



# 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; November 5, 2017

## November 12

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

### **The Wisdom of the Tang Dynasty**

Discussion led by Warren Schmid.

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

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

### **Living With Grief**

Grief is said to be linked with Love. When it comes, it is a violent, permanently life-altering experience. Today, in the spirit of Love writ large, we name and honor the grief within and among us.

[A short bio about Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale is one page 2]

Worship Leader: Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale

Worship Associate: Miles Chen

Music: Anneliese Messner, soprano

## November 19

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

### **Taking the War Out of Our Words**

Discussion led by Dick Duda.

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

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

### **The Honorable Harvest**

Last month we heard about Robin Wall Kimmerer's ideas on what it means to be indigenous and what it means to become naturalized. We dip into her wisdom again to learn about the Honorable Harvest, "a practice both ancient and urgent," in her words, that helps us to meet the earth with thanks and respond with our own generosity toward the land that needs us as well. We'll summon up that gratitude and generosity together in our intergenerational Thanksgiving service. And as part of our annual practice in interdependence, we'll begin our Guest at Your Table support for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Worship Leader: Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Music: Libby Kardontchik, piano

**Today:** "Healing the Divide " Meeting at 12:30 pm, in Room 6. See page 7. "Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit And Heart through Art: Prayer Beads" 1 to 3 pm in Fireside Room. See 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.

## Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale

Our guest on November 12, the Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale, is our close neighbor, having most recently served as settled Minister to the UU Fellowship of Redwood City. An ordained Interfaith and Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Stefanie is currently focusing on a ministry of Spiritual Direction, incorporating movement, visual arts, and meditation.

## Day Workers Available

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Center was established in 1996 by leaders from local businesses, churches, and the community to provide job-matching services for hundreds of local homeowners and businesses annually.

It is a source of help with garden, or construction projects, and more. Phone 650 903 4106. Their web site is [dayworkercentermv.org](http://dayworkercentermv.org).

## Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit And Heart through Art: Prayer beads

**Sunday, November 5, 1-3 p.m., 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. Each session stands alone, but the exercises and community also build on each other.

The theme on November 5 will be prayer beads, which are used in many traditions as an aid to reflection: Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Bahá'í as well as Unitarian Universalism. After a brief introduction to their uses and a time of meditation upon what colors and symbols are guides for each of us, we will choose beads significant to us and each make a bracelet or string of beads. All materials are provided. For people of any age who can sustain an interest for two hours.

## Peace and Social Justice Harvest Fair

Mark your calendars: the Peace and Social Justice Harvest Fair is coming to First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto on Sunday, November 12 from 11 to 2. Get a head start on your holiday shopping with an array of gifts and crafts from around the world. Promote fair trade, reduce your carbon footprint, and celebrate the wonderful work being done by local organizations. Enjoy free food and music. Have fun! This annual fair is jointly sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and by the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center. We hope to see you there!

## UUCPA Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23  
in the Main Hall

Set Up at 12 noon, Appetizers 12:30 pm,  
Dinner 1 pm

What you need to bring:

- Suggested donation - \$3 per adult
  - A potluck dish to share: 6 to 8 servings
- (Turkey, stuffing & beverages will be provided as well as plates and utensils)

**Please sign-up in the office or Sundays on the patio**

All are welcome (potluck dish or not)

## Building Your Own Theology

Sunday, November 19 and Sunday, December 17

1 to 3 pm in Room 4-5

Presenter is Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Contact is Amy Zucker Morgenstern ([parishmin@uucpa.org](mailto:parishmin@uucpa.org))

Registration is not required.

All of us of any religion, or none, build our own set of beliefs out of the resources for meaning that lie all around us. Together we'll explore some of the key questions that are called theological: about what it means to be a good person, what is holy, what gives us purpose, and what actions our beliefs compel us to take.

The content and community of Session 2 build on those of Session 1, so please begin in November. Visit [belief.net](http://belief.net) and take the Belief-O-Matic quiz before the first session and we'll discuss our answers.

## 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.

## Caring Network

PAT THOMAS announces the birth of a new grandson born last Tuesday and named LOUIS THOMAS the 5th. JAY HATFIELD, son of ELAINE HATFIELD who died about three weeks-ago said she was a pioneer in Engineering for women. She was a member of this church for 60 years. GEE-GEE LENHART was a friend of ELAINE HATFIELD. She spoke highly of her saying how much she appreciated that friendship. PAM SCHURE spoke about how hard hit her place of employment was recently. One person's house burned down in the North California fires, and another was killed in a car accident. She asked for good thoughts. JEN DILLINGER and her partner ANIKA were married this last July. DAVID HARRIS feared he had a melanoma, but it was a basil cell carcinoma which he said was the best kind of cancer to have. WYNNE FURTH had a friend of 53 years, Laurie, who died recently. BOB OHLMANN noted it has been 500 years since LUTHER started the reformation – Bob said he was once a Lutheran. Sunday was JEB EDDY's birthday. NANCY JENSEN is rejoicing that 65 years-ago she achieved what was til then her main ambition which was to become a mother, and she had fun having a birthday lunch with her son and other family members on Saturday. ALYSSA ERICKSON is concerned about how to help a young woman with depression and also support her mother.

### Need Contact Information for a Church Member?

## Church Directory Information

The office has the church directory which is a listing of congregation households and UUCPA Interested Persons. It is updated frequently. You can pick up your copy from the office — a contribution of \$.50 will help cover repro costs.

In addition to the members/friends listings, you can see who is on the Board of Trustees and find contact information for committee/task forces — from Action Council to Youth Group.

## Singing for Justice

A new musical group called the Resistance Chorus is forming in the South Bay. Their purpose is to bring protest song to public rallies and marches in pursuit of a better and more just world. They plan to meet once or twice monthly in the Campbell area to prepare the music, and then to attend public events selectively. No particular experience is required, but a love of singing and the desire to work for social progress would be useful.

To get more information, send an email expressing your interest to [resistance.chorus@gmail.com](mailto:resistance.chorus@gmail.com). — *Dick Duda*

**Bodhi Tree Concerts North and the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
presents**

***Intimate Treasures:  
chamber music of  
Beethoven and Mendelssohn***

**Saturday, November 18 at 7:30 pm in the Main Hall.**

Pianist Veronika Agranov-Dafoe, Violinist Solenn Séguillon, and cellist James Jaffe perform a thrilling evening of chamber music masterworks, including Mendelssohn's intense, brooding Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49, and Beethoven's charming Piano Trio No 1., Op. 1.

Join us for a concert that will enchant the entire family!

A significant portion of proceeds from your ticket purchase will go directly to the Napa Valley Community Foundation, for their Disaster Relief Fund to aid in rebuilding their communities and helping the suffering after the recent, devastating fires.

Tickets are available online now for \$27 ([www.btcnorth.org](http://www.btcnorth.org)), and will be available at the door for \$30. Season subscriptions are available online for a substantial savings over single-ticket prices.

## **About Sunday Contributions...**

Ninety percent of your generous Sunday donation will go towards sustaining UUCPA and 10% will go towards the cause of the month.

If you want to apply your donation differently, such as applying it all to your pledge or to the cause of the month, please put your instructions in the memo line of your check made out to UUCPA or on the envelope holding your donation.

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## **First Sunday Community Singing**

**10:30 to 11 am on the Main Patio**

Come sing with us! We'll sing favorite songs from *Rise Up Singing*. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome.

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## **Steward of the Month**

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

## Brown Bag Book Discussion Group

The December BBB selection is *Maud's Line* (fiction) by Margaret Verble. "Maud is refreshingly open and honest about her own sexuality though conscious of her place as a woman in a sexist society, always careful not to insult the intelligence or manhood of her male friends and relations. Verble writes in a simple style that matches the hardscrabble setting and plainspoken characters. Verble, herself a member of the Cherokee Nation, tells a compelling story peopled with flawed yet sympathetic characters, sharing insights into Cherokee society on the parcels of land allotted to them after the Trail of Tears." (Kirkus) This debut novel was a finalist for the Pulitzer, and reminds us of Erdrich and Cather. Please join us on Tuesday, December 5, in the Fireside Room to discuss this remarkable book.

The January BBB book will be *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* (non fiction) by J.D. Vance.

## Green Sanctuary

What's in a name? What's in a name such as "Green Sanctuary Committee"? That name has some history and connection to a movement in our denomination. In the early years of this millennium, members of the Committee such as Ben Hammett, Hershey Julian, Jean McFadden, Richard Cassel and others climbed on a bandwagon driven by the UU Ministry for Earth to achieve certification for UUCPA as a "Green Sanctuary Congregation" — Certification came in 2007.

Ten years later committee members discussed at the October meeting whether the name is best for what we do and for communicating with the congregation, with other environmental groups and individuals. At least one committee member reported being confused by the name before he joined. Another suggested changing the name to "Environmental Justice Committee" and a third suggested "Environmental Action Committee".

If you have another suggestion, or if you like the current name, please send me an email — *Bill Hilton*

## By Your Side Singers

**Who We Are:** BYSS is a group of men and women who love to sing and long to serve others through music. The group is co-led by the Rev. Melissa T. Thomson, who is a UUCPA Community Minister and Hospital Chaplain, and singer-Composer Matthew Rosin. Both are members of UUCPA.

**Our Practice:** We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 to 9 pm in Room 9, to practice the craft of pastoral singing.

We take turns being sung to by the group, so we may open ourselves to the people we serve and learn to sing together in gentle-



## Disaster Relief

—Rev Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Rev. Jan Christian, Congregational Life Staff member for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Pacific Western Region, sends us this very welcome information:

The UUA Disaster Relief Fund is now available for costs arising from fires in Northern California.

Being described as "a serious, critical, catastrophic event," the wild fires in Northern California continue to burn out of control. The death toll is at 31 and expected to climb as hundreds are still missing, including at least one member from our Napa congregation. Over 3,500 buildings have been lost. At least eleven of the homes destroyed belonged to members of our congregations, including members who relocated to the area after losing everything in Hurricane Katrina. The loss of cherished animal companions has also been reported.

This is when we remember that we belong to one another and that together we can do what we cannot do alone. To give to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund: <https://giving.uua.org/disaster-aid>.

Jan adds: "I will be serving on the committee in charge of disbursing funds. News will go out to our PWR congregations and congregational life staff in other regions will be reaching out to their congregations as well. We will highlight this in the next issue of our newsletter (the link to subscribe is <https://uua874.activehosted.com/f/1311> ). I expect to be interviewed by *UU-World* tomorrow."

Thank you, Jan, and thanks to the UUA for giving us a way to help each other.

## Healing the Divide Meeting 12:30 pm, November 5, Room 6

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 this meeting, Edie Keating will lead a discussion on housing. We will interview each other to explore our inner beliefs or "back stories" and we will practice the communication skills we have been learning. All are welcome!

### **We, The Few, The Proud, The Ushers!**

The team of ushers is looking for new people to join the team who welcome worshipers to each service. If you regularly come to a 9:30 or 11 am service, consider helping as an usher once a month. It's easy, it's fun! And your smile makes all the difference.

Email or contact Michael Plass to find out more.

## Our Sabbatical Religious Educator

Beginning November 1, Mr. Barb Greve will be our half-time religious educator. Rev. Daniel Harper returns on March 1, 2018.

Barb has been Director of Religious Education at UU congregations in Walnut Creek, CA; Manchester, CT; Atlanta, GA; Newton, MA; and New Haven, CT. Additionally, he has experience in hospital chaplaincy, program leadership in the Unitarian Universalist Association (the Office of LGBT Concerns), music, and music education, and has been a contributing author or co-author in *GenderQueer* (Alyson Press, 2002), *Living the Welcoming Congregation* (UUA, 2004), and the editor of *Crossing Path: Where Religion and Transgender Meet* (UUA, 2003), among other publications.

Barb is a Credentialed Religious Educator (Master's Level) and also holds a M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry. In addition, in the culmination of a lifetime of volunteering in UU communities, he has recently been named acting co-Moderator of the UUA, the top-ranking volunteer position of our Association. In short, he brings to us tremendous expertise, many years' experience, and a deep knowledge of and love for Unitarian Universalism. We believe he will be a terrific leader and Religious Educator for UUCPA. —*The Sabbatical Committee, Wynne Furth, Emma Grant-Bier, Edie Keating, and Maricia Scott*

## Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE)

### OWL update

We are offering two units of Our Whole Lives, our age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education program, in 2017-2018 – the unit for grades 4-6, and the unit for grades 7-9. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, social, and political aspects of sexuality as well.

OWL grades 4-6 will be offered Sunday mornings at 11 am, January to March, 2018. If you would like to enroll your child in OWL grades 4-6, please contact the coordinator, Alyssa Erickson. More info about OWL grades 4-6 here: <https://uucpa-cyre.org/owl-progradesm/#owlk146>.

OWL grades 7-9 will be offered Sunday evenings at 5 pm, January to May, 2018. **There is a mandatory parent orientation in the evening on December 3, 2017.** We expect this class to fill to capacity this year, so to avoid being placed on a wait list be sure that all custodial parents attend the parent orientation. More info about OWL grades 7-9 here: <https://uucpa-cyre.org/owl-program/#owl79>





**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*

**November 12 and 19** 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.

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## 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>.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uucpa>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/uucpa>

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

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## THE BULLETIN

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