



THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, California
Transforming Ourselves, Each Other and the World

505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 www.uucpa.org; January 28, 2018

Sunday Morning

February 4

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room
Ideas about the future.

Discussion led by Warren Schmidt.

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall
Staying Curious In Conflict

Sometimes living our values becomes a challenge when we find ourselves in passionate disagreement with someone who does not share our perspective, or at an impasse with someone we love. Conflict is often about communication, but it is also about culture – the context of our lives shapes our relationships and patterns of interacting in community. Join Megan Dowdell, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Society at Starr King School for the Ministry, as we explore how to stay curious in conflict through story, sermon and song.

Worship Leader: Rev. Megan Dowdell

Worship Associate: Gregg Williams

Music: Veronika Agranov Dafoe, piano

February 11

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room
How did nursery rhymes affect you?.

Discussion led by Martha Greene.

The Forum is a drop-in public discussion – everyone welcomed.

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall
Dreaming Bigger, Dreaming Together

The poet Francisco X. Alarcón writes: “a dream / we dream / alone,” but “reality / we dream / together.” Come to today’s service ready to dream, and we will make something bigger out of our individual dreams, a reality we can dream—and create – together.

Worship Leader: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Creators: Everyone

Music: Jim Stevens, guitar

Today

“Seek Peace And Pursue It.” 12:30 to 2 pm; Main Hall. See page 3.

Sunday morning childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers will be available from 9 am to 12:15 pm in Rooms 7 & 8 and 2 & 3.

PCD Women's Retreat March 8-11

The annual PCD Women's Retreat is coming up on March 8 to 11, 2018. All self-identified women are welcome to join us for a calming respite from our busy lives. Usually held at a retreat center near Napa that was severely damaged in October by the wildfires, this year we will be meeting at the Anubhuti Center in Novato. We were very lucky to find a place that could accommodate a group of our size and our preferred dates at a reasonable price. Anubhuti is a contemplative retreat center run by Brahma Kumaris, the largest spiritual organization in the world led by women. It is housed in a group of historic buildings that were fully renovated by the sisters seven years-ago, and sits on top of a hill, surrounded by 1,600 acres of protected open space, water and a wildlife preserve, with spectacular views of the Bay, Pacheco Pond, Novato creek, and the rolling hills of Marin County. Anubhuti usually holds meditation retreats at the center, but once a month rents the space to outside groups. Our retreat offers something for everyone: delicious meals; workshops for mind, body, and spirit; conversations with new and old friends; time for quiet contemplation; and a boutique, silent auction, and book swap. To learn more about the PCD Women and Religion organization and to register for our retreat, please visit our website at <http://womenandreligionpcd.org>. If you have any questions, feel free to ask regular attendees Sally Ahnger, Fran Perry, or Barbara Schonborn. We hope to see you there. Invite a friend!

UU Class Conversations Workshop

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Rev. Melissa Thomson, community minister and hospital chaplain affiliated with UUCPA, welcomes you to join her in attending an important upcoming workshop on social and economic class distinctions and their impact on the work of building beloved community. Our UUCPA board has endorsed participation in the UU Class Conversations Workshop and given a donation to help offset some of the cost of this event.

Register at the link provided below and then please be in touch if you'd like to form a carpool with other UUCPA attendees by contacting Melissa Thomson (the church office has contact details).

Register online at: <http://www.pcduumma.com/upcoming-events.html> (Go to the web page and scroll down to the February 10 UU Class Conversations calendar listing for the registration link.)

First Sunday Community Singing

10:30 to 11 am on the Main Patio

Come sing with us! We'll sing favorite songs from *Rise Up Singing*. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome.

Seek Peace And Pursue It

Jewish Wisdom On Healing Conflict In Our Lives And In Our World

Sunday, January 28, 12:30 to 2 pm; Main Hall

Presenter is Rabbi Amy Eilberg.

Contact is Marilyn Austin (marilyn_a@uucpa.org)

Registration is not required.

Rabbi Amy Eilberg, the author of *From Enemy to Friend: Jewish Wisdom and the Pursuit of Peace*, will engage us in the study of key sacred texts from the Jewish tradition about the pursuit of peace. These texts have come alive for her in many years of work in interfaith dialogue, intra-communal dialogue, and engagement with Israeli and Palestinian peace builders. These wisdom teachings are important for the ways in which we conduct our personal relationships, and explore what it means to be a seeker of peace and a seeker of justice in today's America.

Are you Alive, Awake, Alert, and Motivated? The Audio Committee can use your help!

We are a friendly group that wants to expand our talent pool for the benefit of the church and its members. No experience needed. We will train new recruits on use of the sound board and microphone setup. We ask for your participation at one Sunday service each month, plus optional church events as time permits.

These are some of the responsibilities of running the sound board at the many events held at UUCPA:

- Play bells to draw members into the service
- Greet guest speakers
- Digitally record the service/event
- Provide devices to help those hard of hearing
- Amplify the extraordinary lives well lived at memorial services
- Give voice to passionate speakers at Congregational Meetings
- Brighten the live auction at UUCPA's Annual Auction

If you are interested, contact any of the Audio Committee members: Bill Hilton, Chaz Cassel, Gregg Williams, Keith Teleki, Mari-bea Berry, Matt Drake, Paul Kostka, Richard Cassel.

Stepping Up For Justice

UUCPA is giving even more generously in 2018! Instead of giving 10% of each Sunday's plate collection to our justice partner of the month, we will be donating the entire plate collection one Sunday a month to a justice partner. This will increase our overall giving and strengthen the community around us. In the month of January, our justice partner is Stevenson House, which provides affordable housing to seniors.



Thank You for Your Guest at Your Table Donation

Many thanks to everyone who donated to this year's Guest at Your Table (GAYT) program. UUCPA raised over \$700 which will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to help over 75 organizations around the world – and in the U.S. – which challenge injustice and advance human rights. This year GAYT focused on climate change, immigration, “stateless” people in Burma and LGBTQI issues in Nigeria. Every donation is important!

—Beth Nord, GAYT Coordinator

The Role Of Meditation In The Lives Of UUCPA Members And Friends

Sunday, March 4, 12:30 to 2 pm, Fireside Room

Facilitator is Marilyn Austin; Contact marilyn_a@uucpa.org

Registration is not required.

Meditation plays an important part in the lives of quite a few UUCPA members and friends. Some of us who do not practice meditation wonder “what they get out of it.” The answer is not the same for each of them, even if their meditation practices are similar. A panel of five UUCPA folks will explain why they meditate and will answer questions about it from the audience.

Healing the Divide Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

Healing the Divide is a UUCPA group which formed after the 2016 elections to ask 1) What do we not understand about others with more conservative view points and 2) What can we learn that will help us communicate even across wide differences in belief.

In our February meeting, we'll continue our practice of Powerful Non-Defensive Communication, this time in conversations based on selected letters to the editor. We plan to work in pairs so we all have a chance to practice responding to someone with a different point of view. All are welcome!

Day Workers Available

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Center was established in 1996 by leaders from local businesses, churches, and the community to provide job-matching services for hundreds of local homeowners and businesses annually.

It is a source of help with garden, or construction projects, and more. Phone 650 903 4106.

Their web site is dayworkercentermv.org.

Come meet your UUCPA Neighborhood Circle.

Join us for the annual Community Dinner! Great food, even better company!

Saturday, February 3 in the Main Hall

5:30 pm – Happy Hour/Appetizers

6 pm – Catered Dinner served

Casual Dress

Child Care provided:

RSVP with name, number in party and need for child care, in one of three ways (also include dietary restrictions):

1. (easiest way) fill out form at: <https://goo.gl/forms/ey-StaO62AwsPrC9f2> or
2. email to dinner@uucpa.org
3. call the office at 650-494-0541

See you there! — *The Stewardship Committee*

February 4

UUCPA Congregation Open Discussion

UUCPA has started a discussion around our name. Many other UU congregations around the US have changed their name by substituting the word Church for another word, such as Congregation, or Community. Please join Michael Lohman and Audrey Erbes after each service on February 4 for an open discussion of what we want as a congregation. Get your coffee, and then please join us in room 6 at 10:45 am or 12:15 pm.

The Brown Bag Book Group's March Selection

The BBB selection for March is *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* (Non Fiction) by Dianne Ackerman.

(This book is) "a true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands. After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski managed to save over three hundred people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages. With animal names for these 'guests,' and human names for the animals, it's no wonder that the zoo's code name became 'The House Under a Crazy Star.' Best-selling naturalist and acclaimed storyteller Diane Ackerman combines extensive research and an exuberant writing style to re-create this fascinating, true-life story sharing Antonina's life as 'the zookeeper's wife,' while examining the disturbing obsessions at the core of Nazism." (Amazon) "She captures with breathtaking precision and discernment our kinship with animals, the barbarity of war, Antonina's unbounded kindness ... , Jan's daring work with the Polish Underground, and (the) audacity of the the Zabinskis' mission of mercy ... (She) illuminates profound connection between humankind and nature, and celebrates life's beauty, mystery and tenacity." (Booklist) Please join us on Tuesday, March 6, at noon in the Fireside Room to discuss this illuminating and uplifting book.

Otherring And Belonging

Sunday, February 11, 1 to 3 pm in Room 4-5

Presentor is Mr. Barb Greve (barb_g@uucpa.org)

Contact is Beth Sherman (beth_s@uucpa.org)

Registration is not required.

One of this year's UUA Common Reads, *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry* (edited by Mitra Rahnema), offers us help with the inner work of today's Unitarian Universalism. Using one essay from the book we will practice acting from our UU values by centering the experiences of religious professionals of color.

Pacific Western Region Assembly April Meeting

The four districts of the UUA's Pacific Western Region (PWR) will gather April 27-29 in Portland, Oregon for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Speakers include civil rights activist, the Rev. Dr. William Barber; Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights; and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, newly elected UUA president.

Programming includes workshops, worship, district meetings, and an optional social justice activity. A day-long Professional Day designed for religious professionals is planned for Friday, April 27, before the start of Regional Assembly. Discount lodging is available at the Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly. Childcare and youth programming will be available. Registration will open by January 4. Watch the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) for full details to be posted soon.

— *Diane Brinson*, Pacific Western Regional Assembly publicity

Caring Network

DIANE MEIER is back from New Jersey where she helped her mother settle back in after rehab from a bad fall. Unfortunately, after two days back home, her mother's 97 year-old partner of 37 years died. Diane arranged for the funeral. A lovely MLK ceremony with great music in the Beacon UU in Summit, NJ brought her some solace. AUDREY ERBES returned from a 2 week trip to Costa Rica where she enjoyed a news blackout. Also birding among the beautiful tropical birds helped her regain her balance for walking. six of her 17 travel mates were UUs. PAT LANDMANN-HERRIOT reported the amazing recovery of her husband after his bad fall in the parking lot 10 days ago. PAM SCHURE participated in the Women's March and was very inspired. About 10 hands went up in a poll as to who else was there.

Weaving the Web

— Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

For the past several years, I've had a three-part practice each Lent: give to a charitable or social-change organization, give something up, and add something creative or positive. My contribution this year will go to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. (Later this year we'll have a second Promise and the Practice service – our first was January 21– and we'll give a special offering to BLUU, aiming to contribute \$10 per member of UUCPA, the level that triggers the UUA's 1:1 match.) Giving something up is something I can do on my own, though I haven't decided what it will be yet.

With a daily practice, though, I do a lot better if I'm in a community of people who share it. And this year, I'm hoping some of you will be that community.

Before I knew Barb Greve personally, I saw the #UULent photo-a-day project he created. Each day has its word, and the practice is to take a photo that accompanies that word. The first year I saw it, I followed along in my blog. I only took about 15 of the 40+ photos, though – I tell you, I don't do this so well on my own! Now, it's personal, because I do know Barb and enjoy the pleasure of working with him. Wouldn't it be fun for a bunch of us from UUCPA to join in the practice he began, take a photo a day and post them all on the UUCPA Facebook page?

So, please help me deepen my practice! If you want to be in the community of word-of-the-day Lent photographers, look up the words of the day and join me in posting on Facebook. If you're not on Facebook – or even if you are – you can print out some of your photos and post them on a bulletin board I'll set up at UUCPA, along with the word each one represents. We begin on Ash Wednesday, which is Valentine's Day this year. See you in church, and see your photos starting February 14!

Blessings, Amy

Bodhi Tree Concerts North **Saturday, February 10 at 7:30 pm** **In the Main Hall**

Bodhi Tree Concerts North and UUCPA present the Bay Area's premier Arabic music group, Aswat Ensemble, performing music from each country in the original “Muslim travel ban”: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

This is sure to be a highly educational and entertaining evening, performed by true masters in the field.

Tickets on sale now at: www.btcnorth.org

Art In The Lobby: The Palous

Photographs by Bill Hilton

The Palous is a natural grassland on rolling hills in eastern Washington and western Idaho that has been farmed for more than a century. A principal crop today is Canola or Rapeseed, which is virtually indistinguishable from Mustard in the field. The eight photographs were shot in June 2016. In selecting eight, I wanted to emphasize the geometric qualities created by the interactions of farming and natural topography.

First Sunday Community Singing

10:30 to 11 am on the Main Patio

Come sing with us! We'll sing favorite songs from *Rise Up Singing*. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome.

→ We, The Few, The Proud, The Ushers! ←

The team of ushers is looking for new people to join the team who welcome worshippers to each service. If you regularly come to a 9:30 or 11 am service, consider helping as an usher once a month. It's easy, it's fun! And your smile makes all the difference.

Email or contact Michael Plass to find out more.

The South Palo Alto Food Closet

There are baskets in the lobby for food donations to the South Palo Alto Food Closet. It is a grocery program located at the Covenant Presbyterian Church on East Meadow Drive in Palo Alto. This food program is designed to help needy families with children or disabilities by assisting them in their weekly food needs.

We only collect the donations in the baskets when they are full. Therefore we ask that you contribute only non-perishable food so this excludes bread which can get moldy. Cold breakfast cereals are much appreciated. And canned goods such as Vienna sausage, spam, tuna, sardines and salmon. All donations must be unopened and in-date. Thanks for helping those in need in our area.

Amy's Availability Week Of February 20

Amy has been called to jury duty beginning on Tuesday, February 20. She will schedule the week as usual, but cannot be certain of her availability each day until 5 pm the previous afternoon. Please don't hesitate to make an appointment – most likely she will be able to keep it – but do stay alert for a cancellation call from the office. Thank you!

Thespians

The Thespians get together to sight-read plays. All UU members, friends, and guests are welcome.

Second Monday: 7 to 10 pm in Room 9

Third Friday: 1:30 to 4:30 pm in Room A

Fourth Tuesday: 7 to 10 pm in Room 9 — *Samuel Thomas Morgan*

Elder Journey

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in Room 6 from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Green Sanctuary

We are a Green Sanctuary Congregation and continue our active push toward being truly Green in our energy consumption. The committee meets on the second Sunday of each month at 11 am in Room 9. Newcomers and drop-ins are welcome.



The Bulletin

February 4 and 18 are the next two deadlines for submitting items you want to see in *the Bulletin*. Send items to Debra Heinz, Office Administrative Assistant, via newsletter@uucpa.org.

Church Office

505 East Charleston Rd, Palo Alto, California 94306

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 am to 2:30 pm; Sunday, 9 am to 1 pm

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uucpa>

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*On sabbatical leave until 3/1/18. During his leave, Religious Educator is Mr. Barb Greve.