

2024-2025 Worship Committee Annual Report

Adria Evans, Chair.

Members: Ann Seeman (emerita), Kathy Swink, Michelle Stage, Sue Strakosch (plus Rev Denis and Lee Cowan) This May, upon Amber's leaving, we are seeking a new member to fill her slot.

UUCSC held 53 Sunday services between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. (No service on Labor Day, but extra services were Eve Eve and Tenebrae.) Of these, about 16 were *officiated* by members of the Worship Committee, and most included invited speakers. Lee Cowan took on 3-4 intergenerational services, often with Amber's help. Johnnie Rodriguez took on 2 services. We've also had great support from Rev Denis and Lee Cowan throughout the year.

Our services were interesting and diverse: 2 poetry services, Practical Daoism, Learning from Veterans about Moral Injury, Allyship, Palm Sunday reflections, celebrations of the Solstice and Belthane, storytelling, drumming, 2 World Cafes. In addition, members of Worship (and other congregants) have been on the *bima* (Hebrew for the stage area) throughout the year, working with Rev Denis. Several delivered "Spiritual Reflections."

Once again, Worship (actually Kathy Swink) has been responsible for Virtual Ushers to host our services via zoom. And Nancy Richman has run our in-chapel phone camera when Rev Denis is not present. Special thanks to Jean and Aline, Mary Fulton, and Kathy whose repeated hosting has kept our zoom services available.

We have been fortunate that most speakers, except for the ministers and storyteller, have spoken to us without charge.

Producing our services also includes publicity through the newsletter and the website and organizing the Order of Service for that week.

As of this writing (May, 2025), we have some of our summer services scheduled. Michelle will help coordinate our music with the help of Bina Holtzman, Nancy Richman. We will be calling on Chris Johnson, Mary Stuart, and Mac Richardson as well. We will not have services on July 7 and August 31.

What we need: 1. More money. I've lowered our budget request to \$2200.00, but have learned that we've been underpaying our speakers. Next year, we'll raise our request.

2. An active new member.

3. A few more volunteers as Virtual Ushers at home on zoom, as well as

4. a few folks to set up their phones as cameras and make sure camera is moved during services.

Continued zoom services will require that more folks step up.

Respectfully submitted,

Adria Evans, Chair, May 19, 2024