



The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

January 2019

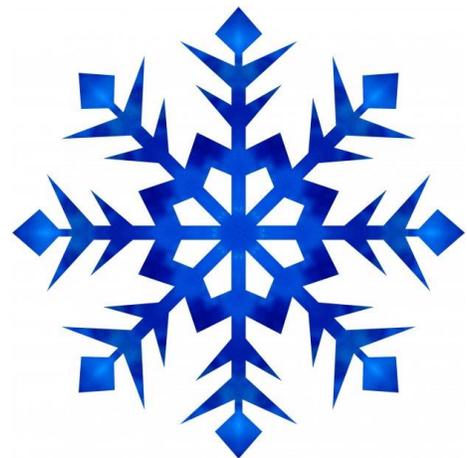
Sunday Services in January:

January 6th ▪ **The Future of Unitarian Universalism** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

January 13th ▪ **Justice Pie** ▪ *Rev. Sian*

January 20th ▪ **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day** ▪ *Farrah Khan*

January 27th ▪ **Oh, the Possibilities!** ▪ *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 President's Perspective

Debra Quam, Board President

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." –Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Happy New Year to my fellow OCUUC enthusiasts! It is the new year and all things are possible.

I am spending the new year in Palm Springs where the weather is crisp and the views, as always, are stunning. It seems that everywhere I have gone these past few days, people have been in a festive mood. Even the grocery store was full of cheerful and upbeat customers buying their supplies to ring in the new year.

The turning of the calendar to a new year inspires and elevates the mood of many people. As we begin 2019, here are some ways we can tap into that positive energy to make a difference to each other in our OCUUC community.

- Chair or serve on a committee such as religious education, membership, caring, hospitality, worship, or auction.
- Sing in the choir.
- Contribute your painting, carpentry, or gardening skills to improve our buildings and grounds.
- Become a mentor to one of our youth and/or become a religious education teacher.

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- Visit a church member or friend who is lonely due to illness, infirmity or age.
- Tell others you know what you love about OCUUC and invite them to join you at a Sunday service or activity.
- Look for ways to support our dream for a new sanctuary, even if it seems to you to be a very heavy lift for our congregation. Like everything else in life, if we don't try, the new sanctuary surely won't happen, and if we do try, we may very well succeed.
- Come to church on Sundays. There is nothing like it to keep you inspired and connected to your fellow church members and friends.

I will close with this quote from a truly beautiful person.

*"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." – **Anne Frank***

With very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019.

Debra Quam

President@ocuc.org



Sian's Shenanigans

Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Our church is full of possibilities! We are heading into a future filled with whatever we bring to it. As you probably can tell from Linda Spery's update on the capital campaign, we are doing extremely well. We have gotten farther than I thought we could. And now come the possibilities. How do we make this new sanctuary a reality? What things might need to change – temporarily or permanently – in order to make that dream come true? What are the possibilities for outreach in the community once it's built? What are the possibilities for growth? For depth of spirit in worship? Oooo! My mind boggles with anticipation!

But possibilities are not reality. Not yet. It's going to take everyone focusing on that future goal to make it work. I know we can – we are creative, hardworking and we have people with *mad* skills. So, let's get to it!

Ruminating on all the possibilities,

Rev. Sian

Build Your Own Theology

Intern Rica Kaufel will teach a 'Build Your Own Theology' class for six consecutive weeks starting February 5, 2019.

Please contact rica@ocuuc.org or Karen at Programs@ocuuc.org to reserve your spot in this popular class.



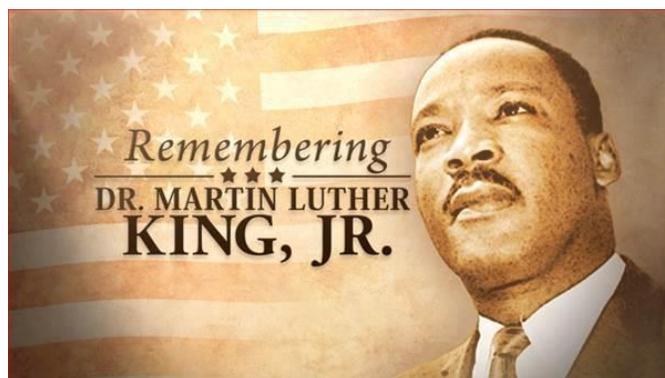
Worship in January 2019:

Theme: Possibilities

Jan 6: **The Future of Unitarian**

Universalism. Our faith is at a crossroads. Which road we take will determine our future. Come learn how you can steer us in the right direction. *Rev. Sian*

Jan. 13: **Justice Pie.** How does food justice figure into our daily lives? We know we are interdependent and we respect everyone's right to choose. How is a UU to make decisions about food ethics? *Rev. Sian*



Jan. 20: **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Day. Guest speaker, Farrah Khan, Executive Director of the NMI Interfaith Council and newly elected Irvine City Council member, will speak on the importance of MLK to the Muslim community. *Farrah Khan*

Jan. 27: **Oh, the Possibilities!** The human potential movement is big right now. What wisdom does it share with us and what shadow comes with it? *Rev. Sian*

Intern's Corner

Rica Kaufel, Intern Minister

Happy New Year! I hope 2019 is off to an amazing start for you! Have you made any plans for the New Year yet? I'd love to hear about them. However, I am not going to ask you about your New Year resolutions, nor am I going to make any for myself, mainly because I am so bad at keeping them. Don't get me wrong, I am not bad at keeping resolutions in general – just at keeping New Year resolutions! To me, they are almost a self-fulfilling prophecy of something I will NOT do any more by the time February rolls around.

But I don't want to get rid of the concept completely because resolutions remind us that there is possibility – it is always possible for us to make a change, to cultivate a habit or get rid of one, to break a cycle, to do things differently. And this possibility does not only exist right now, at the beginning of the year, but every day. We just need to stay open; stay open for possibility, and stay open to figuring out alternative ways to work around that which may not be possible.

Now, you most likely won't see much of me in January. I am taking January off from my internship work as I will spend a bulk of the month in Chicago for intensive classes at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and the rest of the month I will be working on papers. I will definitely miss you all, but I am also excited for the possibilities that this time offers for me.

In addition, I will start immersing myself in the "Building Your Own Theology" curriculum because starting on the first Tuesday in February, I will be teaching this class at OCUUC for six weeks. This is something I am truly excited about! There is so much potential and possibility in this class: it will give us a chance to explore, to go deeper, to reconsider our old spiritual ways and explore new ones. It will be a time for trying out and trying on. It will be a time for us to get to know each other and ourselves better.

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So I ask you to ponder the possibility that you may want to enroll in this class. I'd love to have you! You can even make it a New Year resolution – as long as you keep it beyond February!

Sending you love from freezing Chicago,

Rica

The Secrets of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

First class of 2019 meets on **Sunday, January 20**, from 12:15pm to 2:15pm in Suite 4.

Maureen McConaghy, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, teaches this free ongoing class on 3rd Sundays after the church potluck. We will begin the new year by reviewing basic CBT concepts and skills, so it's a great time for newcomers to join the class. The CBT approach can help people manage stress, feel happier, resolve conflicts, solve parenting problems, and build stronger relationships.

This class is NOT a therapy group, but discussion of real issues is encouraged and group confidentiality is expected.

If you have questions, email Maureen at maureenm@ocuuc.org.



Honoring Our Past...Building Our Future -- Capital Campaign Update



HONORING OUR PAST.. BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Thanks to the generosity of the OCUUC church community, we ended 2018 with \$515,500 in pledges/gifts to the “Honoring Our Past...Building Our Future” Capital Campaign for the proposed OCUUC sanctuary. Hooray and thanks to all who made a pledge!

Though the 2018 Capital Campaign “is a wrap,” if you missed the opportunity to support this important project with a pledge, you can still do so by going to www.ocuuc.org and download the pledge form PDF. Forms are also available in the courtyard each Sunday.

If you are including a check with your pledge, please make the check out to Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church and write “New Sanctuary” on the “Memo” line. Your commitment to the Capital Campaign is separate from a pledge to the annual spring canvas for operating funds. Just place your completed pledge form in the offering plate on Sunday or hand it in to the church office.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The New Sanctuary Task Force will kick off 2019 in January with two fundraising initiatives to build upon the success achieved so far in the 2018 Capital Campaign. Though we met and

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exceeded our \$500,000 year-end goal, we have a way to go to reach our ultimate goal of \$1.5 million to build the new sanctuary.

First, we will be completing all the necessary steps to apply for a Spirit Level grant. The Spirit Level Foundation, which administers the grant, was founded in 1997. The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage generosity through matching fund drives and promote the health and growth of UU congregations in Southern California.

Second, we will have representatives attending the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City and Grass Valley, California to meet with festival organizers and learn more about how other Wild and Science Film Festival On Tour nonprofits across the country have created successful fundraising initiatives for their own festivals. OCUUC will be hosting its 2nd annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival in June and we hope to build upon the success of last year's event.

Have fundraising ideas to share and want to know how you can get involved? Please send me an e-mail at lindaspery@gmail.com or call me at 562-212-5317. I am in the courtyard each Sunday after the service with the new sanctuary display so drop by and share your idea. Thanks to all for your support.

Meditation

All are welcome to attend Sunday Meditation before Sunday Service from 9:45-10:15am in the youth room. Meditation is held on the first and third Sunday each month, the next being January 6. We hope you can join us for some relaxing moments.

Marilyn F. and Amelia

Honoring Our Past...Building Our Future -- Capital Campaign Update



HONORING OUR PAST..
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU for your generous pledges to the "Honoring Our Past...Building Our Future" 2018 capital campaign for the new sanctuary at OCUUC!

- Jennifer Abt and Peter Anderson
- Yvonne Alcala
- Sharon Ball
- Clover Behrend and Paul Gethard
- Corwin Brown and April Stilton
- Gayle and Richard Carter
- Ginny Chan
- Don Chery
- Julie Crawford
- Elaine Diorio
- Marilyn Giss
- Maria Goode
- Marcia Hackett
- Sunny Harper
- Dian Herr
- Elysse James
- Karen Kennedy
- Laurie Kluge
- Ed and Frances Kurata
- Bob and Sharon Loeschen
- Nancy and Tom Loughrey
- Don and Sandie Martin
- Katherine Martin and Derek Dunn-Rankin
- Maureen McConaghy

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- Don and Sandie Martin
- Katherine Martin and Derek Dunn-Rankin
- Maureen McConaghy
- Kathleen McFarlin
- Jan Meslin
- Barbara and Steve Morihiro
- Aaron and Amelia Russo Neustadt
- Dan Noel
- Eva Lu and Cosme Noriega
- Joan Parry
- Paula Petersen
- Debra Quam and Audrey Prosser
- Birdie Reed
- RSM Design
- Anna Ryan
- Barbara Schilling
- Susan Shaw
- Ken and Adair Small
- Nina Smith and Jeanine Scalero
- Mary Smithberger
- Linda and Craig Spery
- Rev. Karen Stoyanoff
- Beth Syverson and Jan Mabie
- Shirley Thorne
- Rev. Judy Tomlinson and Rob Gordon
- Rev. Sian Wiltshire

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee is in need of helpers! Specifically, to make meals for those in need, help set up the Caring Table on Sundays once a month or so, and provide transportation to church for members who need help getting here (from Costa Mesa and Orange). Please contact Elaine Diorio at the Caring Table on Sunday if you can assist!

Also, if you have greeting cards that you no longer want, please bring them to the Caring Table to help fill our Caring Card Box to cheer those in need!

Men's UU Fellowship Renewal Weekend

deBenneville Pines Church Camp

April 12-14, 2019

Spend the weekend with men and guests from congregations all over Southern California.

Theme for the weekend is in the process of development.

The Men's Fellowship Renewals offer a safe place in which we, as brothers, can be open to the issues that challenge us to the core of who we are and help us to begin the process of unpacking them. In small supportive kinship group settings, we will share confidentially and in a non-judgmental manner. We welcome our sometimes-raw emotions, and self-aware laughter at our foibles. In addition, there will be time for music and singing, hot tub and hiking, drumming and ritual, conversation and renewing friendships, meditation and quiet time.

It is our policy that no man will be denied for financial reason; scholarships are available. An informal Thursday evening check-in is possible if you want to start the weekend early and to adjust to the altitude and beauty of the area.

For more information contact Cory Brown at KG6EP@AOL.COM.

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle typically meets in the Victoria Room on the **fourth Sunday of each month** immediately after the worship service.

Feel free to bring your cup of tea/coffee, sack lunch, and if you like, any nibbles to share. Our doors are always open, and guests are always welcome.

OCUUC Fiction Book Club

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

The OCUUC Fiction Book Group will meet on Monday evening, January 7th.

Upcoming book titles include:

- Jan 7 - *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett
- Feb. 4 - *The Number One Chinese Restaurant* by Lillian Li
- Mar. 4- *Wild Swans* by June Chang
- Apr. 1 - *The President is Missing* by James Patterson and Bill Clinton
- May & June titles are not yet decided.

All are welcome. For info, contact co-chairs Eva Goodwin-Noriega or Marcia Hackett.

OCUUC Non-Fiction Book Club

The Nonfiction Book Club meets once a month after the service, **usually on the second Sunday, at 12:00pm**. In our meeting, each person who wishes to do so talks about a nonfiction book of their choice.

Some of the books discussed so far include:

- *What Darwin Got Wrong* by Jerry Fodor and Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini
- *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner
- *Why Nicaragua* by Pat McCully
- *And Man Created God: A History of the World at the Time of Jesus* by Selina O'Grady



In Our Thoughts...

- **Betty H** lit a candle of joy for **Issa G**, who is continuing to recover after being hospitalized for pneumonia and congestive heart failure.
- **TJ** and **Andrea H** got married! They went to the old Orange County Courthouse with their kids and their close friends.
- **TJ** also got a new job, working with homeless people, and teaching at Saddleback College in the spring!
- **Sarah J** is joyful about her son, **Anthony**, and his bride, **Alejandra**, who were married on November 30.
- **Dave C** lit a candle of joy for being able to be at his son's church in Kenosha, Wisconsin last Sunday.
- **Bonnie W** is joyful and thankful that she can see again after cataract surgery and retina shots.
- **Barbara S** lit a candle of gratefulness for the repairing of a serious rift with her sister.
- **Alan** and **Gabrielle B** are hopeful for a good recovery for their friend who recently had back surgery.
- **Mary S** lit a candle of sorrow for her friend who passed away unexpectedly in Spain from cardiac arrest.
- **Judith S** is mourning the passing of her father-in-law, **Dr. Marshall Stamper**. He was a remarkable man.
- **Ken A** lit a candle of sorrow for his wife, **Thanh**. She stumbled and broke 4 metatarsal bones in her foot. She will have very limited mobility for a couple of months.

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- **Judith S** remembered her mother, who would have celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Judith stated her mother lived a life dedicated to justice and interfaith work.
- **Dolly D.** – lit a candle of joy as she recently celebrated her birthday and enjoyed former long-time OCUUC member Rachel S.'s visit on a recent Sunday.
- **Karen K** – lit a candle of joy for mystery. Taking poinsettias to put on departed relative's graves recently, she couldn't find an uncle's grave. Karen saw a small dog lying on a grave a distance away, and when she walked over, it was her uncle's grave! The dog ran away but Uncle George got his poinsettia. A mystery.
- **Charlene G** – lit a candle of joy and hope, as husband Bob has completed his radiation treatments for prostate cancer. Hope that future tests show the cancer is gone.
- **Kathleen McF**- shared a joy that she and **Mark** successfully navigated a Vietnamese "Picking Up the Bride" ritual and a Catholic wedding ceremony. Son Drew is married and Kathleen now has a daughter!
- **Marilyn F** – lit a candle of joy for being able to attend **Nancy and Tom L's** Swedish Dinner auction event. Dinner was outstanding and conversation heart-warming.
- **Sheri** and **Bob L.** lit a candle of sorrow for their daughter-in-law **Miriam** and her family, for her nephew **Damien**, age 22, died in his sleep recently.
- **Lois** and **Dick M** are celebrating the wonder of small children.

Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

Tuesday, January 1st

New Year's Day



Wednesday, January 2nd

Covenant Group, Youth Room, 7pm

Thursday, January 3rd

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 6th

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

Monday, January 7th

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm
OCUUC Book Group, Victoria Room, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 9th

Comm. on Ministry, Minister's Office, 6 pm

Thursday, January 10th

PAC Meeting, Minister's office, 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 11th

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

Sunday, January 13th

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

Monday, January 14th

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

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Wednesday, January 16th

Interfaith Luncheon, Daniels Hall 11:45 am
Finance Council, Victoria Room, 7 pm

Thursday, January 17th

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 20th

Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am
Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am
3rd Sunday All Church Potluck Lunch 11:45 am
CBT Classes (Secrets of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), Suite 4, 12:15 pm

Monday, January 21st

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

Wednesday, January 23rd

Cluster Meeting, Youth Room, 10 am
Board of Trustees Meeting, Victoria Room, 7pm



Thursday, January 24th

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 27th

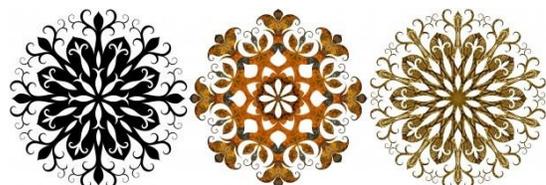
Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am
Women's Circle, Victoria Room, 11:45 am
RECY Comm, 11:45 am
Sound Training, Daniels Hall, 12 pm

Monday, January 28th

Blue Cliff Zen Sangha, FUUn Room, 7 pm

Thursday, January 31st

Choir Rehearsal, Daniels Hall, 7:30 pm



Mark your calendars –

Interfaith Luncheon – Jan 16

Choir Festival – Jan 20

Open Mic Night – March 16

**Men's UU Fellowship Retreat –
April 12-14**



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