

# February 2023 NEWSLETTER

# WELCOME

Volume #24 | Issue #2 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## *Inside This Issue*

- PG. 2**  
Sunday Worship Schedule
- PG. 3**  
Minister's Message
- PG. 4**  
President's Column
- PG. 6**  
Music Program
- PG. 8**  
Family Ministries
- PG. 9**  
Auction News
- PG. 10**  
Transformation Team
- PG. 12**  
Green Sanctuary Team
- PG. 13**  
From Rev. Dr. Greg Carrow-Boyd
- PG. 14**  
CT Report
- PG. 15**  
Board Report
- PG. 16**  
Group Announcements
- PG. 19**  
Membership and Submissions Information
- PG. 20**  
Calendar of Events



**The Ash Tree  
Birth Tree for February**

**"History has shown us that  
courage can be contagious, and  
hope can take on a life of its  
own.**

**—Michelle Obama**

# SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Service at 10 am  
Zoom Meeting ID: 832 129 662  
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/832129662>

**After-worship COFFEE HOUR**  
Stay in the same Zoom site as Sunday Service

February 5 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“Imbolc Blessings” Multigenerational Service

Imbolc is the Neo-Pagan celebration of the earliest signs of spring, an observance that lives on in our modern Groundhog Day. At this morning’s service, the Maiden, Mother, and Crone will offer blessings of health and protection to all who ask.

February 12 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“How to Make Friends”

Making friends is so hard to do that people often use social media to ask for advice on how to do it, venting to each other about the pain of loneliness. Even within a church community like Chalice, it can take time to make connections beyond Sunday morning. This morning we’ll share our tips and tricks for making friends.

This is the fourth service in our 8-part series “UU Values and Covenant.”

February 19 – Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, pulpit guest via video  
“Making Banana Pancakes”

So often the ingredients we’re handed are not necessarily the ones we want. And we can often make what we need to nourish ourselves and our communities, despite it all. Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen preaches on creating what we need to feed ourselves out of what we have.

Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen is a Midwesterner at heart, lives in Massachusetts and is learning all the time about liberation, solidarity, courage, and cowardice. She is a Unitarian Universalist minister and a Migrant Justice Organizer with Community Justice Exchange and previously did faith-based justice work and youth organizing.

February 26 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“Keys to Adulthood”

There are lots of questions out there about “adulthood” and how to do it, but most of the advice can be whittled down to a few key ideas. Rev. Sharon will let you in on these secrets.



# Minister's Message

As the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (that includes our congregation!) considers revising our statement of values/principles, I thought you might like to see one of the statements from earlier times.

These are the original Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, as approved when the Unitarian and Universalist denominations consolidated in 1961.

*In accordance with these corporate purposes, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Association, dedicated to the principles of a free faith, unite in seeking:*

1. To strengthen one another in a free and disciplined search for truth as the foundation of our religious fellowship;
2. To cherish and spread the universal truths taught by the great prophets and teachers of humanity in every age and tradition, immemorially summarized in the Judeo-Christian heritage as love to God and love to man;
3. To affirm, defend and promote the supreme worth of every human personality, the dignity of man, and the use of the democratic method in human relationships;
4. To implement our vision of one world by striving for a world community founded on ideals of brotherhood, justice and peace;
5. To serve the needs of member churches and fellowships, to organize new churches and fellowships, and to extend and strengthen liberal religion;
6. To encourage cooperation with men of good will in every land.

Blessings and love to you,  
Sharon

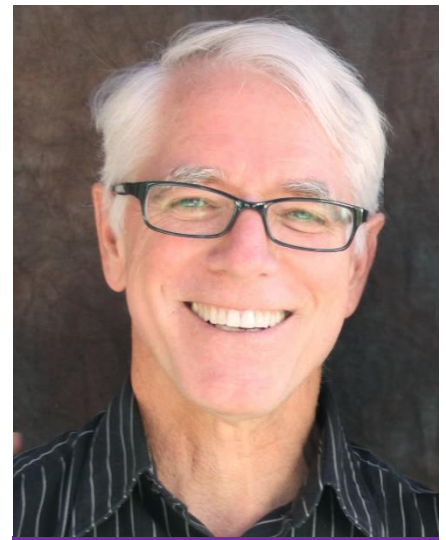


Rev. Sharon Wylie  
Minister



# President's Column

What a Saturday! I had my usual morning coffee and mini-cinnamon roll but then I participated in Chalice's annual board retreat with the Coordinating Team to set congregational goals for the following year. We met in the rainbow room at Chalice and the retreat was facilitated by Sarah Gibb Millspaugh (far right in the picture), our Unitarian Universalist Association helper here in Southern California. After an orientation to a "Tumultuous time for religious communities" led by Sarah, we studied Chalice traits compared to other similar UU congregations, and information about millennial parents (ages 27-41). Sarah also led a discussion on Emergent Strategy: Organizing for Social Justice. These were all very informative and enlightening discussions. Lastly, we had to wrestle with Chalice finances and how to address a possible operating budget shortfall next year. And finally we had to establish congregational goals. We managed to layout an outline, but the details are still in progress.



Tom Carlstrom  
Board President





Saturday evening I went to see singer-songwriter Peter Mayer at the Solana Beach UU fellowship. Peter may be familiar to some of you as the composer of “Blue Boat Home”, a favorite song from our teal Hymnal. He is a favorite UU troubadour of mine and I half-jokingly say that Peter Mayer is who I want to be when I grow up. What an end to a very special day!

So besides retreats, things are moving at Chalice. The contracts for the shade sails and solar installation have been signed. Kathleen Swift has been hired as our new Director of Family Ministries (as well as being our administrator). And I would also like to extend my welcome to Amber Vlasnik, who is joining the Board after Alice Dodd’s departure. We are all pleased that she will be adding her wit and wisdom to the board.

Be sure to visit our campus in the next few months to see all the changes and improvements!

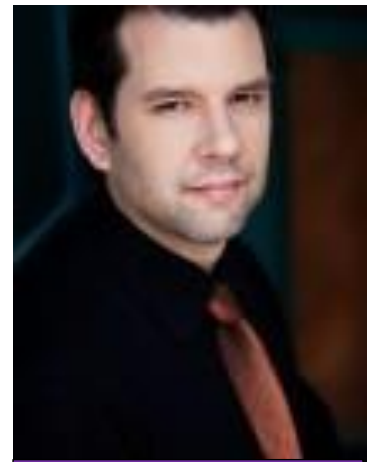
Inspire, connect, act.  
Blessings,  
Tom, Board President



# Music Program

## Thank you, Justin Gray!

January 29 was the last service Justin Gray served as our worship musician, and as sad as we are to see him go, we are so thankful for the past six years of music he has brought to our Sunday morning worship. We certainly wish Justin well in his new endeavors and in his honor present this Music Spotlight from 2017, shortly after Justin joined us as a worship musician.



Tim McKnight  
Music Director

## Brief Biography

I grew up in Valley Center in a conservative Christian home. My mother was (and still is) a devout Jehovah's Witness. I opted to follow my father into the Pentecostal religion, where I spent my teenage years honing my skills playing by ear. When I was a young adult, I joined the Mormon church and spent 29 years as a faithful member. About 5 years ago, I experienced a crisis of faith when research and study led me to discover that what I had believed for the majority of my life came in direct conflict with scientific evidence.

I have been a music director with Welk Resorts for 25 years. I have also worked with Moonlight Stage Productions, the Old Globe Theatre, and San Diego Civic Light Opera (Starlight). I also enjoy preparing professional opera productions, playing for various cabaret shows and vocal recitals, and creating custom soundtracks in my home studio. I am in demand as a freelance pianist and organist around San Diego County, and have performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Moody Blues, Barry Manilow, Bobby Vinton, and Bob Newhart.





### **What does music mean in your life?**

I believe that one of my callings in life is to entertain and uplift using music.

### **Fun fact**

After a 35-year absence from Palomar College, I returned to school to pursue my AA in Photography, scheduled to be complete in May.

### **Sunday Worship Music – February Highlights**

**Feb 5:** The Chancel Choir will present “Something Told the Wild Geese”, based on a poem by Rachel Field and composed by Andy Beck. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Feb 12:** **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Feb 19:** **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Feb 26:** **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

### **Looking Ahead**

Spring Music Service .....TBD

Chancel Choir Rehearsals .....Thursdays @ 7:30p in the chapel

Handchime Ensemble Rehearsals ..... Thursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub



# Family Ministries

Great to be back, Everyone!

Have you ever left a job you love, and then were able to return? It's a good feeling. I feel privileged to be able to return as your Director of Family Ministries. We restarted the program with Opposite Day! Naturally, I forgot to take any pictures. We started in the chapel like the good old days and proceeded to the Hub. Because it was Opposite Day, we ate our snacks first. We made snacks using our non-dominant hands. (Not easy.) We went outside to eat our snacks with our non-dominant hands, although I chose to pour apple juice for everyone with my dominant hand. Then we read *Green Eggs and Ham* backwards and had a backwards race down the hallway. The idea was to keep moving but the winner was the one who came in last! It was fun.



Kathleen Swift  
Director of Family  
Ministries

Later in the morning a group of teens got together to restart a teen program. It was so wonderful to see them. This is a group that has been in connection for years and are now in the very capable hands of Paula Gonzales and Lara Brown. I know they could use 1-2 other people on their team.

Speaking of leader teams, I know you are aware that, with all your trust in me, you know I can't do this alone. I also know how much the parents of young children and youth sometimes just need an hour on Sunday to go to service. Although I know that many or most of the parents of our children will help with our growing program, it is my goal that for every parent volunteer, two non-parents of young children or youth will join a team. Yes, this means you!

The best to all of you, and Happy February!

Kathleen Swift  
Director of Family Ministries  
[dfm@chaliceuucongregaiton.org](mailto:dfm@chaliceuucongregaiton.org)





# Auction News



Our Chalice 2023 Auction website is LIVE! There are a several things you can do before the auction starts:

1. Register (If you registered in past years, there is no need to register again)
2. Update your contact information (if your phone, email or street address has changed since last year)
3. List your items/experiences for donation to this year's auction
4. Reserve your spot for the Chalice Camping at Agua Caliente (This item is open to place your bid now since it takes place before the start of the auction)

Our goal again this year is \$30,000. We were SO CLOSE last year. Our final total was \$29,600. This is the largest annual fundraiser for Chalice and we appreciate the enthusiasm and generosity of the groovy Chalice folk!

We've already been hearing great ideas for dinner parties and gatherings this year! Keep those creative ideas coming and please let the Auction Team know if you have questions about available dates or anything else.

When you list your item on the website, an email comes to the Auction Team. We have to check in the item before it becomes live on the site, so please be patient if you don't see your item in the catalog right away. This is typically done each day, so do let us know if more than a couple of days go by and you don't see your item in the catalog.

There are video tutorials in the auction website to walk you through registration, account updates and item donation. Please click the tutorial link at the top of the site at [charityauction.bid/chaliceuu](http://charityauction.bid/chaliceuu) if you need a little extra help.

-OR-

Contact the Auction Team at [chaliceauction@gmail.com](mailto:chaliceauction@gmail.com) or call Judy. **We're here to help!**

Lara, Wend, Joni, Andi, & Judy



# Transformation Team

## Mistakes and Miracles: Upcoming Chalice Book Read

Join your Chalice community in reading **Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism**, by co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. As you may know, this book was selected as the UUA Common Read for 2022-23 and the Chalice Board is also currently studying this book. We have invited board members to share their experience with the book at these sessions and to consider co-facilitating a session. We are excited to strengthen our community through this common experience.

This book will share the joy, disappointment, and growth of five congregations on a journey toward Beloved Community. Unitarian Universalist congregations across the nation are grappling with the charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. Chalice joins these congregations in reading this book as part of that work.

This series of four discussions will invite the group to engage meaningfully with the stories of others who are also on this path with their faith community. Each session will be 90-minutes and will be offered at two different times, one virtual and one in-person. Our in-person sessions will be held in the Rainbow Room. You are welcome to mix and match sessions as fits your schedule. Beginning February 10th, we will meet every other Friday on zoom from 6:00-7:30 pm. Beginning February 12th, we will meet at Chalice every other Sunday after the service, from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

If you would like to receive email reminders with discussion questions, [please sign-up here](#).

Each session will cover the following themes at the date and times listed below:

- **Every Congregation Has a Story**
  - Friday, February 10th, [zoom](#), 6 - 7:30 pm
  - Sunday, February 12th, Chalice, 11:30 am - 1 pm (Rainbow Room)
- **Let's Talk About Power**
  - Friday, February 24th, [zoom](#), 6 - 7:30 pm
  - Sunday, February 26th, Chalice, 11:30 am - 1 pm (Rainbow Room)
- **History and Hope**
  - Friday, March 10th, [zoom](#), 6 - 7:30 pm
  - Sunday, March 12th, Chalice, 11:30 am - 1 pm (Rainbow Room)
- **Strategy and What's Next**
  - Friday, March 24th, [zoom](#), 6 - 7:30 pm
  - Sunday, March 26th, Chalice, 11:30 am - 1 pm (Rainbow Room)



For the virtual sessions, zoom information follows. The book is available as a [kindle e-book](#) or a [physical copy can be purchased from the UUA bookstore](#).

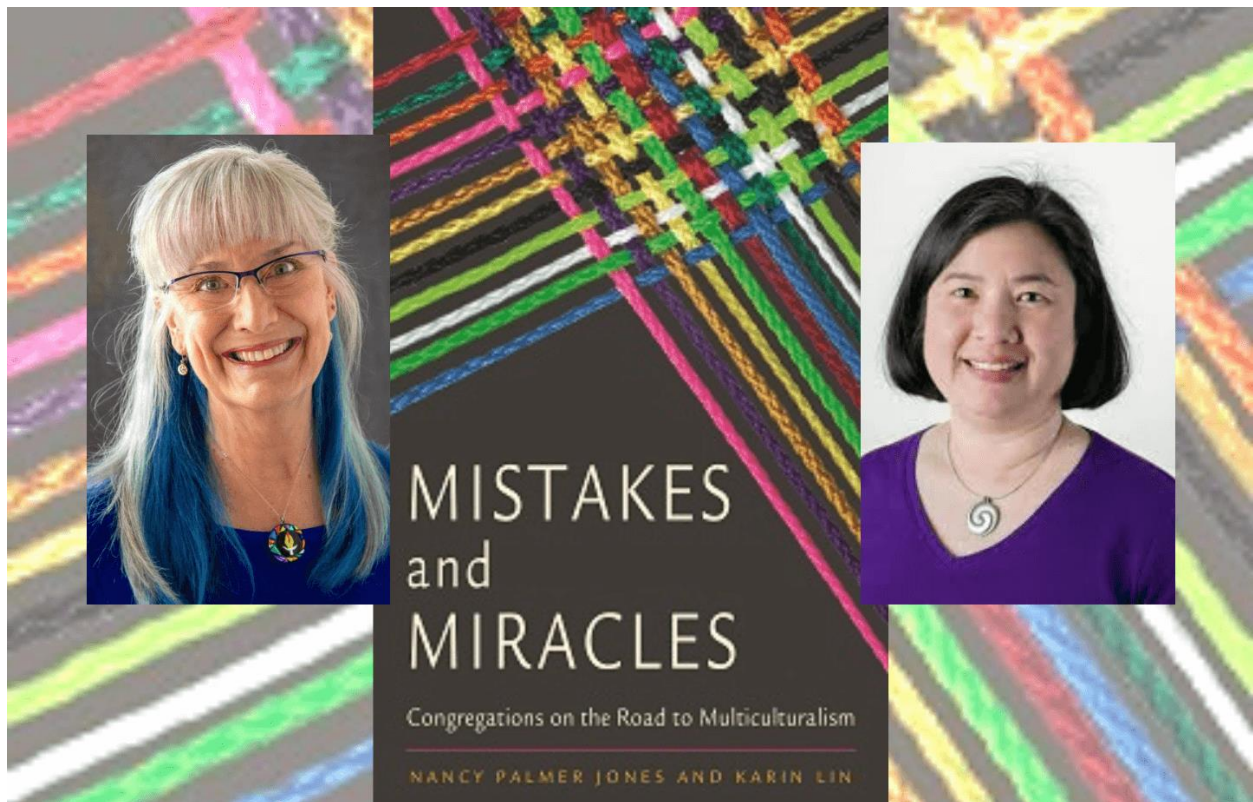
**Friday Virtual Meetings**

Topic: Congregational Read -- Mistakes and Miracles

Time: Feb 10 & 24 - March 10 & 24 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

Contact the Transformation Team for Zoom information.



# Green Sanctuary Team

## Turning Over a New Leaf



There's something new at Chalice. Baby Coast Live Oaks trees are joining our oak woodland! In her bounty, Mother Nature watered acorns planted in November along the freeway fence line. But why oaks? After all, they are slow growing, maturing after 60 plus years. But you plant trees for your grandchildren, so the saying goes. These oaks will hopefully provide additional sound break from freeway noise. Better yet, live oaks are fire-resistant. By far the best rationale is that oak woodlands in California support some 36 reptile species and

a whopping 79 bird species, led by the chatty acorn woodpecker. Not all those species will grace our tiny woodland, but some may. How do you get more birds? The secret is CATERPILLARS! A crazy number of butterflies and moths, 111, are linked to these oaks. Eggs hatch into caterpillars. Birds eat those caterpillars and, more importantly, feed them to their babies. No caterpillars, no bird babies. Exotic (non-native) trees support very few insects. It's misguided to think that's a good thing. Without the web of life, our world is sterile and shaky.

Look for more butterfly and moth supporting native plant introductions at Chalice. Join us at our meetings held the 4th Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Chalice Hub Blue Room and hybrid via Zoom. Contact us at [Chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com](mailto:Chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com)

**Don't forget the next Full Moon Drum Circle is Sunday, February 5, from 6 to 7 p.m at Chalice!**





## From Rev. Dr. Greg Carrow-Boyd

I'm pleased to announce that I'll be serving the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu as Executive Minister of Religious Education starting on January 15th.



We wish him all the best in his new adventure!



# Coordinating Team Report

Goal: To more fully live our UU values in our journey toward wholeness, we commit to explore ways within our congregation to become a greater source of nourishment for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). At a minimum we want our white congregants not to marginalize our BIPOC congregants. More purposeful work may focus on encouraging internal congregation dialogue and self-reflection on issues such as structural racism, white supremacy practices and anti-oppression work.

- Nothing new to report

Goal: As we transition back to face-to-face gatherings, our goal is to continue to provide online accessibility of our worship, meetings, events and activities while also embracing the power and comfort of being physically present in community.

- We are considering returning to two services
- 80 people attended the Winter party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 45 people attended the Spiral Solstice Walk on December 21<sup>st</sup>
- 75 people attended the Christmas Eve service on December 24<sup>th</sup>

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

- Thermostats in the Fellowship Building and Chapel have been switched out for smart ones.
- The CT/Board retreat is happening on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Memorial Wall Task Force:

- Nothing new to report

Shade Sail Courtyard Cover Progress:

- The timeline is about 10 weeks from when they got the check; project will likely be completed mid-to late March.
- We may decide to add additional electric power in order to provide lights and sound for Chalice events held on the courtyard.
- The rest of the trees must be out of the Courtyard by the beginning of February.

Powering into the Future fundraising campaign:

- The tech team met to start discussions on vendors
- We are close to signing a contract for the solar project



# Board Report

- This was a month of exploration and planning for the board goals for 2022-23
  - Explore the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Accountability
  - Promote growth in engagement, membership and revenues
  - Prepare a five-year plan and associated goals ready for approval at the June 2023 Congregational meeting
- The Board is planning a retreat on January 21, 2023.
- SharePoint- a new and user friendly way to interact with Chalice's website is being implemented.

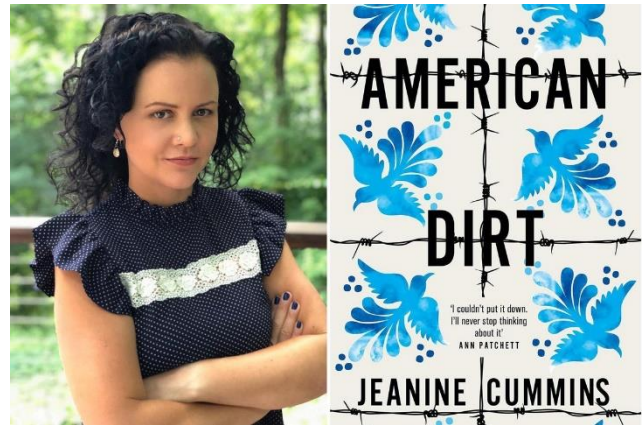


# Group Announcements

## Women's Book Discussion Group

On February 21st at 6:30 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet in the Blue Room in the Hub and also via Zoom to discuss *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. If you are interested, please contact Mary for the Zoom information. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.

Lydia Quixano Pérez owns a bookshop in downtown Acapulco, where she is teetering on the edge of an emotional affair with her favourite customer, the alluringly well-read Javier. Lydia's husband, Sebastián, is an investigative journalist, working to unmask "The Owl", the leader of an inventively gruesome new narcotics cartel whose grab for power has left the city ravaged and fearful. There are few places on the planet more deadly to be a journalist, and the integrity that attracted Lydia to Sebastián terrifies her now that they have a child – it seems "sanctimonious, selfish". When Sebastián publishes his exposé, Lydia's darkest fears come to pass.



*American Dirt*, opens with blood-sodden terror as The Owl takes revenge: a machine-gun slaughter at a family barbecue. Only Lydia and her eight-year-old son, Luca, have survived, but there will be no justice, no protection: the police "do nothing, because that's precisely what the cartel pays them to do". A distant cousin in Colorado offers the only hope of escape from the cartel's reach, so Lydia and Luca head for *el norte* with a threadbare plan to reach the border by freight train (the infamous La Bestia), and then bribe a people smuggler to help them cross the desert to US soil. But The Owl has eyes everywhere.

All the elements are in place for a slick cartel thriller: a relentless villain; an improbable attraction; a clock-ticking chase to safety; a conveniently precocious child (Luca has an "intrinsic sense of his position on the globe, like a human GPS, pinging his way through the universe"). But despite its flamboyant and breathless first act, that's not the novel *American Dirt* aspires to be.

Cummins's title is no accident. "I am acutely aware," she explains in her afterword, "that the people coming to our southern border are not one faceless brown mass, but singular individuals, with stories and backgrounds and reasons for coming that are





unique.” *American Dirt* is her attempt to “honour the hundreds of thousands of stories we never get to hear” by inhabiting one.

“This path is only for people who have no choice, no other option, only violence and misery behind you,” a priest warns early on in Lydia and Luca’s journey. “Many will be maimed or injured. Many will die. Many, many of you will be kidnapped, tortured, trafficked or ransomed ... every single one of you will be robbed.” *American Dirt* turns each of these grim prognostications into object lessons, populated with characters who are vectors and vessels for instructional trauma.

The outsized carnage in the novel’s opening pages gives Lydia and Luca an unequivocal answer. Their northward journey is unimpeachably worthy, the political, economic and moral complexities of migration rendered in monochrome. Who could argue with a persecuted mother and child fleeing the grisly hellscape Cummins describes (beheadings, babies hanged from trees, forced self-cannibalisation) for the sanctuary of the US, where the only danger to migrants is the threat of deportation? What emerges is a kind of modern *Odyssey* with the United States as Ithaca, a gleaming refuge.

For a novel that sets out so earnestly to challenge the insular nationalism that leads the US-Mexico border to feel like some kind of moral boundary, *American Dirt* may, despite or because of its manifest good intentions, accidentally reinforce the very kind of absolutist reasoning that keeps such myths alive.

Ladies Out to Lunch

## Ladies Out to Lunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch will meet on Friday, February 17 at Pizza Nova in San Marcos. The address is 141 North Twin Oaks Valley Road. We meet at 11:30 AM and welcome new faces! Please rsvp to Carol.

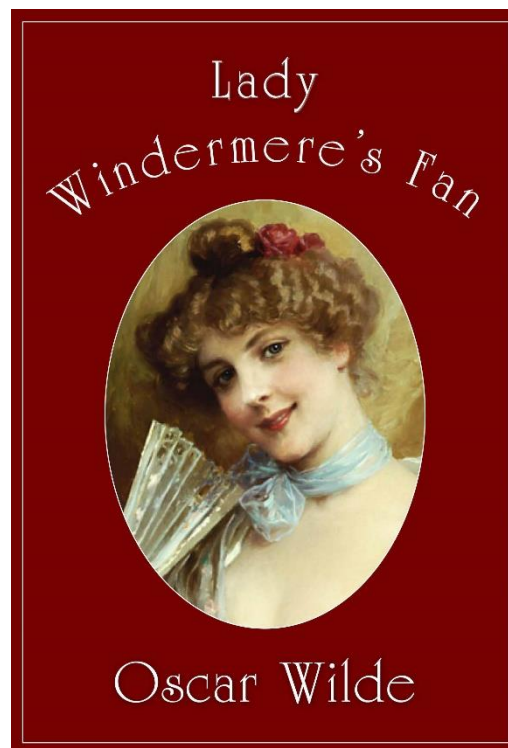


## Readers' Theater

We meet monthly to sight-read plays for our own education and enjoyment. We draw roles at random so we can read a variety of plays that interest us and rarely fit our exact number and demographics. If you are comfortable sight-reading aloud and willing to step into roles and situations that may be out of your comfort zone, you might want to give us a try! If interested, please contact Deb to get on the group's monthly mailing list.

Our next gathering will be held on Monday, February 27th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, when we'll be reading an Oscar Wilde comedy, ***Lady Windermere's Fan***.

The story concerns Lady Windermere, who suspects that her husband is having an affair with another woman. She confronts him with it but although he denies it, he invites the other woman, Mrs. Erlynne, to his wife's birthday ball. Angered by her husband's supposed unfaithfulness, Lady Windermere decides to leave her husband for another lover...

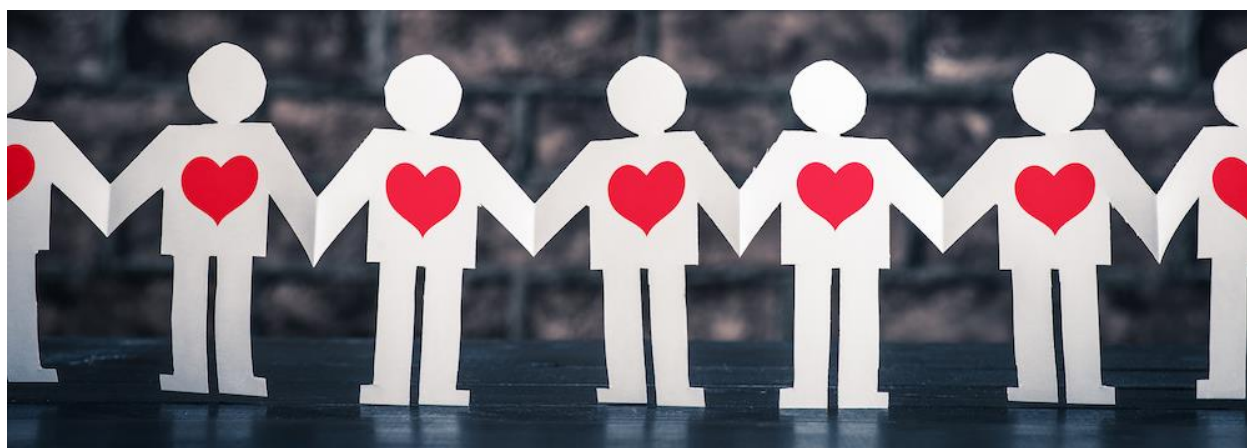


# Information

## MEMBERSHIP

Official membership is not required for participation in most Chalice activities, but there may come a time when you hear a voice inside saying, “This is my religious home. I want to support it.” If so, it may be time to think about making the commitment of membership.

To learn more about membership, contact Kathleen Swift, our Office Administrator, by email at [office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:office@chaliceuucongregation.org).



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

**Address:** 2324 Miller Avenue; Escondido, CA; 92029

**Phone:** 760.737.0393

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 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Submit articles by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month to:** [Office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:Office@chaliceuucongregation.org)

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



# Calendar for February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

9A Men's  
Breakfast

2

10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

3

4

2P Tech  
Rehearsal

5

10A Worship  
10A K-6 RE  
11:10A  
Coffee Hour  
11:30 Teen  
Group  
6P Full Moon  
Drum Circle

6

7

12P Zoom  
Lunch  
1P CT  
7P Exec.  
Board

8

9A Men's  
Breakfast  
1P Games at  
Chalice  
6:30 Men's  
Support

9

10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

10

12P Elder's  
Lunch  
6P Book  
Discussion

11

10A Widen  
Circle Study  
10A Music  
Comm.  
2P Tech  
Rehearsal

12

10A Worship  
10A K-6 RE  
11:10A  
Coffee Hour  
11:30 Book  
Discussion  
1:30 Teen Group  
1P Private Event

13

1P Poetry  
Group

14

12P Zoom  
Lunch  
7P Board of  
Trustees

15

9A Men's  
Breakfast  
1P Fiber  
Arts

16

10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
1P Finance  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

17

11:30A  
Ladies  
Lunch

18

10 A  
Worship  
Team  
2P Tech  
Rehearsal  
Circle Supp.

19

10A Worship  
10A K-6 RE  
11:10A  
Coffee Hour  
1:30 Teen Group

20

21

12P Zoom  
Lunch  
1P CT  
7P Women's  
Book Disc.

22

9A Men's  
Breakfast  
7:15P  
Prayer  
Circle

23

10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

24

6P Book  
Discussion

25

2P Tech  
Rehearsal

26

10A Worship  
10A K-6 RE  
11:10A  
Coffee Hour  
11:30 Book  
Discussion  
1:30 Teen Group

27

6:30P Readers  
Theater

28

12P Zoom  
Lunch  
2P Staff  
6:30P Green  
Team

