

A welcoming spiritual community advancing a positive message that teaches people of all ages and faiths how to thrive in a changing world.



Revs. Mark & Karen Schindler

Ministers' Message

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Inside this issue:

<i>Ministers' Message</i>	1
<i>Chaplain's Corner</i>	2
<i>Sunday Service, Ongoing Classes, Study Groups & Adult Ed, Email Prayers</i>	3-4
<i>Board Members Wanted & Annual Meeting</i>	5
<i>Our Financial Picture</i>	6
<i>Message From The Board & Board of Directors & Staff</i>	7
<i>Lessons and Soloists</i>	8
<i>1212 High Street Thrift & Gift Shop</i>	8

February 12th marks the 212th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin who laid the groundwork for the theory of biological evolution. Since then we have made the leap to seeing and experiencing an evolutionary process at work at the level of consciousness in terms of how we collectively copy and spread ideas that will shape the quality of human interaction going forward for better or worse.

We are most familiar with biological evolution which deals with the replication of physical **genes**. But at the level of human consciousness it's all about **memes** which is a word coined by biologist Richard Dawkins in his book *The Selfish Gene*. A meme is defined as a self replicating idea, behavior or style that spreads through a culture via human consciousness.

One of the more interesting theories about memes is that they act like viruses using human beings to replicate and spread. We may persuade ourselves that that human beings choose a meme to copy but in reality the memes themselves are the replicators and use us in order to survive and evolve. Consider that the next time you find yourself sharing a Bernie Sanders in mittens meme on Facebook. Hey, it wasn't me, it was the meme!

In fact, Facebook is the first place that the term "meme" gained widespread use in popular culture. Post a picture with a platitude or funny comment on social media and you've shared an internet meme.

A meme doesn't have to be particularly profound, useful or even good in order to replicate and spread. Nothing against Bernie memes but they really don't add anything of lasting value to the pool of human knowledge and yet they keep coming. At least they're entertaining.

Philosopher Daniel Dennett who studies memes calls it "infectious repititis" referring to the unfortunate fact that much of what spreads through culture in the form of memes is not brilliant, new or out of the box thinking. In fact, some of it is downright dangerous and to prove it, he points to several ideas that spread through different cultures that people have been willing to die for.

Jihadists who are willing to die for certain ideas about Islam. Capitalists who are willing to send other people to die for certain ideas they have about economic freedom. Communists who are willing to die in order to "liberate" people from ideas that run counter to their idea of communism. And then there are dozens of ridiculous conspiracy memes which, despite a total lack of evidence, seem to have taken on a life of their own.

Occasionally I will encounter someone who tells me that they don't own a TV because of all the "toxic" stuff on the news as if that will immunize them in some way. It won't. You would literally have to become a hermit, cut off all contact with other humans and human technology to avoid being assailed by memes whether benevolent, neutral or malicious.

The biggest problem is that so far most people don't realize what is happening. Going through life on autopilot means we are driven by memes that we unconsciously replicate and spread. This is a spiritual problem.

A major component of spiritual practice is developing a depth of self awareness that allows us to see and exercise a degree of control over the memes we are exposed to. This enables us to direct the evolution of culture and consciousness in order to promote the greater good instead of being controlled by memes that simply don't care what happens do us. The universe may not care but we do. Happy birthday Charles Darwin and thanks for starting this conversation about some very important questions for humankind.

Special points of interest:

- **New Class: The Listening Path, the creative art of attention**
- **Board Members Wanted**
- **Annual Meeting**
- **Thrift Store Hours & Donations**

Chaplain's Corner



Becky Morgan

“Love: For Giving, and Forgiving”

In this month in which we celebrate love, I submit that perhaps the greatest form of love is forgiveness. Sometimes, it is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to others. It is also one of the greatest gifts we can give to ourselves – especially if we feel that we are the ones in need of forgiving.

So to all those who may feel in need of forgiveness, I would like to share this message: In the light of Divine Love, you are always beloved, and you are always forgiven.

Indeed, regardless of our foibles and mistakes, we are perfect for wherever we may be in our lives, and whatever we are doing – even at times when we don't seem perfect in our own eyes – even when we can see only all kinds of ways in which we need to get better. It matters only that we are trying the best we can, given some of the tough human inclinations we are trying to overcome.

Everyone knows that the human condition is challenging. Our own choices are going to cause us to fall down sometimes; and then sometimes life will knock us down, and it will feel hard to get up. But we mustn't blame ourselves, or lose heart. There is a Power in the Universe, that lives inside of us, which will help us get back up again – and that will sustain us when we need support.

Forgive yourself. Everybody falls down. Like when a child learning to walk falls down, nobody reproaches them for it. Just as earthly parents reach out to comfort the fallen child, to encourage them, and then to cheer when they try to get back up again – there is a Spirit in the Universe that is doing the same thing for you: cheering you on!

You can cheer yourself on, just as you would a fallen child who is trying his or her best to stand. Take heart! You are trying to do something that isn't easy, and your continued effort is what counts.

Just as a child gets back up again, and keeps on trying – till he or she develops a technique that enables him or her to maintain balance – we as adults can continue to do the same, knowing that we have it within us to learn to do whatever we need to do, through practice and through faith in ourselves.

Meanwhile, as Mahatma Gandhi said, “Full effort is full victory.” You are doing the best you can, and it is enough.

The source of comfort and joy shines within you, waiting for you to turn within and discover it. Meanwhile, know that you are not alone in your struggles. You are a child of the Universe, and no matter what happens, you are loved!

Your Unity Community loves you, too.

Ongoing Classes, Study Groups and Adult Education

Sunday Service

We are back to Sunday Service Via Facebook Live Stream (NO in person services until further notice).

Live stream link on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Auburn-114140051995464/>

If you do not have a Facebook account, you will need one to watch the service. This link will tell you how to create a Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/help/188157731232424?helpref=topq>

Sisters of the Good

We are meeting on Zoom every Wednesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. You can join us with video or call in. If you are not on the email list and want to attend, email Rev. Karen at iwishupeas@aol.com and let her know.

We have chosen the novel “*Have You Seen Luis Valez?*” by Catherine Ryan Hyde. It’s an easy read, feel free to join us for some great conversations.

Frontiers of Consciousness

This class is being offered on Zoom only *February 22, 2021*. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Rev. Mark at mark@unityofauburn.com.

E-mail Prayer



If you would like an email prayer from one of our Chaplains, please send your prayer request to:

Auburnchaplains@gmail.com

Our Chaplains are available to join you in prayer if you are having a challenge or in gratitude and joy!

Ongoing Classes, Study Groups and Adult Education , cont.

Julia Cameron Book Class

When the widely popular book "The Artist Way" by Julia Cameron came out in 1991, many people found their lives transformed by the simple act of completing daily Morning Pages and taking themselves on a weekly Artist Date.

Julia has a brand-new book entitled "The Listening Path, the Creative art of Attention". The book is a 6-week program, using the tools found in The Artist Way, along with the addition of a focus on listening, to your environment, the people around you, and yourself.

In 6 weeks, your attention will be heightened, and you will gain healing, insight, and clarity. Most important, The Listening Path will help you to embrace a new world of creativity that will resonate through every aspect of your life.

Cindie Wilding will be facilitating a class to study this new book together, and more importantly, keep each other accountable and watch the magic happen. Class will begin February 14th (a Valentine treat for yourself!) at 5:00 pm PST and run for 7 weeks total. Cost is \$115.00. Please contact Cindie at celebrant.cindie@gmail.com to register. You will then receive a zoom invite and all the pertinent information.

Cindie is a Celebrant, Life Coach, Retreat Leader and human being working on not being a human doing.

Board Members Wanted and Annual Meeting



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members Wanted

Things sure have been different in 2020 and into 2021! However, in the midst of the pandemic, your board of trustees has remained dedicated to serving you and have learned how to have board

meetings via zoom. We lost two board members in 2020, Shelley Rutherford and Pat Lord. Shelley moved to Florida and Pat was ready to release her position for other activities. We love and appreciate both of them and wish them well!

Now, there are two openings for new board members. The board is a healthy group of people who care deeply for Unity of Auburn. They meet every month and at other times to ensure the building is taken care of and the finances remain solvent.

If you've been wondering how you could donate your time for the good of our spiritual community, we ask that you contact Revs. Mark (mark@unityofauburn.com) or Karen (iwishupeas@aol.com). They can provide you with more information on the exact duties of the board.

Annual Meeting

February 28th, 2021

At the Annual Meeting we go over the business of Unity of Auburn and elect new board members (see above!!).

During the meeting, we will go over the finances for 2020, elect board members, hear reports about how we accomplished our mission and vision, renew our commitment to Unity of Auburn and have a memorial for those who have made their transition. If you would like to include a loved one who has passed, please send an email to Rev. Karen at iwishupeas@aol.com.

This year, we are not sure if we'll be able to meet in person or we will have the meeting via zoom. Please stay posted and we will let you know as soon as we know.

Our Financial Picture

UNITY OF AUBURN FINANCES		
JANUARY- DECEMBER 2020		
COVID REVISED BUDGET 7/1/2020		
	JAN-DECEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020
Love Offerings (Under revised budget to date <\$7,474>	90,278.44	9,568.99
Rent (Under revised budget to date <\$3,332>	19,999.80	<\$741> 1,202.90
Adult Ed./Fundraising (On target with revised budget)	3,082.42	100.00
Youth Education (On target with revised budget)	25.00	0
Miscellaneous (Includes SB Grant) (On target)	6,533.75	.85
Thrift Store Net Income (On target revised budget)	7,287.18	677.86
TOTAL INCOME	27,206.59	\$11,550.60
Building	1,5829.67	1,232.79
Adult Ed./Fundraising	(Netted in Income)	
Ministry/Mission	75,671.85	6,200.00
Mortgage	28,579.68	2,381.64
Office Administration	14,146.85	1,117.42
Sunday Music	6,950.03	400.00
Tax/Insurance	10,912.91	2,684.63
Unity/Community Organization Offering	305.00	305.00
Youth Education	500.00	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$152,895.99	\$14,321.48
NET ADJUSTED INCOME	<\$25,689.40>	< \$ 2,770.88>

SBA Loan balances 2020 income deficit....Funds portion of 2021 budget...Funds Roof/HVAC contingency set-aside

Message from our Board of Directors



Patty Davis

One of my favorite lines in John Lennon’s song, “Imagine”, is: “You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us. And the world will live as one.” What Lennon was referring to in this last sentence was unity – not as an ideal or concept, but as an actual practice. President Joe Biden used the term “unity” throughout his inaugural speech. But what did he mean? I read the text of his speech to find the answer.

President Biden said, “. . . to restore the soul and to secure the future of America – requires more than words. It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity. Unity”. Later on, President Biden states, “Let us listen to one another. Hear one another. See one another. Show respect to one another.” In President Biden’s view, unity means developing a connection, being fully present, and acting respectfully with one another.

What does “unity” mean to the Unity church or movement? According to Unity Worldwide Ministry’s website, one of our core values is unity defined as “Loving, collaborative, respectful.”

Living in unity with one another regardless of our differences will enable us to collaborate with each other to resolve the difficult challenges we are all facing, and can lead to deep and authentic human connection. Practicing unity is practicing peace. Unity may seem like a dream, but its potential is limitless.

Board of Directors



Board of Trustees

- Patty Davis.....President
- Dave Langley.....Vice President
- Sharon Hardie.....Treasurer
- Natalie Kimball.....Secretary

Staff

Unity of Auburn Staff

- Karen and Mark Schindler.....Co-Ministers
- Carrie Deterding.....Administrative Assistant
- Mary Lou Banahan.....Youth and Family Leader
- Ken Kligerman, AFM.....Keyboard/Piano

Unity of Auburn

Offering practical, spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living!

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Email: admin@unityofauburn.com

Pray with Silent Unity: 800-669-7729

Join our Facebook pages:

Unity of Auburn

Unity of Auburn Events

Unity of Auburn-High Street Thrift and Gift

Lessons and Soloists

February 2021 Talk Titles

February 7, 2021

Talk: Genes, Memes and Darwin

Music: Dennis Cain

February 14, 2021

Talk: I Want to Know What Love Is

Music: Kellie Garmire

February 21, 2021

Talk: Dust In The Wind

Music: Jon Dufour

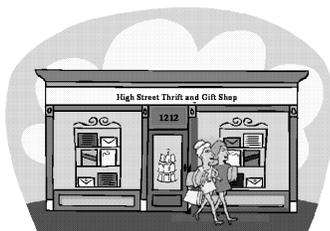
February 27, 2021

Talk: Jesus and Western Culture

Music: Kellie Garmire



Welcome February, wishing you a month filled with love, peace and joy!



Unity of Auburn

**1212 High Street
Thrift & Gift Shop**

Donations: *Now* taking donations.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10:00a.m.-2 p.m.

Check us out on Facebook : Unity of Auburn -
High Street Thrift and Gift