



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 17, 2017

December 24

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room
Forum will not be meeting this morning.

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall
Miracles of Birth, Light And Freedom.

We rejoice in the everyday miracles of the season, marking winter solstice, telling the story of Hanukkah, and inviting all who wish to play a part in our **No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant**.

Worship Leaders: Mr. Barb Greve, Sabbatical Religious Educator, and Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern.

Music: Libby Kardontchik and Ana

6:30 and 8:00 pm Service.....Main Hall
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We welcome Christmas with stories, carols, special music, and candles. Come sing the familiar songs that are always powerful, and experience the magic of candlelight in the darkness.

Worship Leaders: Mr. Barb Greve, Sabbatical Religious Educator, and Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern.

December 31

9:00 am Forum..... Fireside Room
Discussion of current local, national, and international interest.
Selection of Forum Discussion Topics for February, 2018.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall
We Forgive Ourselves And Each Other . . .

Can we review our 2017 resolutions, and our lives so far, with compassion instead of judgment? It is particularly hard to do in those matters where we feel we have not lived up to our own plans and promises. Let us forgive ourselves as well as others as this year comes to an end.

Worship Leaders: Joe Bailey and Jessalyn Grant-Bier

Music: Ihang Lin

Today

“Building Your Own Theology” 1 to 3 pm in Room 4-5. See page 2
“Family Orchestra” 7 to 9 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.

Winter Solstice



Thursday, December 21, Main Hall, 7 pm

Join us on this longest night of the year! Our simple ceremony lasts under an hour, and is followed by abundant food – (cheese, dips, pies, nuts ...) and also hot mulled wine and hot cider. Just come – food provided. Our solstice ceremony includes meditative music, readings, and all of us lighting

candles to celebrate the return of light. We conclude by burning a yule log outdoors in our fire pit. Children and adults are welcomed, we can all enjoy sharing a fire and some food on a dark night!

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.

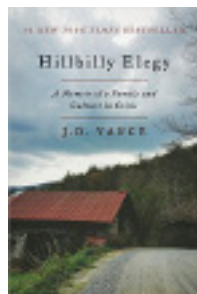
Brown Bag Book Discussion Group

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.

The February book will be *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Phillip Senoker.



Time For Everyone's Favorite Tradition: Undie Sunday!

One Sunday Left: Today, December 17

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

Their Wish List:

- ☐ Men's underwear (any kind) 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.

About Rejuvenating the Oleanders

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

Family Orchestra

Saturday, December 17, Room 4-5, 7 to 9 pm

Join us to play Christmas carols! We have the music, you bring your instrument to play. All ages are welcome. If you are interested, contact Carl Skold so that he will know how many copies of each part we will need. See you there!



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.

“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.

Please return your donation to Jeff Cashdollar or Beth Nord by Sunday, January 7, 2018 The UUSC partners around the world and in the U.S. thank you—very much.” — *Beth Nord*

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

ANN ZEISE's daughter and grandchild live in Santa Barbara. The smoke there is terrible, but no fires near. KRISTI IVERSON was newly inspired at a banquet of care at the Sunnyvale UU church re: Islam. JERRY STROM's daughter-in-law recently passed away. He would appreciate good thoughts. GREG WILLIAMS' 95 year-old mother visited recently. It is a difficult relationship but Greg is learning ways to accept it.. THIDA CORNES' 15 year-old daughter had her first gig as a paid musician. PATRICIA's niece had a baby girl. JANE CHRONIS' nephew had a baby, the first of that generation. REV. AMY reported DENNY DAVIDOFF who had been moderator of the UUA, died this week. AMY said it is a gift to be entrusted with the joys and concerns of people's lives.

➔ 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.

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 24, 2017 and January 7, 2018 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
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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uucpa>

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

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