



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; July 16, 2017

Sunday Morning

▶ Note that dual services resume on August 6 ◀

July 23

9:00 am Forum **Fireside Room**
How to Age.

Discussion led by Dan Dunne.

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

10:30 am Service **Main Hall**

You are specially invited: Répondez s'il vous plaît

Together, with Rev. Theresa I. Soto, we will explore what it means to both seek and practice resilient grace in a time of relentless pain. Where does our redemption lie, both as individuals and as a spiritual and ethical movement? Whether you are tired or energized for the life and work in your future, come to contemplate and consider how to build your strength for the long haul. To read more about Rev. Soto, see page 2.

Worship Leader: Rev. Theresa Ines Soto

Music: Larry Chinn, piano

July 30

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

Selection of forum discussion topics for September.

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

10:30 am Service **Main Hall**

The Art of Resistance and the Power of Play

In these times when we are called upon to resist so much that dehumanizes and does damage to the lives of people, especially marginalized people, sometimes it's overwhelming. Rev. Sean will explore ways to keep our spirits up and creativity flowing as we grow in our ability to respond and resist. To read more about Rev. Dennison, see page 2.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

Music: Four Shillings Short

August 6

9:00 am Forum **Fireside Room**
How We Formed Our Political Views.

Discussion led by Susan Owicki.

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

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

[continued on page 2.]

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.

August 6 (Continued from page 1)

Why Do We Do THAT in the Sunday Service?

Join Dan Harper and Castor Fu as they investigate why we do what we do in our Sunday services. Why do we sing hymns? Why do we have announcements? Why is there usually (but not always) a sermon? Castor and Dan will talk about the historic roots of different parts of the service, and explore the contemporary pragmatic realities of why we do what we do.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dan Harper and Castor Fu

Music: Libby Kardontchik, piano; Anat Kardontchik, violin

Our Sunday Morning Guest Speakers ...

July 23: Rev. Theresa I. Soto is the interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, Michigan. She is a graduate of both Meadville Lombard Theological School and Quinnipiac University School of Law. She loves cozy mysteries and Detroit-style pizza. And, yes, she has tried lots of styles. She makes her home in Flint, Michigan with Rev. Sean Dennison, a tiny dog with large ears named Lulu and an extra-large black cat named Puffy.

July 30 Rev. Sean Parker Dennison is currently a minister-at-large in Flint, Michigan where his partner, Rev. Theresa Soto serves as interim minister. He is a painter, poet, parent and grandparent and considers his presence on social media, especially the daily prayers he has posted since 2011, part of his public ministry. Rev. Sean was also sabbatical minister at UUCPA in 2010.

All Church Picnic and BBQ Party

Sunday, July 23. 11:45 am to 3 pm

Pine Grove Group Area in Mitchell Park, Palo Alto

Lunch and Beverages are provided

Please bring a potluck dessert! We can refrigerate at the church until the BBQ. After service is out at 11:30 am, walk on over. Lunch will be ready when you arrive. Bring croquet sets, soccer balls, or frisbees. Children's church will be out there with their rockets. For those folks who need more help with mobility, contact Elaine Dodd (uucpa@uucpa.org).

RSVP's are not mandatory, but are much appreciated. Let Elaine know. If you'd like to volunteer to help, let us know that too! See you there!

— *Eddie Keating, Pamela Schure and Elaine Dodd*

Green Sanctuary Update Happy news! We as a Green Sanctuary Congregation continue our active push toward being truly Green in our energy consumption – you may have noticed the new solar energy inverters now on the south side of the main hall. Next up: more solar panels to effectively double our solar power capacity!

Caring Network

RICHARD CASSEL reports wife PHYLLIS had a knee operation and is doing well. ANN ZEISE was thinking of the folk near Santa Barbara where there is a big fire. INDIGO MORGENSTERN had a visit from a friend she sees rarely. LYNN hopes a friend and his elderly dad will be able to make a trip together. PAT LANDMAN HERRIOT just got back from a family reunion for 35 people at Bolder, Colorado. JESSICA MARTIN attended another wedding, this one her sister's. CAITLEN celebrates one year since she joined UUCPA and is so thankful for the support and friendship she has received. TYLER KOCHER's parents from back East came to Portland Oregon. and he was able to have a week's visit with them. DAVID HARRIS lost his website name to someone else and said it was a great sorrow. SARAH WOLFE, former member of UUCPA, passed away June 18. Her Celebration of Life will be at Channing House, 850 Webster St, Palo Alto on Sunday, July 30. ELTON BELL became a Great Grandfather for the first time. He met the lad, GRAHAM JOSEPH WALTER, born Saturday July, 1 by way of Skype. DICK DUDA lit a candle for all who suffer from war and for the intent to make a more peaceful world.

Four Shillings Short Upcoming Live Recording Thursday, July 27

We are recording a new LIVE CD at UUCPA in the Main Hall
Our wonderful friend and recording engineer John Barsotti will be doing the recording.

Please come and be a part of the making of our new CD.

Celtic, Folk and World Music Concert: 6 to 8:30 pm

For info contact (650) 274-1100 www.uucpa.org. \$20 suggested donation

Yard Sale The UUCPA Annual Yard Sale will be happening the week of July 23-27. We are looking for staff to help us set up, price merchandise, and manage the sale. Security will be provided on the days of the sale (August 4-6).

**Yard Sale
Postponed to 2018**

Help is also needed to take items to Goodwill. If you are interested in participating in this fund raising event, please contact the office to sign up. Call 650 494 054.

Bass Lake Camp Get-Away 2017

Join your friends at a beautiful mountain camp with its own private beach from Thursday, August 17 to Sunday, August 20, 2017. To register or to get more information email basslakeuucpa@gmail.com or call Greg Crider (the church office has contact information). Space is limited in 2017 so register now. The Skylake Yosemite Family Camp web site is: <http://www.skylake.com/>. [Note that the January 22 and February 5 Bulletins have more information about the Bass Lake experience.]

Weaving the Web

— Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern

I was in New Orleans for the annual General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association, where the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray became our first elected female president (not the first to serve – keep reading for details). All three candidates were women, and they created a covenant of behavior among them when the race began. It made for a positive process, focused on each candidate’s vision instead of on tearing down others’. For me, it helped to turn my focus as well to what I want in a president and my hopes for our religious movement.

On one thing, they were all agreed: the tendrils of white supremacy, which has arranged US Americans into a hierarchy based on race since before our country’s founding, reach even in to our congregations and association, and there are antidotes that we have not tried. For the previous ten weeks, since the abrupt resignation of UUA President Peter Morales, the UUA had been led by a Board-appointed trio, all African-American: the Rev. Bill Sinkford, previous president; the Rev. Sofia Betancourt, a parish minister and seminary professor (and the first woman to serve as UUA president); and Leon Spencer, the first layperson to serve as UUA president. They established a Commission on Institutional Change that will “analyze structural racism and white supremacy within the UUA . . . with the goal of long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.”

What we know from experience is that in order for us to overcome the backward pull that is exerted on people of color in our communities, we need to pull the other way. This General Assembly had a high proportion of UUs of color, and one key element made the difference: scholarships. Going to General Assembly is expensive, and while people of all races and ethnicities can experience financial hardship, it is far more prevalent among people of color. Usually, most of these UUs stay home during GA, which is everyone’s loss. In the convention center in New Orleans, I felt like I was seeing the future: a glimpse of a UUA that looks like the USA. Maybe one day we will even have a UUA that looks like the world. It was beautiful. But we – all of us – will have to work to put funding in place for similar scholarships for next year.

The gathering of ministers that takes place just before GA was energizing, and particularly focused on how we can lead our organizations and congregations toward honest confrontations with white supremacy, in its overt and subtle forms. If you’re looking for similar communities:

- Join me in listening to *Voices and Experiences of Unitarian Universalist People of Color* (resuming August 27, 1-2) – the next reading, by KokHeong McNaughton, is available from the office.
- Join DRUUMM, the organization of UU people of color, if that’s you (druumm.onefireplace.org).
- Join Allies for Racial Equity (a UU organization, [continued])

alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org) and/or Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ, a non-UU organization, showingupforracialjustice.org), if you're white.

- Whatever your background, if you're passionate about the movement for black lives, join Black Lives of UU (blacklivesuu.com).
- Become active in our Criminal Justice Reform group (the e-mail list is criminal-justice@lists.uucpa.org).
- Join the Adult Religious Education programs on economic justice and Class Conversations when they begin in the fall / winter. Sometimes, and troublingly, we white people can divert race conversations to the issue of class, and it's important that we not use it to defer racial justice yet again. However, if class and race are understood as intersectional, then building our courage to deal with classism can speed our progress toward racial justice.

I get jazzed about the wider UU world whenever I go to Ministry Days and GA. If you'd like to feel that thrill, the *UU World* magazine puts out a weekly e-mail with the latest news about what UUs are up to all over the world; subscribe at lists.uua.org, where you'll see "UUWorldWeekly" on the list.

I will see you in church on Sunday, August 13, for our ingathering and Water Communion. —*Blessings, Amy*

Save The Date – Saturday, November 4!

No, not another wedding – the UUCPA AUCTION, of course! It's not too early to put it on your calendars – you don't want to miss our best and biggest party of the year, with delicious food, wine, live jazz music, balloon creations, lots of parties and other stuff to bid on at the silent auction, a lively kids' auction, and 10 or so fabulous items auctioned live by our very own Sven Thesen, auctioneer extraordinaire!

It will take a lot of people to pull it off, of course, so start thinking about what you'd like to offer – a party, a lunch, a dinner, an outing, a service, something delicious to eat, something handmade, art, or anything else you can think of, including gift cards to places you like.

Also start thinking about how you can help before, during, and after the Auction. We'll have a table on the patio in September with sign-up sheets for volunteering and people to talk to about donations and just how much fun the Auction always is! Deadline for getting donations in the catalog is Sunday, October 15.

One last thing – Tom and I are moving to La Paz next year, so this will be my very last auction. It will also be the last year for Lisa Helmonds to organize the Silent Auction! We want this year to be the best one ever, of course, but we'll also be happy to talk to anyone about how to take over the jobs. We have a great team that already does a lot of the work (the food, the decorations, and the computer database), but we'll need some others to pull it all together...

— *Pat Thomas, Lisa Helmonds, auction@uucpa.org*

Chalice Circles

Another year of Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program, will be starting this October. Chalice Circles are a wonderful way for people to connect, form friendships, and feel 'known' in our community. Meeting twice a month, we move through various topics of spiritual significance (like resilience, transition, forgiveness, transcendence). We share both the everyday goings-on of our lives and stories of greater significance. We practice attentive listening without giving into the temptation to give each other advice. The richness of the experience comes from the depth of sharing. When we share our stories, whether painful, triumphant, or wickedly funny, we bless each other.

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. There will be two opportunities for sample sessions 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.

On August 27, a session at 11 am in Room 6.

On September 17, a session at 12:30 pm in Room 6.

Signups for new groups start August 27 – get a registration form from the Information Table, the Office, or the UUCPA web site at www.uucpa.org/chalice_circles/Registration_Form.pdf. Groups will get started in early October and will run through early June next year. For more information see Susan Plass.



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. Scholarships are available.

Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice

Promises Solidarity

On July 10, UUCPA received the following offer of solidarity from Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice:

Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice (MVPJ) is a faith-based organization, with members from diverse faith communities and traditions, which works to advocate for peace and justice in our local communities and beyond. Our mission includes the defense of civil liberties and of our core values of justice, tolerance, diversity, equality, liberty and human dignity.

MVPJ is setting up a process which will allow us to respond quickly with publicly visible acts of solidarity on behalf of any religious, ethnic, or other vulnerable communities in our local area which are being threatened, or which have been harmed or violated in some way. Examples of triggers could be receipt of hate mail, defacing of property, threats to the well-being of the community or to a member of the community.

We invite you to contact MVPJ should you or members of your community be subject to or threatened with such acts by contacting us at solidarity@multifaithpeace.org. Our goal is to gather at or near your site in response and public solidarity within 24 to 48 hours of learning about your need in a way that would feel supportive for your community. These MVPJ solidarity responses will be faithful, peaceful demonstrations of solidarity and friendship, and may include supportive, peaceful, faith-based signs brought by participants. We will work with you to be sure our response is appropriate for your community.

We are a founding member of MVPJ; Amy Morgenstern has served on its steering committee, and we are currently represented in its activities by Dick Duda and Kristi Iverson. In May, we hosted the first MVPJ Multifaith Contemplative Peace Service, held on the 11th of each month at a different area congregation; last September 11 we participated in its hugely successful Peace March. The organization pledges: “In all actions that it takes, members of Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice commit to the principles of non-violence, and pledge that all their actions will be peaceful, respectful, prayerful and non-violent.” In short, we are MVPJ, and if you wish to be a part of such a non-violent response, you can communicate that intention to info@multifaithpeace.org, or to Dick and Kristi.

“Voices ...”

Voices of Unitarian Universalist People of Color resumes on August 27, 1 to 2 pm, with a reading from Kok Heong McNaughton:

Why I Am a UU — an Asian Immigrant Perspective.

The reading will be available in the office all summer, or from Amy via e-mail when she's in town.

Brown Bag Book Group

BBB does not meet in July or August. The book selection for September is *Eye of the Albatross* by Carl Safina (Non Fiction). “This book takes us soaring to locales ... (Northwest Hawaiian Islands) where whales, sea turtles, penguins, and shearwaters flourish in their own quotidian rhythms ... (his) guide and inspiration is an albatross he calls Amelia, whose life and far-flung flights he describes in fascinating detail. Interwoven with recollections of whalers and famous explorers, (the book) probes the unmistakable environmental impact of the encounters between man and marine life. Safina’s perceptive and authoritative portrait results in a transforming ride to the ends of the Earth for the reader, as well as an eye-opening look at the health of our oceans.” – Amazon

Announcing the Stewardship Committee

The canvass committee gets a new name and expanded mission. Your canvass committee will now be called the Stewardship Committee.

We aim to ensure the church has money to carry forward its dreams of compassion, justice, and peace. We will also nurture the spirit of generosity in our community. If you would like to join this team effort, please get in touch with any of our members: Brooke Bishara (brooke_b@uucpa.org), David Chen, Armand Schwartz, Elaine Dodd, Pam Schure, Joe Bailey, Jeb Eddy, Reverend Amy, or Reverend Dan. The more the merrier!

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.

Summer BBQs

UUCPA’s Friday Night Summer BBQ are in full swing starting at 6 pm. The location is the McFadden Patio/Til Evans Garden. Please bring your own entrée as well as a side dish to share and your own picnic plates, cups, utensils. A donation of \$3 each or \$6 per family is suggested (but not required). Hope to see you there.

Amy’s Summer Schedule:

July 3-17: Vacation

August 6-12: Vacation

July 18-August 2: Study leave

August 13 Back at UUCPA

August 3-4: At UUCPA

The pastoral emergency line, x25, will always get you in touch with a minister – 650 494 0541.

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*

The Bulletin

The next Bulletin will be out in three weeks, on August 6.

July 30 and August 20 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>.

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