

July 2021 NEWSLETTER



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“Hold fast to dreams,
for if dreams die,
life is
a broken-winged bird
that cannot fly.”

~ Langston Hughes

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Service at 10 am

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 129 662

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/832129662>

After-worship COFFEE HOUR

<https://zoom.us/j/118751781?pwd=S0EyQmZLdjJuNnBlV1ZlWW0yZVFhZz09>

July 4 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“America Will Be”

This morning’s service reflects on the Langston Hughes poem “Let America Be America Again.” Several Chalice congregants will share their dream for America.

July 11 – Rev. Lucy Bunch

“A Theology of Liberation”

The report of the Commission on Institutional Change was released in June 2020, and it has many important recommendations to help Unitarian Universalism increase our inclusion and diversity and be more relevant in these times. One of their recommendations encourages us to re-engage with our theological legacy of liberation. This Sunday we will explore this theological legacy and consider how each of us can understand the power of liberation in our lives and in the world.

Rev. Lucy Bunch is the Minister for Faith and Justice at the UU Society of Sacramento CA.

July 18 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Asking Questions”

Do you have something you’ve always wanted to ask a minister, the minister, YOUR minister? Today’s the day to bring your question! Questions will be collected during the service and answered by Rev. Sharon in lieu of a sermon.

July 25 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“In Praise of Boredom”

As we continue to emerge from the stresses and fears of the pandemic, it is tempting to return to all the activities and commitments we used to do. But weren’t we pretty stressed out and overwhelmed even before the pandemic started? Today let’s consider how we want life to be going forward.



Minister's Message

For over a year, I have been living with fear and anxiety as a constant presence in my life. Now, the fear and anxiety are lessening. Which should be wonderful, yes?

But now there is an emptiness where the fear and anxiety were. And the emptiness feels unpleasant.

This is why people drink, I think. Or gamble or shop too much or do any other of the number of things we do either to make ourselves feel good or to stop ourselves from feeling bad. "Numbing behaviors" we call these.

I am resisting the urge—the habit—to find something new to feel fearful and anxious about.

And I am trying to feel loving toward my emptiness. Letting go of fear and anxiety is a huge thing, and it makes sense that those emotions have taken up a large space in my life. But they weren't there before the pandemic, and I have some faith that my life will adjust and reorder itself afresh. The emptiness will eventually fill with emotions that have long been missing, hope and joy foremost among them.

I heard from one of you recently that you were feeling anxious about travelling out of town to visit family, and you weren't sure why. I knew why! Because we have been cooped up at home for over a year, and travelling is one of many activities that will feel dangerous and stressful in the beginning, and attending a family gathering, although joyful, can also be stressful even in the best of times. Add a layer of wondering if everyone is vaccinated, plus the possibility of discovering that some family members have become QAnon conspiracists...it's a lot.

Airlines are debating when to start serving alcohol on flights again because passengers are already unruly and prone to fights. I can tell you as someone who attends baseball games that there is more drinking and more rowdiness this year, even when the stadium wasn't at full capacity yet. Fans ran onto the field during a Wednesday game!

Over and over again I am hearing from you—and seeing all around me—that emerging from pandemic life is wonderful but also stressful. Over and over again, I say: "We have lived through 15 months of trauma. Everyone is low functioning right now. We will be processing this trauma for months and months. Be gentle with yourself."

However you are experiencing the challenges of this particular moment, I hope you will remember, first and foremost, that we should not expect to feel anything like "normal" anytime soon. Let's feel comfortable talking with each other about how hard and weird things are right now. As always, please reach out to friends, family, and each other (and me!) to share your burdens.

Bright blessings,
Sharon

To schedule an appointment with Rev. Sharon:

Online: <https://calendly.com/revsharonwyllie/>

Text or call: 619.871.9959

Email: swyllie@chaliceucongregation.org



President's Column

As I write this, I am coming off the high of a day at Virtual UUA General Assembly. If you've never been to GA, I recommend you make the effort to go. Next year it will be in Portland, but they also plan to continue with the virtual option. My overriding feeling from GA is that Unitarian Universalism is an amazing religion full of amazing people with amazing ideas and beliefs.

This morning there was an Indigenous People's Storytelling and Ceremony service. This was one portion. Check it out.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp_1Tj8XnSo

July, as most of you know, is the first month of our new Church Year. The new board is made up of me, as President, Tom Carlstrom as VP, Victoria Cagle as Treasurer, Paula Gonzalez as Secretary, Amaka Ayikpa, Kate Vereb, Jeff Heys and Jeff Harlig as Trustees. Dean Goddette and Reverend Sharon are our non-voting members. It's a great group of people and we are excited to do great work.

Last month we had a 3 part board retreat. The first retreat was a presentation about the 8th Principle. Dean wrote about it in his last President's column. Check it out or go to <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org> Many congregations, including most of our neighboring congregations here in SD county, have adopted the 8th principle as part of a grassroots movement to encourage the adoption of the principle by the UUA.

Our second and third retreats focused on the vision of our congregation and board. We have so much to be grateful for here at Chalice. But, we also have a lot we can improve on. We must continue to support the Transformation Team in education and action around anti-racism and dismantling white supremacy. We need to support the Outreach Team to bring about congregational growth. We need to provide opportunities for leadership roles for a more diverse group of congregants. And we have to figure out how to re-enter our physical space with the spirit of inclusion.

There's even more to do as we finally get back together face to face. (RE, music, coffee hour!) We need you to get ready and get excited. We can't do it without you! I know each of you has much to give to our community. And if you don't have the ability to contribute right now, that is okay too. But for those who can, now is the time to start thinking and planning on how you want to be involved. Feel free to contact me anytime to let me know what is important to you.

Much love,

Anne

anne.mckeirnan@gmail.com



Anne McKeirnan
Board President



News for Newcomers

Welcome to Chalice! We are glad you are here. All are welcome at Chalice, especially in this time of separation and uncertainty. We strive to be a beacon of liberal religion in North Inland San Diego County.

Even during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are vibrant & thriving in many ways. Although we cannot yet meet in person, we have numerous activities, starting of course with our Sunday Services at 10 AM on Zoom (<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/832129662>).

Reopening Plans

Chalice is planning to reopen for hybrid services in September of this year, possibly sooner. Our plan is to have services in our Chapel on Sunday mornings in addition to having the services presented in a Zoom format for those who do not feel comfortable meeting in person or for any other reason, such as physical distance.

We have a technology team working to try to achieve the best result being experienced by both those attending in person AND those viewing the service on Zoom. The Zoom service will also be recorded, so it can be viewed later as well.

At present, we are planning 3 cameras in the Chapel feeding the Zoom session. One will be focused on the dais, one on the piano & a third being managed by a person, alternatively providing views of the Choir, the seated congregation, the story teller, hand chimes ensemble, etc.

For those attending in person, all are welcome. We ask for those who have not received full Covid-19 vaccinations to wear a mask while inside the chapel for their own safety and the safety of others.

When you attend a service in person, you will be greeted by one of our Chalice Greeter's team who will provide you with an order of service & answer any questions you might have. On the Welcome table, there are a wide variety of materials available that describe more about Chalice, including a list of Activities that will show which groups are now meeting via Zoom or in person. This list will be updated regularly to reflect where we are in the re-opening process.

After service, our Greeters will be mingling on the courtyard. You can identify them by a blue ribbon attached to their badge with the word "Greeter". They will be able to provide you with any further information you might need & answer any questions. If you do not see a greeter, you can ask any Chalice congregant with a permanent badge. We are all there to help make newcomers welcome.

Finally, if you fill out one of our connection cards, you can indicate the kinds of things you want more information on and we will follow up with you via email or phone call.

Welcome to Chalice! We are glad you are here!

Sincerely, Richard K.



Summer Religious Education Program at Chalice

The Summer RE classes for children and youth will begin the second week of July. **PLAY!** is the theme for Summer. (in direct contrast to **STRESS!**--the theme of last year!) Both age groups will have the opportunity to meet in-person at the Chalice campus. An online option will be available for those who would prefer to stay connected virtually.

Having ample time to play is an important part of the growing-up years. Play allows children and youth to use their creativity while developing physical, cognitive and emotional strength. While interacting with the world around them, children's explorations help them grow more competent and lessen their fears. Through play, children learn how to work in groups and resolve conflicts. In this way, play will help our children and teens to practice the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism and become effective leaders in the future.

For the last six Sunday morning virtual classes, the children have been exploring effective communication skills. In one activity, they made yard signs to convey something that is important to them. They were also practicing one of the four methods of social justice work, educating others about current issues. Clara V. made a yard sign to convey her passion for caring for the Earth.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the Summer Program. We can all work together to navigate the careful process of being together in-person again. Everyone has their own unique response to the events of the past year and our gatherings this Summer will focus on a stress free, playful outlook in all we do!



Chris O'Connor
Director of Family
Ministries





Tim McKnight
Music Director

Thank you, Tom, for “Concert At Home”!

Now that San Diego County is opening up, and Chalice prepares to worship together in person in the fall, the time seemed right for Tom Carlstrom to bring his monthly “Concert At Home” series to a close. His last concert was June 5th. “Concert At Home” started back in the early days of the pandemic when his April 2020 auction concert was canceled. He adjusted quickly and presented his concert over Zoom. We were all so thrilled to actually see friendly familiar faces and hear Tom’s music! Someone suggested, “Tom, you should do this every week!” And so he did. For several weeks, Tom presented a weekly concert, which gradually shifted to a monthly schedule. Every concert was a different theme, and sometimes he was joined by other singers like Don A. and Patty C. Hearing Tom’s familiar voice singing familiar tunes was a healing balm in a troubled time. Thank you, Tom, for keeping our Chalice community connected throughout this pandemic with your gift of music. It has meant so much to us.



Looking Ahead:

- Chancel Choir and Handchime Ensemble RehearsalsTBD - Coming Soon!
- Cabaret Watch Party 2 (Zoom!)TBD @7p





Coordinating Team

The Coordinating Team oversees operations at Chalice. Their June report to the Board included the following:

- Created and approved guidelines and procedures for small congregant groups to meet on the courtyard. It is a substantial challenge to balance the needs of a diverse community, our values of inclusivity and caring, and not always clear guidelines from the CDC, the County, and Cal/OSHA.
- Surveyed the congregation regarding vaccination status.
- The transfer of information into a new database has been complicated. We are grateful to Bonnie and Delynn for overseeing this work.
- Continuing progress on Memorial Wall development.

Board Report

The Chalice Board of Trustees met for the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7 PM on Zoom. It was reported that the Chalice operating funds showed a year-to-date surplus, due mostly to total expenses being lower than the budgeted amounts. A final report for the Fiscal Year ending in June will be available in July. The Board heard a report on the need for and establishment of a new Chalice Finance Committee. A Finance Committee Charter was presented to the Board for review. The Charter was explained in full and is to be considered a living document. The Board voted to approve the new Finance Committee Charter as presented. At check-out Board members, especially those rotating off the Board, expressed how much they had learned about all the behind-the-scenes operations of the running of Chalice, particularly in regard to the financial operations.

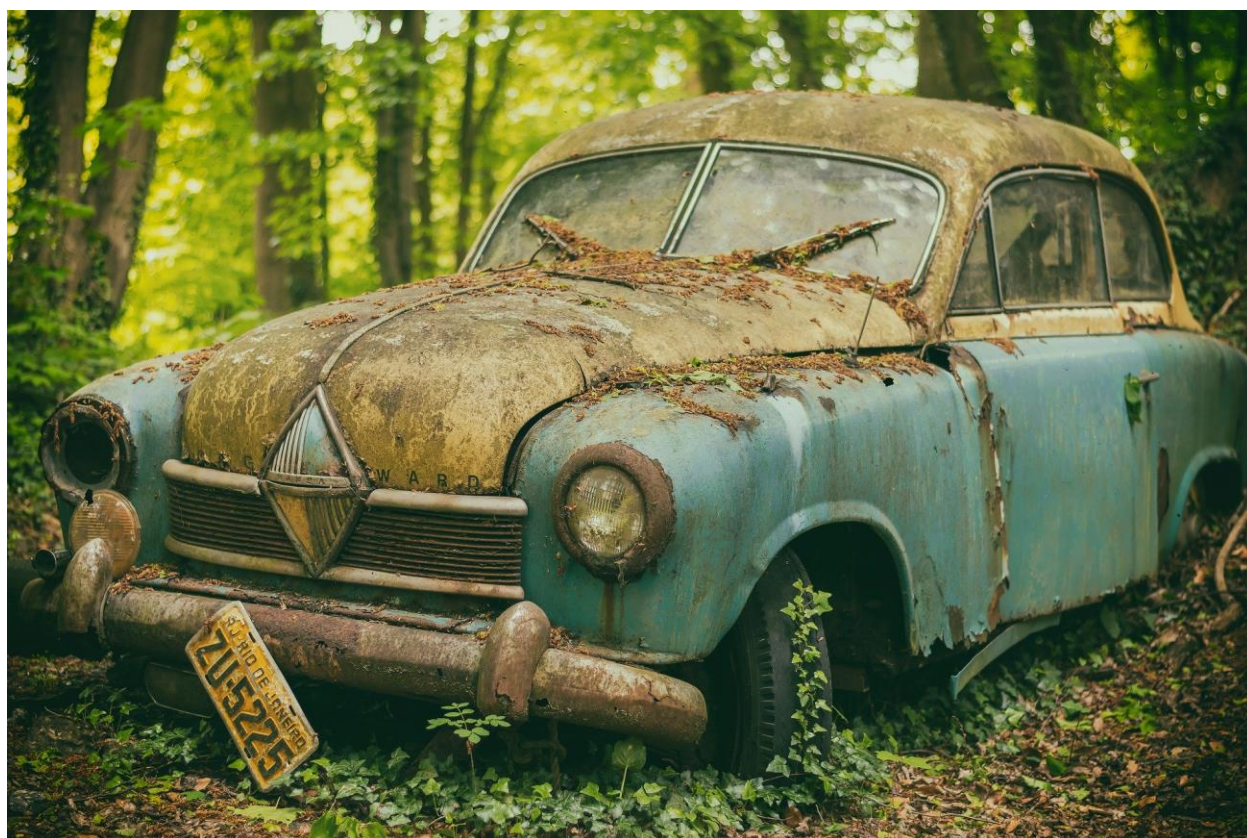


Green Sanctuary Team

The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History has a series of 4 shows on climate change feedback loops. The July show, Permafrost, promises to be informative with breathtaking video. You can watch it anytime, but you must preregister. Here is the link to register.

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/events/feedback-loops-permafrost>

Would you get an alternative-fuel or hybrid vehicle if it bested your car in emissions, cost, and performance? See how vehicles compare, using the U.S. energy department's online calculator: <https://afdc.energy.gov/calc/> One Team member found that her 2013 Honda Fit emitted 4,145 pounds of CO2 annually based on her usage! If you are considering a change, you can plug different models in for detailed results. Hopefully someday carbon spewing vehicles will be a thing of the past.



From the Green Sanctuary Team: chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com



Transformation Team

Although June is Pride month when LGBTQIA people openly celebrate the freedom to show the wholeness of who they are, San Diego's modified Pride festivities will be held beginning July 10th (<https://sdpride.org/pride/>). In June 1969, the police raided the Stonewall Inn and the gay community responded with six days of clashes. They demanded a space for themselves. The first Pride Parade was in 1970. Space is still being claimed. Danica Roem, the first openly transgender person elected to any state legislature, recently shepherded Virginia's bill to ban the use of the "gay and transgender panic" defense. Virginia is the twelfth state and the first southern state to ban the defense tactic. It remains legal in the remaining thirty-eight states.

Roem was elected in 2017. In 2020, 220 LGBTQIA candidates won their election. None of those elections would have happened if not for Jose Julio Sarria. Weary of being hassled by the San Francisco Police Department for his "Widow Norton" drag performance at the Black Cat Café, Sarria ran for San Francisco Supervisor in 1961. Although he lost, he gathered enough votes to bring "visibility to the plight of San Francisco's queer community and inspired generations of LGBTQ people to run for office. Politicians can no longer ignore the LGBTQIA community. If you would like to learn more about political figures through the decades, drop in at The Victory Institute's link:

<https://www.prideandprogress.org/?emci=d889ddb2-9bd2-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=d58e9e10-9cd2-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=9540227>.

Please understand that this is in no way an endorsement of their charity (rated 3 out of 4 on Charity Navigator). For a more social and cultural history timeline, try <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/stonewall-milestones-american-gay-rights-movement/>

There is much work yet to be done. Human Rights Campaign (HRC) reports that thus far in 2021, seventeen anti-LGBTQ bills have been enacted into law and more than 250 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in state legislatures, seeking to regulate everything from medical care to sports and bathrooms. In 2020, HRC "tracked a record number of 44 violent fatal incidents against transgender and gender non-conforming people... Sadly, as of June 14th, 2021 has already seen at least 29 transgender and gender non-conforming people violently killed.



Transformation Team, cont.

Juneteenth, A Testament to Persistence, Resilience, and Strength

On June 19, 1865, General Order 3 was straightforward only in its most basic statement: all Texas slaves are free. Although many among the now formerly enslaved had already heard this news, the official declaration was met with great joy. However, much like The Emancipation Proclamation (which did not free any slaves in Union or Border states), the dilution and circumscription of their freedom begins in the order's very next sentences: "The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere." These disquieting cautions showed the newly freed how their "liberators" really viewed them. Nonetheless, from that day forward, the commemoration of the day, Juneteenth, has continued to develop and grow, moving north and east with the Great Migration until today it embraces the international African diaspora.

Juneteenth is now a national holiday. Hopefully, the designation is not merely performative and will be supplemented by meaningful voting and civil rights legislation. Juneteenth is an identifiable point in the evolution of freedom. It is a repeated remembrance. It is a promise. The National Museum of African American History and Culture created a very informative multimedia Juneteenth portal (<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/juneteenth>) that expresses the significance of the holiday to the black community. I've compiled some of their sentences: "Juneteenth places Black people at the center of the conversation about freedom, its meaning and manifestation in this nation... It allows each generation to reflect what more there is to do... It facilitates the transmission of black history and culture... Juneteenth should really be a rallying call for all of us to think about the meaning of freedom, how we define citizenship, and the importance of the vote... Juneteenth is here so that we can teach people who don't always have access to this knowledge in their homes or in their schools. It gives us a space, not only physical, not only external, but a space in our hearts and in our minds."

Like the Emancipation Proclamation inspired imaginings of and instigated actions toward a nation without slavery, let Pride Month and Juneteenth inspire our imaginings of and actions toward more freedom for ALL of us. None of us are free until all of us are free.

From the Transformation Team: chalicetransformation@gmail.com



Group Announcements

Reader's Theater Group

Our gathering this month will be on Monday, July 26th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We'll be reading aloud *The Great Khan*, by Michael Gene Sullivan. Billed as an entertaining piece centering on today's Black youth, it is a call to action to fight against the injustices of our modern society. The plot: Two Black teens, Jayden and Ant, are connected together through unforeseen circumstances. As they seek to define themselves and reclaim their identity, Genghis Khan shows up to challenge their ideas, as well as our own. We are left with the question: WHO gets to tell the story that makes up our history? **Please join us (virtually) — newcomers and listeners are always welcome at our gatherings!** Please contact Deb so she can send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting.



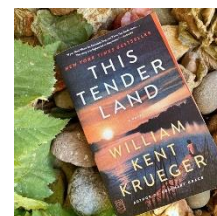
Elder's Lunch

The July Elders Lunch will be Friday, July 16 at 12:30 (NOT July 9, our usual meeting date)

If you want to be emailed a reminder with the zoom link the day before, please let Rev. Sharon know at swylie@chaliceuucongregation.org or call her at 619-871-9959

Women's Book Discussion Group

On July 20th at 7pm the book group will be discussing *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kruger. This is an forgettable story of 4 orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. It is a big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams and makes us whole. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.



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PrevUUs is published monthly by Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The complete newsletter is distributed via email to members and posted on the Members Only section of the website. An edited version (without congregant contact information) is posted on the public section of the website. Paper copies are available per request. Deadline is the 24th of the month.

Submit articles to: Office@chaliceuucongregation.org

With much gratitude to our Editorial Team.



Calendar for July, 2021

Until further notice, Chalice activities and events will be held virtually.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30A Women's Meditation	2	3
4 10A Worship Service "America Will Be" 11:10A Coffee Hour	5	6 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 6P Yoga 7P Exec. Board Meet.	7 9A Cracker Barrel 2P Coor. Team	8 10:30A Women's Meditation	9	10
11 10A Worship Service "A Theology of Liberation" 11:10A Coffee Hour	12 1P Poetry Group	13 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 6P Yoga 7P Board Meeting	14 9A Cracker Barrel 6:30P Men's Support Group	15 10:30A Women's Meditation	16 Elders Lunch	17 10A Worship Team Meeting
18 10A Worship Service "Asking Questions" 11:10A Coffee Hour	19	20 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 6P Yoga 7P Women's Book Disc.	21 9A Cracker Barrel 2P Coor. Team	22 10:30A Women's Meditation	23	24
25 10A Worship Service "In Praise of Boredom" 11:10A Coffee Hour	26 6:30P Green Team 6:30P Readers Theater	27 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 2P Staff Meeting 6P Yoga	28 9A Cracker Barrel 7P Prayer Circle	29 10:30A Women's Meditation	30 4:30 RE classes MS/HS	31 10A Council of Chairs

