



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; October 22, 2017

October 29

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

Discussion of current local, national, and international interest

Selection of Forum Discussion Topics for December.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

We Remember

Here at the Sunday closest to All Souls, we hold our annual service of loss and remembrance. Beth Nord will tell a story from the Nupe people of Nigeria about why we don't live forever, we will speak the names of those we love who have gone before, and for the sermon, Amy will share what she has learned from memorial services. You are invited to contribute to our altar by bringing mementos and photos of those who have departed this life.*

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Eric Leong, violin

November 5

Daylight Saving Time ends: set your clock back.

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

Constructive approaches to gender equality

Discussion led by Sarah Doxiadis.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

More Than Voting

A democracy is a tall, intricate tower, built of many levels. The media focus on “big elections”– president, governor, Congress – and savvy activists know that there are many others, just as important in building the whole structure. And then there are the many other ways we, the rulers of this land, determine its future, some of which are self-evidently involved in democracy (such as rights organizations and efforts to expand voting access) and others less so. We'll look at some of the hidden parts of the tower today.

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Dawn Walker flute

* for information about “Rituals of Remembrance” see page 2

Today: The “Ending Modern Slavery” program scheduled for October 21 to 22 has been canceled.

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.

Rituals of Remembrance

Does your culture have a particular way of remembering those who have died? Amy would like to hear about it and, if you consider it appropriate, incorporate it into our October 29 service. Please contact her by Tuesday, October 24 to share it.

Disaster Relief

—Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Rev. Jan Christian, Congregational Life Staff member for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Pacific Western Region, sends us this very welcome information:

The UUA Disaster Relief Fund is now available for costs arising from fires in Northern California.

Being described as "a serious, critical, catastrophic event," the wild fires in Northern California continue to burn out of control. The death toll is at 31 and expected to climb as hundreds are still missing, including at least one member from our Napa congregation. Over 3,500 buildings have been lost. At least eleven of the homes destroyed belonged to members of our congregations, including members who relocated to the area after losing everything in Hurricane Katrina. The loss of cherished animal companions has also been reported.

This is when we remember that we belong to one another and that together we can do what we cannot do alone. To give to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund: <https://giving.uua.org/disaster-aid>.

Jan adds: "I will be serving on the committee in charge of disbursing funds. News will go out to our PWR congregations and congregational life staff in other regions will be reaching out to their congregations as well. We will highlight this in the next issue of our newsletter (the link to subscribe is <https://uua874.activehosted.com/f/1311>). I expect to be interviewed by *UU-World* tomorrow."

Thank you, Jan, and thanks to the UUA for giving us a way to help each other.

We, The Few, The Proud, The Ushers!

The team of ushers is looking for new people to join the team who welcome worshipers 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.

UUCPA Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23
in the Main Hall

Set Up at 12 noon, Appetizers 12:30 pm,
Dinner 1 pm

What you need to bring:

- Suggested donation - \$3 per adult
- A potluck dish to share: 6 to 8 servings

(Turkey, stuffing & beverages will be provided as well as
plates and utensils)

Please sign-up in the office or Sundays on the patio

All are welcome (potluck dish or not)

Fair-Trade Chocolate for Halloween:

After both services, fair-trade chocolate will be for sale at a table on the patio. Milk chocolate and dark chocolate minis will be sold for \$12 for a half-pound bag (50 pieces) and \$20 for a one-pound bag (100 pieces) Although the prices may seem high, this is not a fund-raiser; the prices are set to cover our costs. This is what it costs to buy chocolate harvested by people paid a living wage.

The chocolates are from Equal Exchange, a worker-owned cooperative that has been leading the Fair Trade movement since 1986. Cacao plantations are often worked by children who have been forcibly taken from home, and are deprived of schooling, rest, and play, and working without pay. Equal Exchange chocolates, unlike those from Hershey's, Mars, Nestle, and most other companies, are produced without slave labor. This is one small contribution we make to ending trafficking of human beings, which affects an estimated 30 million people worldwide.

Thank you very much, — *Tina*

Lunch for Newcomers on October 22 at 12:15 pm

Are you a newcomer (or semi-newcomer) to UUCPA? If so, please join us for lunch in the Room 4 and 5 at 12:15 pm - shortly after the second service.

All newcomers are invited to enjoy a free lunch, learn about various groups at UUCPA, talk about your spiritual journey, and find your community.

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.

Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) News — *Rev Dan Harper*

Meet Mr. Barb Greve, Sabbatical Religious Educator

Mr. Barb Greve will serve as the half-time Sabbatical Religious Educator (SRE) at UUCPA from November 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018. He will be supervising the children, youth, and adult religious education programs while Rev. Dan Harper, UUCPA's Associate Minister of Religious Education, is on sabbatical.

Barb is credentialed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as a Religious Educator/Masters Level, with 11 years of experience as a Director of Religious Education (DRE) at various Unitarian Universalist congregations. Most recently, Barb served for 3 years as the Developmental DRE at Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek.

Currently, Barb is serving as one of the Co-Moderators of the UUA, the highest volunteer position within Unitarian Universalism. Barb has also served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Starr King School for the Ministry, the Unitarian Universalist theological school in Berkeley.

Barb is a former staff member in the UUA's Office of Bi-sexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns. Barb's mother served as a religious educator in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, so like Dan he is a second generation religious educator.

Since Barb will start work at UUCPA in November, the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee will supervise the children and youth religious education programs in October.

Members of the Sabbatical Committee – Maricia Scott, Edie Keating, Emma Grant-Bier, and Wynne Furth – will be able to answer your questions about the sabbatical. The Sabbatical Committee will host a social event to greet Barb when he arrives at UUCPA in November.

While Dan is on sabbatical, he will not be answering email or phone calls. In case of emergency, Maricia Scott, Rev. Amy Morgenstern, and Barb Greve will know how to reach him.

Sunday school calendar

Sunday, October 29:

9:30 am: Sunday school

10:30 am: Halloween Parade

Looking ahead:

Saturday, November 4, Annual UUCPA Auction (with Kids Auction)

Sunday, November 5, Daylight Savings Time ends

Youth calendar

SHYG (Senior High Youth Group), CoA (Coming of Age), and OWL 7-9

Sunday, October 29:

6:30 pm: SHYG

[continued]

Halloween Parade on October 29

All kids are invited to wear their Halloween costume on Sunday, October 29! At 10:35 am, after Sunday school is over, we'll have our annual Halloween parade. The middle school teens will serve as judges and give out an award to every costume; in the past, these somewhat silly awards have been for "Most Robotic," "Greenest" (as in the color green), etc. Each award certificate comes with a small bag of candy.

Adults are also invited to dress in costume, though adults do not get certificates (though if you have a really good costume you might get some candy).

Navigators

This bias-free scouting group, meets most 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11:00 am, September through May. The schedule also includes field trips and overnights, so contact Ed Vail to be put on the email list.

OWL update

We are offering two units of Our Whole Lives, our age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education program, in 2017-2018 – the unit for grades 4-6, and the unit for grades 7-9. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, social, and political aspects of sexuality as well.

OWL grades 4-6 will be offered Sunday mornings at 11 am, January to March, 2018, and now has 10 children enrolled. There is room for 6 more children to enroll. If you would like to enroll your child in OWL grades 4-6, please contact the coordinator, Alyssa Erickson. More info about OWL grades 4-6 here: <https://uucpa-cyre.org/owl-progradesm/#owlk146>.

OWL grades 7-9 will be offered Sunday evenings at 5 pm, January to May, 2018. There is a mandatory parent orientation in the evening on December 3, 2017. We expect this class to fill to capacity this year, so to avoid being placed on a wait list be sure that all custodial parents attend the parent orientation. More info about OWL grades 7-9 here: <https://uucpa-cyre.org/owl-program/#owl79>

Singing for Justice

A new musical group called the Resistance Chorus is forming in the South Bay. Their purpose is to bring protest song to public rallies and marches in pursuit of a better and more just world. They plan to meet once or twice monthly in the Campbell area to prepare the music, and then to attend public events selectively. No particular experience is required, but a love of singing and the desire to work for social progress would be useful.

To get more information, send an email expressing your interest to resistance.chorus@gmail.com. — *Dick Duda*

Brown Bag Book Discussion Group

The December BBB selection is *Maud's Line* (fiction) by Margaret Verble. "Maud is refreshingly open and honest about her own sexuality though conscious of her place as a woman in a sexist society, always careful not to insult the intelligence or manhood of her male friends and relations. Verble writes in a simple style that matches the hardscrabble setting and plainspoken characters. Verble, herself a member of the Cherokee Nation, tells a compelling story peopled with flawed yet sympathetic characters, sharing insights into Cherokee society on the parcels of land allotted to them after the Trail of Tears." (Kirkus) This debut novel was a finalist for the Pulitzer, and reminds us of Erdrich and Cather. Please join us on Tuesday, December 5, in the Fireside Room to discuss this remarkable book.

Join us on Tuesday, November 7, to discuss *From Under the Russian Snow* by Michelle Carter (non fiction) in the Fireside Room. Come meet the author at the meeting!"

Green Sanctuary

What's in a name? What's in a name such as "Green Sanctuary Committee"? That name has some history and connection to a movement in our denomination. In the early years of this millennium, members of the Committee such as Ben Hammett, Hershey Julian, Jean McFadden, Richard Cassel and others climbed on a bandwagon driven by the UU Ministry for Earth to achieve certification for UUCPA as a "Green Sanctuary Congregation" — Certification came in 2007.

Ten years later committee members discussed at the October meeting whether the name is best for what we do and for communicating with the congregation, with other environmental groups and individuals. At least one committee member reported being confused by the name before he joined. Another suggested changing the name to "Environmental Justice Committee" and a third suggested "Environmental Action Committee".

If you have another suggestion, or if you like the current name, please send me an email — *Bill Hilton*

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 gentle-



Advanced Care Planning What Matters Most

Sunday, October 29; 12:30 to 2 pm in the Fireside Room

Presenter is Rev. Jen Dillinger

Contact is Marilyn Austin (marilyn_a@uucpa.org)

Registration is not required.

When it comes to advance care planning, what matters most to you? If you were facing the end of life, what would you want your loved ones to know about your wishes for medical, social, and spiritual support? In the workshop, we will address the process of advanced care planning from the foundation of our personal values and life priorities. Rev. Jen will highlight the "Stanford Letter Project" as one of several helpful resources for framing our reflection and discussion.

Rev. Jen Dillinger is an affiliate Community Minister at UUCPA and an interfaith chaplain at Stanford Hospital, specializing in pastoral education and palliative care. As a chaplain, she provides spiritual support to patients and their families at all phases of illness, including at the end of life.

Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit And Heart through Art: Prayer beads

Sunday, November 5, 1-3 p.m., Fireside Room

Give your hands and heart a gift by enjoying two hours on a Sunday doing simple and profound art exercises. If you think you have no artistic talent, you will be amazed by what you can do. Each session stands alone, but the exercises and community also build on each other.

The theme on November 5 will be prayer beads, which are used in many traditions as an aid to reflection: Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Bahá'í as well as Unitarian Universalism. After a brief introduction to their uses and a time of meditation upon what colors and symbols are guides for each of us, we will choose beads significant to us and each make a bracelet or string of beads. All materials are provided. For people of any age who can sustain an interest for two hours.

P.S. Thank you so much for the fortune-cookie fortunes: keep 'em coming! We will use them in an upcoming session.

Fortune-Cookie Fortunes Wanted!

Save them for Rev. Amy from your Chinese restaurant meals and deposit them in an envelope you will find near the mail boxes in the church office.

The UUCPA Auction **Saturday, November 4**

5:30 to 9 pm

- ▶ Delicious food (free)
- ▶ Wine (free)
- ▶ Jazz music by @Jazz (free)
- ▶ Balloons from Hey Balloon Lady
 - ▶ Kids' Auction (free)
- ▶ Silent Auction (free until you win something)
- ▶ Live Auction presided over by our masterful auctioneer Sven Thesen — greatly entertaining, and well worth anything you spend on bids!

Plan to be there!

Caring Network

ELEANOR LIN has a joy – her son is now 13 but is concerned that her in-laws live in Santa Rosa and have had to be evacuated. JENNIFER RAMBERG is happy to be in church since most Sundays she attends “Sunday-paper-writing-Church” while in Grad School. She is happy to be here to help prepare a baby shower for her sister-in-law who is experiencing a high risk pregnancy with twins now at 31 weeks. RAFAEL GOMEZ, Jennifer’s husband, enjoyed sharing part of his son’s trek on the Pacific Trail. ELIZABETH HOLM shared that her oldest son recently remarried and that he and his new wife still each own a home. However, her home in Sonoma was evacuated during the fires and they do not yet know what has happened to it. She asked for our good thoughts. BRIAN WELLER shared that this past week there was a special anniversary concert celebrating the first concert held in London’s National Gallery on October 10, 1939, and every date after that until the end of World War II. DIANE MEIER expressed joy at having been able to attend the wonderful celebration of JEB and EDITH EDDY’s 50th wedding anniversary. BARBARA SYMONS used to live north of Golden Gate Bridge, and said her heart goes out to everyone up there affected by the fires.

Thanks to KRISTI IVERSON for the 11 am service note taking.

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

October 29 and November 12 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.

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