



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; September 10, 2017

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

Sunday Morning

September 17

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

Travel stories and tips

Discussion led by Ann Zeise

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

Question Box

You bring the questions and Amy answers as many of them as she can in the space usually allotted to the sermon. Kids' questions welcomed also (and answered before the kids go to Sunday School).

Worship Leader: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Mayo Tsuzuki and Richard Heydt, Broadway songs

September 24

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

Discussion of current local, national, and international interest

Selection of Forum Discussion Topics for November.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am ServiceMain Hall

Written in the Book of Life

We are in the midst of what Jews call the Days of Awe, the ten-day period from Rosh Hashanah (the first day of the year) to Yom Kippur (the day of atonement), a time of reflection and reckoning. It is good to set aside such a moment to ask ourselves: if my life were being written up in one great eternal book, what would I want to write next?

Worship Leader: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Be'eri Moalem,viola

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.

Caring Network

MARK and ALYSSA ERICKSON were celebrating their 28th wedding anniversary. LIZ SEBONSHALL was celebrating her 1st year wedding anniversary. NORM CONRADSON was celebrating his 94th birthday. Joy to all! DONNA ARONSON has the joy of going on a trimaran and seeing whales, dolphins, otters and sea lions. GREG WILLIAMS had an insight about religion. He has figured out his sadness around religion is about knowing he will not have a religious experience. Now that he knows what it is about, he said that helps.

Learn About *By Your Side Singers*, UUCPA's Pastoral Care Choir

The By Your Side Singers visit and sing for any church member or friend, of any age, who seeks comfort, strength, or connection with UUCPA during times of illness, major life transition, or not being able to get to church.

You can join us for 2017-18! We will host an informational meeting on Sunday, October 1, at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room. You will learn more about the choir's mission, our practice, and how to get involved as a singer.

Email your questions to co-leaders Rev. Melissa Thomson and Matthew Rosin at singtocare@uucpa.org.

We look forward to the joy of singing with you!

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.



Sabbatical Update

The UUCPA Board has approved a sabbatical for Dan Harper, our Associate Minister of Religious Education, from October 1, 2017, through February 28, 2018.

Two committees have been chosen to make the sabbatical go smoothly. One committee has been charged with hiring a part-time staff person to fill in while Dan is on sabbatical. They are hard at work identifying candidates, and will be conducting interviews with some great candidates in the coming weeks. Members of the hiring committee are Sally Ahnger (UUCPA Board president), Heather Chen (member of the CYRE Committee), Audrey Erbes (Member of the UUCPA Board), Robert Neff (Sunday school teacher and youth advisor), and Tessa Swartz (youth representative).

The second committee, the Sabbatical Committee, is charged with communicating with the congregation about Dan's sabbatical. A brochure explaining the details of the sabbatical is coming soon, and we will be available to answer questions about the sabbatical through the coming year. The members of the Sabbatical Committee are Wynne Furth (member of the Adult RE Committee), Emma Grant-Bier (youth representative), Edie Keating (member of the CYRE Committee), and Maricia Scott (member of the Committee on Ministry).

Stevenson House Invitation

UUCPA is invited to a Friends and Family Open House next door at Stevenson House, the affordable housing complex for low-income elderly.

Join us to celebrate a massive seismic retrofit and renovation 50 years of providing a home for low-income elderly.

Sunday, September 17 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm

There will be light refreshments and tours of the buildings, as well as music and a just few words by the chairwoman of the board of directors. Stevenson House was established 50 years ago with the help of UUCPA. It is one of the very few low-income elderly housing facilities in all of California managed by a volunteer board of directors.

Steward of the Month

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

Ramping Up Clean Energy Generation At UUCPA



Good news! Our church parking lot will soon be shaded by two canopy rows of solar panels, and our church's roof-top solar array will be upgraded to double its current coverage. This is all in the spirit of creating clean electricity. We will also get four new EV (electric vehicle) chargers installed (we may have to decommission the existing one – more later). Ten members of UUCPA already have electric cars. The new charging connections will encourage expansion of the EV user community.

Efforts to get these projects planned, approved, funded and scheduled have been underway for two+ years by various members of the Board of Trustees, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Green Sanctuary Committee, and Finance Committee.

Construction began in late August. It will last for approximately five weeks. The contractor will be drilling a few rows of 12" holes into the asphalt of the parking lot, which will be filled with concrete to support vertical posts holding up the canopy. When it's all finished, our driving and parking habits will have to adjust... (In the Office, Debra has some duct tape you can use to cover up any dents and scrapes you make in your car!).

As a reminder, there are actually two solar projects going in at the same time. The parking lot canopy is costing us nothing; it is being built, owned and maintained by an independent contractor, who will sell all the electricity to the City of Palo Alto. In 25 years, we receive ownership of the canopy, free. The other project, on the roof of our existing campus buildings, will add more clean power, 100% for our own use.

We will be making announcements regularly and providing signage as construction progresses.

UUCPA's goals in undertaking these projects include the desire to serve as an example to other Faith Communities, our sister UU churches included. We will be taking photos and videos, and hope to turn them into a "How To" tool for posting on our website, and sharing with others. Do you, or someone you know have an interest in doing this fun video project? Please get in touch with Debra in our main office!

We look forward to a 'ribbon-cutting' celebration in late September or October. See you there! — *Jeralyn Moran*

Enroll In eScrip

A painless way to contribute to the church is easy through eScrip. To learn more about how it works and to enroll, go to the UUCPA home page, <http://www.uucpa.org>, and click on the eScrip icon.



Helping After Storm Harvey

The Unitarian Universalist Association and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) have established a joint fund. Half goes to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. You can donate at <https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>, by mail: UUA/Attn: Gift processing; 24 Farnsworth St; Boston, MA 02210-1409, or by phone: 888-792-5885.

Brown Bag Book

The October BBB book is *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler (fiction). It is ostensibly a modern take on Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, but is much more. "Novels such as ... (this) ... are like photographs or digital clock faces that tell us where we are and where we are coming from at the same time ... (this book) is an earthy reflection of this fleeting moment, both lively and thoughtful." (Jane Smiley, *NYT Book Review*). "[A] screwball comedy of manners that actually channels Jane Austen more than Shakespeare. It's clear that [Tyler] had fun with *Vinegar Girl*. ... A fizzy cocktail of a romantic comedy, far more sweet than acidic, about finding a mate who appreciates you for your idiosyncratic, principled self — no taming necessary." (NPR) "[An] ingenious resetting... with considerably more humor and gentleness than in the Bard's version." (*Washington Post*). "An effective retelling, while nodding to the original text, stands on its own." (*Boston Globe*) Please join us at noon on September 5 in the Fireside Room to discuss this delightful book.

The November book will be *From Under Russian Snow* (non fiction).

Peaceful Presence: Multifaith Prayers for Peace

On the 11th of each month, Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice, of which UUCPA is a founding member, creates a multi-faith contemplative peace service at a different location. The first was on May 11 and led by Amy right here at UUCPA. The next is on a date which particularly cries out for our peace-making, September 11. Hope you can make it!

Monday, September 11, King Plaza, 250 Hamilton, Palo Alto (in front of City Hall)

5:30 pm Peace Picnic hosted by American Muslim Voice

7-8 pm Peaceful Presence: Public Multifaith Prayers for Peace - Prayers, Music, Reflections & Rituals from Diverse Faith Traditions

Unitarian Universalism's Six Sources

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.
2. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
6. Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

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.

Do You Like To Make Videos?

Would you like to make a video focused on UUCPA and what we value about it? We could use your help! Email brooke_b@uucpa.org if you are interested!



How Can You Help The UUCPA Auction Be The Best One Ever?

YES, it's time to start thinking about this year's UUCPA AUCTION on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 5:30 - 9 PM! What can you do to make it terrific?

You already know it will be the biggest and best social event of the UUCPA year, with delicious food (free), wine (free), live jazz music by @Jazz (free) , balloons from Hey Balloon Lady (free), a Kids' Auction (free), a Silent Auction (free until you win something), and a Live Auction presided over by our masterful auctioneer Sven Thesen (free and greatly entertaining, and well worth anything you spend on bids!). It's also a big fund-raiser for UUCPA, so enjoy the free party and being with a lot of friends, and THINK GENEROUS!

Lisa Helmonds and I (Pat Thomas) will be at the Auction Table every Sunday with SIGN-UP SHEETS and a list of things that need to be done before, during, and after the Auction (lots of moving parts, lots of fun things to choose from).

Please also think about what you can offer for the SILENT AUCTION or LIVE AUCTION. Home-baked or cooked or preserved things to eat? Treasures? Hand-Knit (-crocheted, -painted, -sewn, -crafted...) items? Hikes or outings or events you can organize? Lunches or dinners or parties you can host? Skills you can teach or services you can offer? Let your imagination bloom with fun ideas, and feel free to discuss possibilities with Lisa or me (the office has contact information).

When you're ready, email auction@uucpa.org with a description of what you're offering and the number you're offering. If it's an event, pick a date (or give a few possible dates) as well. The CATALOG DEADLINE is Monday, October 14, but the sooner the better, PLEASE! AND PLAN TO BE THERE — EVERY ONE OF US!

Need A Ride To And From UUCPA On Sundays?

The UUCPA Ride Along Program has recently signed up several people that are offering to provide rides to and from church for Sunday Services for those who no longer drive. The program is now signing up people that would like to receive a ride to and from Church. If you would like to sign up to be on the Ride Along list, you can stop by the Information Table at Church or call Debra at the Church office: 650 494 0541.

Chalice Circles Sample Session

September 17 at 12:30 pm in Room 6

Wonder what Chalice Circles are all about? What happens when a Chalice Circle meets? How you can get involved?

If you're curious about these groups and would like to know more before signing up for one, a sample session is a great chance to see for yourself what they are like. This sample session is to give you a taste of what a Chalice Circle meeting would be and to answer any questions you have about the program. We'll go over the basics, have a session on the topic "What We Love," and then answer your questions.

Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit And Heart Through Art

First Sundays: October 1, November 5, December 3, 2017 January 7, 2018; 1-3 pm

Fireside Room (October 1 only. Meet in Room 4-5)

Presenter is Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

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

Registration: Not required

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. All materials are provided. For people of any age who can sustain an interest for two hours.

Elaine Hatfield

I am sorry to report to you that longtime member Elaine Hatfield has died. Elaine was a member here for over 50 years, having joined in 1963.

She died at her home, as she wished. She, and we, were blessed by her having caregivers who often brought her to church. Despite advanced dementia, she seemed to know that this was a place where she belonged and was loved. Her final illness was brief.

No formal memorial service is planned. Her family will join us for a Sunday soon and speak of her in Caring and Sharing, and Elaine will have a place on our Day of the Dead altar in the service on October 29.

Less formally, I invite everyone to join me in a circle of memory about Elaine on Friday, September 15, at 1 p.m. Together we will share memories, celebrate her life, and say goodbye.

— Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

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

September 17 and October 1 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/>

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