



# 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 18, 2016

**Look to this day!** For it is life, the very life of life. In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence: the bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendor of beauty. For yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision; but today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.  
—*Singing the Living Tradition* (#419), Beacon Press

## Sunday Mornings

### September 25

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

**Discussion of matters of current local, national, and international interest**

Selection of Forum Discussion Topics for November

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

**9:30 and 11:00 am Service..... Main Hall**  
**Garbage, Goedel, and God**

We are invited by the UU principles to use reason as a way of exploring the world. But does this necessarily mean that something that cannot be proved by reason is garbage? Kurt Goedel proved, using the tools of logic, that any system of reasoning will contain true statements that cannot be proved within the system. So there is garbage, but also truth, in the unproven. Is it possible, or even reasonable, that over tens of thousands of years of human evolution we may have developed some non-logical ways of recognizing truth? And does this open the door to God?

Worship Leader: Steve Johnson

Worship Associate: Brian Weller

Music: Veronika Agranov-Dafoe, piano

### October 2

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

**California ballot propositions**

Discussion led by Bob Greene.

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

**9:30 and 11:00 am Service..... Main Hall**  
**Sticky Love**

The challenge of getting right with yourself while being a champion of those who are oppressed by our society is not easy. Come explore insights from those who walk the path of privileged and not-so-privileged at the same time. What can we learn from our ancestors?

Worship Leader: Mark Hicks

Worship Associate: Rev. Dan Harper

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.

September 23

## **Fourth Friday/Films of Vision and Hope “Dream On”**

**Fireside Room**

**Time: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

In this new film, comedian John Fugelsang retraces the journey of Alexis de Tocqueville, whose study of our young country in 1831 defined America as a place where anyone could climb the ladder of economic opportunity. Fugelsang speaks with fast-food workers and retirees, prisoners and entrepreneurs, undocumented immigrants and community organizers about their hopes, dreams, and daily struggles. *Dream On* explores the state of the American Dream that Tocqueville observed in the 21st century.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **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.

## A Food Closet Note

Thanks to all for your donations to the Food Closet. A reminder: all food must be in unopened packages and cans that do not have an expired date. Please do not put any bread items or rolls etc. in the baskets, as they become stale and moldy very quickly. Suggestions: cold cereals (boxed) and canned soup and stew. —*Jane Ardley*

## A New Women's group Is forming.

This group is open to all women looking for community of other women with whom to share their lives twice a month during the day. There hasn't been an open group for a long time so we want to be sure this announcement is seen by women in our congregation looking for a chance to join. For more information please contact the office at (650) 494-0541 or [uucpa@uucpa.org](mailto:uucpa@uucpa.org).

## 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

# From Your Associate Minister Of Religious Education

— Rev. Dan Harper

We're in the middle of a six month sabbatical by Amy Zucker Morgenstern, our senior minister. How is the sabbatical going?

First, I have to apologize because I've fallen a little behind in email and routine administrative tasks. With Amy on sabbatical, a little extra work winds up on my desk; not much, but just enough to make me fall behind during the busy start-up season for Sunday school. Our half time sabbatical minister, Mary Ganz, is doing more than her share. As Sunday school and youth programs get underway, I'll be able to clear up my own backlog.

Now, back to the question of how the sabbatical year is going: From what I can see, it is going very well indeed. While Amy's sermons are missed, many of us are interested to hear the different perspectives provided by Mary and the various guest preachers. And though Amy's leadership is missed, the Board of Trustees and other lay leaders are providing excellent leadership. If we continue in this way, I think we'll find that our congregation's horizons have been widened by this sabbatical year.

Although I'm not in touch with Amy while she's on sabbatical, I assume her sabbatical is also widening her own horizons. Her purpose in going on sabbatical was to work on her spiritual practice of making art, while also working on her Spanish. The last time she came back from sabbatical, she returned with renewed vigor for leadership, and many people found her sermons had gained additional depth and richness. I have every expectation that we'll see this happen once again.

In the mean time, Mary and I will continue providing ministry, the lay leader will continue providing strong leadership — and I promise to catch up with my email within a couple of weeks!

**"Pot of Gold" religious education conference at UUCPA  
Save the date!**

On Saturday, Oct. 1, 9 am to 3:30 pm: Pot of Gold, the Pacific Central District religious education workshop, will be held at UUCPA. This annual conference has hands-on workshops for Sunday school teachers, youth advisors, and RE committee members. Plus the keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Hicks, the Angus Maclean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of our UU graduate theological schools.

Dr. Hicks' address is entitled "Teaching As Spiritual Practice." His presentation aims to help teachers see themselves as capable of opening up spiritual spaces for their children and youth. A workshop will follow the keynote in which Dr. Hicks will use the notion of "teaching race/ethnicity" to children as an object lesson. Participants will get to put into practice ideas from the morning's keynote.

UUCPA will pay the registration fee for anyone [continued]

volunteering in our children and youth programs. For more about this conference, including a list of workshops, please see the conference Web site:

<https://pcdlreda.wordpress.com/pot-of-gold/>.

## Sunday School Calendar

Sunday, September 25:

9:30 am: Sunday school

10:30 am: Fourth Sunday brunch

## Youth calendar

Saturday, September 25:

Coming of Age group cooks dinner for Hotel de Zink

Sunday, September. 25:

6:30 pm: SHYG

## Navigators

Navigators are starting up again. Contact Ed Vail <edwardcvail@gmail.com> for info.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL)

We will offer the grade 10-12 unit of the OWL comprehensive sexuality education program in 2016-2017. To accommodate the busy schedule of busy high school students, the program will meet once a month, on the second Sunday of each month, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Although we will not be able to fit in all sessions of this curriculum, we will be sure to meet the interests of the youth participants.

This program is open to the community, as well as to UUCPA families. Feel free to invite your friends.

Adult leaders will be Rev. Dan Harper, who has been supervising and teaching sexuality education programs for over two decades, and Esa Jacobi, R.N. We are also scheduling a few guests with expertise in human sexuality and relationships.

Schedule:

Sunday, September. 11, 6:30 pm: Mandatory parent meeting

Sunday, Oct. 9, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 11, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, Jan. 8, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, March 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, April 9, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, May 14, 6:30-8:30 pm

## Caring Network

KATHY PARMENTIER went again to New Mexico to visit with siblings and see the marriage of her nephew. She was happy to see how well her adult nephews and nieces turned out. AUDREY ERBES reminds us a new Women's group is starting soon. Talk to her or see the last "Announce" [Also see the note on page 3]. DONNA ARONSON said after 9/11 she and LARRY were looking for a church. They didn't pick her Catholic church or his synagogue, but UUCPA. Yay! JERRY STROM was sad that one of his best friends passed away recently. DAN HARPER lit a candle with a hope of peace and to draw strength from one another to help promote peace.

## Clean Money: Big News, Upcoming Actions

Despite all our best efforts, the California DISCLOSE Act (AB 700) missed passing this year by one vote. Unfortunately, Senate Republican leadership ensured that not a single Senate Republican was able to break ranks and vote for it.

But it's not over. Assembly members Gomez and Levine immediately vowed to introduce the California DISCLOSE Act sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign again on the first day of the new legislative session, December 5. And there are good reasons to believe it will pass in 2017 in time to take effect for the 2018 election, just as AB 700 would have.

The great news is that SB 1107, a bill that lifts the current ban on public funding of campaigns for non-charter cities and for the state and counties, passed by 2/3 and will take effect without going on the ballot - as long as Governor Brown signs it.

We need to generate more emails and calls than the governor has ever seen. Please register if you can join me at a phone bank in Mountain View where the computers and phones are all set up for us, and we will transfer supporters directly to the governor's office. (Or you can make calls from home.)

Phone banks will be held at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 1970 W El Camino Real, Mountain View, at the following times . (Please register at <http://www.yesfairelections.org/events>):

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Monday, Sept. 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Everyone can call the governor at (916) 445-2841, M-F from 9 am to 5 pm, and ask him to sign SB 1107.

**Working together, we can create a government that is truly of, by and for the people.** —*Nancy Neff*

## 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](mailto: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 on-going global environmental crisis. In the first sessions, we'll start out by discussing some sacred texts from the Hebrew Bible and the [continued]

Christian scriptures, including the “dominion mandate” in Genesis. From there, we’ll decide which sacred texts we’d like to read together.

## 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](http://www.uujmca.org) . — *Beverly Schmidkunz, BoidoMembership* Events and Administration, UU Justice Ministry [beverly@uujmca.org](mailto:beverly@uujmca.org) Office: 916 441 0018.

## 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/>.

**Bodhi Tree Concerts North presents**

**¡Tocar y Danzar!**

**Saturday, October 8, at 7:30 pm in the Main Hall**

**An Evening with Cabanijazz Project**

Join local, Grammy® Award-winning Latin Jazz superstar Javier Cabanillas and his latest band, *Cabanijazz Project*, made up of some of the finest Bay Area Latin dance musicians, including other members of the famed Pacific Mambo Orchestra. This will be an unforgettable night of great music and dancing, with table seating and wine and light refreshments for purchase.

# Don't Miss the Opportunity to Meet the UUA Presidential Candidates - ALL WOMEN!

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray  
The Rev. Alison Miller  
The Rev. Jeanne Pupke

Third International Women's Convocation Register now to save \$100, only through September 30.!

An additional \$50 discount is available for UU ministers.

Young adults aged 18-40 can register at a special rate of \$490, covering accommodation and all meals in addition to the reduced registration fee.

For more information about the Convocation and

TO REGISTER, click HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/hz776e6>

We look forward to welcoming you at the Asilomar Convocation in 2017! Our mailing address is: International Women's Convocation, 7 Dunecrest Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.

## 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!

## 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*



## Universalist Association (UUA)

More than one thousand congregations make up the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which represents our interests on a continental scale. The UUA grew out of the consolidation, in 1961, of two religious denominations, the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825. The UUA provides resources and offers consultations to local congregations, creates religious education curricula, spurs social action efforts, expedites the settlement of professional religious leaders, supports Beacon Press, and produces pamphlets, devotional materials, and the bimonthly journal *UU World*. The UUA works in concert with many other Unitarian Universalist organizations, the largest of which is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Since its early work aiding victims of Nazi oppression, the UUSC has been helping people help themselves through service and advocacy programs around the world. The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, an independent membership organization, represents, organizes; and acts on the concerns and issues of importance to UU women across the continent. Another related organization is the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship, which provides amnistry to geographically isolated religious liberals.

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### The Bulletin

September 25 and October 9 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](mailto:newsletter@uucpa.org) (preferred), or drop off a hard-copy in *the Bulletin* mailbox in the church office.

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### 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](mailto: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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Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
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### Board Members

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.....	Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern*
Associate Minister of Religious Education.....	.....
.....	Rev. Daniel Harper
Community Minister.....	Rev. Jen Dillinger
Community Minister.....	Rev. Scotty McLennan
Community Minister.....	Rev. Melissa Thomson
Treasurer.....	Fred Buelow
RE Assistant.....	Hong Bui
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Congregational Administrator.....	Jeff Cashdollar
Office Administration Assistant.....	Debra Heinz
Bookkeepers .....	Fred and Janet Buelow
Cusodian/Sexton.....	Jay Fowler
Bulletin Editor .....	Dick Clark

\*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.