

*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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### Special points of interest:

- **Notes from the Transition Team**
- **Board Members Wanted**
- **Thrift Store Hours & Donations**

This June we will continue exploring the intersection of spirituality and science based on ideas found in the book *The Accidental Universe: The World You Thought You Knew* by Alan Lightman as well as some concepts advanced by the late Carl Sagan in his classic television series *Cosmos*.

We have learned much about our universe in the forty one years that have passed since the show first appeared on PBS in 1980 and yet the sum total of our knowledge is a mere drop in the cosmic bucket. For example, spiritually inclined fans of the original *Cosmos* series were inspired to hear Dr. Sagan speak of our universe in ways similar to Hindu cosmology which speaks of a cyclical universe.

At the time, there was a viable theory suggesting that the universe would go from the big bang through billions of years of expansion until the force of gravity eventually reversed the process bringing everything back to a "big crunch" which would be followed by a big bang starting the whole thing over again. Sounds like a cosmic internal combustion engine.

All of that has changed. The consensus now is that our universe is on a one way journey of expansion being driven by a force that is as yet unknown to science. Some call this force dark energy or dark matter. Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson who is the host of a new *Cosmos* series would prefer that we not name it yet suggesting that we call it Fred since we really don't know what it is.

Carl Sagan once said; "I think if we ever reach the point where we think we

thoroughly understand who we are and where we came from, we will have failed." He would not lament the waning popularity of the cyclical universe theory.

Against this combination of curiosity and humility, consider the hubris of those who claim to know with certainty the very mind and ideas of God. The Unity movement is not immune to this kind of dogma based thinking. Claims of Truth with a capital "T" and the existence of an ideal absolute realm and a less real or even unreal relative realm should be subject to the same rigorous scrutiny that we require of other claims that are advanced as knowledge.

Instead of being so certain about the completeness and permanence of our answers, we might try something suggested in *The Accidental Universe* by MIT physicist Alan Lightman. Quoting the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke, he says; "We should try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue."

This is great advice for scientists and spiritual seekers alike. As knowledge grows and evolves, we get to see this love of questions in action with answers only as certain and permanent as the evidence allows. As our knowledge expands, so does our vision of the universe and our place in it. This will offer new questions that we can engage from a spiritual perspective. Stay tuned for more Sunday topics on the leading edge of science and spirituality!

## Chaplain's Corner



Natalie Kimball

Summer provides the perfect metaphor for this time. As we emerge from pandemic mode and explore what our new normal will look like, we see the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” calling us to stretch in the warmth of continued healing and bask in relief from a hard fought and emotionally challenging period. I am ready for some relief from the roller coaster of uncertainty and grief that sometimes categorized life in the time of COVID-19. For me, this entails lots of reflection sprinkled with a healthy dose of gratitude. I realize that, despite the trials of the last year and a half, I have learned so much about myself and my place in the world. I appreciate life’s simple gifts anew. I ran across this prayer, written by Bruce Prewer. For me it is the perfect prayer of gratitude for summer and all its gifts. I hope you like it too.

### Simple Gifts

The smell of the bush after some rain,  
the desert in flower on a red plain,  
the coming of sleep after much pain;  
For gifts simple and profound,  
we thank you, loving Friend.

The sound of waves along the shore,  
the children’s laughter as they explore,  
the promise of love for evermore:  
For gifts simple and profound,  
we thank you, loving Friend.

The sight of black swans on a calm lake,  
the taste of summer in a fruit cake,  
travelling by faith after a mistake:  
For gifts simple and profound,  
we thank you, loving Friend.

The scent of green grass from the cut lawn,  
the pure-white blossom on a rough thorn,  
the return of hope with a new dawn:  
For gifts simple and profound,  
we thank you, loving Friend.

The fragrance of bread just freshly made,  
the brimming cup sipped in the shade,  
the pardon of debts never repaid:  
For gifts simple and profound,  
we thank you, loving Friend.



Bruce Prewer, in [More Australian Psalms](#).

## *Sunday Service, Classes, Email Prayers*

### **Sunday Service**

We are in person at our Sunday Services *and* Via Facebook Live Stream. For our in person service we ask that you wear a mask and sit 6 feet from those not in your family. Thank you for helping us to stay open!

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 now meeting in person at Unity on Wednesdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Our requirement for attendance is that you are vaccinated. We have begun the book “*The Keeper of Lost Things*” by Ruth Hogan. We are also celebrating monthly birthdays with pot lucks and cards.

### **Frontiers of Consciousness**

This class is being offered in person and on Zoom *June 28, 2021*. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Rev. Mark at [mark@unityofauburn.com](mailto: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](mailto:Auburnchaplains@gmail.com)**

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

# Board Members Wanted



## 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](mailto:mark@unityofauburn.com)) or Karen ([iwishupeas@aol.com](mailto:iwishupeas@aol.com)). They can provide you with more information on the exact duties of the board.

# Board of Directors



### Board of Trustees

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

# Staff

### Unity of Auburn Staff

- Karen and Mark Schindler.....Co-Ministers
- Carrie Deterding.....Administrative Assistant
- Mary Lou Banahan.....Youth and Family Leader

## Our Financial Picture

UNITY OF AUBURN FINANCES		
JANUARY-APRIL 2021		
INCOME AND EXPENSES	JAN-APRIL 2021	APRIL 2021
Love Offerings	20,208.38	7,274.00
Rent	5,011.60	1,302.90
Adult Ed./Fundraising	546.00	0
Youth Education	0	0
Miscellaneous (Include \$4,000 SBA Grant)	4,042.63	4,000.82
Thrift Store Net Income	3,472.10	1,434.03
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$33,280.71</b>	<b>\$14,011.75</b>
Building	4,437.55	1,128.43
Adult Ed./Fundraising	(Netted in Income)	
Ministry/Mission	24,020.00	6,000.00
Mortgage	9,526.56	2,381.64
Office Administration	3,735.36	831.81
Sunday Music	1,700.00	500.00
Tax/Insurance	4,038.74	460.69
Unity Organization Offering	0	0
Youth Education	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$47,458.21</b>	<b>\$11,302.57</b>
<b>NET ADJUSTED INCOME</b>	<b>&lt;\$14,177.50&gt;</b>	<b>\$ 2,709.18</b>

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

**We are especially grateful to everyone who responded to our request to make offerings via Paypal, mail in, credit card and bank transfer.**

**Your generosity is inspiring!**

**And we again affirm that there are no obstacles, only opportunities as we continue to manifest the abundance that will allow us to continue our mission and make our vision a reality.**

## *Notes from the Transition Team*

### **The Congregation's Responsibilities and Crucial Support in Unity of Auburn's Minister Search**

Your Transition and Search Teams are very busy bringing our Minister search to a successful conclusion.

The Congregation shared, during our first session with Joe Sloan, the wonderful successes and experiences we have all had during Mark and Karen's 17 -year service as Unity of Auburn's ministers. We came together again, with Joe, and shared our vision for Unity of Auburn as we began the search for a new minister. That vision became a crucial part of the criteria used to develop a plan in the search process.

Now we move into the next crucial pieces of the search process. **The importance of your participation**, as the Unity of Auburn congregation, **cannot be stressed enough**. Those Minister candidates vetted through Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity of Auburn's Search Team and deemed most qualified to serve as our next minister have been invited to be a part of a Sunday service and, possibly, conduct a class to give **you** the opportunity to meet and experience the wonderful expertise each candidate can bring to Unity of Auburn and, in turn, we can share with each candidate, in their ministry search, the loving and supportive spiritual family they will experience choosing Unity of Auburn as their ministry path.

**You will be asked to evaluate and share that experience with the Search Team.** Your evaluations will weigh heavily in the Search Team's recommendation to the Board of Directors as to the best candidate to be hired as our new minister.

**Please keep yourselves informed of the very important dates coming soon.** The Transition and Search Teams will be providing updates every Sunday. They will also be sending Eblasts and include important articles in the monthly Newsletter with important dates you need to get on your calendar.

The financial demands are also a consideration in this search process and **you can play a big part in supporting these demands**. The transition process has its own costs. There will be a cost in bringing the qualified candidates to Auburn. It is also important Unity of Auburn be financially viable when interested candidates are considering their ministry options. We will need to negotiate an equitable salary and benefit package during contract negotiations.

Through the next two months the Unity of Auburn community needs to polarize all of its positive and supportive energies to present an irresistible opportunity for the perfect minister to take us into our future.

## Unity of Auburn

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

1212 High Street  
Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: 530-888-6489

Email: [admin@unityofauburn.com](mailto: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

Talk Titles June 2021

June 6, 2021

Music: Dennis Cain

June 13, 2021

Talk: Got guilt?

Ministerial Candidate: Rev. Bob Uhlar

Music: Kellie Garmire

June 20, 2021

Talk: Father Knows Best

Music: Bernie Rivera

June 27, 2021

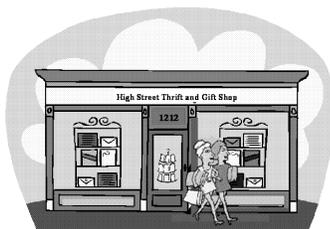
Talk: Who's Mind is it?

Music: Kellie Garmire



*"Everything good,  
everything magical  
happens between  
the months of  
June and August"*

*— Jenny Han*



Unity of Auburn

**1212 High Street  
Thrift & Gift Shop**

**Donations:** Now taking donations.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from  
10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

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