

*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

We kick off the month of July with a national celebration of freedom and independence. The 4<sup>th</sup> has always been one of my favorite holidays mostly because there are no holier than thou types telling us what we are doing right and wrong as we celebrate the day. At Christmas they complain it is too commercial, Thanksgiving is not thankful enough and Memorial Day is not solemn enough. But on July 4<sup>th</sup> we get to do as we please, celebrate in the way that seems most appropriate. In other words, freedom.

Last year we had to accept some reasonable restraints on our freedom in order to combat the pandemic. This year we can celebrate the fact that the sacrifice was worth it. Those who demand absolute liberty forget about the hard work that it takes to create and preserve. Perhaps the only place that one can truly experience freedom is at the level of consciousness.

Declaring independence and equality in 1776 was outrageous, treasonous, and dangerous to the status quo. There was no such thing as equality. Instead there was a rigid class system, royalty, nobility and commoners and whatever rights people had were bestowed by the nobility and taken away as well. The purpose of government was to protect the rights of the landowners and the ruling class. No one else really mattered.

This idea of all people being created equal was not well received by the ruling powers but in the end they were powerless to stop it. The Unity movement is a direct result of our Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Charles and Myrtle Fillmore grew up in nation where everyone was free to follow their own mind in matters of religion. Indeed religion is one of the last frontiers in our on going fight for freedom.

Most religious institutions have been highly authoritarian, demanding belief and loyalty in exchange for promises that we are supposed to take on faith based on yet more authority enshrined in ancient manuscripts

written by Bronze Age people ruled by violent war lords.

The Fillmore's, along with many others in the mid 1800's sought to liberate us from that kind of institutionalized intellectual slavery. Surprisingly, it was not a message that appealed to the majority of citizens. Most people were perfectly happy to hand their power over to religious authorities and give unquestioning obedience to the literal words of the Bible.

Nonetheless, there were many who broke free from the false image of a tyrannical god and a vengeful savior returning to judge everyone and their ranks are increasing each year. But ironically, as soon as we are liberated from one form of authoritarianism and scriptural literalism, we have a tendency to invent another and re-enslave ourselves.

Today there are plenty of books, spiritual teachers and gurus who claim to have authority imparted by otherworldly sources, invisible entities with secret knowledge or special revelations not available to us ordinary folks. They set up yet another spiritual class or caste system complete with new versions of holy books that are to be accorded the same deference that a fundamentalist gives to the Bible.

As Robert Ingersoll once observed; "Most people cling to the supernatural. If they give up one God, they imagine another." The question I have this July 4<sup>th</sup> is this; how free do we really want to be? To what degree are we still slaves to ideology, identity politics and superstition rather than using our precious gift of reason to deal with the inevitable fear and general unpleasantness that occasionally arise in life? In our haste to avoid the discomfort of facing an uncertain future, have we surrendered our freedom of thought? Join us during the month of July as we celebrate freedom and contemplate these questions and more.

Phone: 530-888-6489

Website: [www.unityofauburn.com](http://www.unityofauburn.com)

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### Special points of interest:

- **Ministerial Candidate Workshop & Talk**
- **Board Members Wanted**
- **Thrift Store Hours & Donations**

## Chaplain's Corner



Elizabeth Rawson

After reading Rev. Teresa Burton's newsletter\*, I felt it fit exactly where I am:

*"I remember this time last year. I felt so restless, acutely missing everything I was used to doing, all the things that made my life what it was. One by one, I saw my plans—for get-togethers, appointments, a New England vacation—drop like dominoes. I'm having the opposite experience now. I'm watching the world starting to open around me, even as I'm still getting accustomed to the idea of post-pandemic life. As hard as it was to adjust to lockdown, it's also taking some adjustment to begin to imagine being near other people, let alone navigating an airport or a busy restaurant.*

*My reaction made me wonder. I thought my hesitancy may have meant I was just being fearful. Thinking about it, I realized, no, I'm not feeling afraid. Uninterested? No. I'm sure I'll do all those things in time, but right now it feels right to take it slow and ease in.*

*More than a year ago, lockdown came upon us suddenly. We adapted, but it was jarring, a shock to the system. Several of us paid the price of being rocked by such upheaval by experiencing bouts of depression, anxiety, and loneliness. But we have an option now that we didn't have then. We're in a better position to engage post-pandemic life in the way that works best for us."*

For myself, I've had lots of time for walking meditations at the Bear River, reading a variety of both Spiritual and fun books, learning to do more visual virtual webinars and in leading caregiver support group ZOOMS!! I am now noticing difficulty in trying to "up periscope" from my insular patterns of the last 18 months.

Meditating on the idea of giving thanks in all circumstances, I began to recognize the difference between giving thanks for and giving thanks during a personal, communal, or global catastrophe. This is still an important practice and lesson that gratitude creates the ease, timing and perspective about how I can walk through each day.

May you find comfort on your path with prayer and meditation as we move into these new days~

Elizabeth Rawson, Unity Chaplain

\*For full Unity article: [Http://www.dailyword.com/daily-word-editors-newsletter](http://www.dailyword.com/daily-word-editors-newsletter)

## *Sunday Service, Classes, Email Prayers*

### **Sunday Service**

*Sunday Service In Person and Via Facebook Live Stream*

*Every Sunday we will be meeting in person and via Facebook Live for our 10 AM service. If you have not been vaccinated, we strongly recommend wearing a mask for your own health and safety.*

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. Everyone is welcome. 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 *July 26, 2021*. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Rev. Mark at [mark@unityofauburn.com](mailto:mark@unityofauburn.com).

### **Ministerial Candidate Rev. Frank Castro-Wehr**

**Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00pm Workshop Title: A Prayer Experience – Embracing the Sacred**

In this 2-hour workshop, or prayer-shop, we examine our current prayer life, and acknowledge where we are satisfied, and where we are hungry for more depth. We then explore various expressions of prayer that are designed to expand our prayer experience, to enhance our own consciousness, and to raise the consciousness of our world.

**Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> Talk Title: Declaring our Freedom with Spiritual Principles**

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July - a time when Americans celebrate freedom. We will celebrate with a look at some guiding spiritual principles behind our true freedom, and concepts of liberty, liberation, and life in the Divine.

Stay after the Sunday service to fill out an evaluation and to ask Frank questions.

## 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.**

## *Board of Directors*



*Sharon Hardie*

COVID has been an unrelenting adversary for 15 months. An adversary in our personal lives and across the spectrum of Unity communities, including our own.

The SBA, Small Business Association, threw us a lifeline and graced us with 3 grants and a loan. They have also extended our first required payment on the loan to June 2022 giving us the opportunity to keep those valuable dollars in our treasury.

But COVID....it continued its assault. It limited our income sources to Rent, which currently sits at 50% of our budget needs, and Love Offerings, which currently is at 62% of budget needs.

The Minister transition brings its own demands. We are striving to be financially viable as our Minister candidates visit with us. Also, we must be in a position to negotiate an equitable salary and benefit package. It's now necessary to bring our Administrative Assistant, Carrie, back on board so she can be a knowledgeable and reliable source of our policies and procedures as the new Minister begins his or her ministry with us. We are also in the process of hiring an affordable Janitor now that our facility is back in full use.

As always....you are the key to Unity of Auburn's success. Your individual financial support is **crucial**.....along with your continued support of the transition events as we journey through Unity of Auburn's changing world.

Let's continue to shine as we meet our challenge "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 July 2021

July 4, 2021

Talk: (Rev. Frank Castro-Wehr, Minister Candidate)  
Music: Dennis Cain

July 11, 2021

Talk: Questioning Authority  
Music: Kellie Garmire

July 18, 2021

Talk: The Dignity of Humankind  
Music: TBA

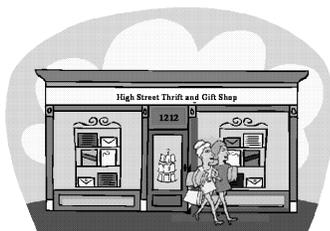
July 25, 2021

Talk: The Tyranny of Ideology  
Music: Kellie Garmire



*It will be celebrated...  
with pomp and parade...  
bonfires and illuminations  
from one end of this continent to the  
other.*

*John Adams*



Unity of Auburn

**1212 High Street  
Thrift & Gift Shop**

**Donations:** *Now* taking donations.

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

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