



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; September 4, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Sunday Mornings

September 11

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

Divergence of the electorate

Discussion led by Jim Basiji.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am Service..... Main Hall

Peace in Our Time?

Reflecting on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, one of the obvious questions to ask is this: Is it possible to have peace in our time? Since human beings have been asking this same question for millennia, it seems obvious that the answer is no. But great religious leaders like Confucius, Guru Nanak, and Jesus of Nazareth offer some hope that the answer might be yes. In this sermon, I'll look at why we might hope for peace in our time.

Worship Leader: Rev. Dan Harper

Worship Associate: Joe Bailey

Music: Kevin Ayers, classical guitar; Pam Parke, violin

September 18

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

Transforming education

Discussion led by Ann Zeise.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am Service..... Main Hall

Broken For You

We are all broken, and we are all whole. How do we help one another pick up the pieces when that is what's needed?

Worship Leader: Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz

The Last Of The Summer BBQs Is Tomorrow, Labor Day!

See page 8 for more details

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.

About Amy's Sabbatical

Amy Zucker Morgenstern, UUCPA's senior minister, is on sabbatical until January 2, 2016.

During July, pastoral emergencies will be handled by Rev. Mary Ganz, our sabbatical minister. Call 650-494-0541 x25, and your phone call will be forwarded to Mary.

The sabbatical pamphlet, with complete information about Amy's sabbatical, is available in the Main Lobby. If you have any questions about Rev. Amy's sabbatical, please contact a member of the sabbatical committee: Castor Fu, Edie Keating or Wynne Furth.

Caring Network

CRAIG LEWIS, who has been away from UUCPA for several months, was eager to come to hear HARRISON (the morning's Worship Associate) whom he has enjoyed knowing and observing his maturing. SVEN THESEN appreciated the cover of the program of our electric charging station. JENNY ROBERTSON is happy to be more politically involved by joining Nation Builders and supporting her local school board candidate. KRISTI IVERSON and husband BILL spent 10 days in Colorado with a big family reunion and she attended her 50th high school reunion. FRAN and BRYCE PERRY returned from San Diego where they attended many grand-children's birthdays. ELISABETH HOLM got a strange call from her son who just started work in the Netherlands. It was part of a training session to be tied-up and harassed. DAVID HARRIS appreciated all the help he got during a visit to the mosque, recently. MATT DRAKE announced that he and EMILY DREWMAYER are going to get married. V. J. MOHAN recommended the street art & craft show in Palo Alto. ESA JACOBI went to Switzerland and had a nice long visit with her brother. ILA KEIPER recently had her 85th Birthday — Happy Birthday Ila! REV. MARY GANZ lit a candle to remember the people affected by the earth quake that recently struck Italy.

Life, Improvisation, And Developing Your Sense Of Playful Mindfulness

Sunday, September 25, 12:30 to 2 pm; Fireside Room

Contact is Mag Cumbow (margret_c@uucpa.org)

Presenter is Greg Becker

Registration is not required, but appreciated. Childcare provided.

While many people are familiar with improv on the stage or screen, this workshop will explore the philosophy of improvisation and how it can be applied to your daily life! Along with a discussion on developing your sense of playful mindfulness, we will also be exploring these concepts using improvisational games and exercises. This workshop is suitable for people of all ages, all abilities, and all mindsets — so please join us for this fun and enlightening workshop!

Greg Becker has degrees in Drama, Computer Science, and Education from UCI and Stanford University. He has led or participated in a variety of improvisation groups over the last 20 years, including teaching improvisation to business leaders, educators, and medical students. He is also one of our many Sunday School teachers at UUCPA.

Divesting Fossil Fuels from Your Portfolio

A Forum for Individual Investors

Considering eliminating fossil fuels from your portfolio? Since burning any more than 20 percent of known reserves will destroy Earth's habitable climate, carbon fuels will soon be seen as "stranded assets" — and wise investors are moving out of such risky investments.

Seeking a concrete way to expedite the transition away from fossil fuels? You can align your investments with your values and add your voice to the rapidly growing global divestment movement. Join us for a forum about fossil-free investing

Pose your questions to Christian Ortez, Director of LPL Financial's Blackmont Wealth Management Group.

Explore Internet resources for individuals and financial managers: fossilfreefunds.org, clean200.org, and divestinvest.org.

Sandy Emerson from Fossil Free California will introduce key topics for the discussion with Christian Ortez on Thursday, September 15 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Co-sponsors: UUCPA, Fossil Free California, 350 Silicon Valley, Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action, the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, and Acterra.

Workshop

Dreams - The Magic Mirror with UU Rev. Dr. Jeremy Taylor

All dreams come in service of our health and wholeness; only the dreamer knows for sure what his/her dream means. "Dreams — the Magic Mirror" combines lecture and experiential dream work to cover working with dreams on your own, or in a group.

Bring a dream to "put in the hat," if you like. Open to all, no experience needed. World-renowned dream-worker and UU Minister Rev. Dr. Jeremy Taylor has been deciphering dreams for 40 years and has written several books and taught seminary courses on the subject.

He says: "Working with dreams means remembering and exploring the dreams from sleep with an eye to their deeper meanings. Each one of us is uniquely blind to the deeper meanings of our own dreams, and dream work helps us see what amazing gifts are there, just below the surface of 'manifest content' and obvious appearance."

Friday, September 30, 7 to 9 pm and Saturday, October 1, 9 am to 5 pm at Cole Hall at the First United Methodist Church Campus, 2950 Washington Boulevard, Fremont,

Co-sponsored by the Mission Peak UU Church in Fremont.

Cost: Sliding scale \$50 - \$100. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Bring your lunch on Saturday. Contact: Rev. Barbara F. Meyers at: com_minister@mpuuc.org or 510-796-5722 for reservations.

Chalice Circles

Another year of Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program, will be starting this October. Chalice Circles are a wonderful way for people to connect, form friendships, and feel “known” in our community. Meeting twice a month, we move through various topics of spiritual significance (like resilience, transition, forgiveness, transcendence). We share both the everyday goings on of our lives and stories of greater significance. We practice attentive listening without giving into the temptation to give each other advice. The richness of the experience comes from the depth of sharing. When we share our stories, whether painful, triumphant, or wickedly funny, we bless each other.

Wonder what Chalice Circles are all about? What happens when a Chalice Circle meets? How you can get involved? If you’re curious about these groups and would like to know more before signing up for one, a sample session is a great chance to see for yourself what they are like. There will be two opportunities for sample sessions to give you a taste of what a Chalice Circle meeting would be and to answer any questions you have about the program. We’ll go over the basics, have a session on the topic “What We Love,” and then answer your questions.

August 21: Sign-ups for new groups start. Get a registration form from the Information Table, the Office, or the UUCPA web site at www.uucpa.org/chalice_circles/Registration_Form.pdf.

September 18: Brooke Bishara will lead a session at 12:30 pm in Room 6.

Groups will get started in early October and will run through early June next year. For more information see Brooke Bishara or Susan Plass.

Mark Your Calendars

The UUCPA Auction Is Saturday, November 19, From 5:30 To 9 pm

Yes, we know it seems early to start thinking about it, but start by planning to be there — ***the biggest and best UUCPA party of the year, and it's all free!***

Delicious food, wine, live jazz, a raffle for a weekend at Wynne and Don’s wonderful house on the coast near Point Reyes, hundreds of items to bid on in a Silent Auction, a dozen or so special items in a Live Auction run by our very own auctioneer, Sven Thesen – how could you miss it? Of course, it takes many of us helping out to make it work, so —

Think about what you can offer, either by yourself, with friends, or as part of an organized group (e.g., Choir, Covenant Group, Committee, Board of Trustees) Write it up and send it to Auction@uucpa.org.

If you have a favorite restaurant or place of business that you have a connection to, let Pat know (pat_t@uucpa.org) and she’ll give you a letter requesting a donation from them.

Stop by the Auction Table on the patio (coming soon) and sign up to help organize, decorate, cook, or help at the auction itself.

Thanks – it will be a terrific party for us all!

—Pat Thomas, Lisa Helmonds

September Dinners Needed

About Hotel de Zink

—Edie Keating

Hotel de Zink is the name of a rotating homeless shelter that UUCPA participates in. During the month of September, we provide 15 men or women with a place to sleep at night (mattresses in the main hall) and with a hot meal served at 9 pm.

We encourage you to support our guests by signing up to bring a meal one night in September. A signup sheet will be available on Sundays on the patio or call the office. We hope to have 30 meals signed up before the end of August. There will also be a donation jar near the sign up list.

As well as the evening meal, we purchase bread, sandwich makings, coffee, and other staples to support our guests before they leave each morning. If you can contribute \$10 or \$20 dollars, it really helps to fund these purchases. One additional way to help: UUCPA volunteers are on site every night for an hour from 8:30 to 9:30pm. We set out plates, say hello to our guests, and help serve dinner when it is delivered. We aim to have two UUCPA greeters there every night. Let me know if you would like to try out this role (you would be partnered with an experienced volunteer.) Edie Keating's email is Edie_K@uucpa.org.

Hotel de Zink dinner details:

1. Please provide a main dish and side dish for 15 relatively hungry people. (We make excellent use of leftovers.) Any main dish that provides at least some protein will be great. Examples are chicken casserole, spaghetti and meat balls, Kentucky Fried chicken and mashed potatoes. Side dishes can be a salad or a vegetable. Dessert is also welcome. We will provide fresh fruit, milk and water to drink, and basic bread or rolls to supplement.
2. Please deliver your meal hot and ready to serve to our kitchen back door between 8:30 and 8:45 pm. A UU volunteer will be there to receive any special instructions and set the food out so that it is ready to serve.
3. If you would like, our volunteer will also take you in to say hello to the guests and let them know what you've brought for dinner.

Brown Bag Book Discussion Group

The October selection is *Let Me be Frank With You* (Fiction) by Richard Ford. This is the story of Frank Bascombe (the protagonist in Ford's earlier books) as he is "confronting his aging self and, at the same time, a New Jersey coastline recently ravaged by Hurricane Sandy." (Amazon Best Book of 11/2014) "Bascombe ... attempts for reconcile, interpret and console a world undone by calamity. It is a moving and wondrous and extremely funny odyssey." (Amazon). It is "... caustically hilarious, warmly philosophical, and emotionally lush ... In each neatly linked tale, Frank ruminates misanthropically, wittily, and wisely about love, family, friendship, race, politics, and the mystery of the self." (Booklist)

Please join us at noon on October 4 in the Fireside Room to discuss this engaging book.



Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry Training

The Mt Diablo UU Church is hosting no-cost Regional Justice Training, sponsored by the UU Justice Ministry of California on September 24 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Mt Diablo's Social Justice Committee will provide coffee, tea and water plus a bagel assortment in the morning. We request participants bring a bag lunch.

Regional Justice Training's support UU justice-makers by providing them with useful skills, issue and advocacy updates, and connection to other justice makers.

This year's program contains a number of exciting components including: environmental justice, economic justice, racial justice, and immigration justice.

We encourage all congregations in this region to participate in this powerful event.

Please let me know if you would like additional information (email below).

Please register for this no-cost event at the Regional Justice Training page on our website, www.uujmca.org . — *Beverly Schmidkunz*, BoidoMembership Events and Administration, UU Justice Ministry beverly@uujmca.org Office: 916 441 0018.

Multifaith Peace Walk & Picnic Sunday, September 11

**1:30 pm Gathering at Congregation Etz Chayim,
4161 Alma St., Palo Alto**

2:00 pm: Start of Programs & Walk

4:30 pm: Peace Picnic begins

Join people of many faiths and backgrounds to say "NO" to fear and division, and "YES" to friendship and peace for a 2.5 mile walk in south Palo Alto, stopping at diverse faith communities along the way. Brief programs from different traditions will be offered at each stop, concluding with a Peace Picnic at Mitchell Park hosted by American Muslim Voice.

UUCPA's Action Council is one of the 35+ sponsors for this event, and will be offering a water and snack stop at our front driveway for the walkers. The UUCPA parking lot will also be used for overflow parking and as a shuttle stop to ferry people between our lot and Etz Chayim. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Kristi Iverson.

Visit www.multifaithpeace.org/peacewalk to REGISTER (very helpful but not required) and for more information about parking, route, shuttles, and volunteer needs.

Visit us on Facebook and invite your friends:

<http://tinyurl.com/jy7owg8>.

[This column originally appeared in the August 14 *Bulletin* - editor]

From Your Sabbatical Minister

—Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz

At this writing we're six weeks into our six-month adventure together! I am grateful for the warm welcome, and for all the help I have received from so many of you as I wander around the lovely UUCPA campus looking confused about the location of a room, or whom to ask about one thing or another. It has been lovely to begin to get to know you and to see what a strong, capable congregation you are.

And, it's been a hard beginning, too. We are in a time of disquiet in our nation and in the culture, a time when emotions of all kinds are running high. Few of us are immune from these feelings, and it is very close to home in this congregation, in Silicon Valley and the broader Bay Area. We each of us need to do what we can to stay strong and connected as we head into an election season that is bringing to the surface pain that has long been buried. We need to keep our ears and our hearts open to the sorrow of people who think differently from ourselves and whose life experiences are different from our own. We need to look for common ground, and often that is not easy, in a superheated emotional climate.

Since I come to you from a distance, my regular times on campus are limited to Wednesdays, some Sundays, and some Tuesday nights. I hope you will seek me out when I am here, or arrange to meet me when it works for you, especially if you want to talk over something that is troubling you. Or join the ARE groups I am offering later in August - introductions to the *Bhagavad-Gita* (Aug. 21) and the *Gospel of Thomas* (August 28). These texts are among the resources I turn to again and again to buoy me in difficult times.

Sacred Texts And The Environmental Crisis

Sunday, August 14, September 11, October 9,
November 13, and December 11

12:30 pm; Room A

Contact is Rev. Dan Harper (danharper@uucpa.org)

Facilitators are Dan Harper and Jeneen Namaar

Registration is not required

According to Prof. Mary Evelyn Tucker of Yale, an organizer of the renowned Forum on Religion and Ecology, the global environmental crisis "is not only the result of economic, political, and social factors. It is also a moral and spiritual crisis which ... will require broader philosophical and religious understandings of ourselves as creatures of nature, embedded in life cycles and dependent on ecosystems."

In this book discussion group, we'll read sacred texts from the world's major religions to find spiritual and philosophical insight into the ongoing global environmental crisis. In the first sessions, we'll start out by discussing some sacred texts from the Hebrew Bible and the Christian scriptures, including the "dominion mandate" in Genesis. From there, we'll decide which sacred texts we'd like to read together.

Suggested Readings In Multiethnic, Multiracial US History

— From Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

In a service last fall, I talked about how listening to the stories told by people of a different racial/ethnic background than one's own is like learning a new history of our own country. She solicited suggestions of books that people had read that had helped them to expand their understanding of our own history as regards race and ethnicity. Here are the sources UUCPA folks recommended — a place to begin:

The Warmth of Other Suns, Isabel Wilkerson

God is Red, Vine Deloria

Frank, Barney Frank

The Ohlone Way, Malcolm Margolin

The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston

Between the World and Me,

Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Color Purple, Alice Walker
A People's History of the United

States, Howard Zinn

Beloved, Toni Morrison

The Invention of Wings,

Sue Monk Kidd

and a TV show on Comedy Central:
“Drunk History”.

—Happy learning! Amy

Meets On Second Sunday

Discovering UUCPA

1 to 2 pm on second Sundays, after lunch, in Room A.

Are you a new Unitarian Universalist? Considering UUism? Or well acquainted with UUism, but new to UUCPA? This one-session class is offered after the second service to answer your questions and help you find your place in the life of the congregation.

The session is on a second Sunday to enable you to begin with Second-Sunday lunch, maybe try out some of your questions there, and then join us for the class at 1 pm.

Jack Owicki will lead our Discovering UUCPA sessions on August 14 and December 11, and Brooke Bishara will lead it on October 9. Both are experienced small-group facilitators, have led our Membership & Growth Committee, and are the friendliest ambassadors we could want!

The Last Of The Summer BBQs Is Labor Day!

All are invited. We start cooking around 6:15 pm. Bring your own entrees to put on the grill and a side dish to share with up to 6 people. We usually make a contribution of \$3.00 per person or \$6.00 per family for incidentals. For more information contact Bob Greene or the church office.

Day Worker Center Of Mountain View

The Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is one of many UUCPA supports.

All workers are registered with the center and many have a long history of reliable and courteous service. The center is located at 113 Escuela Avenue in Mountain View and is open Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 5pm. Phone 650-903-4102.

A staff member will meet with you and help you select a worker with the right skills for your job. More information is available at their web site, <http://www.dayworkercentermv.org/>.

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.

Second Tuesday we focus on telling our personal stories, read our favorite poems, or discuss our favorite books. Fourth Tuesday generally features a visit by one of our ministers and a topic of their choosing.

—*Armand Schwartz*

The Bulletin

September 11 and 25 are the next two deadlines to submit items you want to see in *the Bulletin*. Send items to Debra Heinz, Office Administrative Assistant, via newsletter@uucpa.org (preferred), or drop off a hard-copy in *the Bulletin* mailbox in the church office.

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
650-494-0541, FAX: 650-494-8190

Email: uucpa@uucpa.org; Web site: <http://www.uucpa.org>.

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

Twitter <https://twitter.com/uucpa>

UUCPA Blog: <http://uucpa.tumblr.com/>

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*Rev. Amy is on sabbatical until January 2, 2017. She returns to the pulpit January 8, 2017.
In her absence, Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz will serve half-time from July 1 to December 31.