



The REACH

Monthly Newsletter of ORANGE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

July 2020

Sunday Services in July:

July 5th ▪ **“Lessons from the Acjachemen Tribe”** ▪ *Jacque Nunez*

July 12th ▪ **“In Here”** ▪ *Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

July 19th ▪ **“What Would Love Do?”** ▪ *Rev. Dr. Karen Stoyanoff*

July 26th ▪ **“Just Us”** ▪ *Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*



**Sunday Services are
at 10:30am (on Zoom)**

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
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The President's Perspective

Debra Quam, Board President

Here we are already in July and beginning our new fiscal church year. We are off to a great start thanks to all of you who pledged generously to our 2020/2021 operating budget demonstrating your love of our community and commitment to continuing the mission of OCUUC.

July 1 marks the beginning of a new term of service for many elected positions including the Board of Trustees, Nominators, and Stewards. We are welcoming four new members to the Board this month: Linda Sperry, Recorder; and Trustees Cory Brown, Carolina Tercero-Brandon and Yulis Ayton.

Thank you to all who have stepped up to serve in elected positions and as Committee chairs and members.

I have spent the last four days immersed in the totally virtual UUA General Assembly (GA). The theme for GA June 2020 was "*Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!*"

General Assembly was to be held in Providence, RI this year but of course COVID-19 put an end to that plan. I have never been to a GA before, and thought this would be a great opportunity to participate from the comfort of my couch. The UUA GA team did a remarkable job of conducting the meeting virtually and I am left with a sense of excitement and gratitude for our liberal religion.

I served as a delegate from OCUUC, so I attended and voted at the Business Meetings. Some of the excellent workshops I attended included "Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice," "Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter to Your Congregation," and "Faith Forward: A Path for Engagement." I will be working with others in the congregation to implement some of these programs presented at GA.

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All UU members are welcome to attend GA. After my first experience this year, I highly recommend attending in order to gain new skills and deepen understanding of the breadth of our shared UU community across the United States.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Tom Loughrey for filling in for me as President from May 1 to June 18 due to my being on a medical leave for knee surgery and recovery from same. Tom stepped up and did the job flawlessly and I am grateful for his generous gift of time and talent over and above already serving as Treasurer and the Co-Chair of the Property Use Group.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy July and I look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

Debra Quam

President@ocuuc.org



Sian on Sabbatical

The Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees reminds the congregation that Rev. Sian starts her sabbatical on June 30th.

Originally scheduled to start May 30, this sabbatical provides Rev. Sian time for reflection, renewal and recharging, all of which is much needed after the incredible effort shepherding our Beloved community into the virtual world that we now inhabit.

As was the case when Rev. Sian took a sabbatical in the summer of 2017, we have a plan for handling the various ministries of the church, from worship services and pastoral care, to administration and communication regarding the dynamic situation with Covid-19 and its impact on church activities.

The Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez will return to our Zoom pulpit to give sermons twice a month. Rev. Sanchez is known to many of us, having periodically spoken at OCUUC and serving other UU Congregations in our area. Other favorites such as Rev. Tom Owen-Tolle, Rev. Summer Albayati and Michael Eselun will also be preaching. Director of Music Ministries, Beth Syverson, continues to choreograph our enriching Sunday services.

Pastoral needs continue to be supported by the Caring Committee, made up of our Pastoral Care Associates and Helping Hands. They can be reached at pastoralcare@ocuuc.org and caring@ocuuc.org, respectively.

For anyone experiencing serious life transitions, the Rev. Judy Tomlinson, the Director of Religious Education, is available. She can be reached at revjudy@ocuuc.org, or DRE@ocuuc.org.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns,

COM Members: Sheri Loeschen, Tom Loughrey, Katherine Martin
COM@OCUUC.org

Worship in July 2020:

July 5th: Lessons from the Acjachemen tribe! Jacques Nunez will be returning to our congregation to share lessons from her Acjachemen tribe. (Our church sits on Acjachemen land.) She will bring us stories, songs, and a homily about the yucca, an important plant native to our area. The yucca threads contain the best of who we are and our gifts. Collectively with other community threads, we can weave a beautiful vessel to serve: a basket. *Jacques Nunez*

July 12th: In Here. "We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person." is our First Principle in Unitarian Universalism. Together let's take a look at what this means for us as individuals and a faith community. Please give some thought to whether this Principle offers you either comfort or is a challenge or affects you in any other way. *Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

July 19th: What Would Love Do? We are living in trying, even dangerous times and hate crime has sky-rocketed in the past months. As we cope with this new reality and with all the restrictions of COVID 19, how can we make a positive difference? There is only one constructive response to difficult times, hatred, and restrictions and that is love. Today's service invites us to ask "what would love do" as we work to build a brighter tomorrow. *Rev. Karen Stoyanoff*

July 26th: Just Us We covenant to affirm and promote Justice, Equity and Compassion in human relations. One might ask, "Justice for whom?" This would be another difference from some, as our work for justice is for "just us," ... all of us, even for those with whom we might disagree. Difficult at times, but for us, essential. *Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez*

Music Notes

By Beth Syverson

Zooming our worship services has definitely been a challenge, but there are some really positive things that have benefitted the Music Ministries because of the need to Zoom.

- Several of us have learned (or refined our use of) audio and video editing software. The only way to create ensemble music right now is to compile individual videos together, because Internet latency is too long and too inconsistent to be able to sing or play together live, even (or actually, especially) on Zoom. So we are each singing or playing in our own houses and then sending solo recordings in to the editor, who then syncs them up and blends the sounds together. Steve Morihiro, Andres Trivino, Susan Shaw, and I are sharing the editing duties currently. It is time consuming, but for people who like solitary detail work, it's quite creative and fun.
- Because we have to submit solo videos, our singers and musicians are refining their skills. The act of listening back to oneself makes one very aware of little foibles and inconsistencies in tone, pitch, and timing. So we're all cleaning up our act as a natural result of listening back to ourselves so frequently. I have noticed lots of growth in all the choir singers, after only (only?) 3 months operating this way.
- Several of you have requested that we create a place where you can listen to our music videos and special video compilations (like the Flower Communion) again. Now we have an OCUUC Music Videos playlist on the church's YouTube channel! It's a nice repository of all the musicians' efforts. Because we have to use mostly recorded music for worship, a YouTube library of our Sunday morning

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video offerings is a nice bonus. Make sure to Subscribe to the church's YouTube channel to get notified of new videos that have been uploaded.



- Everyone has had to become more creative and adventurous. Several people have written new songs, with more on the way. Small groups have gathered together to collaborate on songs. Many of you have contributed photos and videos for song montages. And many of you in the congregation have submitted your own recordings for projects like Flower Communion and the Singing Bowl video at the beginning of every service. And we now have a file full of Artists UUnite pieces to use in our slideshows and videos. Even your Minister recorded herself singing -- yes, singing! -- for Rica's sendoff, "So Long, Farewell!"
- The choir is trying out Open Source software that provides a way to hear each other singing or playing together, and it syncs the sounds up in real time (or 40 milliseconds late, which is almost real time). Steve Morihiro has spent a great deal of

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Music Notes (cont.)

time, helping each choir member get on board individually. It's still a work in progress, but we are hopeful we will be able to sing together -- and hear each other singing together -- again soon. A quartet was able to sing a song together last week, and surprisingly, we were joined by a bass player from who-knows-where, who jumped into our decidedly not-private rehearsal "room." He was great, improvising along with us, creating a collaboration on the spot.

If you'd like to join in the fun, the choir is continuing to rehearse on Thursday nights through the summer (except we're off on July 23). It's a wonderful social network along with a laboratory for tightening up our music skills. Or if you'd like to do any solo work anytime, just let me know.

Musically Yours,

Beth Syverson

Director of Music Ministries
musicdirector@ocuuc.org



OCUUC has a new mailing address!

OCUUC now has a Post Office Box! Please address any mail for OCUUC to the following:

Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 3770
Costa Mesa CA 92628-3770



July Plateshare – Stand Up for Kids



Stand Up For Kids – Orange County, serves homeless and at-risk youth and young adults 25 and younger. Programs in Orange County offer street outreach, outreach centers, mentoring and housing support.

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 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, former juvenile justice and foster care youth, pregnant and parenting young people and kids forced out of their homes. For information contact Stand Up For Kids at 714 356-5437

2019-2020 Shining Stars, Unsung Heroes, Joan Gillan Award Winners

Compiled by Karen Kennedy, VP Programs



Shining Stars-nominated throughout the year by members

Bob and Charlene Gurski- for heading up the kitchen clean-up work day

Barbara Morihiro- for her institutional knowledge on PUG, getting a \$500 grant all by herself for the Film Festival, working on the \$250K Sanctuary Grant, and sharing her vocal talents in the choir

Jamie and Jazzie Pendarvis- for all their helpfulness. And, Jazzie is also appreciated for her cheerful, reliable help with RE.

Audrey Prosser- for all she does for Buildings and Grounds as the Chair. Her nominator (and it wasn't Debra) said that *she is phenomenal*.

Amelia Russo-Neustadt and Marilyn Frenz- for initiating and leading the Meditation Group before church, on a regular basis.

The OCUUC Geek Squad, who helped everyone get on ZOOM: Nina Smith, Steve Morihiro, Barbara Schilling, Jamie Pendarvis, Yulis Ayton, Rica Kaufel, and Jonathan Magoon-Pearson. Rev Sian really helped out too, with her technical knowledge. It was Nina who thought of this essential service. The 100+ attendees at our Sunday services (many of them technically challenged) attest to the OCUUC Geek Squad's success and patience!

Steve Morihiro and Katherine Martin for all their work setting up the zoom Sunday services. We do not know half of how everything runs so smoothly!

Andrés Triviño- stepped up to produce "The Blast" every week (with assistance from Sarah Jones). He also edited the beautiful "Sanctuary" song performed by the choir on Zoom, and lends his vocal and percussion talents to the choir

Peggy Hepler- for all she does to make food presentations look so good at our events, helping in the kitchen, and sharing her culinary talents for auction events.

Ginny Chan- Ginny created and edited the slides for the Annual Meeting (along with Christy Montgomery and Sarah Hunter.) Ginny greatly assisted Board members Tom Loughrey, Sarah Hunter, Karen Kennedy, Meg Wilson and Kathleen McFarlin pull off a smooth, informative Annual Meeting via Zoom. Ginny does a lot of behind scene work on slides for the church services, and also serves in the choir.

2019-2020 Shining Stars, Unsung Heroes, Joan Gillan Award Winners (cont.)

2019-2020 Unsung Heroes- selected by the Board of Directors

Sandie Martin and Linda Spery- Joint Campaign Chairs

Sandie ran a very successful Pledge drive for the OCUUC operating fund. She cooked delicious dinners at her home for the Pledge Committee members, planned the Agendas, and produced all the materials for the campaign, with the help of her talented son-in-law. She (and Don) even drove Thank You notes all over Orange County to the committee members' homes. She was instrumental in raising over \$213,000 in pledges, which is over 10% increase from last year!

Linda has continued to move forward, strong and steady, with her vision of a new Sanctuary, bringing the rest of OCUUC along. She manages the database of contributors, is organizing the relaunched campaign, and will conduct training for the Campaign Leaders. She was instrumental in preparing the \$250K grant we received for the Sanctuary.

Before the COVID Quarantine in Place happened, these two hardworking women worked hard to identify hosts and get all members and friends assigned to someone's house for dinner or lunch to discuss Sanctuary Pledges. It was a great idea, and we were looking forward to this innovative idea.

Joan Gillan Award for Religious Education

Jacques Kilchoer

By Rev. Judy

Jacques Kilchoer is the Chair of the Religious Education Committee. He has provided a continuity of leadership for more than three years, these last four months, under extraordinary circumstances. Every week he has provided technical support for our elementary classes. He has held things together being present for our children, youth and teachers every Sunday morning. Jacques and Elizabeth have nurtured the parent community building relationships and supporting the grownups and doing it all with playfulness and great humor!





New Sanctuary Capital Campaign Relaunch

by Linda Spery

New capital campaign pledges and contributions to satisfy pledges made in the capital campaign's first phase continue to be received from generous OCUUC congregants. To date the amount pledged is \$ 589,720, with \$442,351 received (75%).

On May 12, the campaign received a major boost when the board of the San Diego-based Spirit Level Foundation sent word that they had decided to fund OCUUC's multi-year phased grant for the new sanctuary at \$50,000 per year over a five year period for a total of \$250,000, the sum requested in OCUUC's grant application. The Foundation cited OCUUC's successful fundraising efforts to date as one of the deciding factors on awarding the generous amount.

A presentation of the relaunch plan was made to the annual meeting on June 14. Following the presentation, there has been outreach to 11 "Campaign Leaders" who earlier volunteered to undergo training to seek donations in the previous combined campaign. The Campaign Leaders who will be reaching out to congregants for the capital campaign in July are Meg Wilson, Tom Loughrey, Craig Spery, Nancy Loughrey, Karen Kennedy, Sarah Hunter, Marcia Hackett, Sunny Harper, Nina Smith, Don Martin and Linda Spery.

The Campaign Leaders are committed to undergo small group Zoom training and thereafter to do individual outreach to an assigned group of congregants to seek new

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capital campaign pledges and increases from existing pledges to move the campaign toward conclusion. The first phase of outreach to major gift (\$10,000+) donor prospects (existing and new pledgers) commenced in late June with Tom Loughrey and Linda Spery as campaign leaders for this first phase. We hope that everyone will be open to contacts by the Campaign Leaders who are dedicated to this campaign and volunteering their time to this important project.

So be on the lookout for a call, e-mail or letter from one of the Campaign Leaders in July. For more information about how you can support the capital campaign for a new OCUUC sanctuary or to ask any questions, please contact Linda Spery at lindaspery@gmail.com or 562-212-5317.



Random Kindness

I'm excited to share news of our 2020 RE Summer Program, Chalice Camp: Identity and Justice. So relevant for our time, we will talk about integrity and courage. Our Sunday morning camp will cover self-identity, difference, the historical and recent background of racism and resistance movements that fought and continue to work to dismantle oppression.

What would camp be without arts and crafts? Decorate your own tee shirt, assemble your own identity mosaic, make your own Femo beads and embellish your own star fish. Sounds like fun. We make it easy by assembling the supplies. All you have to do is register for Chalice Camp—it's free—and come to church on July 12 to pick up your supplies. I will ship or drop them to your home if you can't make it on Sunday, July 12.

As you can imagine the materials take time and money to assemble so we **really** do need you to register. That way we will know how many to make. It's simple: Each child's name, age, address, grade in Fall of 2020, your cell phone & email and each child's T-shirt size 6-8, 10-12, 14-16. Email the information to RevJudy@ocuuc.org by July 5.

It is heartbreaking to know that children as young as two and three years-old begin to understand that being white and having blue eyes is preferential. Whether white or a person of color we need to resist this powerful message from our culture and replace it with an even stronger narrative in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. As a white person I have more responsibility to overcome conscious and unconscious bias.

Here are some resources as we work on this together.

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Random Kindness (cont.)

An annotated list of children's books compiled by the Association of California School Administrators

<https://content.acsa.org/articles/26-children-books-on-race-racism-resistance>.

UUA adult program The Journey Toward Wholeness https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/araomc/jtw_1996-2002.pdf

Teaching Young Children to Resist Bias: What Parents Can Do *National Association for the Education of Young Children*
<http://www.cccpreschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Teaching-Children-to-Resist-Bias4.pdf>

"Racism attacks the very sense of self for children of color. . . Racism also teaches White children a false identity of superiority and distorts their perceptions of reality. Thus they are not equipped to fairly and productively interact with more than half of the world's humanity.

Recognize that, because we live in a racist and biased society, we must actively foster children's anti-bias development.

Provide books, dolls, toys, wall decorations (paintings, drawings, photographs), TV programs, and records that reflect diverse images that children may not likely see elsewhere."

10 Ways to Nurture Tolerance
<http://www.pmct.org/articles/tolerance2002.htm> and Teaching As Social Justice Work: Anti-Oppression and Anti-Bias Work, UUA curricula and programs: <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/curricula>

Let's take up this healing work.

Rev. Judy

Groups at OCUUC

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, in person meetings are temporarily suspended.

Stay in touch (electronically) and stay safe. We need to physically distance, but in these uncertain times, we need social connection more than ever.

OCUUC Non-Fiction Book Club

The Nonfiction Book Club will be meeting on Sunday, July 12 via Zoom at 12:30pm. As usual, each person (who wishes to do so) will share a book that they have been reading.

So, keep reading! And stay connected with others who also love books and learning about new things.

If you're looking for some reading material related to anti-racism, here are some web pages with suggestions.

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/story/2020-06-04/13-nonfiction-books-to-read-during-george-floyd-protests>

<https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>

OCUUC Book Club

The OCUUC Fiction Book group will meet via Zoom at 7:30-pm on Monday, July 6th, to discuss "The Tender Land" by William Kent Kruger. The meeting ID can be found on the OCUUC website calendar or by contacting Eva Lu.

Please join us online for our usual lively discussion. Co-chairs: Eva Goodwin Noriega & Marcia Hackett.

LGBT Action Group

The LGBT Action group meets on Zoom on the second Sunday of the month at noon. Find the zoom meeting ID on the church website calendar or contact Jan Mabie.

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 currently meeting weekly on Saturdays at 10am on Zoom! Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar or contact Barbara Schilling.



Women's Circle

The Women's Circle has also moved into cyberspace for the present. They meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Find the meeting ID on the OCUUC website calendar.

Calendar of Events at OCUUC

Sunday Services: 10:30 am on Zoom

Thursday, July 2nd

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Saturday, July 4th

Stitchwits, 10am

Sunday, July 5th

Meditation Group, 9:45am

Sunday Service, 10:30am

AHA Group, 12pm

Monday, July 6th

Fiction Book Group, 7:30pm

Wednesday, July 8th

Comm. on Ministry, 6pm

Thursday, July 9th

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Friday, July 10th

Artists UUnite, 2pm

Saturday, July 11th

Stitchwits, 10am

Sunday, July 12th

Sunday Service, 10:30am

LGBT Action Group, 12pm

Nonfiction Book Club, 12:30pm

Wednesday, July 15th

Finance Council, 2pm

Thursday, July 16th

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Saturday, July 18th

Stitchwits, 10am

Sunday, July 19th

Meditation Group, 9:45am

Sunday Service, 10:30am

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Wednesday, July 22nd

Board of Trustees, 7pm

Thursday, July 23rd

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Saturday, July 25th

Stitchwits, 10am

Sunday, July 26th

Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Women's Circle, 12pm

Thursday, July 30th

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Joys and Sorrows on Sundays

If you would like to express a profound Joy or Sorrow to be read during the service on Sunday, please send it in an email to joysandsorrows@ocuuc.org by 9 am on Sunday morning. You will also have an opportunity to type a response in the Zoomchat. And please continue to reach out to one another, stay in touch. An unexpected phone call is like a smile; free and does a world of good.



Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.
Be safe, be well,
You mean the world to me.

Words by Dan Berggren



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