

Taking the Fellowship into the Future

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Looking back 30 years has been a powerful and emotional process for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende. There are so many achievements to celebrate, so much wonderful music, talent, friendship, support, and love. At the same time, our reflection into the past has stirred up memories of those who are no longer with us, either because they have moved away, or have passed on. The list of those who pass on grows with each year and we remember with gratitude these generous souls. But looking back has also propelled our thinking about the future. So what comes next?

The mission of the UUFSMA (www.uufsma.org) is to serve the spirit as each individual understands it, to serve the educational and pastoral needs of our own community, and to serve our multicultural community through actions that further social justice. To serve the spirit as each individual understands it, the UUFSMA Sunday Service Committee plans a mix of minister-led and lay-led services for every week of the year. This year, 2017, we will host visiting ministers from across the North America to provide 30 Sundays of services. This mix of minister- and lay-led service provides a breadth of insight and sharing that is both sacred and secular. Music will always play an important role in serving the spirit of our fellowship.

As a liberal faith fellowship, the UUFSMA seeks to expand our membership by offering not only thought-provoking, soul-expanding Sunday services, but also offering more earthly services to our community. When you come visit us on a Sunday, you will see a long Membership Table, featuring information on the following: Circle Cenas, our lively monthly dinner groupings; Pastoral Care Team, our dedicated volunteers who visit those who cannot leave their homes or care centers; Small Group Discussions, our thought-provoking discussion groups which cover a wide range of topics; the Singles Telephone Tree, our effort to ensure that no one feels isolated; and, of course, the Membership/Pledge information. As we look into the future, we also seek to reach out to younger members of the community, and are discussing the creation of a religious education program.

The third element of our mission, to serve our multicultural community through actions that further social justice, is fundamental to our identity as UUs. We will continue to donate a significant portion of our revenue to grants and programs that address the needs of this wonderful place called San Miguel de Allende. The Social Action Committee vets all grant proposals thoroughly. The grant program has more than tripled in the last 5 years, and represents 50% of our finances.

Crystal balls are hard to come by, but as the UUFSMA looks forward, we expect great things to fulfill the promise of our mission and our community. We invite you to join our 30th Anniversary celebration, entitled *The Promise of Living*, in an extended ceremony on Sunday, 29 January 2017 at the Hotel La Aldea from 10:30-12:30.