

October 2021 NEWSLETTER



Volume #22 | Issue #10 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Inside This Issue

- PG. 2
Sunday Worship Schedule
- PG. 3
Minister's Message
- PG. 4
President's Column
- PG. 5
Family Ministries
- PG. 6-7
Music Committee
- PG. 8
Coordinating Team Report/Board Report
- PG. 9
Green Sanctuary Team
- PG. 10-11
Transformation Team
- PG. 12-13
Group Announcements
- PG. 14
Council of Chairs
- PG. 14
Staff Change
- PG. 15
Calendar of Events



Mount Woodson

In the Kumeyaay tradition, Mount Woodson is known as Ewiiy Hellyaa. It is a place of power associated with a mythical rabbit and with the moon.

According to some stories, Ewiiy Hellyaa is where the moon sleeps. One narrative is the story of Toyapai, a Kumeyaay spirit giant, who stepped on the southern slope of the mountain on the way to the coast. Toyapai's foot imprinted into the bedrock and the hill slope was steeply indented. These features can still be seen today.

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=S0EyQmZLdjJuNnBIV1ZiWW0yZVFmZz09>

October 3 – Rev. Sharon Wylie
“Maybe We Make God”

The idea of an omniscient and all-powerful God is not how most Unitarian Universalists experience God in their lives. This morning Rev. Sharon shares some newer ways of thinking about God.

October 10 – Transformation Team

“How Do We Honor Indigenous People’s Day?”

Our faith calls us to respect and learn from indigenous peoples and support their struggles for social justice, as well as to understand the legacy of the doctrine of discovery. Join us in recognition of the long history of the Kumeyaay and question how we move beyond land acknowledgement to a shared preservation of life.

This service is led by Chalice’s Transformation Team. We are working to dismantle white supremacy

October 17

“Hymn Sing Sunday”

10 a.m. at Felicita Park, Area 4 (\$3 for parking)

Singing together is a cherished part of our congregational life at Chalice. Come sing old favorites and find some new ones! Masks required. Childcare and refreshments will not be available.

October 24 – Rev. Margalie Belizaire, pulpit guest

“The Good Samaritan”

Ever wonder if there might be more to the well known and beloved biblical parable “The Good Samaritan”? Well, I’ve come to view it in a whole new way lately. Come explore with me and see if this exploration impacts your understanding of the parable in any way.

Rev. Margalie Belizaire is the Settled Minister of First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Florida.

This is the second sermon in our 10-part sermon series “Listening to Black Preachers,” featuring Black UU preachers from all over the country. Our preachers were invited to speak on any topic of their choosing.

October 31 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“We Call Our Beloved Dead”

In many faith and cultural traditions, this is the season to remember and honor our ancestors and beloved dead. Today we gather for our annual remembrance service in memory and celebration of those who have gone before us.



Minister's Message

Beloveds,

As you have noticed, we are not worshipping in-person yet. We are still working on figuring out the technology, which is complicated. UU congregations across the country are sharing resources and learning together on Facebook. We are not the only congregation working on this, and we are not the only congregation that doesn't have it all figured out yet.

If you are feeling frustrated that we haven't figured it out yet, please remember how important it is that we continue to offer a high-quality, meaningful worship service online *at the same time* that we begin to offer the option of attending in-person. We aren't just switching back to "how it used to be." We are learning a whole new way of offering worship on two platforms: online and in-person at the same time.

Our progress will be slowed by my being on vacation October 4-18. It has been hard to plan and take time off during this pandemic because there's mostly been nowhere to go and taking time off during a pandemic has not turned out to be very relaxing or restorative anyway. However! I am really, really exhausted, and my husband and I have planned to be out of town for part of the time, and I am looking forward to a break.

I feel like something has shifted in the past month, and I know multiple people—not just in our own congregation—who are really struggling to keep it together (maybe a more academic way of stating that is that I know multiple people experiencing mental health crises). I talked a lot at the beginning of the pandemic about the importance of tending to our mental health, and I want to lift that up again. If you are not feeling well, please pay serious attention to your well-being, and please talk to a doctor. We are in the 19th month of an incredibly stressful, life-changing, history-changing event. We will be processing this together for years to come.

Reach out to your friends and family. Check in with the people you care about. Offer help. Ask for help. Take care of yourselves, be careful, and keep on keeping on.

Blessings and love to you,
Sharon



President's Column

Pamela Rutledge writes the following in the journal, *Psychology Today*:

“When organizations, causes, brands or individuals identify and develop a core story, they create and display authentic meaning and purpose that others can believe, participate with, and share. This is the basis for cultural and social change. This is a skill worth learning.”

What is the core story of Chalice? I believe our core story should be the basis of our mission statement. We need to look at this core story. Why are we here? What is most important in what we do? What are our goals?

Once we can clearly identify our core story or our mission, we will “create and display authentic meaning and purpose”. Knowing our mission will guide us in our purpose.

When we live our ideals and pursue our true goals “others can believe, participate with, and share” them with us. People will join our cause, join our church.

This is the basis for cultural and social change. We can make a difference.

It all starts with our core story which is represented by our mission statement.

Some of us have gone through the process of developing a mission statement. We did it 13 years ago. The process of creating the statement necessitates developing our core story. Just reading the statement that was written years ago is not the same as being a part of this process. There is no ownership nor value in just reading a statement. The value is in developing it, writing it and living it.

I think it is time we once again find our core story and put it in words together. Please talk to the Outreach team and help them and us by inviting your friends and family to tune in on Sundays or to join the book club or eat out with the Cracker Barrel folks or be active in any of the myriad groups we provide.

With much love for our congregation,

Anne



Anne McKeirnan
Board President



Family Ministries

Religious Education Program at Chalice

In September, the children's RE class took part in a Water Communion celebration by bringing water from a place important to them. They mixed the small amounts of water together and everyone took home a container of water that symbolized our commitment to stay together in this community of caring and support. This is a poem they wrote as part of the ceremony.



Chris O'Conner
Director of Family Ministries

Water is Poetry

Slippery, life, clean (hopefully) sweet,
Yummy, tasty, good,
Life
Cleansing, sweet,
Giver of life,
Deliciously cool,
The sea,
Dragonflies are attracted to water,
Love

Youth Group Upcoming Activities

Clue Avenue Escape Rooms
October 24, 2021

Preparing/Serving Dinner for Residents at
Haven House, Interfaith Community Services
December 11, 2021



Music Committee

Justin Gray and the Pacific Lyric Association Opera Company

Chalice is home to many musicians, singers, and performing artists. How have they been managing through this pandemic? This month we highlight the work of our worship musician, Justin Gray, who has been keeping very busy with his opera company of all things!

A number of years ago, I was introduced to a singing doctor by the name of Carlos Oliva. In 2006, he and his wife, Terry, founded an opera company called Pacific Lyric Association (PLA). Their primary purpose was to make opera understandable and affordable for everyone. The Olivas were the sole financial supporters of the company. I was hired to be the rehearsal accompanist and orchestra contractor for their productions. We did fully-staged operas like *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, and *Tosca*, each with full-sized orchestras.

In 2018, after our production of *Tosca* was over, the Olivas met with me and Dr. Alexandra Keegan, our conductor, and announced that they were retiring, selling their practice, and could no longer pay for productions. They would be shutting down the opera company. We couldn't imagine that happening since PLA filled such an important niche in the music world. It provided wonderful opportunities for Southern California opera singers to be in professional productions, as well as providing opera at the California Center for the Arts Escondido.



So I took over as Executive Director and Alexandra became Artistic Director. We immediately began writing grants and talking to everyone we could think of about our Escondido-based opera company.

Our hard work paid off and we presented the opera *Romeo and Juliet* in the Fall of 2019. The most exciting part of this production was when we partnered with a youth ballet company led by a Bolshoi-trained choreographer. We decided to invite about 175 school kids to see our dress rehearsal.

Even though the libretto was in French, the youth understood the story because of a novel idea instituted by the Olivas. They realized that many people have a difficult time connecting to opera because of the language barrier. So they decided to add a narrator to comment on the action every 20 minutes or so. This actor comes out on stage, recaps what just happened in the



Tim McKnight
Music Director



story, and gives a sneak preview of what is about to happen. We found that many audience members, especially those who are new to opera, enjoy the productions even more because they are able to understand the story. This was certainly the case with our young audience for *Romeo and Juliet*. They connected with the characters so well that many left the theater in tears after the tragic ending.

This experience helped us further develop our Opera Education Program. This Fall, we will invite the students to select rehearsals, give them a backstage tour, and allow them to see our final dress rehearsal - all at no cost.

We also recognized the need to train the opera performers of the future. So we established an Opera Internship Program by partnering with Cal State San Marcos, vocal instructors, and local youth symphonies to provide these internship opportunities. These young adults are partnered with seasoned professionals and mentors in our company and rehearse and perform in live opera productions.

Our monthly opera nights, held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Forgotten Barrel Winery, have been a huge hit. These events give our singers an opportunity to keep up their voices and give Escondido residents a sneak peek at what we do. After all, what goes better with opera than fine wine?

Our Fall production will be *Die Fledermaus*, written by Johann Strauss, Jr, the "Waltz King". It is actually an operetta, since it has scenes with spoken dialogue. In Europe, this is considered a musical. Performances are Oct 15, 17, 22, and 24 at the California Center for the Arts Escondido.



Opera Night at the Forgotten Barrel Winery is an outdoor event held every 4th Wednesday of the month from 6p to 8p. For reservations, call (888) 620-8466. To reserve your seats for Die Fledermaus, visit <https://www.pacificlyricassociation.org/>.

Looking Ahead:

Chancel Choir Rehearsals in the Chapel.....Thursdays @7:30p
Handchime Ensemble RehearsalsTBD
Hymn Sing @ Felicita ParkSunday, October 17 @10a



Coordinating Team

Goal: Nourish BIPOC congregants

- CT has designated one of our meeting times to brainstorm on this goal.

Goal: Transition to multi-platform gatherings

- CT has met with the Patio Cover Task Force about possibilities. We are discussing funding with several congregants who are interested in donating to make this project happen.
- We have four extra-large standalone HEPA air purifiers in the chapel (one air purifier covers 480 feet². HVAC filters (MERV-13) have also been installed.

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees.

- CT representative met with Landscape One contractor (from the Hub building project) to discuss landscaping issues.
- Proceeding with the purchase and installation of security cameras (per our Chalice Lighters Grant) (also, thank you Dean Goddette for your oversight of this!).
- We are ordering a new Chalice banner for the corner of Miller and Hamilton.
- CT confirms that the January 22nd retreat date with the Board works for us.

Board Report

Report for *Tuesday, September 7, 2021* Meeting of the Board of Trustees

- ✚ Discussed 2014 Transition/Growth Task Force Final Report sent to Board members previous to meeting
- ✚ Board Treasurer, Victoria Cagle is gathering suggestions for a Financial Inspection Team. This is a process that is done every other year.
- ✚ Chalice Congregation decision on Eighth Principle Adoption is in progress. (Principle wording below*)
- ✚ Mission Statement will be revisited. Task Force started.

Wording for the 8th Principle (proposed): We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.



Green Sanctuary Team

Can we eat and shop for food in ways that deeply satisfy body, mind, spirit **AND** our carbon footprint? Sure! Small steps add up. We're asking you to **try one or two things that you don't already do and forge a new habit.** Habits take time, so of course be gentle with yourself. Here is a list to pick from. E-mail us anything we could add to the list so we can share them with everyone. And let us know about a new habit that worked for you or was actually fun.

-Eat more local foods. Local seafood is readily available. Stop at a farm stand, and search for local. There is one near Chalice at the corner of Miller and Citracado

-Eat organic when possible. Among other reasons, non-organic fertilizers and pesticides tend to have a large carbon footprint.

-Grow something. Kale does great in a window box or pot in full sun. So do many herbs and other greens.

-Buy bulk. Food bins at Sprouts, for example, have items that you would ordinarily buy in a package: raisins, nuts, beans, rice, sugar, flour. Often you will save money too! Re-usable bags are available for purchase in the bulk foods area.

-Invest in glass jars and containers for bulk food storage. Half gallon and quart mason jars, for example, are handy and often available at thrift stores, along with other glass storage options. Dishwasher safe and no plastic!

-Establish meatless Monday—or meatless X times a week

-Eat in Season. Avocados in August? Not local. Make them an in-season treat. Tomatoes in December? That greenhouse no doubt uses a lot of energy for heat and light or else they are shipped from afar. CSA's specialize in local produce, guaranteeing that you will be eating produce that is in season (see next item)

-Join a CSA: Community Supported Agriculture. Your produce comes to your door weekly from a local farm. Some, such as Yasukochi, <https://www.yasukochifamilyfarms.com/csa> will deliver every other week so that you aren't overwhelmed with produce. To find one that suits you, Google CSA and your community's name. Send what you find or who you support to us and we will make a list for Chalice.

-Try out those insects! Or just commit to reading this article about it: <https://www.cricketflours.com/5-reasons-you-should-be-eating-cricket-powder-cricket-flour/>

-Compost. It's easier than you think, and it turns trimmings and over-bought into fertilizer. A worm bin doesn't need special worms or a special container, you can get worms from anyone who is practicing vermiculture. Contact us for names and advice. Bon Appetit!



**Hosford /Tenbrink
worm bin**



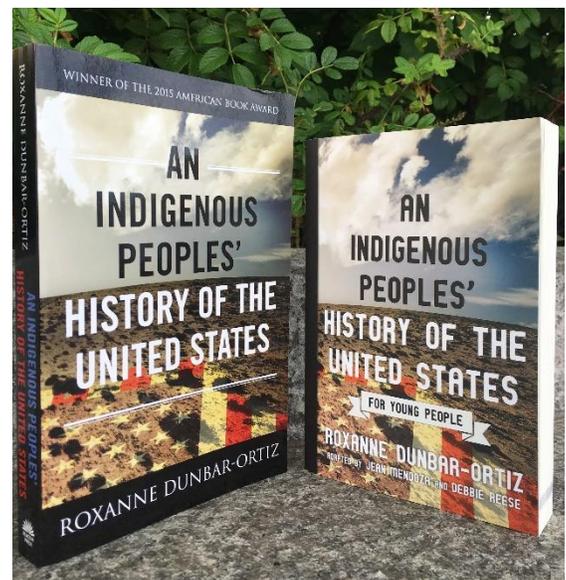
Transformation Team

The Transformation Team invites the congregation to join us this fall in stepping beyond land acknowledgements. At Chalice, we have been including land acknowledgements in our Sunday service for one year. Acknowledgements are often seen as a first step in addressing the injustice indigenous peoples have endured because of settler colonialism. A land acknowledgement commemorates kinship to the land and is a powerful way of honoring the first peoples of the land on which we work and live. It is a step towards ending the erasure of indigenous histories and experiences and inviting truth into our lives. Importantly, they are not an attempt to restore white comfort.

This past week I (Drae) had the privilege of joining an indigenous-led unlearning session with Sam Beltran and Alan Lechusza Aquallo. In an open and rich dialogue, we were asked, "What is an Indian? What do you picture? What stereotypes do you recognize in your image?" In this session, the significance of the land acknowledgement was linked to the treatment of native women, as the native woman is seen as the land and the land as the first mother. When we disregard the land, we disregard native women. When we acknowledge the land we also acknowledge indigenous women. What does this mean to you?

Here are some ideas from the Transformation Team to take our next step beyond land acknowledgement...

1. Join our next congregational book read of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. This was the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) common book read in 2019-2020, and we will follow the UUA guide in our discussions. If you are not familiar with this history, the UUA suggests reading *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People*, as our discussions will work with either book. We also encourage our youth and emerging adults to join in this book read. The book discussions will take place virtually on **Fridays at 5:30 pm, on October 22, 29, and November 5**. Let us know if you would like to borrow a copy of either version of the book.



Transformation Team, cont.

2. Make a personal commitment to learn about the histories and support the social justice efforts of local indigenous peoples, the Kumeyaay and Payómkawichum/Luiseño nations. There is a wealth of information online, here are some starting points:
3. <https://sctca.net/>
http://www.kumeyaay.info/southern_calif_tribes/
4. Write your own land acknowledgement, in recognition of the reality that we live, worship, and work on stolen lands. We plan to offer a session to facilitate this process for those who would like support. What does it mean to you to live on stolen lands? What is your relationship with the land and its history?
5. Learn about the Doctrine of Discovery and rights of indigenous peoples. The UUA published a guide here:
<https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/dod>
6. Participate in our service on Sunday, October 10th to honor Indigenous Peoples' Day.
7. As always, you are welcome to join the Transformation Team in this work! You can reach us at chalicetransformation@gmail.com.

We will continue offering suggestions to read, watch, and participate in this critical step to address white supremacy culture in our congregation and community. As a team, we have spent a considerable amount of time discussing the best way to engage the congregation in stepping beyond the land acknowledgement. We discussed inviting indigenous storytellers and musicians to participate in our upcoming service, but ultimately decided to engage in the learning first, using published sources with indigenous voices. We hope this leads us to meaningful and respectful engagement in support of the indigenous peoples in our area.



Group Announcements

Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch will meet Friday, October 15 at 11:30 AM at DiCicco's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria, located in the former Marie Calendar site, 515 W. 13th Street in Escondido. The restaurant is at the corner of Center City Parkway and 13th Street. Please RSVP to Carol by October 12.

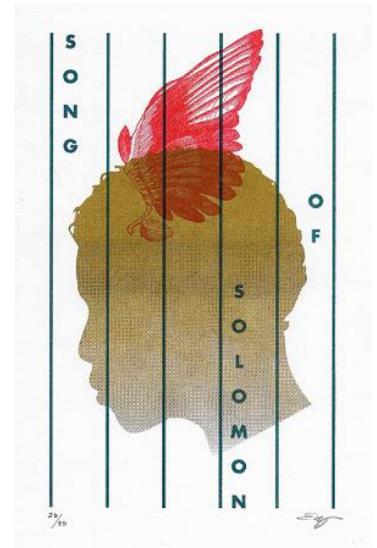


Women's Book Discussion Group

The Chalice Womens' Book Discussion Group meets via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. On October 19th they will be discussing *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited. If you would like the Zoom information, email Mary

Song of Solomon is Toni Morrison's 1977 masterpiece which tackles some of the most important themes in American life in the 20th Century. Morrison draws on diverse mythological traditions, particularly biblical, Greco-Roman, and African to create a uniquely African-American narrative.

Milkman, the primary character in **Song of Solomon**, is a self-absorbed, petulant, and rootless man who begins a self-interested quest for financial gain and ends up discovering the story of his family. Through the process of learning about his history, Milkman matures, learns responsibility, transcends his own selfishness, and creates a meaningful existence for himself embedded in an embrace of his family history. **Song of Solomon** won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1977.



Readers' Theater



Our October gathering will be held on Monday, October 25th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We'll be reading *Polar Bears, Black Boys, and Prairie Fringed Orchids*, by Vincent Terrell Durham. It's been described in this way: "With a perfect blend of wit, irony, and humor, this play boldly explores race and redemption in today's America. The story opens with a liberal white couple hosting a cocktail party at their renovated Harlem brownstone. The guests include a

gay Black Lives Matter activist, his white partner, an author and businesswoman, and the mother of a slain 12-year-old black boy. As this precarious party mixes cocktails and conversation about underweight polar bears, gentrification, racial identity, and protecting the lives of Black boys, the evening reveals the importance of collective action that comes from truth." **Please join us (virtually) — newcomers and listeners are always welcome at our gatherings!** Please contact Deb.



Council of Chairs Meeting

Saturday, October 30

10 a.m. to noon

Meeting zoom ID: 994 4732 5040

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99447325040>

Part of our meeting will be spent doing work from a training created by Interfaith Community Services' Multi-City Racial Reconciliation Coalition. The training is called "Making Our Faith Places Safe Places," an anti-racism curriculum developed by more than 40 diverse faith leaders.



Each of our Chalice groups, committees, and teams should have a representative at each Council of Chairs meeting.

The Council of Chairs meeting is open to any Chalice congregant and is led by Chalice's Coordinating Team. Come and find out what's going on!

Change in Chalice Staff

Stuart Holmes has resigned as our AV Technician, a position he has held since June 2015. Please be sure to thank him for his years of service when you see or talk to him next.

Chalice Web Site: <https://chaliceuucongregation.org>

Address: 2324 Miller Avenue; Escondido, CA; 92029

Phone: 760.737.0393

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Submit articles to: Office@chaliceuucongregation.org

**With much gratitude to our Editorial Team:
Peggy Keifer, Callie Leef, and Andi Stout.**



Calendar for October, 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Elders Lunch	2
3 9A K-5 R.E. 10A Worship Service 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	4	5 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga 7P Exec. Board Meet.	6 9A Cracker Barrel 2P CT	7 10:30A Women's Meditation 7:30 Choir	8	9
10 9A K-5 R.E. 10A Worship Service 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	11 1P Poetry Group	12 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga 7P Board Meeting	13 9A Cracker Barrel 6:30 Men's Support	14 10:30A Women's Meditation 7:30 Choir	15 11:30A Ladies Out to Lunch	16
17 9A K-5 R.E. 10A Worship Service 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	18	19 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga 7P Women's Book Disc.	20 9A Cracker Barrel 2P CT	21 10:30A Women's Meditation 7:30 Choir	22 5:30P Book Read	23 10A Worship Associates
24 10A Worship Service TBA 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	25 6:30P Green Team 6:30P Readers Theater	26 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 2P Staff Meeting 5:30P Yoga	27 9A Cracker Barrel 7:15 Prayer Circle	28 10:30A Women's Meditation 7:30 Choir	29 5:30P Book Read	30
31 10A Worship Service TBA 11:10A Coffee Hour						

