



# 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 31, 2017

## Sunday Morning

**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

### January 7

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

**Andrew Jackson: populist president.**

Discussion led by Valerie Yakich.

9:30 and 11:00 am Service .....Main Hall

### A New Vision

Sometimes seeing something from a new angle or through a different lens is enough to make everything change. Let's invite that into our lives. There are some tools to help us.

Worship Leader: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern.

Music: Singer/guitarist Lewis Santer

### January 14

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

**How AI is changing our lives.**

Discussion led by Fred Zeise and Dick Duda.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am Service .....Main Hall

### Becoming the People We Want to Be

In November, Amy asked “Who Do You Think You Are?” in a service on self-deception. That delved into the problem; today we look at some of the antidotes. How can we know ourselves and live consonant with who we really are, not who we imagine ourselves to be?

Worship Leader: Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Four Shillings Short, Celtic and Indian music

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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.

## Weaving the Web

— Rev. Amy Zucker Morganstern

The season of light is behind us as the light itself grows longer and stronger. It's beautiful the way so many festivals of light converge upon November and December: Diwali, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Solstice. People have responded to the turning of the year in so many forms, calling forth light to balance the dark.

I have kindled the lights of Hanukah every year for my entire life, using the helper candle to light first one, then two, then eventually eight candles; I have loved the story of resistance and hope they commemorate; but I have never seen such an eloquent evocation of the ritual as this, by Sue Fendrick:

The reason I love Hanukkah is because its most important practice and central enactment is this:

Light a small light – no more, but no less. Bless that. Acknowledge that you are walking a path that others have walked before you, and be grateful for that. Note also with gratitude that you have reached the point, once again, of beginning. Tell others that you are doing it. Then, light a little more. Bless it at every stage.

Oh, and one more thing. There is always help available. From a Source That Is Not Diminished By Helping (TM).

If there's a better ritual summary of how to do good in and make good of our lives, I don't know what it is.

Hanukah, the Festival of Lights, is over for another year. The Season of Light is drawing to a close. But this practice of beginning, shining one light, beginning again, shining more, telling others, blessing the light – it continues. I hope that that will sustain you in the long-haul work of upholding justice and compassion when powerful forces are arrayed against them. And I hope you will remember that we are not alone, nor without help from sources that are not diminished by helping. May your little light shine brightly this year, and when it's struggling, you know where to come to see hundreds of other little lights and be renewed. —*Blessings*, Amy

## 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 Brooks, 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 [continued]

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.

## **Pacific Western Region Assembly April Meeting**

The four districts of the UUA's Pacific Western Region (PWR) will gather April 27-29 in Portland, Oregon for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Speakers include civil rights activist, the Rev. Dr. William Barber; Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights; and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, newly elected UUA president.

Programming includes workshops, worship, district meetings, and an optional social justice activity. A day-long Professional Day designed for religious professionals is planned for Friday, April 27, before the start of Regional Assembly. Discount lodging is available at the Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly. Childcare and youth programming will be available. Registration will open by January 4. Watch the PWR website ([www.uua.org/pwr](http://www.uua.org/pwr)) for full details to be posted soon.

— *Diane Brinson*, Pacific Western Regional Assembly publicity

## **UUCPA OWL Grades 7-9**

### **Parent Orientation Meeting**

**Sunday, January 7; 11 am to 12:30 pm**

**Room 4 – 5**

For those who weren't able to attend on December 3, we are holding a second parent orientation for the OWL 7 – 9 grade class. All custodial parents are required to attend the orientation and sign our parent commitment form Grade 7 – 9 OWL permission form (PDF).

Our Whole Lives (OWL): Sexuality Education for grades 7-9, 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.

The program will be offered on Sunday evenings from 5 to 8 pm, from January to May (26 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.

Thank you, Maribea Berry

## “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*

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

**Sunday, January 7, 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 January 7, 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.

[Amy tells me this is the workshop she originally scheduled for December that she had to cancel at the last minute. — editor]

## Healing the Divide meeting

**12:30 Sunday, January 7; Fireside Room**

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 January meeting, we'll review our December meeting with a Trump supporter and work on communication strategies based on Powerful Non-Defensive Communication..

All are welcome!

## Jim Brice

Jim Brice died Tuesday afternoon, December 26. He was 97 years old, and a longtime member of UUCPA, where he lives on in the beautiful gardens he helped to create and tend. Jim passed from this life in his sleep at Webster Health Care. James Nelson, UUCPA's gardener and handyman, and Peggy Marks had visited him a couple of hours earlier. He was at peace and had expressed that he considered his life complete. He did not wish for a formal memorial service; we will set a time soon for those who knew him to gather together.

### *The Bulletin*

**January 7 and 21, 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](mailto:newsletter@uucpa.org).

**Rev. Amy** will be taking some study/vacation leave during early January. She will be back at church January 7.

## Church Office

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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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Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
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\*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