



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; February 25, 2018

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions, and implement its principles.

March 4

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room

The power of now

Discussion led by Eckhart Tolle and Steven Mashin.

9:30 and 11:00 am Service Main Hall

The Stalin in the Soul

This striking phrase comes from the late, great writer Ursula K. Le Guin, who inquired with great honesty about how we frequently censor ourselves and limit our own freedom. As people who aspire to free lives, it's an important question and the topic of today's service.

Worship Leader: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Veronika Agranov Dafoe, piano

March 11

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room

Martin Luther's influence on UU

Discussion led by Bob Ohlmann.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am Service Main Hall

Senior-High-Aged Youth

The senior-high-aged youth of UUCPA lead today's service with passion and honesty, as they share about being a teenager in today's world.

Worship Leaders: Senior High Youth Group (SHYG)

Worship Associate: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Lisa diTiberio and Yuri Liberzon, flute and guitar

Today

Bookstore Sale continues. See page 2.

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!

Bass Lake Camp Get-Away 2018

Registration is now open. Join your friends at a beautiful mountain camp with its own private beach from Thursday, August 16, to 0 OSunday, August 19. The long weekend will feature swimming and boating, horseback rides, hiking and relaxing and is open to UUCPA members, other UU members and their friends. Meals and rustic cabins are provided and there are no meetings or chores. Space is limited in 2018 to 20 cabins so **register before February 28** to reserve your cabin and get your early bird discount.

To register or to get more information email basslakeuucpa@gmail.com or call or text Greg Crider (the office has the number.)

Bookstore Sale Continues

The Church Bookstore continues the inventory reduction sale today, February 25. All donated books will be "two for the price of one"; a single book will be half off. Because we did not have the Yard Sale in August, we have continued to build up inventory. We have many quality books. After the sale, the collection will be weeded (especially fiction) to make room for a better viewing experience. Unsold books will go to the Friends of the Library.

Brown Bag Book April's Selection

The BBB selection for April is *The Underground Railroad* (Fiction) by Colson Whitehead.

“Cora is a young slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him. In ... (this book) ... the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. The Underground Railroad is both the gripping tale of one woman’s will to escape the horrors of bondage—and a powerful meditation on the history we all share.” (Amazon)

Please join us at noon on April 3 in the Fireside Room to discuss this timely book.

Treasure Sale Report

Thanks to the help of many hands, the Treasure Sale made \$879 to benefit social action programs. Thank you to those who made it possible: donors of quality goods, Dora Fishman, Erin Fishman, Marilyn Stoddard, Donna Aronson, Barbara Symons, Edie Keating, Jonelle Preisser (Edie's friend from the Redwood City church), Edith Drewek, Chris Anderson, Jeff Cashdollar, and Debra Heinz.

How-To-Meeting February 28

Annual Church Auction Hand-Off

After many years, Pat Thomas is handing over the baton on the Annual Church Auction. In a one-off swan song event, she will brief all of us on how to pull-off awesome church auctions accompanied by Lisa Helmonds. By splitting the work up among many people, this next year's auction event should be a roaring success with a manageable workload.

Join us on Wednesday, February 28, at 6 pm in Room A for a chance to see brilliance in action.

Action Council Seeks Your Participation And Input

1) We have recently begun revamping our bulletin board and would love to have church members (that's you!) contribute interesting articles about social justice events/news in the bay area. Perhaps you saw something interesting about bail reform or a new multi-faith group in your area - feel free to post any articles on the Action Council bulletin board. The Action Council will monitor and take down items that have been posted for a while, so make a copy before posting anything you need to keep.

2) Along with monthly justice partners, the Action Council works to promote multiple service projects throughout the year (such as hosting Hotel de Zink in September and Undie Sunday in December). We are seeking more service projects between March and September, and are looking for some ideas for new service projects. These could be anything from a stream cleanup to volunteering at the second harvest food bank. Please send any ideas for service projects to actioncouncil@uucpa.org.

Earthjustice Is The March Justice Partner

Chosen by the Green Sanctuary Committee, Earthjustice is UUCPA's March justice partner. It is a San Francisco-based, highly rated charitable organization that provides legal representation to protect the health of the earth. The slogan, "because the earth needs a good lawyer," aptly describes the work: which is to represent the earth - including its air, water, flora and fauna - to protect it from degradation of all kinds. This work is especially valuable now as the Administration in Washington DC, takes actions designed to reverse protections and enable degradation.

Please support the invaluable work of Earthjustice <https://earthjustice.org>.

Healing the Divide Meeting

12:30 pm, Sunday, March 4, Main Hall

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 March meeting, we will continue to work on making non-defensive statements, using letters-to-the editor as a source of positions. We will work in pairs, with one person doing their best to channel the letter-writer, while the other responds with PNDC statements. All are welcome!

Caring Network

RICHARD CASSEL says PHYLLIS is home and working on getting better. She sleeps in the afternoons so if you would like to visit, come in the morning or evening. MARY GREBENKEMPER's brother who died 1/18 had a sense of humor. Ask her what he said to a parishener at his church when he was ushering. KATHY PARMENTIER's sister has been fighting lymphoma. After a lot of treatments, she is now cancer free. RICHARD HEYDT reports DON LORENTS is back in the hospital due to a colon blockage. DONNA ARONSON got to see five condors at Pinnacles – she is overjoyed. MAGDALENA says her niece had her first baby in Chicago recently. HANNAH SLOCUM has been personally hit by the immigration problem; her favorite server told her he and his family are moving to Canada — no longer feeling welcome here. BRIAN WELLER saw a great tee shirt in Mexico. It said “Relax, you are on the right side of the wall.”

Want A Recording Of A Service?

Bill Hilton sends us a note on how you can obtain recordings of a Sunday Service – including the very humorous one on February 18. It's a new process.

To listen to the sermon only, direct a browser to: <http://www.uucpa.org/worship/past-worship-services/>.

If you want to listen to other parts of the service, please send an email to audio-recordings@uucpa.org. In response, you will receive via email a link to a Dropbox folder that will contain audio recordings of all parts of the service.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Advocacy Highlights

- Resisting xenophobic and Islamophobic policies and discourse at the local and national level
- Advocating to end family detention for asylum-seeking Central American mothers and children
- Pressing for aid accountability in the international response to Hurricane Matthew in Haiti
- Supporting a more welcoming environment for Syrian and other refugees by influencing legislation at the federal, state, and local levels
- Leading a national Refugee Rapid Response Network for activists committed to welcoming refugees
- Calling for sanctuary and solidarity policies that make local communities safe havens for undocumented, Black, and Muslim people and others at particular risk from escalating populism, demagoguery, and scapegoating in the U.S.

To read more about UUSC, see uusc.org.

UUA General Assembly (GA) 2018 June 20 – 24, Kansas City, Missouri



GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

Registration for General Assembly 2018 will open on March 1; rates increase May 1. Visit the website for details: uua.org.

By Your Side Singers

Who We Are

BYSS is a group of men and women who love to sing and long to serve others through music.

The group is co-led by the Rev. Melissa T. Thomson, who is a UUCPA Community Minister and Hospital Chaplain, and singer-composer Matthew Rosin. Both are members of UUCPA.

Our Practice

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 to 9 pm in Room 9, to practice the craft of pastoral singing.

We take turns being sung to by the group, so we may open ourselves to the people we serve and learn to sing together in gentleness.

We practice our repertoire of hymns and other songs.

We talk about and learn from recent pastoral visits.

We share and support each other in our own joys and sorrows.

Join Us

We invite you to join us. You do not need to be a member of UUCPA's Adult Choir to join. You need only bring your love of singing and serving others.

To learn more about joining BYSS, email the Rev. Melissa Thomson and Matthew Rosin at singtocare@uucpa.org.

Call For Us

If you are undergoing a trying time of illness, change, or transition, we welcome you to call on us, so we may help ease your burden and calm your spirit through gentle song.

To arrange a visit or ask any questions, email the Rev. Melissa Thomson and/or Matthew Rosin at singtocare@uucpa.org.

UUCPA's Caring Network (caring@uucpa.org) also helps to connect us with people in need.

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.

UU Presses

The Unitarian Universalist Association owns two distinct and complementary presses, Beacon Press and Skinner House Books.

Beacon Press books seek to change the way readers think about fundamental issues, promoting such values as freedom of speech and thought, the importance of economic and social justice issues, religious pluralism, respect for our environment, and the importance of the arts in a civil society. Beacon has published several national bestsellers, and its books are frequently reviewed and discussed in national print and broadcast media. They are also used in university and secondary school curricula, citywide reading programs, and reading groups, and within a variety of organizational and faith-based reading programs. Skinner House publishes titles directly aimed at the spiritual needs of Unitarian Universalists, seekers, and others who share the values of liberal religion.

Skinner House Books publishes worship and church resources, books on theology and religious history, books for children and families, introductions to Unitarian Universalism, pastoral resources, and religious commentary on current issues and social justice concerns. While all Skinner House books express the Principles of Unitarian Universalism, many are distributed to the general public and accessible to people of all faiths or none. Content from Skinner House books is woven throughout Unitarian Universalist ministerial formation, preaching and worship, religious education, small group ministry, outreach, and programming at congregational and national levels.

Read more about the UU presses at uuabookstore.org.

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.

UUSC: “Ethnic cleansing in Burma must end.”

Your voice is urgently needed to advance legislation that will end the continuing violence against the Rohingya in Burma. Sign and send a letter to your Members of Congress urging them to co-sponsor S.2060/H.R.4223 today. More information is available at uusc.org.

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.

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*

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.



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. See the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) for full details.

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!

Flaming Chalice: Symbol Of Unitarian Universalism

A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot) is a primary symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Many of our congregations kindle a flaming chalice in gatherings and worships and feature the chalice symbol prominently.

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope.

Elder Journey

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

The Bulletin

March 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

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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.