



The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

April 2018

Sunday Services in April:

April. 1st ▪ **“Planting Hope”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

April 8th ▪ **“Where everybody knows your name!”** ▪ *Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

April 15th ▪ **“What are We?”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

April 22nd ▪ **“Earth Day”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

April 29th ▪ **“Music Sunday”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*



**Sunday Services are
at 10:30am**

Visit our Website:

www.ocuuc.org

**ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

Sunday Services: 10:30am
Rev. Sian Wiltshire, Minister
2845 Mesa Verde Drive East,
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
www.ocuuc.org
email: uu@ocuuc.org
Telephone: 714-556-2882

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The Prez Sez

Don Martin, Board President

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

"It's déjà vu all over again." Yogi Berra

*"If you don't know where you're going,
you might not get there" Yogi Berra*

*"When you come to a fork in the road,
take it." also Yogi*

I must confess, I was only a baseball fan while I was a teenager and, somehow, didn't get infected with the zeal that a true fan needs. I was, however, fascinated by all the sayings attributed to Yogi Berra, the erstwhile catcher for the New York Yankees. His many quotes (including "I really didn't say everything I said") were regarded as malapropisms by many but I found them more like Zen koans - a way of speaking a truth that makes you slow down and reconsider things from a different viewpoint.

DÉJÀ VU

So, for me, it is indeed déjà vu all over again. Twenty years ago I was the president of a UU congregation struggling to figure out how we could build a sanctuary and move out of the "temporary" building we were using for our weekly worship services.

I was certain we could proceed quickly and step up to the sacrifices that would be required to achieve this worthwhile objective. I could even name an amount that would cover the costs of construction. I felt frustrated that others didn't have the same vision and confidence that I had for the task.

They somehow needed more time and discussion to prepare for this large undertaking. There are many steps to this process - there are: consensus-building among the congregants; planning the whole process; gathering fund pledges; getting architectural details; getting permits for

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construction; finding a building contractor; etc. Some fourteen years after their initial startup as a UU congregation they began groundbreaking. Within that year they completed a beautiful sanctuary which exists there now (see pictures included in last month's Prez Sez column)

KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING

No problem here, we don't plan to go anywhere, physically, but on our existing campus. Our sanctuary was planned to be in the north-western building currently housing Suites 3, 4, and 5.

More metaphysically, though, we need to review where we are going. I understand there are drawings that were made, at least, as to what the sanctuary was to look like, I assume, shortly after this campus was purchased. We should bring those out and review them so we know where we're going now, or at least have an approximate vision of the sanctuary we want.

We on the Board of Trustees and Finance Council have taken the step of establishing a separate Sanctuary Fund and have received donations to the Fund. A suggestion of a Fundraiser specifically for this fund was recently made by one of our members. Anyone willing to help in this effort, or with advice for those who are, please contact me, any member of the Board, or our minister, please.

A FORK IN THE ROAD

OK, I do think we are at a fork in the road and don't really need the dictate "take it" as we will, by human nature, take one fork or the other and proceed on our way. I'd like to see us take the fork that leads us to continue in the dream to have our own sanctuary building here at Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church. Won't you join me in seeing this dream become reality?

Don Martin
president@ocuuc.org

Sian's Shenanigans

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

In February, I attended our NMI Interfaith Council's monthly luncheon at the AME church and the topic was "The Black Church in OC." We had a wonderful presentation by Dr. Richard Rose on the subject of "Liberation Theology" which is the foundational theology of the Black church. He said:

"When salvation/liberation is realized in a person's personal life, that individual works diligently to make sure the larger society, of which he/she is a part, provides fair and equal access to the resources of that society to everyone that occupies that geographical space."

I love this! However, we experience salvation/liberation in our lives (whether it's the belief in the blood of Jesus or otherwise), our freedom obligates us to work for the freedom of others. That's a very UU way of thinking! So you can imagine that it was so frustrating that the NMI Council received a 4 page hate-filled letter by someone (anonymous) filled with a rejection of the Black experience.

Sigh. There is so much work to be done, my friends. Liberation for all begins with our own liberation from our limiting beliefs - or even those beliefs that make us think we can speak for an entire race, not our own!

In March I talked about the "Why" of our church. I talked about inclusion for EVERYONE. Peace, love and Justice for EVERYONE. Here's another one: To work for the salvation/liberation of EVERYONE. That EVERYONE has "fair and equal access to the resources of that society to EVERYONE that occupies that geographical space."

Everyone.

I'm so glad you are on this journey with me!

Rev. Sian

Worship in April 2018:

This Month's Worship Theme:

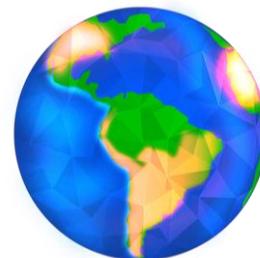
Liberation

Apr. 1: **Planting Hope.** In difficult times in history, it seems that systems of evil want to kill hope. But our job is to plant it. Come learn how! *Rev. Sian*

Apr. 8: **Where everybody knows your name!** "Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got. Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot. Wouldn't you like to get away? Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came." Recognize these words? They are from a popular television show and they say a lot about our longing for community.
Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez

Apr. 15: **What are we?** Buddhists teach that we are not our mind. Is that crazy talk? How else can we understand ourselves and our world? Come learn how we might liberate ourselves from our own limiting mind.
Rev. Sian

Apr. 22: **Earth Day!** Come celebrate this wonderful Blue Boat Home we live on.
Rev. Sian



Apr. 29: **Music Sunday.** *Beth Syverson, Director of Music Ministries.*

Random Kindness - Religious Education News

Rev. Judy Tomlinson

"If one is going to change things, one has to make a fuss and catch the eye of the world." Elizabeth Janeway

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead.

I'm sure that you all saw the news coverage of the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. on March 24, an endless river of people flooding Pennsylvania Avenue as far as the eye could see. In about 5 weeks, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school students attracted a million people to our nation's capital and inspired people in over 800 cities around the nation and the world to protest our culture of gun violence.

They stood up to one of the most powerful lobbying organizations, to their elders, to the political power structure and said #Enough is enough! They speak powerfully, articulately and with moral authority. Even their silence has power in it, as leader Emma Gonzales demonstrated as she was silent for much of the 6 minutes and 20 seconds she was on the stage—the time it took the shooter to kill the 17 people who perished that awful February day.

I have wondered what made it possible for this group of students to be propelled from regular H.S. students to celebrities, organizers of massive demonstrations with such powerful voices. I'm imagining what foundation they had that launched their grief and anger to such lofty heights. Many of them are part of their high school's theater group. I know that has been used against them but I think it was an important aspect. Theater people form a strong community bond. They rely on each other. They become comfortable with and embrace diversity. They are vulnerable with one another

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and they seek the truth through their work. It builds their voice and their confidence and their love for one another.

These teenagers embody so many of the elements we are trying to offer our children and youth through our Religious Education program. We seek to encourage and support children who know their own minds, hearts and spirits. Young people who can speak up for themselves and speak out for others.

Children and youth can be leaders. We are seeing many who already are. Join us for Sunday morning and who knows where our children and youth will take us.

We want to congratulate Randy Kokal on his new position as DRE for our UU congregation in Palos Verdes! We will miss Randy on Sunday mornings.

This means that new volunteers have a chance to join our RE teaching staff. Could this be a good time for you to become part of the team? It is fun, adventurous, exciting and inspirational. We also need summer RE teaching staff starting July 1. Please let me know how you might like to participate.

Up-coming events:

- Easter Sunday, April 1 Easter Egg Hunt after service.
- June 3 Religious Education Sunday and Flower Communion all in one.
- July 1 RE summer Sundays begin

Rev. Judy Tomlinson

Director of Religious Education



Meditation Group –

1st Sundays 9:45am in the Youth Room

By Amelia Russo-Neustadt

In our fast-paced culture, more than ever before we need to set time aside to quietly be in touch with ourselves and our surroundings in the present moment. True presence, termed *mindfulness*, is a quiet state of mind that, when practiced regularly, increases concentration, reduces stress and creates opportunities for significant personal growth over time.

Mindfulness practice allows us to set aside our worries, regrets and plans for a brief but important period of time, opening us up to refreshing, real elements of nature (both within us and around us!).

As we all know, regular practice (for even very brief periods) is essential for turning a new skill into a healthy habit. Practicing with a group is always easier than developing this new skill on one's own. Please join us every first Sunday of the month before church service (9:45 – 10:20 AM in the Youth Room) for a brief meditation practice, followed by opportunity to briefly share something about our experience along the path. Newcomers are most welcome!



Vision Statement

By Sue Quam

We gather together for peace, love and justice for everyone.



Blue Cliff Zen Sangha

We meet every Monday Evening at 7:00 pm in the FUUn Room in the RE/Admin Building at OCUUC. If you want a brief introduction to **Zen practice** please arrive no later than 6:45pm. Zafus & chairs are provided, although feel free to bring your own zafu if you wish. **We begin promptly at 7:00pm**, although times following are approximate.

- 7:00pm - brief Zen Buddhist liturgy
- 7:15 Zazen (formal silent meditation in the Zen style)
- 7:40 Kinhin (formal walking meditation)
- 7:45 Zazen (on the First Monday there is a Dharma talk instead of kinhin & the second sitting)

On evenings when a dharma talk is not scheduled we offer dokusan, brief, focused, practice-oriented interviews during meditation.

We conclude about 8:25 with the Four Vows.

Donations to help defray the cost to the church supporting this project will be gratefully accepted.



Spring Auction

By Sandie Martin

Save the Date:
Saturday, May 19, 2018
Spring Auction Picnic!

Food, Fun and Fellowship. What will you donate? An event: dinner, outing, hike, beach party, tasting, picnic, game night, bonfire singalong? A service: cleaning, repairs, lessons, sewing, baked goods, jewelry, pet sitting? You can enter your donations online at www.togetherauction.com/ocuuc



Thanks from Camp de Benneville Pines – Water Tank Challenge

“Thanks to everyone who stepped up to support this year’s Water Tank Challenge. Because of you, Camp’s water storage future is secured!

Our new water tank will enable us to fight the fires that threaten us every few years. Camp won’t have to choose between swimming and showers. And we’ll have enough water to weather climate change.

Donors this year also helped put an energy-efficient heater in our largest cabin, and install new energy-efficient doors in Homet Lodge. They helped more than 35 kids come to camp with the help of the Craig Block Memorial Scholarship Fund, and so much more.

There is more work to do, and we need your help now to keep camp strong for the future.”

No 3rd Sunday Potluck in April

There will **not be** a potluck lunch on the third Sunday in April. It has been cancelled, but will be back in May!



Film Festival

By Karen Kennedy

OCUUC is hosting its first ever Film Festival! We will be showing award winning films about the environment on **Saturday, June 2nd**. Our goal is to attract like-minded people from the community who may not know about our church. But after they attend the Film Festival, because of their interest in nature and the environment, they may look further into a spiritual home with us. It’s worth a try to help our church grow. Save the date, buy a ticket, meet some filmmakers, and sip wine at the reception!

Karen Kennedy
kkg17kk@gmail.com



April Plateshare – Climate Action Campaign

Climate Action Campaign has a simple mission: to stop climate change. Based in San Diego, they are a small organization with big goals and the ingenuity, creativity, and courage to build change from the ground up, shift our culture, fight powerful institutions, and stop climate change. Climate Action Campaign employs five key strategies designed to meet their policy goals and satisfy their mission:

- Advocate for effective policy to protect our quality of life.
- Educate the public, our members, grassroots organizations, frontline and refugee communities, and policymakers through trainings, presentations, and forums.
- Mobilize the community dedicated to achieving our policy goals, amplify the voices of the silenced, and empower disengaged communities.
- Organize and Build Coalitions across a spectrum of interests, organizations, businesses, and beliefs to advocate for shared policy goals.
- Provide technical assistance for local communities, governments, and decision makers in developing, adopting, promoting, and implementing leading and innovative climate policies.

For more information, contact info@climateactioncampaign.org or phone 619-419-1222.



In Memory of Charles Gordon

Sunday, April 15th, 12pm Suite 4

On Sunday, April 15 after the church service, we will be having a Memorial luncheon and time for sharing stories, in honor of our beloved Charles Gordon. Please join us in Suite 4 if you'd like to share your memories.

If you'd like to contribute to the luncheon, please contact Sarah Jones in the office to see what assistance is still needed or how you can contribute.

Sarah Jones, Administrator
admin@ocuuc.org 714-556-2882

UU Women's Retreat

Ladies: Mark your calendars for the UU Women's Retreat at Camp deBenneville Pines, May 4-6, 2018. It promises to be a good time: the keynote speaker is Kelley Grimes from Palomar UU Church, who gave us a wonderful workshop here last Fall.

Pricing: \$210 with \$75 non-refundable deposit required at time of registration. **Early Bird Special Rate: \$195 if registered by April 15, 2018. Sign up starting on 1/18/18 for Early Bird rate at <http://www.uucamp.org/camps-retreats/adult-camps/httpwww-uucamp-orgcamps-retreatsadult-camps2018-uu-womens-spring-retreat/>**

We can arrange carpooling. Contact Karen Kennedy if you have any questions; she has attended twice and loved it.

Karen Kennedy
kkg17kk@gmail.com

2018-2019 Pledge Drive

By Sunny Harper, Canvass Chair

If you are a member or a friend of OCUUC and our church means something to you, please make a pledge right now so we can continue to reach out to others who are looking for a liberal religious community, as you once did. We continue sending out our liberal religious messages to the people of Orange County through our excellent programming, but we need financial help from everyone to keep improving our worship, R.E. and social justice programs.

I have received much positive feedback on the staff bios sent out during March and I hope everyone who participates in the life of this church understands what a gift each member of our staff is to all of us. We could not possibly operate as a church without the dedicated work of Rev. Sian, the Nunez family, Beth, Sarah and our new DRE Rev. Judy who work here almost every day...and night. Please pledge so we can support our staff with salaries that truly reflect our UU principles and our gratitude.

Many thanks to all those members and friends who have already pledged. Every pledge helps! BUT we still have a way to go to meet last year's level of generosity. Please help us get to last year's pledge drive total and beyond by pledging on-line at www.ocuuc.org.

Our formal pledge drive is over, but I will continue contacting members and friends who have not yet made a pledge. OCUUC must operate from a healthy financial position in order to bring an enriched and meaningful program to our congregation and to the larger community. It is through our program that we continue to affirm our Mission Statement which is **...to transform our lives and our communities.**

Many thanks to everyone. We have the chance to make this the best pledge drive ever.

[Sunny Harper](#), Pledge Drive Chair

Shop with Scrip

The Scrip table is on the patio each Sunday, giving you the opportunity to provide additional financial support to OCUUC without spending an extra dime. Scrip cards are great to give as holiday gifts, and for donating to holiday collections. You can use Scrip to purchase gas and groceries, for dining out and travel, and so much more.

Stop by the Scrip Table to see how you can sign up to buy scrip online during the week and not just on Sunday morning at church.



OCUUC Fiction Book Club

Meets Monthly, usually the 1st Monday 7:30 pm

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group meets regularly on the first Monday evening of each month at 7:30pm in the Victoria Conference Room. The April date is April 2nd when we will discuss "A Room of One's Own" by Virginia Woolf. All are welcome to join us for our usual lively discussion. Co-chairs are Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett.

Nonfiction Book Club

Meets Monthly, usually the 2nd Sunday 12:00 pm

In our Nonfiction Book Club there is not one book that everyone reads. Instead, each person chooses their own nonfiction book to read and tell the group about. The topic could be science, history, biography, pets, politics, whatever you choose! Come join us this month! Facilitated by Maureen McConaghy. Questions? Contact her at maureenm@ocuuc.org.

Atheist Humanist Group

The Atheist/Humanist Group meets on first Sundays at 12:15pm in the Victoria room. 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.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)

Class

Date Change for April

The CBT Class will meet in Suite 4 **on April 29th**, after the Sunday Service. They usually meet on the 3rd Sunday but are changing the meeting date just for April, so as not to conflict with the Memorial Luncheon for Charles Gordon. Questions? Contact [Maureen](#).

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle typically meets in the Conference Room on the **fourth Sunday of each month** immediately after the worship service (unless a special meeting is announced).

Feel free to bring your cup of tea/coffee, sack lunch, and (if you want to) any nibbles to share.

Our doors are always open, and guests are always welcome.

Join the Women's Circle, come by and discuss our monthly topic. We create connections with other like-minded women, share information and share our lives in a caring and safe environment. For more information, contact women@ocuuc.org.



LGBT Action Group

LGBT Action Group meets in Suite 4 on the **second Sunday** of each month, at 12pm. LGBTs and friends and allies at OCUUC have a casual potluck lunch (or brown bag it) while we dream, discuss, and plan activities for the coming months. Non-LGBT allies are always welcome. [Visit our Facebook page](#) or [contact us by email](#).

StitchWits

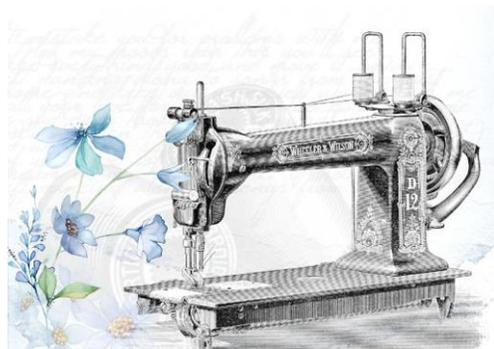
Do you knit, crochet, sew, or enjoy any other crafts? Do you believe in using your skills to help others?

Then you might be a StitchWit!

StitchWits is a group of crafters dedicated to creating handmade items for charity.

StitchWits holds a regular meeting every 2nd Saturday at a coffeeshop, restaurant, or other location within a few miles of OCUUC. Details on upcoming meetings will be available on the [StitchWits Facebook page](#). This meeting is open to all and newcomers are welcome. If you do not knit, crochet, or sew and would like to learn this would be an excellent opportunity to begin. Please contact us at stitchwits@ocuuc.org if you have any questions or would like to connect with a group member who can get you started.

Check out our [Facebook page](#) to see what we've been up to lately!



In Our Thoughts...

- **Sheri L.** lit a candle of joy at being back in church. She thanks us for all of the love and support during her recovery.
- **Adam G.** lit a candle of joy. He was nominated for the Hope and Courage Award from the Mental Health Association of Orange County.
- **Clover B. and Paul G.** lit a candle of gratitude for the love and support they received after the announcement a few weeks ago about Paul's dementia.
- **Jan R.** lit a candle of hope. She will start a speech therapy class this week put on by graduate students from Chapman College
- **Laurie K.** lit a candle of hope for **Mary S.** As she continues treatment, cards from us mean more to her than ever.
- **Sarah H.** lit a candle of concern for Rob's 92 year-old mother who has had two heart attacks and pneumonia back in Atlanta.
- **Tiffany** lit a candle of concern and hope for her friends who are homeless and addicted to heroin.
- **Judith S.** lit a candle of healing for her father-in-law. He is hospitalized with heart problems.
- **Brianna M.** lit a candle for the sorrow. Her grandmother died 30 minutes after Brianna read her a good-bye letter.
- **Judith S.** celebrates her younger son's birthday on March 14, **Marshall** will be 27 years old.

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- **Randy K** thanked everyone for their concern and compassion after he had half of his thyroid removed.
- **Madeline C** has mixed feelings about starting her new life in Fountain Valley and connecting with a new community while she cares for her mother, who has Alzheimer's disease.
- **Sarah J** asks for caring thoughts and prayers for her son **Anthony** and his girlfriend **Alex**, who are expecting a baby.
- **Amy T** lit a candle of sorrow for her daughter's friends, **Kaitlyn** and **Henry**, who recently passed away.
- **Katherine T.** is feeling joy about finding a new home in San Luis Obispo and sorrow about leaving the friends she has made in the place she will always consider her "home church".
- **Sharon B.** lit a candle of sorrow for the passing of her dear friend Bill who taught school with her in the early 70's.
- **Jan R.** lit a candle of joy for her 40th wedding anniversary with **Joe**, husband #4!
- **Marcia H.** - shared a candle of joy for **Sharon E.**, mother of **Jolynn I.**, who had successful knee replacement surgery last week.
- **Marilyn G & Family** have a candle of love for this church and all the people who came to the Celebration of Life of her husband **Maurice**. Your support, caring and love has been and is so appreciated and special to them.

Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

Sunday, April 1st

Easter Sunday

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30am

Atheist/Humanist Group, Victoria Room, 12:15pm



Monday, April 2nd

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7pm

OCUUC Book Group, Victoria Room, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 3rd

Courtyard Comm., Victoria Room, 7:30pm

Wednesday, April 4th

Worship Committee Meeting, Victoria Room, 7pm

Thursday, April 5th

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30pm

Saturday, April 7th

Exploring OCUUC, 9am Victoria Room

Memorial Service, 11am Daniels Hall

Passover Seder, 5pm Daniels Hall

Youth Group, Youth Room, 6pm

Sunday, April 8th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

LGBT Action Group Lunch Meeting, Suite 4, 12pm

Nonfiction Book Club, Victoria Room, 12pm

Monday, April 9th

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7pm

Wednesday, April 11th

Comm. on Ministry, Minister's Office, 7pm

Covenant Group, Youth Room, 7:30pm

Thursday, April 12th

Covenant Group, Youth Room, 10:30am

PAC Meeting, Minister's office, 7pm

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30pm

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Friday, April 13th

Grief and Caregivers Group, Minister's Office, 12pm

Saturday, April 14th

Stitchwits, Off-site (Panera Bread, 17th St.), 11am

Sunday, April 15th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

Memorial Luncheon and Sharing in Honor of Charles Gordon, Suite 4, 12pm

Monday, April 16th

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

Wednesday, April 18th

Finance Council, Victoria Room, 7:30pm

Thursday, April 19th

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 21st

Music Under the Stars, Courtyard, 7pm

Sunday, April 22nd

Earth Day

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

RECY Comm., Youth Room, 11:45am

Women's Circle, Victoria Room, 11:45 am

Monday, April 23rd

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

Wednesday, April 25th

Board of Trustees Meeting, Victoria Room, 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 26th

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 28th

Zen Retreat, Suite 3 and 4, 8:30 am

Sunday, April 29th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

CBT Class (Secrets of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), Suite 4, 12:15 pm

Monday, April 30th

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

Mark your calendars –

Passover Seder – April 7

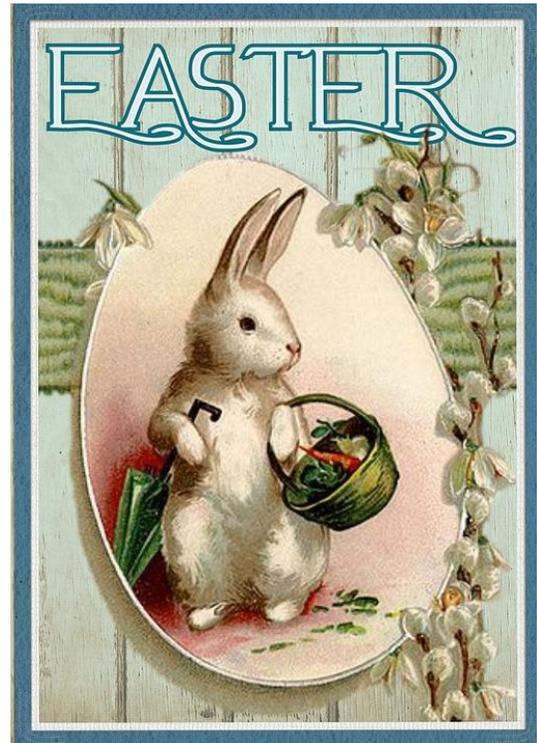
**Memorial Luncheon and Sharing:
Charles Gordon – April 15**

Tax Day – April 17

Music Under the Stars – April 21

Spring Auction – May 19

Film Festival – June 2



Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church
2845 Mesa Verde Drive East
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

