



# The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH February 2018

## Sunday Services in February:

February. 4<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“The Promise and the Practice”** ▪ *Rev. Sian and Kari Kopnik*

February 11<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“A Crazy Little Thing Called Love”** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

February 18<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“Mapping a Spiritual Life”** ▪ *Rev. James Ford*

February 25<sup>th</sup> ▪ **“Love Reaches Out”** ▪ *Rev. Sian and Guests*

HAPPY  
GROUNDHOG DAY!



**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  
[www.ocuuc.org](http://www.ocuuc.org)  
email: [uu@ocuuc.org](mailto:uu@ocuuc.org)  
Telephone: 714-556-2882

## Inside this REACH:

The Prez Sez	Page 2
Sian's Shenanigans	Page 3
This Month's Worship Topics	Page 3
Music Notes	Page 4
Plateshare	Page 4
Pledge Drive Kick-off Luncheon	Page 5
Pledge Drive	Page 5
RE Corner	Page 5
In Our Thoughts	Page 6
Calendar	Page 7

## The Prez Sez

Don Martin, Board President

### Our Love for Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church

*"If it excites you and scares you at the same time, you should probably just do it." Unknown*

*"Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will." -- Suzy Kassem*

February, and especially the 14th, Valentine's Day, brings us thoughts of love on an annual basis. But, as Tina Turner sang, "What's love got to do with it?" The feast day was originally an honoring of one or more Saints named Valentine and had more to do with their holy works than romantic love.

This changed with Chaucer in the 14th century when courtly love concepts were flourishing and, by the 18th century in England, evolved to a tradition of lovers expressing their sentiments by sending love notes, confectionaries, and flowers.

I propose we evolve this concept even further by considering how our love for each other as loving partners, as loving congregants, as loving members of OCUUC, and as loving expressers of our belief in the future of Unitarian Universalism to be a means of improving the lives of our communities, our families, our children and grandchildren, and as the means to achieving growing love and respect for all in our world.

Sounds like an impossible task, I know, and one we've heard tried many times before. I propose that we start with a smaller, though still very large, task, that of focusing on and producing the actuality of our long-desired Sanctuary.

When we can finish this daunting task we can, I believe, begin our real task of outreach to others in our community to show that acceptance and love of all peoples can be the way to reach paradise here on earth. And we, open-hearted but open-eyed faithful, know this

(continued)

(continued)

can never be an utopia but instead a real paradise where every person's ideas and opinions are heard, however trying that might be, and where all conflict is limited to heated discussions at worst.

Let me know which of the following tasks you'd like to be involved in:

- Long Range Plan development;
- Strategic Plan for Sanctuary;
- Financial Planning;
- Architectural Plans;
- Building Capital Campaign.

Join me in the excitement and trepidation of what erecting a true church building, not just a meeting hall, could mean for our future. We should probably just do it!

Donald Martin  
[president@ocuuc.org](mailto:president@ocuuc.org)



## Vision statement for OCUUC

By Kathleen McFarlin

As in the past when the flame of the chalice signaled a haven of safety and acceptance, OCUUC will be recognized as a congregation that welcomes individuals of all ages, gender, cultures and backgrounds where spiritual exploration is supported and nurtured; members collectively work towards social justice goals; and all enjoy a sense of community, belonging and acceptance. -- Kathleen McFarlin

Do you have a vision for the future of OCUUC? Share a statement of your vision for the church in the next edition of the Reach by emailing [REACH@OCUUC.ORG](mailto:REACH@OCUUC.ORG).

## Sian's Shenanigans

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Gary Chapman believes that there are 5 love languages: Words of affirmation, quality time, receiving of gifts, acts of service and physical touch. Each of us has one or two ways that we prefer to be "loved" and there are ways that our loved ones prefer it too. And each of these types of love can be applied whether it's romantic, filial or a beloved community.

I've seen all of these forms of love in this congregation. I see love when people help those in need rides, meals and support; I see love when I hear words of gratitude toward others; I see love when people show up for important events in the lives (and deaths) of others; I see love when people give financial support for those in need. I see love when it's a quick hug to support a friend; I see love when celebrations occur. I see love everywhere in this congregation. And there's the thing about Love – it's not always convenient or easy. It takes effort and inconvenience sometimes. But that's why it's called Love. Love always asks something of us. It asks us to reach out and help others.

Thank you for all that you do to Love!

Rev. Sian



---

## Maurice Giss Celebration of Life Service

The memorial service for Maurice Giss will be held at the church on March 3rd at 2pm. All at the church are invited to come support Marilyn, Darryn and the family and to celebrate the life of this wonderful man.

## Worship in February 2018:

This Month's Worship Theme:

**Love**

Feb. 4: **The Promise and the Practice.** What would it be like if our UU worship service centered entirely around the voices and the experiences of black Unitarian Universalists? What truths might we hear, however difficult? What might we learn? How might these black UU leaders teach us to be better allies, better siblings in faith, and even better citizens in our community? *Rev. Sian and Kari Kopnik*

Feb. 11: **A Crazy Little Thing Called Love.** Can we love others without loving ourselves? What does it take to be able to give and receive love? *Rev. Sian*

Feb. 18: **Mapping a Spiritual Life.** There are many descriptions of a spiritual life ranging from John of the Cross's Ascent of Mount Carmel, to Zen's famous ten Ox-herding pictures. Today Reverend James will explore several of these and explore whether they have any resonances for us, here, today. *Rev. James Ford.*

Feb. 25: **Love Reaches Out.** Love is not just a noun in our faith, it's a verb. As we continue our exploration of homelessness, how is it that we can reach out with love to those in need? *Rev. Sian and Guests.*



## Music Notes

Beth Syverson

On January 20 in Santa Ana, a dozen of us sang our way through the Orange County Women's March. Most of the singers were members of Orange Coast Choir, but we also had a few women who joined us whom we had met through various activist organizations. It was such a joy to be on the streets in Santa Ana with 25,000 other people, raising our voices in support of justice, equality, freedom, and women's rights. At last year's March, my wife Jan Mabie and I went by ourselves. I tried to get the crowd around me to sing "This Little Light of Mine" with me, but all I heard were crickets amid the uncomfortable silence.

This year, we marched proudly down the street singing "Somebody's hurtin' my sisters and it's gone on far too long" and "You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love." The biggest joy I had was when I noticed complete strangers proudly singing along with us. One of the sing-alongers was a young mom holding a toddler who was bopping along with the beat. It was quite a difference from my flop last year! With singing, I've found it's so important to have a "critical mass" of singers. After that mysterious number is met, the rest of the group -- who don't consider themselves "singers" -- will feel comfortable enough to sing along. I was so proud of my choir members and others who had the courage to go to Santa Ana early on a Saturday morning, who opened their mouths and sang aloud, and who proclaimed the hopeful message of Unitarian Universalism loud and clear.

Their brave actions allowed many more marchers to participate and have a richer experience through community singing. After the March, our group sang "I Can't Keep Quiet" at the rally. You could hear a pin drop during our moving performance. Everything I know about organizing and leading a group of singers I learned through my colleagues at

(continued)

(continued)

Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN). This past summer, one of the workshop sessions was led by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber's songleader, Yara Allen, who inspired me to use what I know how to do -- music -- and make a difference in the world. If you'd like to join us next time we go sing at a march, rally, vigil, or protest, register with my group Protest Artists:

<https://airtable.com/shrWA6iR2ahfBQNva>.

Beth Syverson  
Director of Music Ministries  
[MusicDirector@ocuuc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@ocuuc.org)

---

## This Month's Plate Share Recipient:

Our plate share for February is BLUU. **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism** (BLUU) grew out of the broader Movement for Black Lives. The BLUU Organizing Collective is committed to expanding the power & capacity of Black UUs within our faith, providing support, information & resources for Black Unitarian Universalists, and justice-making and liberation through our faith.

---

## OCUUC Fiction Book Club

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

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group will meet at its regular time - 7:30pm in the Victoria Room on Monday evening, Feb. 5th. We'll be discussing "The Book of Daniel" by E. L. Doctorow, a very famous book about how the Cold War inflamed America during the 1960s. Please join us for a lively discussion. All are welcome. Co-chairs are Eva Goodwin-Noriega and Marcia Hackett.



## Pledge Campaign Kick-Off Luncheon:

Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-2pm

Save the Date and Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, March 4th! You don't want to miss the **OCUUC Pledge Campaign Kick-Off Luncheon Celebration** right after the Sunday church service on March 4th. This special event will take place at the nearby Costa Mesa Country Club from noon - 2 p.m. Childcare will be provided. More details to come soon.

---

## RE Corner

By Randy Kokal

January has been a busy month for RE. We've had movie night for the youth (We saw Forrest Gump) and the youth had their monthly meeting as well. If your child has a friend or two who might enjoy movie night, please feel free to invite them for the next movie.

The next movie night will be February 3 and the movie will be "Saved." In this, a young girl name Mary learns that her boyfriend, Dean, is gay. During an incident in which she nearly drowns, she believes she has a vision of Jesus telling her to "save" her boyfriend Dean. Some confusion results when she tries to interpret and implement her vision.

We are getting ready to choose new curricula and Gabrielle and Maria have agreed to preview the lessons for the upcoming month to help identify what is needed to make the lessons successful.

K-3 is most likely going to be continuing with the Picture Books of Religion and 4-6 will be most likely digging into the Windows and Mirrors material.

Thanks again to the RE Committee and all the teachers who have stepped up to help out while the search for a new DRE continues.

## Pledge Drive

By Sunny Harper, Canvass Chair

Next month, starting Sunday March 4, everyone will be asked to participate in our annual Pledge Drive. As we all know, lots is going on at OCUUC and we want to keep that momentum going. It's time to take our OCUUCar to the gas station and "fill 'er up" again.



Each year we all journey together in the OCUUCar to fulfill our mission statement, ***Transforming Our Lives and Communities by Living Our Principles.*** As a congregation we create this journey through our program, which is built on three pillars: Worship, Life-Long Religious Education, and Social Justice. Our staff is key to the creation, maintenance and enrichment of our program. We could not possibly maintain the program we have without the dedicated work of Sarah Jones, Beth Syverson, Rev. Sian, David and Yesenia Nunez, and we are looking for a replacement for Karen Magoon Pearson, who will not be easy to replace.

Our staff has not had a raise in quite a while and I sincerely hope this canvass will make it possible to give these people a well-deserved and generous raise. It's up to each one of you to make that happen.

I would like to hear from everyone who is connected to OCUUC in any way about your reasons for participating in the life of this church. I want to use these comments in the canvass but I will not use anyone's name. I believe it would be valuable and interesting to find the commonalities and differences of why the church is a part of our lives. Tell me what's important to you as you live and work in this religious liberal faith at [canvass@ocuuc.org](mailto:canvass@ocuuc.org).

## In Our Thoughts...

- **Sarah J.** wished a very happy birthday to her dear friend, Yesenia N.
- **Simone B.** lit a candle of great joy for having a visit from her two granddaughters Zara and Siena, and her son and daughter in law from Portland, Oregon.
- **Birdie R.** lit a candle of joy and hope for **Heather M.** who will graduate from San Luis Obispo this coming year.
- **Franci C.** lit a candle of hope, requesting good healing and prayers for her son Joel.
- **Jan R.** lit a candle of sorrow, she lost a dear, long-time friend, **Marilyn**, who died after a 5-year battle with cancer.
- **Aaron N.** lit a candle of joy, celebrating his 67th birthday, and he is glad to be here!
- **Linda and Craig S.** lit a candle of joy for their first grandchild, **Tucker**, born December 29th.
- **Dave C.** lit a candle of joy for completing the first draft of a new book.
- **Linda K.** lit a candle of joy and sorrow because she had 18 wonderful years with the best cat, "Grey Guy".
- **Jeffrey S.** lit a candle of joy because his biological sister is getting married in August.
- **Sharon B.** lit a candle of sorrow and hope for her friend **Don**, who is still suffering from PTSD after fire destroyed his house.
- **Cody B.** lit a candle of hope for **Maya W**, who is currently fighting a virus.

(continued)

## In Our Thoughts... (continued)

- **Don** and **Sandie M** are heartbroken at the death of their good friend, Bets W., on December 28.
- **Jamie** and **Jazzie P** are also grieving the death of their friend, Jeannie. "She was wonderful, sweet and funny."
- **From Tom L:** "Thank you for being part of the memorial service for my Dad. Special thanks to our wonderful staff for all the help, assistance and guidance. The music, the service and being together was very special."
- **Judith S** is sad that her son, **Marshall**, has moved to Taiwan. "My house is much too quiet, but I admire his adventurous spirit."
- **Dan N** is downsizing, leaving the family home he moved into in 1992.
- **William T** lit a candle of sorrow for **Kenric**, lost at sea.



- **Mary S** is facing a daunting fight against an aggressive form of throat cancer. A group of congregants and friends are gathering together to offer support and help during this tough time. Please contact the Caring Committee to offer your assistance.
- Many in the congregation lit candles of sorrow for the passing of **Maurice G** on January 11. Maurice was a beloved long-time member of our community, and we wish **Marilyn** and **Darryn** comfort and peace in the days ahead.

## Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

### Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

### Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Groundhog Day



### Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Youth Group, Youth Room, 6-8:30 pm

### Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am  
Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am  
Atheist/Humanist Group, Victoria Room, 12:15 pm

### Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm  
Youth Group, Youth Room, 7:30 pm

### Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Worship Committee Meeting, Victoria Room, 7 pm

### Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

Covenant Group, Youth Room, 10:30 am  
Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

### Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

OWL Orientation, Suite 4 Upper and Lower, 9:30 am  
Stitchwits, Off-site (Panera Bread, 17th St.), 11 am  
Religions of the World, Victoria Room, 7pm

### Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am  
LGBT Action Group Lunch Meeting, Suite 4, 12pm  
Nonfiction Book Club, Victoria Room, 12 pm

### Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

(continued)

(continued)

### Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Valentine's Day  
Comm. on Ministry, Minister's Office, 7pm  
Covenant Group, Youth Room, 7 pm



### Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

### Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday All Church Potluck Lunch 11:45 am  
Nominating Comm., Sian's Office, 11:45am  
CBT Classes (Secrets of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), Suite 4, 12:15 pm

### Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

President's Day  
Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

### Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Finance Council, Victoria Room, 7 pm

### Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

### Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

OWL Sleepover, Suite 4 Upper and Lower and  
Kitchenette, 3pm

### Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am  
Nominating Committee, Minister's Office, 11:30 am  
RECY Comm., Youth Room, 11:45am  
Women's Circle, Victoria Room, 11:45 am

### Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

### Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Cluster Meeting, Youth Room, 10 am

Mark your calendars –

**Valentine's Day – Feb 14**

**President's Day – Feb 19**

**Pledge Drive – March 4- April 1**

**Pledge Campaign Kickoff Luncheon:  
March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Men's Weekend at deBenneville Pines –  
April 20-22**

**Women's Retreat at deBenneville –  
May 4-6**



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

