



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; August 6, 2017

August 13

9:00 am Forum **Fireside Room**
Your Favorite Jokes

Discussion led by Barbara Symons.

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

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

Worship Leaders: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern and Rev Dan Harper

Music: Veronika Agranov Dafoe, piano

August 20

9:00 am Forum **Fireside Room**
Update on Climate Change

Discussion led by Bob Ohlmann

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

9:30 and 11:00 am Service **Main Hall**
Nature Speaks: Listening Together

The is a lively exploration of the art and poetry of our guest, Deborah Kennedy. With a multimedia presentation, she will introduce viewers not only to our ecological challenges, but also to the vitality of the natural world, and to models of holistic thinking that can help us move toward a thriving world. An artist and writer, Ms. Kennedy’s book, *Nature Speaks: Art and Poetry for the Earth*, was recently awarded two top national book awards. She often hikes in an urban riparian corridor where she spots osprey, hawks and herons and in the evening watches for moon bows, earthshine and other modern miracles. Our guest musician is Jim Stevens, singing and playing guitar.

Worship leader: Deborah Kennedy

Worship Associate: Joe Bailey

Music: Jim Stevens

August 27

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

Selection of Forum discussion topics for October.

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

9:30 and 11:00 am Service **Main Hall**
To Be Announced

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.

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. The long weekend will feature swimming, boating, horseback riding, hiking, and relaxing. It is open to UUCPA members, other UU members and their friends. Meals and rustic cabins are provided and there are no meetings or chores.

New for 2017: Because of staffing issues aggravated by US immigration policy our host, Skylake Yosemite Camp, cannot offer UUCPA exclusive use of their campgrounds for a weekend in 2017. As a result, we will need to share the campgrounds with other Skylake Yosemite Family camp registrants and follow their standard Family camp fee schedule and registration timeline. This means not all cabins will be available to UUCPA families and we will need to reserve our cabins by registering and paying earlier than we have in the past. New timeline and fees including a new deposit option are explained in the registration brochure.

To register or to get more information email basslakeuucpa@gmail.com or call Greg Crider (the church office has contact information). The Skylake Yosemite Family Camp web site is: <http://www.skylake.com/>

Caring Network

DREW OMAN says he belongs to the group called Spiritual Care at Stanford hospital which has been promoted to Patient Care Services (from Volunteer Services). September there will be another training class; he said to ask him for more information. LITSIE INDERGAND announced that today (July 30) is the last time she and JOHN will be attending UUCPA; their family has been encouraging them for a long time to move near them outside of Sacramento. And now they will go. We hope they will come back for a visit as often as they can. They have been such good and active members for such a long time and they will be missed. ANDRE FLEET says her mom is recovering well and she thanks all for their good thoughts for her. AUDREY ERBES is thankful for UUCPA after a visit to a Fresno church. She likes that we say what is in our hearts. Rev. SEAN PARKER DENNISON lit a candle for all who are suffering here and in the world.

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.

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.

Steward of the Month

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

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*

Voices of Unitarian Universalist People of Color

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.



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.



August 12 to 16 Camp

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.

Georgia Schwaar
Robert Schwaar announced that Georgia
died on August 1.

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.

Green Sanctuary Update

The United Church of Christ, noting both the urgency of climate change and the continued debate over its existence, is “raising its prophetic voice” to urge “healing of the Earth”.



On Monday, July 3, the delegates of the General Synod passed a resolution that begins: “God’s great gift of Creation – the context in which all life seeks fulfillment – is in crisis. Driven by material aspiration, humanity’s use of fossil fuel since the Industrial Revolution has broken Creation’s balance.”

The full text of the UCC resolution is available here: <http://synod.uccpages.org/res21.html>.

At its July meeting, UUCPA’s Green Sanctuary Committee took action to support UCC’s ethical position in the resolution, while not supporting its theology. The GSC has sent a letter of support to the UCC, for multi-faith efforts to moderate climate change as essential to ultimate success in limiting climate change. — *Bill Hilton*

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!

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.

Amy’s Schedule:

August 6-12: Vacation

August 13: Back 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, August 27.

August 20 and September 3 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/>

THE BULLETIN

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
Transforming Ourselves, Each Other and the World

Board Members

President.....	Sally Ahnger
VP Finance.....	Rafael Gomez
VP Facilities.....	David Chen
Secretary.....	Kristi Iverson
Social Justice.....	Jeb Eddy
Denominational Concerns.....	Mark Erickson
Policies.....	Geetha Rao
CYRE.....	Harrison Frahn
Volunteers.....	Edie Keating
Communications.....	Audrey Erbes
Membership.....	Robert Byrom
Small Groups.....	Brooke Bishara
Adult Religious Education.....	Lorraine Kostka

Ex-officio Members/Staff

Parish Minister.....	Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern
Associate Minister of Religious Education.....	
.....	Rev. Daniel Harper
Community Minister.....	Rev. Jen Dillinger
Community Minister.....	Rev. Melissa Thomson
Treasurer.....	Fred Buelow
RE Assistant.....	Hong Bui
Music Director.....	Bruce Olstad
Accompanist.....	Veronika Agranov-Dafoe
Congregational Administrator.....	Jeff Cashdollar
Office Administration Assistant.....	Debra Heinz
Bookkeepers.....	Fred and Janet Buelow
Bulletin Editor.....	Dick Clark