



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; November 19, 2017

November 26

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

Discussion of current local, national, and international interest

Selection of Forum discussion topics for January.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

Who Do You Think You Are?

“Know thyself,” said one of the inscriptions of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, and Socrates considered it a foundation of all wisdom. But it’s not easy to know ourselves honestly. One person who can help is the writer Kazuo Ishiguro, whose intimate explorations of self-deception have garnered him this year’s Nobel Prize. Perhaps the Nobel Committee recognizes that knowing ourselves is one of the great challenges of our time. Feeling brave with me? Let’s peel away some layers of self-deception and see what we find.

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Worship Associate: Brian Weller Music: The Season of Us, jazz duo

December 3

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

Better Angels of Our Nature — Why Violence Has Declined

Discussion led by Valerie Yakich

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

Making Room In Our Hearts

Who would harbor you if you needed safe shelter? Whom would you harbor? The tradition of Las Posadas invites us to imagine ourselves as Joseph, Mary, the people who rejected them, the people who welcomed them. Whom do we want to be in this story?

This is an intergenerational service.

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Amir Etemadzadeh, Persian percussion

Today

Bake sale on the patio. See page 2

“Building Your Own Theology,” 1 to 3 pm in Room 4-5. 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.

Bake Sale Today On the patio

The Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) is selling baked goods after services today, November 19, in order to raise money for survivors of the Northern California fires. Proceeds from the bake sale will be given to the Unitarian Universalist Disaster Relief Fund and disbursed as needed to fire survivors. Please help support the efforts of our youth as they put their values into action to help those in need.

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 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.

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.

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)

Building Your Own Theology

Sunday, November 19 and Sunday, December 17

1 to 3 pm in Room 4-5

Presenter is Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Contact is Amy Zucker Morgenstern (parishmin@uucpa.org)

Registration is not required.

All of us of any religion, or none, build our own set of beliefs out of the resources for meaning that lie all around us. Together we'll explore some of the key questions that are called theological: about what it means to be a good person, what is holy, what gives us purpose, and what actions our beliefs compel us to take.

The content and community of Session 2 build on those of Session 1, so please begin in November. Visit belief.net and take the Belief-O-Matic quiz before the first session and we'll discuss our answers.

The Auction Thanks You!

Too many to name, but the Auction Committee (Pat Thomas, Lisa Helmonds, Susan Plass, Lynn Grant, and Edie Keating) wants to thank: the 97 people and groups from UUCPA who donated, the more than 119 people who came to the party and got bidding numbers, and the 75 people and more who volunteered to help before, during and after the terrific (and terrifically successful) Auction party— *A Night in the Tropics!*

Final numbers are incomplete, but it looks like we raised about \$23,000, including \$2000 for Puerto Rico (more to come about that later) . THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU ALL! —Pat Thomas



Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

If you have holiday items (for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwaanza, etc.) please bring them into the office this month for the

Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale being held in December. We need your donations to make this year's sale as successful as the first one we had last year.

Mark your calendars so you won't miss our

Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale, Sunday, December 10.

Rejuvenating the Oleander

We don't want to shock anyone with how bare it might look temporarily, so the Landscape Committee is giving you this heads up: the enormous oleander shrubs along the entrance driveway are going to be coppiced, or cut down to stubs. They will grow fresh stems from the base and will flower again this summer.

We are always looking for gardening help. If you'd like to help keep the oleander down to six feet in the future, let me know if you can do that, or do some small gardening tasks now and then.

— Nancy Neff

Andre Fleet joins UUCPA Board

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Andre Fleet has been appointed to the UUCPA Board of Trustees. She will hold the Small Groups Portfolio and serve until the board elections in April. Andre is replacing Brooke Bishara who needed to resign from the board due to the time pressures of her new job. Brooke will continue to serve on the Stewardship Committee where she is a very valuable contributor. Our church is lucky to have talented people like Brooke and Andre serving our community.

— Sally Ahnger, UUCPA Board President

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.

The January BBB book will be *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* (non fiction) by J.D. Vance.

OWL 4th – 6th grade Parent Information Meeting

Beginning January, 2018, UUCPA will offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for grades 4–6. This course is part of a lifespan sexuality education program developed for use by Unitarian Universalists and United Church of Christ (UCC), which has received acclaim from both parents and participants alike. The OWL program is a values-based sexuality education program that embodies UU values, including the dignity of the individual, the importance of personal responsibility, and the essential interdependence of all people.

Parents who are interested in having their child(ren) participate in this course, are required to attend a parent orientation meeting. **All custodial parents are required to attend the orientation and sign our parent commitment form. December 10, 11 am to 12:30 pm, room 4/5.**

The class will be offered on Sunday mornings 11 am to 12:30 pm, from January – March (9 sessions total). Please share this invitation with other families that you think could benefit from this exceptional program – we do not require that attendees be members or friends of UUCPA.

Please contact Alyssa Erickson with any questions. The church office has contact information.

Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit And Heart Through Art: Collaged quotes

Sunday, December 3, 1 to 3 pm, 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, and if you already enjoy making art, you know how glad you'll be to have given yourself this time. Each session stands alone, but the exercises and community also build on each other.

On December 3, we'll start with that sometimes goofy, often true source of wisdom: fortune-cookie fortunes. Each of us will choose the one that speaks to us, collage it with images cut from magazines, and make a small reminder for ourselves to see on our refrigerators or walls. All materials are provided. For people of any age who can sustain an interest for two hours.

Giving Report

Thank you for your generosity! With the offerings in October's services, we gave \$600.40 to our justice partner, the Opportunity Center of the Mid-Peninsula. Our dollars are helping to make a better world.

Thank you!

So many people contribute to creating meaningful services that touch our senses and hearts. In addition to the ushers, Worship Associates, storytellers, musicians, and sound technicians whose names go into the order of service, we've also had a beautiful altar made by Glenda Jones and Dick Clark, song leading by Edie Keating, Matt Rosin, and Jeb Eddy, and an entire "Peaceful Presence" multifaith service crafted by Kristi Iverson. Thank you, everyone.

—Rev. Amy

Looking good!

You may have noticed some projects at UUCPA that are increasing the beauty and sustainability of our community:

- new furnishings in Room 10 that make it a warm, welcoming space for gathering
- new carpets in Rooms A, 4/5, 6, 9, and 10, installed as carpet squares to make maintenance easier both environmentally and financially
- the solar array covering the parking lot with carports that provide shade in the daytime, lights at night, and a boost to the region's solar-energy use
- the expanded solar array on our own Main Hall roof.

Your wise and generous stewardship makes this possible in several ways. First, through your giving to your operating budget every year, which enables us to keep our commitment to operate in the black and not draw down our capital funds. Second, through your giving to capital funds – for example, in bequests and in gifts given in memoriam – which fund projects like this directly. Third, by your voting to expand our solar capacity and permit a solar energy company to put our parking lot to use. Fourth, through your funding of the salaries of church administrator Jeff Cashdollar and handyman/gardener James Nelson. And finally, thanks to the volunteer time of many folks at UUCPA: the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Green Sanctuary Committee, Aesthetics Committee, and congregational president Sally Ahnger.

Look around UUCPA's campus for these examples of our love for the earth and this community in action, and for a bulletin board thanking all the volunteers by name.

—Rev. Amy



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.

Weaving the Web

—Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

For anyone who's seen the inside of my house and office, it is not a surprise to hear that I love books. And I'm in good company here at UUCPA. I've written before about how our church is bursting with book-lovers and books. We have Brown Bag Books discussion group as well as other frequent Adult Religious Education offerings focused on a book, such as the one Mr. Barb Greve, our Sabbatical Religious Educator, will lead in February on one of the UUA's Common Read books, *Centering*. Our Sullivan Book Fund gives books to children and others in our programs, the Barbara Raskin Fund helps us maintain our children's collection, and we give a gift certificate for books to every new member. A used book sale is a major part of the annual Yard Sale. Year round, we have the UU Used Books room on one side of the Main Hall lobby and the UUCPA Bookstore occupying the rest of that space on Sundays, except for Second Sundays, when another great love of our community bumps the books: enjoying food together. A Little Free Library (brainchild of our Adult Religious Education Committee, designed by Lynn Grant, and crafted by Byron Brown) announces to passersby that we are a home for those who love to read, and invites them to take a book. It's right by the little redwood grove, a great place to sit and enjoy whatever they've found.

And speaking of great places to sit and read, we have an excellent library, one of UUCPA's most sparkling hidden gems. It's in the same building as the main office, and it's named for the parents of current member Fran Perry, book lovers and longtime members, the late Gail and Frank Hamaker. I go in there a lot just to browse, and you'll see little cards with "Amy's picks" here and there (If there's a favorite of yours there too, feel free to grab a card from the desk and write your own – leave the card in my inbox and I'll make sure it and its book are displayed prominently.) It has nonfiction, fiction, children's books, cookbooks, courses on CD, all available by a simple signout process whenever you have a moment.

The library is open whenever the office is: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Sunday. There will soon be the addition of an armchair or two and reading lamps, so you can settle in with a book as comfortably as at home. You can even make a cup of tea in the office kitchenette. Well, there is one difference between reading in the Hamaker Library and in my living room: the resident cat. I would suggest we acquire one for UUCPA, but there are allergy considerations. — *Blessings, Amy*



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/o or Matthew Rosin at singtocare@uucpa.org.

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



Caring Network

MICHAEL TURNER, who was an active member at UUCPA for many years, died recently. Two of his sons attended the first service in his honor. RICHARD HEYDT visited DON LORENTS, again at Terraces at Los Altos as he recuperates there from an operation. He would appreciate cards and/or visits. AUDREY ERBES had a great birthday party with 55 people in her home. ROBIN THEIL, a long time UU is looking for a room to rent. BETH SHERMAN who is in our directory, has her phone number. LAUREL MCCLURE attended an inspiring talk with like minded folks who want to improve democracy. JANET BUELOW had a lumpectomy, was sent home the same day, and is back to cooking breakfast.

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*

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

November 26 and December 10 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/>

THE BULLETIN

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto

Transforming Ourselves, Each Other and the World

Board Members

President Sally Ahnger
VP Finance Rafael Gomez
VP Facilities David Chen
Secretary Kristi Iverson
Social Justice Jeb Eddy
Denominational Concerns Mark Erickson
Policies Geetha Rao
CYRE Harrison Frahn
Volunteers Edie Keating
Communications Audrey Erbes
Membership Robert Byrom
Small Groups Andre Fleet
Adult Religious Education Lorraine Kostka

Associate Minister of Religious Education
..... Rev. Daniel Harper*
Community Minister Rev. Jen Dillinger
Community Minister Rev. Melissa Thomson
Treasurer Fred Buelow
RE Assistant Hong Bui
Head Teacher Pari Mahjoubinia
Music Director Bruce Olstad
Accompanist Veronika Agranov-Dafoe
Congregational Administrator ... Jeff Cashdollar
Office Administration Assistant ... Debra Heinz
Bookkeepers Fred and Janet Buelow
Custodian/Sexton Enrique Infante
Handyman James Nelson
Bulletin Editor Dick Clark

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

Ex-officio Members/Staff

Parish Minister Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern