country's most famous racehorses, *Lexington*, during the Civil War era. If you're reading ahead, the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> discussion will be about *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. Please join us for our usual lively discussion. Find the link on the church website.

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



## 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](mailto: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.



## MEDITATION GROUP

Our Meditation Group will meet on the first and third Sundays in October at 9:45am — in person and via Zoom. Meditation and mindfulness practice are so important for our well-being! Please join our community. **All are welcome!** Find the zoom link [here](#)!

## UU Senior High Winter Camp

Registration is now open!  
Wed, 12/27/2023 – Mon, 1/1/2024

Adult Deans: **Patti Buck & Mary Carter Vail**  
Youth Deans: **Lilly Astudillo & Cady Cole**



Youth currently in 9th-12th grade are welcome and welcomed back to join us this winter at Camp Carry UUn. Campers will spend five nights/six days playing games and laughing with friends, both old and new! During camp, youth will have the opportunity to connect with one another during small group discussions and workshops, fun group events like our s'mores making party by the cozy lodge fire, the talent filled variety show, the always entertaining youth auction, and the festive New Year's Eve dance!

Here's how our Youth Deans describe this year's theme:

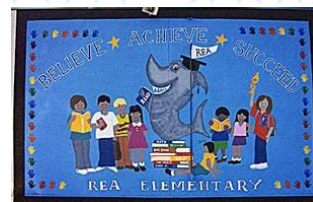
*"Life after high school can be a daunting thing to think about, even for the most courageous individuals. Letting go of childhood and heading into the unknown terrain of adulthood is often a confusing experience that many high-schoolers can relate to. Camp Carry UUn will provide a safe and welcoming space for campers to talk about the future with other people their age, preparing for important moments in life as we welcome in the new year together!"*

Campers can learn and unwind together during the many bonding opportunities camp offers! As usual for winter camp up in the mountains, prepare for snow, hot chocolate, and building snow people! We hope to see you there :)

Youth Deans,  
Lilly and Cady"

[Yes! I Want to Learn More!](#)

## OCTOBER PLATE SHARE



Rea Elementary School is in Costa Mesa a mile and a half south of OCUUC.

This is an opportunity for members of our church to take some actions in our own neighborhood related to combatting the effects of structural racism as Rea's students are over 98% minority.

The school has numerous financial needs, but this month's plate share will help with the school's **Robotics Room**. Robotics helps students improve problem-solving skills, express creativity, and develop interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).