

The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

March 2020

Sunday Services in March:

March 1st ■ "Words to Live By" ■ Rev. Sian

March 8th ■ "The Presence of Justice" ■ Rev. Sian

March 15th ■ "A Body of Wisdom" ■ *Rica Kaufel*

March 22nd ■ "First You Give, Then You Love" ■ Rev. Sian

March 29th ■ "What Happens When a Woman Takes Power?" ■ Beth Syverson



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

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The President's Perspective

Debra Quam, Board President

We have the very good news to share that OCUUC has signed a ten-year lease with the Orange County Friends Meeting (Quakers) for Suites 8 and 9 commencing June 1, 2020. This wonderful news was first announced to the congregation at the February 16, 2020 Townhall meeting held after the Sunday service.

Let me give you some background on how this excellent arrangement for us and the Quakers has come to fruition.

In June of 2019 an OCUUC Property Use Group (PUG) was formed to provide strategy on the overall use of our OCUUC campus and to recommend those strategies to the Board of Trustees. Members of the PUG are Co-Chairs Tom and Nancy Loughrey, Craig and Linda Spery, Debra Quam and Audrey Prosser, Meg Wilson, Barbara Morihiro and Geoff and Yulis Ayton.

One goal of the PUG was to find ways to build the Sanctuary and offset the loss of income during construction. As fate would have it, the Quakers contacted us looking for space to rent as their lease was expiring. This led The Property Use Group in the direction of the concept of making our entire property, including the for-profit rental building, into a "spiritual center". We have for several years now rented Suites 5 and 6A to the Christian Scientists. Now, with the addition of renting Suites 8 and 9 to the Quakers, we are well on our way to converting our campus to a spiritual center.

The Christian Scientists have always stated that their desire is to stay on the campus. The PUG has a strategy for them to stay on our campus when we come to the point of demolishing suites 3, 4 and 5 to make way for our anticipated new sanctuary building.

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The increased rental rates over current leases may mean no loss of long-term revenue even if OCUUC retains one or more of the smaller suites in the current for- profit building for our own use. This provides an option for meeting space to replace the meeting room in Suite 4. Changing to all religious uses of the rental building means we will not lose this rental revenue during construction of the new sanctuary building since the usage needs of those tenants will be evenings and weekends. Additionally, there will be a savings on our property taxes since we will be converting all of our property to non-profit usage.

Many, many thanks to the members of PUG for their work on this project! A significant amount of time, talent and effort has been devoted to making this happen.

The Quakers are a wonderful group of people and they are as thrilled as we are about them joining us on our campus.

Finally, I want to share with all of you this link to the UUA Pacific Western Region newsletter https://uua874.activehosted.com/social/57c053 1e13f40b91b3b0f1a30b529a1d.4048. This monthly newsletter is chock full of good information including ways to become involved in the "UU the Vote" initiative.



Scroll to the bottom of the newsletter to find the link to subscribe to future editions of the newsletter.

With best wishes to you all,

Debra Zuam

President@OCUUC.org

Sian's Shenanigans

As Unitarian Universalists, we draw upon six sources of wisdom. If you look at that list, you might think (like I sometimes joke) that we have everything in there, but the kitchen sink! But you might point out, that there might be some contradictions among these sources. For example, if we draw from wisdom of world religions, what if our own experience differs from what has been written down in those venerable faith traditions?

If you want to know if something is wise, just ask yourself, does it meet the criteria of our 7 Priniciples? Does it affirm and promote the dignity and worth of every person? Does it affirm and promote the interdependent web of existence? Acceptance of one another? Peace, liberty and Justice for all? If it does, then chances are, it's wisdom and something to look at. And of course, you can use your "free and responsible search for truth and meanings," too.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are blessed to be able to draw upon so much wisdom across so many different ways of seeing the world. Aren't we lucky? All this wisdom makes our lives richer and more meaningful.

With love,

Rev. Sian



Worship in March 2020:

Wisdom

March 1: Words to Live By. We are inundated with advice these days – from advertisers ("Just do it!"), to memes, to famous quotes we tack on the bottom of our email signatures. Which advice do we follow? What words do you live by? Rev. Sian

March 8: The Presence of Justice. Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." What, then, is Justice? Rev. Sian is joined with Rev. Ranwa Hammamy of the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California.

March 15: A Body of Wisdom So often, we try to think our way through the world, being out of touch with the most immediate vehicle of both our experiences and our expression: our body! Join us this Sunday to explore the wisdom that can be found in re-connecting with our bodies. *Rica Kaufel*.

March 22: First You Give, Then You Love. This Sunday we launch or annual pledge drive along with our renewed Capital Campaign. Come join us for this celebration of what it means to belong to this beloved community! Rev. Sian

March 29: What Happens When a Woman Takes Power? 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women being allowed to vote in the U.S. OCUUC's Music Ministries will celebrate this milestone, and we'll ponder where we've been and how far we still have to go regarding women's rights in this country. This will be an *almost*-all music service. Some songs will be from the early 1900s suffrage marches (or from anti-suffragists), some will be from the women's movement in the 1960s, and there will be a few contemporary songs too. *Beth Syverson*

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Random Kindness Religious Education News

I served as Minister -in-Residence at Elementary/Family Winter Camp at de Benneville Pines over Presidents' Day weekend. Did you know that there were more opportunities to get up to camp as a family in addition to our October weekend? Children in grades 2 through 6 can come up as independent campers—and we had one from our congregation, Elise Kaufel. I took my great nephew and niece, Rowan and Leyla. One extended family came up with grandparents, parents and children for a total of 13 family members!

We had lots of fun at fort play, capture the flag, silly dancing, crafts, a little bit of sledding and a variety show. Kids had some quiet time in their cabins with terrific counselors. The weather was so warm that we were able to hold worship outside. Children have precious time in nature, learn to be in community, independence and UU values. Here are some summer Camp de Benneville opportunities: Elementary July 5-7, Junior High July 12-18, Senior High July 19-25, and Family July 26-August 1. Registration for these camps opens on March 1 and most of them fill up, Senior High especially fast. Go to uucamp.org/camp-calendar/ Scholarships are available.

At camp and in other places of nature and quiet we and our children can develop our inner lives. We can reduce distractions that keep us unconscious. When children and youth have time for their spirits it can reduce anxiety, they can develop an inner compass that helps them make healthy, life-affirming decisions and live life more closely aligned with their values. Children and youth can develop their intuition and self-worth. Seeing their own worth, our children and youth can affirm the inherent worthiness of others.

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Awakening and wisdom are our themes this month. It feels like the Earth has already begun that process. I see trees and bushes in bloom. They aren't waiting until Spring officially arrives. To live the spiritual life is to awaken. The story goes that soon after his enlightenment the Buddha passed a man on the road who was struck by the Buddha's extraordinary radiance and peaceful presence. The man stopped and asked, "My friend, what are you? Are you a celestial being or a god?" "No." said the Buddha

"Well, then, are you some kind of magician or wizard?"

Again the Buddha answered, "No."

"Are you a man?"

"No."

"Well, my friend, then what are you?" The Buddha replied, "I am awake."

Let's wake up to life, love and spirit in all its complex, messy, beautiful fullness. May our children and youth come into full bloom!

Rev. Judy



Intern's Corner

By Rica Kaufel

When I was a teenager, I started to read the myths of Ancient Greece, and pretty soon I stumbled over a detail that irked me so much that I closed the book, threw it under my bed, and instead did whatever teenagers do when they feel irked by the myths of the Ancient Greeks.

You may wonder what it was that caused the offense – because isn't there so much in these stories that is offensive to our modern minds? Was it one the acts of betrayal, gratuitous violence, incest, trickery? Nope, nope, and nope. What irked me to the point that I lost all interest was that Athena was the goddess of both warfare *and* wisdom.



To my teenage mind – full of ideals about peace and pacifism and goodwill, it felt like wisdom would be to just have no wars at all, period. Having the goddess of wisdom be simultaneously the goddess of warfare simply rendered her a goddess-shaped Napoleon, and I wasn't a big fan of him, either. And therefore, I felt justified in disregarding the ancient Greeks altogether and entertaining myself otherwise.

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Now, given that my book about Greek myth landed under my bed, I don't know enough about the topic to really understand why the Greeks made this designation of combining warfare and wisdom in one female (!) goddess. I feel like there's a lot to unpack there, and if one of you knows, please find me at coffee hour and tell me all about it.

But I've been thinking, in these times that are ever-more polarized, and where so much is at stake, if maybe there isn't something here that I missed. Because while getting into conflicts for the mere sake of it is certainly not an act of wisdom, neither is being conflict-avoidant. There are certain conflicts that need to be had, and others that need to not be had, and wisdom lies in knowing which battle to pick while keeping our integrity and our sanity. Reinhold Niebuhr best summed this up in his Serenity Prayer, of which the first few lines are probably familiar to you:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;

courage to change the things I can;

and wisdom to know the difference "

I've heard these lines so often that I don't actually really *hear* them anymore, unless I really listen. And yet, in these times when so much is at stake, and conflict surrounds us wherever we turn, I do wish for serenity, courage, and wisdom – for myself, and for all of you.

With love,



Music Notes

By Beth Syverson

Do you have your act together? March 7 is our annual Open Mic Night at 7pm in Daniels Hall. Bring your family-friendly act and share it with our community. It's free to perform and free to attend. Performers, just arrive by 6:45pm that night to get on the roster.

And mark your calendars for our semi-annual Music Under the Stars event on April 18. You'll be treated to all kinds of musical performances by OCUUC folks and usually a few guests too. We'll provide some snacks and beverages, which you'll enjoy sitting under the pergola in the courtyard. Adult drinks will be available for purchase. This is an auction item, but if you didn't purchase it last fall, you can still attend for just \$5 at the door.



It's always a good time to join the choir. If you'd like to give it a try, come a few minutes early to one of our Thursday 7:30pm rehearsals. If you play an instrument instead, or want to participate in a different way musically, just talk to me and I'll do my best to find the perfect fit where you can use your talent to minister to others in the congregation.

Musically Yours,

Beth Syverson

Director of Music Ministries MusicDirector@ocuuc.org

OCUUC and Coronavirus

Over the last week, federal health officials have advised hospitals, schools, churches and other public facilities to begin making preparations for the possible spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States. We are working behind the scenes to take increased community health protection steps, as well as planning for ways we can continue our ministry together even as circumstances change.

Hoag Health Ministries has put out information for how we can protect ourselves and one another:

- Wash your hands fully and frequently.
- Keep your hands off your face, particularly your mouth, nose and eyes.
- Get a flu shot.
- Disinfect your cell phone and the surfaces in your home and workplace regularly.
- If you are feeling sick, don't go to work, school, church or any public gathering.

Because the coronavirus, like the flu, is spread from close, person-to-person contact, as well as from contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, we are taking extra steps to make sure our facilities are as safe as possible, including making hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available.

Most who get the corona virus just have a cold or flu symptoms and get over it as they would any cold or flu. But for those that have already compromised respiratory issues, it can be serious, even fatal. So it's important that we don't spread any other cold or flus around. If you are getting over a cold or flu and have a cough, please stay at home. Most of our services are available via livestream on Facebook (thank you, Tom Loughrey and Sarah Hunter!), so you don't have to miss out.

Stand Up for Kids Update

In February, the StichWits made some amazing hats for Stand Up For Kids, and they were also the main organizers for our Stand Up For Kids Dinner on Tuesday, 02/25 in Huntington Beach. Birdie Reed, April Stilson, Judith Butler and Barbara Schilling served a yummy dinner of tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, and a variety of delectable, homemade desserts! Thank you!

If you would like to get involved with providing dinner on Tuesday, March 24, please contact Rica@ocuuc.org. Maybe you are part of a group that is looking for a one-time service opportunity, you would like to get involved as an individual, or you would like to donate money or ingredients to prepare the meals — either way, your presence and your service would be so very appreciated!

Shining Stars



Shining Stars: It's time to start thinking about those who you feel are going "above and beyond" to make our congregation a wonderful place. Nominate them for a Shining Star or Unsung Hero Award! (It can't be a Board member.) Shining Stars and the Unsung Hero will be presented at our Annual Meeting on June 14th. Email programs@ocuuc.org or contact Karen Kennedy, VP Programs, to nominate those who deserve recognition!

Karen Kennedy

March Plateshare - Stand Up for Kids



One life at a time.

Stand Up For Kids – Orange County, was established in 1990 and serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults 25 and younger. Programs in Orange County offer:

- Street Outreach
- Outreach Centers
- Mentoring
- Housing Support, and so much more.

Programs have the overall goal of leading homeless youth to self-sufficiency and preventing at-risk youth from gang involvement, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and from dropping out of high school.

Youth that have been served include sexually exploited youth, victims of abuse and/or neglect, LGBTQ youth, kids with disabilities, pregnant and parenting young people, and kids forced out of their homes.

For information about Stand-Up For Kids and our continuing role, speak with Rica or Rev. Sian or contact Stand Up For Kids directly at 714 356-5437. www.StandUpForKids.org



Join with others from church to take part in this exciting step in the life and growth of OCUUC. We need everyone to participate as a guest at a member's home to share experiences, hopes, and dreams for Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church (OCUUC) as we have a meal together.

We are combining the Annual Operating Fund Pledge Campaign with the Capital Campaign.

We are doing something different this year!

Be our Guest for a meal!

- □ Choose a date
- □ Choose a type of food
- □ Choose a between a midday meal or dinner
- □ Let us know if you'll bring your children

We will assign you to one of 12 hosts who can accommodate your choices, they will contact you with the specific time and place

Sign up for these gatherings after Sunday services.

OCUUC COMBINED OPERATING AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020

Linda Spery and Sandie Martin Co-chairs Sarah Hunter, Karen Kennedy, Nancy Loughrey, Don Martin, Craig Spery, Meg Wilson



UU Men's Renewal Weekend



UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal April 17-19, 2020 Camp deBenneville Pines Angeles Oaks, CA

Carpe Diem - Meaning, Purpose, Joy

Carpe Diem is the Latin term most often translated as Sieze the Day. What is most important for us today - Finding Meaning, Acting with Purpose, Experiencing Joy? Now is the time to rediscover these basic drives to experience more fulfilling lives. In open discussions and activities and in small supportive kinship group settings, we can be open to the issues that challenge us to the core and help us to discover who we are as men, sons and brothers. Please join us to fellowship, make music, experience rituals, and enjoy the natural beauty of the mountains and forests at our sacred Camp de Benneville Pines. For additional information contact Cory Brown.

Artists UUnite! Friday, March 13th

Calling all artists! Join us in Suite 4 on Friday March 13 at 2pm as we create together. Bring your works in progress and any news you have about upcoming exhibits or classes in our community. Questions? Contact Linda Spery at lindaspery@gmail.com

Greetings in the time of Coronavirus

We encourage people to limit close contact like hugs and shaking hands as you feel comfortable. Instead, you might try greeting others by pressing your palms together, holding your hand over your heart, bumping elbows or giving a friendly nod. In China, some people are even tapping each other's feet. But note that form of greeting comes with the risk of falling over!



Coronavirus Info

Here are a few places where you can get information to protect yourself and your family:

- CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2
 019-ncov/index.html
- You may also find this video from the CBS informative:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klL5 m5XznNY



LGBT Action Group

The LGBTQ Action Group will present, a course called "Transgender Inclusion In Congregations," Over six sessions, one per month, we will explore the intersection of transgender identity, spirituality, and faith community. We will meet the fourth Sunday at noon, in Daniels Hall, to view and discuss the course. Please bring your lunch, as the videos are 45-60 minutes each and we will have discussion afterwards. If you miss it, don't worry, you an contact Jan for a link to catch up with the rest of us. For more information contact Jan Mabie at Janselectrical@gmail.com

OCUUC Non-Fiction Book Club

The Nonfiction Book Club meets once a month after the service, **on the second Sunday, at 12:00 noon**. In each meeting each person (who wishes to do so) talks about a nonfiction book of their choice. This month, they will meet in the Youth Room.

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. We meet in the Youth Room on the first Sunday of the month after church. This meeting is open to all and newcomers are welcome.



Snack and Chat - Saturday, 3/14

Our March 15th Snack and Chat has been moved from Sunday 3/15 to Saturday, March 14 at 10:00am. (Due to our exciting church field trip after the service on Sunday!) Join Intern Minster Rica Kaufel and Karen Kennedy, VP Programs, to learn about membership, theology and programs. Plus, we want to get to know you!

If you'd like to be able to vote at our June Annual meeting, now is a good time to become a Member or find out what it entails! For questions or to rsvp, email prorams@ocuuc.org or call 949-215-3748.



OCUUC Fiction Book Club

Meets Monthly, on the 1st Monday, at 7:30pm, in the Victoria Room. (Call Eva at 949-836-3113 if the door is locked (security reasons.)

The Fiction Book Group always welcomes newcomers to our usual lively discussions. On Monday, March 2nd we'll discuss <u>The Illegal</u> by Lawrence Hill. Our meetings are held in the Victoria Room and start at 7:30 pm. For those who plan ahead, on Mon. April 2nd we'll discuss <u>The Woman in the Window</u> by A. J. Finn.

For your advanced planning for future months, we will be reading the following:

- Madam Bovary by Gustave Flaubert 5/4/20
- 1000 White Women by Jim Fergus 6/1/20

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

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In Our Thoughts...

- Sunny H shared the joy for her grandson who landed safely as he returned from Shanghai.
- Zoe & Julie C have hope for 3 words.....girl scout cookies.
- Maureen McC lit a candle of joy and shock. She celebrated her younger daughter Corliss's 30th birthday!
- Ralph is feeling Joy, celebrating a happy 80th to Don M. Ralph says, "You'll live much longer with your sense of humor."
- Sheri L lit a candle of hope for her cousin Barbara P who is going through major surgery at City of Hope.
- Sue Q. shared sorrow and love for Issa G. who passed away. She and her husband Bob were charming, loving people.
- Healing wishes for Ruby H who is recovering from angioplasty surgery.
- Christy M lit a candle of joy as she and Sarah K are celebrating 25 years together. She is so glad they met when they did.
- Brooke G lit a candle of joy for TJ who is celebrating his birthday!
- ➤ **Tatiana H** lit a candle of hope for a successful ear tube surgery for **Ronan**, her 16 month-old son. She requests our positive thoughts.
- Clover BG and Paul G thank their OCUUC family for all their thoughts and prayers and offers to help them. Paul became ill with pneumonia and is finally at home healing.
- Karen and Jonathan MP are joyously celebrating their son Dominic's 3rd birthday.

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- ➤ **Judith S** is hoping for peace and serenity for her father, **Ross**, as he nears the end of his life and for the family members who are making the difficult decisions about his care.
- Jan R. lit a candle of sorrow because Working Wardrobes main location burned down Feb. 2.
- Jan M shared her concern for Joey who is being cared for out of state. Beth went to visit him recently.
- > Simone B. is happy to be back with us, thanks to her helper Cindy.
- Sandie M. lit a candle of sorrow for her aunt, who died recently.
- Tom L is celebrating the life of Barbara D, a long-time member of OCUUC. Her memorial service was attended by family and many friends. Rev. Karen Stoyanoff officiated.
- Phyllis D. lit a candle of joy. Her Daughter-in-law is recuperating from a lumpectomy and the prognosis is excellent.
- ➤ **Dolly D**. lit a candle of sorrow and joy. She is SAD regarding the 40-unit fire in Tustin. She is GLAD that she was able to furnish DMV—DL (Driver's License) info for people who lost all their documents.
- Jolynn I. is hopeful for her mother, Sharon
 E. who is currently at Laguna Hills Rehab.
 Sharon feels sad: please keep her in your thoughts as she continues to heal.
- Joan A. is hopeful. After two weeks of highs and lows, her mother in finally in a high-quality rehab facility. She is recovering from complications from a severe infection.
- > Sheila R lit a candle of joy for discovering her "peeps" just around the corner.

Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

Sunday, March 1st

Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am AHA Group, Victoria Room, 12 pm Stitchwits, Youth Room, 12 pm Social Justice Brainstorming, Suite 4

Monday, March 2nd

OCUUC Book Group, Victoria Room, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 3rd

Big Questions, Victoria Room, 7 pm

Thursday, March 5th

Sermon Discussion Group, Youth Room, 1:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 7th

Kitchen Crew, Big Kitchen, 10 am Open Mic Night, Daniels Hall 7pm

Sunday, March 8th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am LGBT Action Group, Suite 4 12 pm Nonfiction Book Club, Youth Room, 12 pm Film Festival Comm., Victoria Room 12pm

Tuesday, March 10th

Covenant Group, Victoria Room, 7pm

Wednesday, March 11th

PAC Meeting, Minister's office, 3 pm Comm. on Ministry, Minister's Office, 6 pm

Thursday, March 12th

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 13th

Grief and Caregivers Group, Minister's Office, 12pm Artists UUnite, Suite 4, 2 pm

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Saturday, March 14th

Snack and Chat, Victoria Room 10am

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Sunday, March 15th

Meditation Group, Youth Room, 9:45 am Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am Town Hall, Road/Field Trip, Daniels Hall, 12 pm 3rd Sunday All Church Potluck, 11:45 am RECY Comm., Youth Room, 11:45

Tuesday, March 17th

Big Questions (Leadership Grp), Victoria Room, 7pm

Wednesday, March 18th

Finance Council, Victoria Room, 2pm

Thursday, March 19th

Sermon Discussion Group, Victoria Room, 1:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 21st

Board of Trustees, Suite 4

Sunday, March 22nd

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am Women's Circle, Victoria Room, 11:45 am Transgender Inclusion Series, Daniels Hall 12 pm

Wednesday, March 25th

Cluster Meeting, Youth Room, 10 am

Thursday, March 26th

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 28th

Afternoon of Gaming, 3 pm

Sunday, March 29th

Sunday Service, Daniels Hall, 10:30 am

Mark your calendars –

Open Mic Night – March 7

Combined Campaign Gatherings Share a Meal on: March 28, March 29, April 4 or April 5

UUMF Men's Renewal Weekend – April 17-18 Wild and Scenic Film Festival – June 13



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