



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; December 3, 2017

Sunday Morning

December 10

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room
The future of politics and economics.

Discussion led by John Cone.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

Our Better Selves

The concept of restorative justice is more than a move beyond punishment to rehabilitation. It requires religious depth, asking us to have faith in the transforming power of love. Jesus had that faith – can we?

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Larry Chin

December 17

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room
Americans: credulous or rational?

Discussion led by Bob Ohlmann

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

Proclaim The Holy Birth(s)

A baby is miraculously conceived – his name is Houji. In his mother's womb, another can already think and respond to outside events – his name is Gautama, the Buddha. Angels foretell a third baby's birth and tell his mother what to name him – his name is Muhammad. Many religions have miraculous birth stories similar to the one we will shortly tell about Jesus. What are we to make of that fact?

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Veronika Agranov Dafoe

Today

- “Healing the Divide” 12:30 pm, Room 6. See page 2.
- “Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit And Heart Through Art...” 1 to 3 pm; Fireside Room. See page 5.

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.

Healing The Divide

Sunday, December 3, 12:30 pm; Room 6

Healing the Divide is a UUCPA group sponsored by the Action Council. Its purpose is to work towards reducing the hostility over differences that is so much a part of our country's landscape these days. In our meeting today, we'll have a chance to talk with Tom Yakich, a Trump supporter (and spouse of a member of our group). We will talk about his beliefs and ours, practicing the communication skills we have been learning. All are welcome!

Building Your Own Theology

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.

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.

Change In UUCPA's December Justice Partner

—Sally Ahnger

The Action Council would like to inform the congregation of a change in UUCPA's December Justice Partner. As approved at the Annual meeting last April, the Justice Partner for December was intended to be two programs of the Adolescent Counseling Service (ACS): Outlet and On-campus Counseling. Unfortunately, this fall the Palo Alto school district did not renew their contract with ACS for on-campus counseling, so that program is no longer serving local schools. The Action Council has decided to make Outlet the sole Justice Partner for December. Outlet is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQQ) Youth organization based in Mountain View. As the Peninsula's only comprehensive LGBTQQ youth organization, it provides services to youth and adults who work with youth, including bilingual Spanish services.

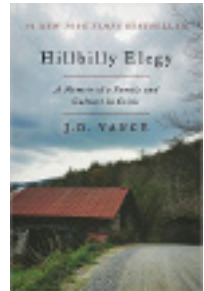
If you would like to nominate an organization for inclusion in next year's Justice Partner program, please watch for the Call for Nominations in February of 2018. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any member of the Action Council: Edie Keating (chair), Sally Ahnger (Justice Partner coordinator), Kristi Iverson, Karen Skold, Tina Kochel, Jeb Eddy, or Jane Glauz.

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.

Brown Bag Book Discussion Group

The January BBB book selection is *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* (non fiction) by J.D. Vance. “[Vance’s] description of the culture he grew up in is essential reading for this moment in history.” (David Books, NYT) “A compassionate, discerning sociological analysis ... Combining thoughtful inquiry with firsthand experience, ... (he) has inadvertently provided a civilized reference guide for an uncivilized election ...” (Jennifer Senior, NYT) “... (it) is a beautiful memoir but it is equally a work of cultural criticism about white working-class America ... [Vance] offers a compelling explanation for why it’s so hard for someone who grew up the way he did to make it ...” (WSJ) “... Vance’s memoir ... offers a starkly honest look at what that shattering of faith feels like for a family who lived through it.” (*The Economist*)



Please join us on Tuesday, January 2 at noon in the Fireside Room to discuss this though-provoking, controversial book.

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto Relational Covenant

We of the UUCPA have adopted this Covenant to inspire and guide our interactions with one another. We come together to create a community committed to a free, open and loving search for spiritual meaning. Our community calls on each of us to extend compassion and kindness; to act from courage rather than fear; to treat one another with respect; and to honor one another's contributions. We commit to listen to one another, to acknowledge and address disagreements, and to express our concerns directly with those involved. We embrace diversity for it is our differences that enrich us; we embrace democracy for it allows our voices to be heard; we embrace forgiveness for it opens us to hope; and we embrace this life for it is what we have together. We accept responsibility for making our community everything we want it to be.

Time For Everyone's Favorite Tradition: Undie Sunday!

Technically, it's three Sundays...

December 3

December 10

December 17

Items donated at UUCPA will be distributed by the Opportunity Services Center of LifeMoves –Formerly InVision – serving homeless people in Pal Alto.

Their Wish List:

- Men's underwear (any time) mostly XL, L
- Men's socks, wool, large sizes
- Gloves, wool, large
- Beanies. wool, in dark colors
- Money, to shop for you and buy for specific people. Cash or check made to UUCPA.

Give from the heart,

It's received with gratitude.

Some background: Jenny Roberson has stepped up to see that the Undie Sunday drive doesn't falter. It was initiated by Litsie Undergard a longtime member of UUCPA. She recently moved with her husband, John, to the Sacramento area to be near family. Thanks to Jenny this tradition continues! — editor

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.

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.

Caring Network

REV. AMY lit a candle to honor the life of REV. RICHARD ALLEN who died 10/22. He began his ministry here with his service to become a minister. His celebration of life service will be at the UU church in San Luis Obispo on 12/16 at 2 pm. If you wish to contact his widow LOIS, Rev. Amy has her address. CASPER FU celebrated Thanksgiving in New Mexico with his Mom and sister. They had a discussion about it being time for his mom to downsize. Strangely, while flying home Casper's wife, THIDA CORNES, had a similar phone conversation with her brother about it being time for their mom to downsize too. STEPHEN had the joy of asking his long time girlfriend to marry him. RICHARD HEYDT says DON LORENTS is back in the hospital. There is no need for further surgery. SALLY AHNGER is coordinator of the PCD women's conference. The usual spot to hold the conference was burned out in the North California fires, but she was able to find another spot in Novato. JEB said he and EDITH were in Boston and they visited the Arlington Street UU church built in the 1600s. He notes our interim RE Minister, BARB GREVE, is a co-moderator of the UU association. You can read about it in the UU World. EDITH added they also visited the JFK library Center which reminded her of earlier times when spirits rose in support of Freedom at the time of the Cuban Crisis. We can be strong and brave during our scary times.. HANNAH SLOCUM was happy to hear her oldest grandchild (26 years-old) is engaged. CHARLOTTE HIGHTOWER who has had Parkinson's symptoms for three years, discovered if she danced for an hour a day to the music of the radio, she got better. She has done so for 6 months and her symptoms are reduced a lot. SVEN THESEN who is celebrating his birthday, decided to look on the optimistic side of having someone in San Francisco breaking his car window by deciding it was all his fault by not being there to answer their questions and they were only responding to his bumper sticker which invites, "Ask me about my electric car."

About Sunday Contributions...

Ninety percent of your generous Sunday donation will go towards sustaining UUCPA and 10% will go towards the cause of the month.

If you want to apply your donation differently, such as applying it all to your pledge or to the cause of the month, please put your instructions in the memo line of your check made out to UUCPA or on the envelope holding your donation.

Steward of the Month

Honorees now appear on a bulletin board
next to Room 2/3. Check it out!

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*

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.

“Guest At Your Table” (GAYT)



GAYT is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) annual program that highlights people around the world who have been helped by UUSC. If you want to get the children involved, here's what you can do: Pick up a Guest at Your Table box at UUCPA. These are small cardboard boxes that sit on your dinner table. Each night at dinner, have your children place some spare change into the box — perhaps the amount that their evening meal would cost for one more person. Emphasize to the children that everyone joining together in a small way can bring about changes in a big way.

Before Christmas, you can count up the money you have collected, and submit a check made out to “UUCPA” with “Guest at Your Table” on the memo line. Questions? Contact Beth Nord, this year's Guest at Your Table Coordinator. — *Beth Nord*

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.

→ We, The Few, The Proud, The Ushers! ←

aThe 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.

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

December 10 and 24 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 (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