



# The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

May 2018

## Sunday Services in May:

May 6<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“All Religions are False: A Meditation on the Currents of the Human Heart”** ▪  
*Rev. James Ford*

May 13<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“Buddha’s Brain and Jesus’ Heart”**  
▪ *Rev. Sian*

May 20<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“Making Room”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

May 27<sup>th</sup> ▪ *Rev. Tom Owen-Tolle*



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

Visit our Website:

[www.ocuuc.org](http://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  
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## The Prez Sez

Don Martin, Board President

### Can We Fail?

*"You can't fail if you don't quit. You can't succeed if you don't start." - Michael Hyatt*

*"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." –Harriet Beecher Stowe*

*"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." –Barack Obama*

I am aware of many reasons that we can't possibly succeed in building a new Sanctuary building here at Orange Coast UU Church. What I am not aware of is how IS it possible to do so. I want us all to persist in imagining it is possible and in exploring the possibilities that would allow it to be.

We have a highly qualified volunteer, Linda Spery, who has fund-raising experience and who is willing to support the exploratory efforts to determine our viability as a group who can raise the funds necessary to build a new Sanctuary. She has started this task and is presenting to the Board of Trustees at the April meeting to see if the Board will approve of proceeding further with this venture.

Linda is very enthusiastic and has many ideas about getting this venture going and has declared that she gets "butterflies" (as do I) thinking about this possibility and that she is both an optimist and a realist - in short, I think, she is the perfect person to lead us forward to determine if such a venture is possible for us.

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As the author of "The Happiness Project" declares "If you are not making mistakes you are not trying hard enough."

Shall we experiment with where we, as a congregation, discover our "mistakes" that might be made?

Fortunately, OCUUC doesn't have a mortgage as such, but we have obligations to many of our parishioners, in the form of Simple Notes, and to our Endowment Fund to pay off but it's not impossible to transform those, at least partially, into assets that could be used with new donations to begin a program to build out a Sanctuary that will allow us to proceed to our Greater Future.

Donald Martin  
president@ocuuc.org

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### Sign-Up for Flowers

Would you like to commemorate a special day by sharing the beauty of a custom-made basket of flowers with the church? When the service is over, the flowers are yours to keep.

The sign-up sheet for Church Flowers are at CARING TABLE. There is a large assortment of flower vases available in the big kitchen.

For additional information, contact Elaine Diorio



## Sian's Shenanigans

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Wisdom is a fascinating notion. Who gets to determine what is or is not wisdom? If you look at the six sources of Unitarian Universalism (check it out at: [uua.org/sources](http://uua.org/sources)) you'll note that we've thrown everything in there but the kitchen sink! But if we are going to be inclusive, we have to recognize that all these sources do have wisdom in them. And they also have some really bad stuff in them. How do we tell what is wisdom? Well, that's what we have our Principles for!

For me, the Principles are not just a way to understand how to walk in the world, but they help me in discerning what *is* wisdom in all of the sources that we claim. So, for example, there are places in the Bible (Hebrew and Christian scriptures) that condone slavery. Now that one may be a no brainer, but you can also ask "Does it respect the dignity and worth of all persons?" No, it doesn't. Therefore, it's not wisdom. What about "Love God with all your heart mind and soul; and love your neighbor as yourself?" Yup, that respects the dignity and worth of all, so long as you can define God in a way that works for you.

Our First (the dignity and worth of all persons) and our Seventh (the interdependent web of all existence) Principles are our most "theological" statements and are usually my go-to check in about any issue. They ask a lot of me at times (sometimes I *really* don't want to acknowledge someone's dignity and worth!), but the spiritual practice is worth it. Next time you are stuck on a moral dilemma, you might ask yourself if these principles can help you answer the question involved.

See you in church!

Rev. Sian

## Worship in May 2018:

This Month's Worship Theme:  
**Wisdom**

May 6: **All Religions are False: A Meditation on the Currents of the Human Heart.** Our friend the Reverend James Ford, Zen priest and UU minister returns today. Reverend James is convinced that while the religions of the world are wildly different, with conflicting truth claims, at the same time there are currents that are common to all. He is interested in both points, but mostly what he calls "naturalistic perennialism."

May 13: **Buddha's Brain and Jesus' Heart.** What's with all these world religions? How do we respect them when many seem so difficult to reconcile with our brains and our hearts?  
Rev. Sian



May 20: **Making Room.** We all live busy, crazy, hectic lives. How do we make room for what is important? How do we create environments around us that help us grow?  
Rev. Sian. *Discussion after the service about what people are doing to make a difference in the world and how Long Beach UUC can help.*

May 27: Rev. Tom Owen-Tolle.

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## Random Kindness - Religious Education News

Rev. Judy Tomlinson

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."  
Begins the movie Star Wars.

Children will be welcomed as padawans—new initiates--into Jedi Master training in the Jedi Temple. They will learn, as Master Obiwan Kenobi once said that, "The Force is what gives a Jedi his (her) power. It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together."

Our multi-age summer Jedi Temple school will teach children how to focus their force and how the color of their lightsabers can teach them about our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

They will learn that Jedis are guardians of peace in the galaxy, use their powers to defend and to protect, respect all life, in any form, serve others rather than ruling over them, for the good of the galaxy and that Jedis seek to improve themselves through knowledge and training.

I hope you will join us for this powerful experience. I wonder if you might like to be on the Jedi Master teaching staff? Our Academy runs from June 24 through August 26. Would you like to invite other children to join us? Please let me know [revjudy@ocuuc.org](mailto:revjudy@ocuuc.org).

I am in the process of interviewing RE families and volunteers. I want to get to know you and find out what you think is important about our program. I would love to chat with you. I'm sending email invitations out. Please respond with a good time to meet. I hope you and I can talk together. If you don't hear from me right away, please feel free to take the initiative and contact me! I look forward to our time together!!!

How do you know if God is talking with you?  
How could you prove that to someone else? At

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**Youth Group Movie Night**, Saturday, May 5 at 6:00PM we will eat pizza and watch and discuss the movie *Oh, God!* Let me know you are coming and then join us.

Children from both the PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes will make short presentations in the worship service on June 3. We want our children to tell the congregation what they've been doing and what is important them. We will be rehearsing in class through the month of May. Please be sure to attend regularly so our children can be prepared. Put June 3 (also Flower Communion) on/in your calendars now!

With faith and love,  
Rev. Judy

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## Film Festival

By Karen Kennedy

OCUUC is hosting its first Environmental Film Festival on June 2nd at 5:30, in conjunction with a non-profit environmental organization, Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Tour. The committee has chosen ten films to screen.

You must buy a ticket online because we will have assigned seats in Daniels Hall.

Tickets are \$12 each but you will get a discount if you bring a friend. We'd like to use this event to introduce people to our church. Who do you know that is passionate or interested in environmental activism or causes? Invite them! If you buy two tickets, they are only \$10 each. Go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and look for the OCUUC Film Festival.

We have some filmmakers coming to introduce their film, a fun emcee, refreshments, and thought-provoking documentaries. We hope you'll buy a ticket and possibly invite a friend!

Karen Kennedy  
[kkq17kk@gmail.com](mailto:kkq17kk@gmail.com)

## Music Notes

By Beth Syverson

With deep gratitude to Rev. Sian, the Board, and all the volunteers who will help make this happen, I will be taking a medical leave through mid-June. I've been struggling with pericarditis (inflammation of the lining of my heart) for over a month, and I'm still not feeling better. I suspect the doctors haven't unlocked the true diagnosis yet.

So, I'm taking a break from all of my jobs (church, lessons, college jobs) to focus on getting healthy again. In the meantime, I know you will enjoy all the musical talents that our church members/friends and guest artists will provide.

Lay music leaders will be coordinating Sunday morning music with Rev. Sian in my absence. Thank you all for your kind words and prayers and support. I cherish each and every one of you and look forward to being with you again real soon!

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## Wineglasses Needed

Do you have a few wine glasses that you no longer use and can donate to the church? The Film Festival Committee is collecting wine glasses so we can serve wine at the Festival (June 2) in reusable glasses. After the Festival, we can store them in the kitchen to be used for future church events. Help the church be environmentally responsible! Please give them to Karen Kennedy or Sarah Jones. Thank you!



## It's an Intern

Last month the board approved our new intern minister, Rica Kaufel! Rica will be starting with us as an intern in September of this year and she'll be with us for two years at 20 hours per week (September - May). How exciting! The Board and I will be working with Rica to figure out where best to put her time and energy during this time.

Some of you know Rica as she attended here a few years ago. She is also currently serving as one of our Worship Associates and has preached here twice.



This congregation has a long history of nurturing and growing ministers and I'm delighted that we are continuing that tradition. I think that Rica has a bright future in ministry and I'm looking forward to working with her.

With love,  
Rev. Sian



# Saturday, May 19, 2018 Spring Auction Picnic



**This is a Potluck Picnic**  
**Bring your favorite picnic food to share.**  
Soft beverages will be available, as well as wine, beer and  
Mark's Margaritas



Sign up for free  
childcare  
See Sandie Martin and  
her clipboard



You can enter your donations online at  
[www.togetherauction.com/ocuc](http://www.togetherauction.com/ocuc)  
or visit the Auction Table on Sunday after the service.  
**Deadline for submissions is midnight 05/06/18**

## Meditation

By Amelia Russo Neustadt

Dear Fellow Congregants:

I am a professor at CSULA, and my University is open to having a single minute of *mindfulness practice* before classes. A minute is a very short period of time, yet I think this initiative is a wonderful way to raise consciousness about something that is so important for our wellbeing.

Though I was a little dubious about the short time, I felt honored to be asked to produce a “mindful minute” for my colleagues to practice with students, and, once I started putting some thoughts down for brief meditations, I realized the wisdom of my teachers could still be transmitted!

So, I thought I would share one of these four brief practices with you each of the next few months so that you could try them for yourself and the people you care about (see below for practice #1).

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 somewhat less brief (15-20 minutes!) meditation practice, followed by opportunity to briefly share something about our experience along the path. Newcomers are most welcome!

### #1 The Mindful Minute: *Awareness of Breath*

- Find a comfortable, relaxed seated position with your spine straight and your hands resting in your lap.

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- Close your eyes (or lower your gaze) and become aware of your in-breaths and outbreaths: Simply say to yourself (silently)– “Breathing in, I am aware of my in-breath; breathing out, I am aware of my outbreath”. Just observe the breath as it is... do not attempt to change the nature of your breath. You may notice your breath naturally becoming slower and deeper when it is receiving your full attention.
- Continue to silently follow your breaths for one minute and notice how your breath makes you feel.

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## May Plateshare – Stand Up for Kids

**Stand Up For Kids – Orange County**, established in 1990, serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults 25 and younger. Programs in Orange County offer: street outreach, drop-in center, school-based preventions and apartment and housing support. Youth that have been served include: sexually exploited youth; victims of abuse and/or neglect; LGBTQ youth; kids with disabilities; former juvenile justice and foster care youth; pregnant and parenting young people; and kids forced out of their homes. They could use our help.

For information about Stand-Up For Kids and our continuing role, visit with Homelessness Action Group members Birdie Reed, Judith Stamper, Marilyn Giss, Sarah Hunter, Nancy Loughrey and Rev. Sian or contact Stand Up For Kids: 714 356-5437

[OrangeCounty@StandUpForKids.org](mailto:OrangeCounty@StandUpForKids.org)  
[www.StandUpForKids.org](http://www.StandUpForKids.org)

## Final Pledge Drive Report

By Sunny Harper, Canvass Chair

### STATISTICS:

- **Total Amount Pledged: \$198,839.13**
- **Total Number of Pledges: 95**
- **Pledge Drive Average: \$2,093**
- **Pledge Drive Median: \$1,200**
- **Pledge Drive Mode (Pledge that occurs most often): \$1,200**

### Thank you everyone for your generosity!

This has been the most successful pledge drive ever; in fact, to date we have collected \$24,585.54 over what we collected as of May 9, 2017 or about 14%. So, what made the difference this year?

**We had a number of pledgers who raised their pledge substantially** and we had more pledges from new members than usual. Another factor that made a difference was that we collected pledges from more friends. Everyone who pledged last year, pledged this year.

**New pledges will come in during the year** and will certainly be entered into our total budget but will not be counted in this year's Pledge Drive. If you have not made a pledge and would like to support the church financially, you can pledge by going to [www.ocuuc.org](http://www.ocuuc.org), click on SUPPORT and follow the easy directions. Every little bit helps and remember that we are a non-profit and according to law, we must spend every penny we collect ... and we do just that.

**Meg Wilson, VP Finance will create a budget for 2018 -2019**, Finance Council will go over it, as will the Board. The 2018-2019 Budget will be presented to the congregation at our annual Congregational Meeting for final approval. All members and friends are invited to that meeting, so please come and find out what is

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going to happen with your money. Yes, there will be a discussion before the final vote is taken and everyone can take part in the discussion. This is a Unitarian Universalist Church and not having a discussion is worse than 10 mortal sins. Come and join in the fun.

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## Announcing Vanco e-Giving



OCUUC moves forward into Vanco eGiving (electronic "giving" opportunities).

Already installed and set up for the Spring Picnic Auction May 19 payments, is the *Device Swipe Payment* method using either a Credit or Debit Card. Just a swipe, and you're done! Just add an email address and you will receive an immediate "receipt".

Over the next 6 weeks, the following methods for donations and payments will be added:

- Download the App to your Mobile Phone
- On-line contributions via OCUUC website
- Texting Plate and Contributions via your Smart Phone.

If you have any questions please speak to Meg Wilson or email [finance@ocuuc.org](mailto:finance@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.



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## 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](mailto: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!

## LGBT Action Group

**LGBT Action Group** meets in Suite 4 on the **second Sunday** of each month, at 12:00 p.m. 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](#).

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## 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 the month in the Victoria Room. On May 7th the book is a long one - 600+ pages of Scottish & English history - Outlander by Diana Gabaldon. On June 4th we will discuss Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. All are welcome to our lively discussions. Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin-Noriega & Marcia Hackett

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## 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](mailto:maureenm@ocuuc.org).



## In Our Thoughts...

- **Meg W.** lit a candle of joy for the birth of her second grandchild, baby girl Samara.
- **Raychel L.** lit a candle of joy for her son Ian's 8th birthday.
- **Franci C.** lit a candle of joy for Ella, Maria G.'s daughter, who is now a teenager!
- **Nancy L.** lit a candle of joy for husband Tom's 70th birthday on March 24.
- **Sarah H** lit a candle of gratitude for the love of OCUUC after Rob's mother's passing.
- **Ralph H.** lit a candle of hope for Beth S. and a speedy recovery.
- **Julie C.** lit a candle of sorrow for her friend Sharon who lost her uncle this past week.
- **Sharon B.** lit a candle of sorrow and gratitude for her Uncle Grant who passed away at the age of 93.
- **Rachel S.** lit a candle of sorrow for Barbara R. on the death of her brother-in-law.
- **Rachel S.** shared a joy that she will be moving to Mesa AZ.
- **Karen and Jonathan M-P** lit a candle of joy and sorrow. "A legal milestone has passed on our journey to adopt our three sons.
- **Sharon B.** shared joy that member **Mary S** is doing better. Great news!
- **Debra Q** shared she is so happy for **Rachel S** as she is off to new adventures in Arizona with her daughter and her family.
- **Tracey D** lit a candle of joy for her son, who was accepted to a PhD program.

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- **Randy K** lit a candle of sorrow at the loss of this mother, **Vicky**.
- **Meg W** lit a candle of joy, having just spent a week with **Rye**, her 2 year-old grandson, and **Samara**, her 2 ½ week old granddaughter.
- **Franci C** lit a candle of joy for her daughter, **Sabrina**, who just turned 47. She celebrated by doing a 3-day, 200 mile bike run for the Young Survivors Coalition.
- **Bonnie W** lit a candle of joy, celebrating her grandson, **Ben's** 16th birthday.
- **Dave H** lit a candle of sorrow for **Lili L** who has been having health issues.
- **Ralph H** lit a candle of joy for his son **Matt's** participation in the development of the first flexible intraocular lens.
- **Dini M.** lit a candle of joy for a safe journey back to Germany for friends **Jeffri and Klaus**. Also for good health for **Bob M** who has been having seizures.
- **Meg W.** lit a candle for Quick Recovery Wishes for **Tom L** from his hip surgery.
- **Tom L** lit a candle of hope that all goes well with hip replacement. He will see us next week as "Tom 2"
- **Stacy S.** lit a candle of joy, for her 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary with her partner **Jeff**.
- **Raychel L.** lit a candle of joy for sister-in-law, **Jeanette**, who is expecting her first child.
- **Eileece L.** lit both a candle of hope for her brother **Bill**, for healing of esophageal cancer and intentions for his team of doctors at Rodley Tree Cancer Center.

## Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

### Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Cinco De Mayo

Youth Group, Youth Room, 6pm

### Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

Special Congregational Mtg, Daniels Hall, 11:45am

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



### Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

OCUUC Book Group, Victoria Room, 7:30 pm

### Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

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

Covenant Group, Youth Room, 7 pm

### Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Covenant Group, Youth Room, 10:30 am

PAC Meeting, Minister's office, 7pm

### Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

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

### Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

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

### Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Mother's Day

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

LGBT Action Group Lunch Meeting, Suite 4, 12pm

Nonfiction Book Club, Victoria Room, 12 pm

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### Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

### Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Finance Council, Victoria Room, 7 pm

### Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Spring Auction, 5 pm

### Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday All Church Potluck Lunch 11:45 am

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

### Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

### Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Cluster Meeting, Youth Room, 10 am

### Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

Board of Trustees Meeting, 9 am

### Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

RECY Comm., Youth Room, 11:45am

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

### Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Day

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

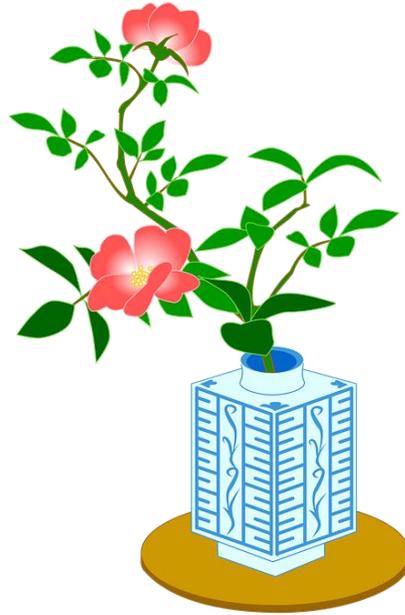


Mark your calendars –

**Special Congregational Mtg – May 6**

**Spring Auction Picnic– May 19**

**Film Festival – June 2**



Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church  
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