UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Sunday, September 25th, 2022
9:30 / 11 a.m.

To have your joys and sorrows shared aloud, please write them on a card at the table up front.
At 11, in addition, you can post your joys and sorrows in the Zoom chat box.
A silent candle is always welcome as well.

Welcome and Announcements **Karen Skold**

Click here to see what's happening at UUCPA today and this week--don't miss out! Events for newcomers . . . adult classes & groups . . . events for children & youth . . . music . . . Forum . . . services . . . and much more. A few items that are coming right up:

September 27 Session of White Folks Dismantling White Supremacy Coming Up!

This coming Tuesday is the next session of White Folks Dismantling White Supremacy. In this session we will be learning about three notable Black women – the mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin – through a TED Radio Hour interview with sociologist and author Anna Malaika Tubbs. Come join us and learn how these three women helped shape not only their sons, but American history!

If you would like to attend this session and are not subscribed to the email list, please email dismantlingwhitesupremacy+subscribe@uucpa.org. Zoom information for the session will be sent to this list early next week. We welcome new attendees* at any time!

*All people of whatever race or background are welcome to attend any or all sessions. We call the group "White Folks . . . " because we recognize that the work of dismantling white supremacy is for white people to do. It's also important to have anti-racism learning spaces for white folks, where they can grapple with new ideas about racism and speak candidly about their fears and misconceptions. It can be painful for people of color to witness these conversations, so we have created this space apart from the main body of the congregation.

Thursday, September 29: Wisdom From the Welcome Table

Do you remember the first time you came to UUCPA? How you got such a friendly welcome that you wanted to come back the next week?

. . . Or maybe folks were shy and you didn't feel particularly welcomed, but you came back anyway. We're so glad you did!

Either way, there's something to be learned from the experience, and UUCPA's Membership Engagement Coordinator, John Wright, is here to help you. Even if you're an introvert, even if you're not an usher or greeter, no matter what, you can provide the kind of welcome everyone wants to receive when they come to a new place for what may be a very new experience: a Unitarian Universalist service or event.

This one-hour program, with optional extra time for additional Q&A, is offered on Zoom at this link, Thursday, September 29, at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact John.
(Zoom details if you're calling in: Meeting ID: 974 2959 3879, Passcode: 498653)

Take the UUCPA Mission Task Force survey!

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Why does UUCPA exist in the world?

As a congregation, we have not paused to reflect on this question in a very long time, and our Board of Trustees and our ministers have proposed that it's time to do so.

A clear and shared understanding of mission can guide UUCPA's ministries, community-building, religious education, social and environmental justice efforts, and our own spiritual journeys. But most UUCPA members don't know our current mission statement: we rarely invoke it, and it was adopted many years ago, before many of our current commitments took shape.

UUCPA has convened a five-member Mission Task Force to clarify the church's mission in light of our current and potential future commitments. The Task Force will also craft a new mission statement for the church, to be approved by the congregation at a later time.

Your input is essential to this process. Though the five members of the Task Force represent multiple generations and have been deeply involved in many aspects of the church, we cannot do this without you.

As a first step in offering your insight, please click the following link to access a brief, anonymous survey from the UUCPA Mission Task Force. There, you will reflect on the values and goals of our gathering together and select those that resonate most deeply for you. You can also offer comments or feedback about anything we've missed. *Click here:* **https://forms.gle/kiVLSUDSvxz5rmhX7**

If you have any **questions or concerns** about the survey, please email Task Force member Edward Haertel at ed@uucpa.org.

Soon, we'll announce several October gatherings, both in-person and online, to generate conversation and gather further feedback.

We thank you for adding your voice to this conversation.

Gratefully, and in solidarity,

The UUCPA Mission Task Force: Marilyn Austin (Task Force Chair), Brooke Bishara (President, UUCPA Board of Trustees), Edward Haertel, Christopher Kan, Matthew Rosin

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Prelude *Vocalise* Op. 34, No. 14, Sergei Rachmaninoff **Aaron Lington**

Chalice Lighting **Karen Skold**

We light this chalice of our shared faith to remind ourselves to treat all people kindly, as we are one people; To take care of the Earth, for we are interdependent with all of creation; To live lives full of courage and love, because that is how we

will become the compassionate and engaged people we long to be.

Centering Words **FAITHFUL FOOLS MISSION STATEMENT** **Sam Dennison leads Everyone read**

We are called to a life of presence that acknowledges each human's incredible worth.
Aware of our judgments, we seek to meet people where they are through the arts, education, advocacy and accompaniment.
We participate in shattering the myths about those living in poverty, seeing the light, courage, intelligence, strength and creativity of the people we encounter.
We discover on the streets our common humanity, through which celebration, community, and healing occur.

Song

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.#347 Gather the Spirit
Words & music by Jim Scott; used by permission

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one.

Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.

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Gather to celebrate once again.

Story for All Ages — Penny Story — **Carmen Barsody**

Silent Confession & Unison Affirmation

Caring and Sharing — **Karen Skold**

Song — # 108 *How Can I Keep from Singing*

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!

What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing!

When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!
To prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing!

Reading — *Love Letter to the TL,* Elise Youssoufian — **Karen Skold**

9:30 Song — #34 *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*
words: Hal Hopson, from 1 Corinthians 13; music: traditional British

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

11:00 Anthem — *The Gift of Love* (trad.; arr. Hopson) — **UUCPA Adult Choir**

Sermon — *What Fuels Us Fools* — **Sam Dennison & Carmen Barsody**

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Offering *Milonga sin palabras*, Astor Piazzolla **Aaron Lington**

You can give via credit card or Paypal at www.uucpa.org/connection/donate
or send the text message "uucpaoffering" to the number 44321.
For payments towards your annual pledge, use "uucpa20222023."

Thank you!

Song #131 *Love Will Guide Us*
words & music: Sally Rogers

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

Chalice Extinguishing

11:00 Sung Benediction **UUCPA Adult Choir**

Postlude *Scaramouche,* Mvt III "Brazileira," Darius Mailhaud **Aaron Lington**

Benediction **All**

Please check that your audio and video are enabled.

Go out into the world in peace
Be of good courage
Hold fast to what is good
Return no one evil for evil
Strengthen the faint-hearted
Support the weak

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Help the suffering
Rejoice in beauty
Speak love with word and deed
Honor all beings.

Greeting Time

Music Director: Bruce Olstad

Pianist: Veronika Agranov-Dafoe

Special music: Aaron Lington, baritone saxophone

Worship Associate: Karen Skold

Guest speaker: Two longtime Faithful Fools: Carmen Barsody—A founding Faithful Fool. Carmen's life in the Tenderloin is a natural expression of her years engaged at street level, listening, learning, and walking with her neighbors.

Sam Dennison—A Fool for learning and advocacy. Sam is a listener, a learner, and an advocate. "What else could I have aspired to after 25 years in higher education?" asks Sam. "Being a Fool was the obvious next step for me. Nothing else seemed like it would be interesting enough."

Livestreaming, tech support, and online community creation: Greg Becker, Tim and Maribea Berry, Byron Brown, Heather Chen, Dox Doxiadis, Mark Erickson, Castor Fu, Bill Hilton, Paul Kostka, Steve Ludington, Kevin Ma, William Phelps, Ann Zeise.