



# 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](http://www.uucpa.org); June 11, 2017

**From June 18 through July 30 we have one service only, at 10:30**

## June 18

**9:00 am Forum ..... Fireside Room**  
**Can the United States become united?**

Discussion led by Dick Duda.

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

**10:30 am Service ..... Main Hall**  
**In Praise of Father Earth**

We're very accustomed to linking maternity, the feminine, and the earth; we have a Mother Earth, and Mother Nature, and mothers are supposed to nurture and bring forth life. But as we explore the UU sources, one of which is Earth-centered spirituality, how about a thought experiment for Fathers' Day? What if we thought of nature and the earth as masculine instead of (or in addition to) feminine? What might change about how we saw the earth? What might change about how we regarded flesh-and-blood fathers?

Worship leader: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Worship Associate: Joe Bailey

Music: Ruth Huber, piano

## June 25

**9:00 am Forum ..... Fireside Room**  
**Discussion of current local, national, and international interest**

Selection of Forum Discussion Topics for August.

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

**10:30 am Service ..... Main Hall**  
**Transcendentalism Revisited**

If you know about Transcendentalism, Unitarian Universalism's home-grown mystical movement, you probably know the names Emerson, Fuller, Thoreau, Alcott, and have mental images of Walden Pond and the village of Concern. But its reach included church-based, urban activists who applied the ethic of Transcendentalism to their own lives, and we'll hear about those today. Our guest, John Buehrens, has just retired (though clearly not stopped) after 45 years in the UU ministry. He was president of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993 to 2001, and has led congregations in Knoxville, Dallas, New York City, Needham (MA), Carmel, and most recently, San Francisco. His forthcoming sixth book is on today's topic.

Worship leader: Rev. John Buehrens

Music: Veronika Agronov-Dafoe

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.

# General Assembly 2017

June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend (congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates).

For more information see: <http://www.uua.org/ga>

## Caring Network

JESSICA MARTIN had the joy of attending a good friend's wedding. It was very touching to her as the friend and partner had been together eight years and seemed perfect together. THIDA CORNES has quite a bit of family in London and they are all all right. A cousin said she was certainly proud to be a Londoner during these difficult times.\* BARRY NAYLOR enjoyed seeing daughter OLIVIA graduate from high school. ESA and CHRIS JACOBI were celebrating their 34th wedding anniversary Sunday. REV. AMY was thinking of the state of uncertainty and fear Cabal and London are living through and states our hearts are with them.

\*[An email "announce" added that she is "proud to be a Londoner always #wearenotafraid #welovelondon #westandtogether." —editor]

## Summer BBQs

UUCPA's Friday Night Summer BBQ has officially started! The fun starts at approximately 6 pm. The location is the McFadden Patio/Til Evans Garden (in the right rear portion of the church campus).



Please bring your own entrée as well as a side dish to share. Entrées are usually thrown on the grills around 6:15 pm with dining starting at about 6:30 pm. A donation of \$3 each or \$6 per family is suggested to cover the cost of incidentals, but don't ever let this stand in the way of your attendance. We would rather have you there. Beverages provided.

We encourage you to bring your own picnic plates, cups, utensils, and place mats, or we will also have paper and plastic ware on hand.

Hope to see you there – help make this a wonderful evening!

## Walk The Labyrinth

- When UUCPA moves to one 10:30 church service (June 18 through
- July 30), participants who wish to do so are invited to walk the laby-
- rinth together, beginning at 10:15. Hats and sun screen are advised!!

## *Weaving the Web*

— *Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern*

You know those situations when someone says something that insults or stereotypes a group, and you don't figure out what you should say about it until hours later? That's so often how it goes for me – more often than not. In fact, sometimes I'm not even fully cognizant that they've said something problematic until later.

But once in a while I recognize what's happening and say what I want to say, and I want to share an example with you because of what I learned. I was shopping for fourth-grade math workbooks for my daughter, since we were going to be in Mexico and she was going to miss several months of school. I found one; the cover showed a girl her age, playing a violin. The fact that the girl was Asian-American seemed to touch off something in my shopping companion. In a voice lowered as if for confidentiality, she said, "I see so many Asian parents buying these."

Alarm bells rang in my consciousness. "Oh yes?" I said, neutrally.

"Well, you know, tiger mothers. Those kids all get pushed, push push push. Have to learn a whole grade in one summer," she said.

I said it! For once, I found the words and the courage to speak them! "Wow, that's pretty racist," I said.

She wasn't going to let it go that easily. "They just want their kids to get ahead. All they do is study . . ."

"Still racist," I said. That seemed to end the conversation, which might have been my goal. Did it also have some impact? Will she speak differently, think differently now? That's what I would like to be my goal. I'm just glad I spoke instead of being silent and kicking myself later.

Here's the thing. I know why it went differently this time: I was ready. I'd been having a lot of conversations about the subtle and unsubtle ways people promote racial and ethnic stereotypes. Our Beloved Conversations group, and associated conversations with colleagues and anti-racism activists, primed me to notice these moments. They strengthened my determination to do something, to be an upstander instead of a bystander. More than that, they gave me practice. So when the unfortunate opportunity came, as they do, I was startled, but prepared.

What I learned from that is that these are learnable skills. We don't have to respond the way we have before. We can practice; we can be ready; we can be the change we want to see in the world. I'm still practicing. I'd love to hear about what you're doing to practice too.

—*Blessings, Amy*

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## **Bob McLean Celebration of Life**

Sunday, June 11, Main Hall at 3 pm; reception following.

## **Worship Associates And Hosts Training**

**July 2, 12 noon to 2:30 pm sign-up in advance**

We have a star-studded schedule of services this summer! Reverend John Buehrens, former President of the UUA ... Rev. Sean Parker Dennison (our 2010 sabbatical minister), and the week before, his spouse Rev. Theresa Ines Soto, who, like Sean, is a serious mover and shaker in the UU world ... Artist and poet Deborah Kennedy speaks about how nature speaks to us. We are looking for hosts to prepare for their Sunday here and guide them during their service. If you are interested in this role, I will train you in the art of graceful leadership and the confident choosing of singable hymns. Please talk to me beforehand – Amy, [parishmin@uucpa.org](mailto:parishmin@uucpa.org) or (650) 494-0541 x26.

## **Channing House Goes UU For A Day**

We go to a single service beginning June 18, but if that leaves you wanting more, Amy will be leading a 30-minute service at Channing House on Sunday, June 18, at 3 pm. Channing House is a retirement community at 850 Webster Street, between Homer and Channing, and several UUCPA members live there. All are welcome.

### **People Needing 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.

## **Dear Parents...**

Parent Journey, our monthly drop-in discussion group for parents, needs a coordinator for the coming year. This person would set the schedule, ensure the room is available, and schedule in volunteer facilitators each month. This group is an important one for our church for two big reasons:

1. It is one of the ways that new families get to know others when they arrive.
2. It gives parents a place to vent, reflect on what they are doing, learn new ways to parent, and support one another.

Please consider giving this volunteer role a try if it intrigues you! Email me back for more information. Thanks for considering.

— Brooke Bishara

## Walking the Walk

Registration is open for the Walking the Walk Justice Summit & Camp, August 12 to 16 at Camp de Benneville Pines in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. Special guests, Pamela Sparr, Director of Justice Building for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and Katia Hansen, President and CEO of Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE) will join us.

This event brings together justice seeking UU's for rejuvenating worship, practical skill development, networking and community building.

Dozens of workshops will help develop strategies to advance immigrant justice; tackle race, class and cultural divides, address climate change; tackle housing insecurity and more. The four-day format allows for recreation and reflection with friends and family. Children welcome!

Register at [uujmca.org/walkingthewalk](http://uujmca.org/walkingthewalk). Scholarships are available.

## Endorsement Letter Sent Supporting SB 31 To Prohibit A Religious Registry

At UUCPA's annual congregational meeting in May, we passed an Endorsement Resolution which allows UUCPA to make endorsements on behalf of the congregation by following an outlined process. This includes Action Council and Board approval, and email notice to the congregation in advance of the endorsement.

These steps were followed, and UUCPA sent a letter of support for SB 31 the California Religious Freedom Act. SB 31 would prohibit state and local agencies from collecting and/or reporting to the federal government data on religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin, or ethnicity of any individual. Search SB 31 online to learn more.

If you are on the [announce@uucpa.org](mailto:announce@uucpa.org) email list, you already heard about this! To get brief but timely announcements, sign up for the announce email list on our church website, or at the welcome table on the patio.

— Edie Keating, Chair, UUCPA Action Council



The UUCPA Annual Yard Sale will be happening the week of July 31 to August 5. We are looking for staff to help us set up, price merchandise, and work as sale staff/security on the days of the sale (August 4 and 5, from 9 am to 1 pm). Help is also needed to repackage unsold items to take to Goodwill. If you are interested in being part of this

fun filled fund raising event, please contact the office to sign up. Call 650-494-0541.

## From your Associate Minister of Religious Education — *Rev Dan Harper*

Summer is one of the best times for families to come to UUCPA. Summer Sundays are relaxed and low-key. Summer Sunday school feels more like summer camp. It's a great time to connect with old friends, and meet people you don't know yet. Just remember that UUCPA has only one Sunday service, at 10:30 am, from June 18 through July 30.

Starting August 6, we'll go back to two services. Then the annual in-gathering service, our popular Water Communion service, will take place on August 13, the same week that many local schools start up.

I'll be on vacation during July, but I hope to see you at UUCPA in June and August! —*See you soon, Dan Harper*

### Summer Sunday school schedule

Summer Sunday school is a lot like summer camp. Programs are aimed at children entering grades K-5, though older kids are welcome to participate. (Activities and adult leaders are subject to change.)

June 11, 9:30 am: Make UU chalice crafts with Kris Geering  
(Summer services begin; one service at 10:30 am)

June 18, 10:30 am: Learn some origami with Dan Harper and Hong Bui

June 25, 10:30 am: Make brunch for UUCPA with Edie Keating and Tina Kochel

July 2, 10:30 am: **No Sunday school due to Independence Day holiday**

July 9, 10:30 am: Cook 2nd Sunday lunch with Edie Keating

July 16, 10:30 am: Fun and games with Edie Keating

July 23, 10:30 am: Make brunch for UUCPA with Edie Keating and Tina Kochel

July 30, 10:30 am: Field trip to Mitchell Park with Tina Kochel  
(Return to two services; Sunday school at 9:30 am)

August 6, 9:30 am: TBD

August 13, 9:30 am: Intergenerational water communion service

August 17, 9:30 am: First day of regular Sunday school

### Sabbatical update

The UUCPA Board has approved a sabbatical for Dan Harper, our Assoc. 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 (as Rev. Mary Ganz filled in for Rev. Amy Morgenstern, our senior minister, when she was on sabbatical last year). 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). [continued]

Amy Morgenstern, Dan Harper, and Hong Bui (Religious Education Assistant) will also be involved in the hiring process.

The second committee, the Sabbatical Committee, is charged with communicating with the congregation about Dan's sabbatical. They will write a brochure explaining the sabbatical, and they 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).

### **Parent Journey needs coordinator**

Parent Journey, our monthly drop-in discussion group for parents, needs a coordinator for the coming year. This person would set the schedule, ensure the room is available, and schedule in volunteer facilitators each month. Parent Journey is an important group for two big reasons:

1. It is one of the ways that new families get to know others when they arrive.
2. It gives parents a place to vent, reflect on what they are doing, learn new ways to parent, and support one another.

Please consider giving this volunteer role a try if it intrigues you! Contact Brooke Bishara to learn more.

### **Please sign in for child care**

On Sunday mornings, when your child enters child care, please take a moment to sign in. If you do not see the sign-in sheet, ask the child care staff where it is.

And when you pick your child up, please take a moment to sign your child out, and/or let the child care staff know that you have come to pick up your child.

### **Sunday school calendar**

SundayW, June 11:

9:30 am: Summer Sunday school

12 noon: Second Sunday lunch

Sunday, June 18:

Summer services begin – one service only at 10:30 am.

10:30 am: Summer Sunday school

Sunday, June 25:

10:30 am: Summer Sunday school

10:30 am: Fourth Sunday brunch

### **Youth calendar**

Wednesday, June 21:

OWL grades 10-12 final meeting (and party), contact Dan Harper for details

### **Navigators**

Navigators, our bias-free scouting group, meets twice a month, September through May. Contact Ed Vail to be put on the email list.



# What Actions is the Church Allowed to Take?

— *Sally Ahnger, President of the Board of Trustees*

Whenever there is a discussion about the church taking action on a public issue, the question of restrictions on the activities of non-profits always comes up. Here at UUCPA we are governed by two sets of rules: the IRS and our bylaws.

According to IRS regulations, we can work on issues of a political nature, but we cannot be partisan, in other words, we cannot support candidates or political parties.

## **IRS Guidelines and Congregations: The Three Rules**

1. No Limits on Advocacy and Education (activities that raise awareness on a given issue but don't encourage the public to support/oppose specific legislation).

2. Narrow Limit on Lobbying (advocating for or against specific pieces of legislation). According to the IRS, lobbying must be an "unsubstantial" portion of an organization's activities. The IRS has not defined what this means exactly, but it's generally agreed that up to 5% is fine. That is 5% of the total activities of the organization, including money for the building and staff salaries, all staff and volunteer hours, etc, so it is highly unlikely we would ever reach that threshold.

3. Total Limit on Partisan Politics (anything that advocates for or against candidates or parties). In other words, the church can not oppose individual people in office, but we are allowed to oppose their policies.

If you'd like more information, there is a good book called *Loud and Clear in an Election Year*, available in the church library, about how churches can publicly advocate for their values during elections, as UUCPA has done most recently in support of marriage equality, fighting climate change, and public funding of election campaigns.

In order for the church as a whole to take a stand, according to our bylaws, "Any such stand on a political or social issue must be approved by an affirmative vote of at least ninety percent (90%) of members voting." So to put the church's name as a sponsor of an action, the congregation must first have voted to take a stand related to that action. The annual meeting of the congregation in April is a good opportunity to present resolutions for a vote of the congregation. To be successful with such a resolution it is best to start engaging the congregation in discussions about taking a stand a couple of months before the meeting. Any group or individual in the congregation may propose a resolution to the congregation.

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## **Adult Trike?**

Yes, an adult trike is available to trade for a \$60 check made out to UUCPA (with "Ila's trike" in the memo line). It is a gently used Schwinn Meridian. and must be picked up in San Jose. To see, call the church office for contact information, 650 494 0541..



## 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*

## 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*

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## The Bulletin

**June 18 and July 9** 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](mailto: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](mailto:uucpa@uucpa.org); Web site: <http://www.uucpa.org>.

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

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