



### Summary of Sunday Services

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**Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 10:30 AM - Worship Service: Living Bridges.** Guest Speaker Carol Hayward, M.Div., M.A., was raised in Northern California. She earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, and is pursuing ordination as a Unitarian Universalist minister. In May 2015, Carol received her second Master's degree in Inter-Religious Studies from Claremont School of Theology.

**Sunday, May 8, 2016 at 10:30 AM – Worship Service: The Beauty of Mothers.** On this Mother's Day we celebrate two important things, human moms and Mother Earth. In our last service about the principles we look at our 7th Principle, *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

**Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 10:30 AM - Worship Service: "Holy Enthusiasm/Flower Ceremony".** In 1923, Unitarian minister Rev. Norbert Capek introduced a Flower Ceremony to his congregation in Czechoslovakia. The ceremony draws attention to the beauty of each individual and highlights the ways we are different from one another yet complement one another. Rev. Norbert lost his life at the hands of the Nazi's, yet his message and the Flower Ceremony continue. From prison, he wrote, "When a holy enthusiasm seizes the heart, your face lights up. You feel like a star singing. Your very soul, hearing your song, is radiant. It was, and it will be again." Please bring a flower to the service, and know that you will take home a different flower.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 10:30 AM - Worship Service: Improvisation and Motivations.** Jazz musicians improvise within certain musical conventions. While there have been people who excelled at blurring musical boundaries, for the most part, conventions or patterns assist with communication in music, art, and life. Ministers improvise within certain religious conventions. Jazz pianist Harry Ragland and Rev. Ann will engage in spoken and musical dialogue about the motivations for her ministerial improvisations in the congregation and in the community.

**Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 10:30 AM - Worship Service: Religious Exploration Celebration.** We take a look back at this year's program - *We Are Unitarian Universalists*, and honor those who have worked to make it so successful. Led by Amy Randall, and RE Teachers. Please join us for a year end celebration **potluck** picnic in the RE area following the service. Hotdogs (meat and veggie) and drinks provided.

## Rev. Ann's Message



On May 4, I attended the Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) service at Temple Beth Israel. In the service, we remembered the six million Jews and five million others who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazi's. We must never forget human barbarity or human courage. There was a time in the service when the non-Jewish "Righteous Among Nations" were remembered.

Unitarians Waitstill and Martha Sharp are among the "Righteous Among Nations" who helped Jews and others escape persecution or death. The Unitarian Universalist flaming chalice symbol dates from this era of the Unitarian Service Committee. According to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, "This September, PBS will air [Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War](#), a new documentary directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky . . . The film will explore the lives and work of the Sharps, a young Unitarian minister and his wife, as they carried out vital missions in Nazi-occupied Europe. As Hitler wielded his power and the Holocaust intensified, the Sharps worked to rescue Jews, dissidents, and refugee children at great personal sacrifice."

"The film tells an incredible story of two ordinary citizens who left their two young children at home and risked their lives to embark on a mission resulting in the rescue of hundreds, including dozens of refugee children," says Paul Twitchell, UUSC's director of communications and knowledge management. "Given today's refugee crises, the story of the Sharps' selfless heroism is an ongoing inspiration. It really shines as an example of the best of what the United States represents." See more at: <http://www.uusc.org/updates/this-fall-pbs-documentary-about-uuscs-founders#sthash.OiJ3vssM.dpuf>

May the heritage symbolized by the flaming chalice light our days.

## President's Message

### Board Briefs and Updates—May 2016



This has been a year of trials, joys, enlightenment—and still some fun—as your Board President. I never realized the complexities of the administration of this congregation until now. Having Rev. Ann here as our professional guide through the maze of protocol and best practices is invaluable. She has kept the Board on a steady path this year. I have observed how much she gives of heart, soul, and time to Monte Vista. I did not understand all this before taking the office in July 2015. My respect and admiration was always there for Rev. Ann, but my, how it's grown. Your elected

board unanimously approved hiring a full-time interim minister because we know we are amateurs and dabblers in UUA policy and practices. We need a highly-trained professional. We also believe that MVUUC should invest in itself over the two interim years. We can afford it. This investment doesn't commit us to having a full time minister forever; still, we believe that our MVUUC congregation is well worth the exploration and discovery as we journey on to become our best selves.

--Maribel Dana

\*\*\*Next Board Meetings are Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:15PM. As always, anyone is welcome to visit, but if you wish to speak to an issue, please contact the Board President, who organizes the agenda.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES GRATITUDE**

To the Finance Committee

for their dedicated work on the pledge drive and the upcoming budget.  
Merri Wise, Anne Thorward, Barbara Dev, Chris Sanchez, Tom Thorward,  
Sandra Grajeda

### **Highlights of April 2016 Board Meeting**

1. **Rummage Sale to move forward** at the Crossroads for Women Rummage Sale if new coordinator is found.
2. **Approved Personnel Committee's changes to the Employment Policies and Practices Handbook.**
3. **Request from the International Montessori School for more rental space.** A Tenant Negotiation Team has been formed to review options.
4. **Budget Update**—scheduled for May 22.
5. **Receiving Insurance Reimbursements**
6. **Land Use Task Force:** Bruce Mount, Francine Youngner, Audrey McNab, Megan Gallegher, Vasu Dev.
7. **Electronic payments of pledges** to be made using PayPal
8. **Interim Minister Contract Details:** begins in August with a vacation month and ends in July 2017 with another vacation month. July will have no ministerial expense this year only. Interim Task Force will offer a one year contract with offer to renew a second year at the end of first year; minister to begin in September.

### **Financial Report**

- As of April 12, 24 pledges in. (Update April 26, 64 pledges in, 67 outstanding)
- Finance Committee has prepared draft of the budget.
- Schwab account equities sold--\$28,000
- Yearly deficit: \$12,400 + \$5,100 plumbing repairs; \$11,220 costs associated with vandalism, 17 new chairs, tree problems.
- Insurance payments thus far for vandalism: \$108,099; insurance payments for sewer damage: \$10,394.70.

**Tabled Items**

1. Rainbow flag
2. Improving Communication—Board member and Committee chair role in Sunday services
3. Formation of Ways and Means Committee
4. Worst case scenarios readiness.
5. De Benneville Pines dates
6. Step Up Award
7. Making it Right: Donations and designations
8. Revising Covenant of Right Relations
9. Value of art

**Ministerial Transition Update**

On Sunday April 3 and again on April 10, your board members presented a two-part forum on our Congregational Visioning and Ministerial Transition. At the second event, handouts were available which included:

1. Perspectives: Ministry and Interim Ministry
2. Five Questions and Answers from Interim Task Force and the Board of Trustees—this is part of our informational packet that is submitted online to prospective interim ministers
3. Accomplished Goals: 2015-2016
4. One Year Goals: 2016-2017, Prioritized List 1-14 from the Board, based on Visioning last August lead by Kathy Rickey, PSWD.
5. February Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet
6. Land Use Proposal from Tan Family and Moore Real Estate

If you would like copies of these documents, please email Maribel Dana at [slonirish@gmail.com](mailto:slonirish@gmail.com) and request them.

By April 22, 2016, our application packet, as well as applications from all congregations and ministers applying, will have been submitted to the UUA. On May 10, 2016, our Interim Task Force will begin receiving names of interested ministers. There will be 3 Rounds for selection. We hope to find our minister during Round 1. We may have an interim minister before the end of May, but it could go to June. The Task Force will recommend a choice and the Board will hire. Our new interim minister should begin no later than the first week of September.

When we begin the search for our called (or settled) minister, the congregation will have a vote after hearing the candidate conduct a service. We actually begin that process this year with a visit from a Pacific Western District consultant in June, who will meet with Rev. Schranz and the Board.

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**UUA Policy Regarding Interim Ministry**

It is understood, in accordance with the established policy of the Unitarian Universalist Association, that the interim minister is pledged not to become a candidate for the congregation’s called ministry, not to serve the congregation for more than two years (with a limited exception for interim ministers of religious education and interim associate and assistant ministers), and not to discuss specific prospective candidates for the called ministry of the congregation with the ministerial search committee.

It is also understood that interim ministers both carry out the normal responsibilities of congregational ministry, including worship and pastoral care, and also assist the congregation in addressing the following interim tasks:

- claiming and honoring its past and engaging and acknowledging its grief and conflicts
- recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- making appropriate use of regional, UUA, and other outside resources
- renewing its vision, strengthening its stewardship, preparing for new growth and new
- professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest

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**Reflections**

The theme of Religious Exploration classes this year was “We Are Unitarian Universalists.” Here is a short synopsis of what three classes did from January through April. Our fourth class was the Coming of Age class who finished up the class with their own service on April 24.



**Chalice Children - Ages 2-6 Pre-School/Kindergarten**

In January, they learned about weddings/unions and that these happen in the congregation between people who love each other. The following week they talked how much they have grown since they were babies and felt a sense of accomplishment as they saw how much they have learned since then. Classes were interrupted for three weeks due to sewer issue, as Room 2 was completely torn apart. One week they met with the Explorers. Two weeks they met outside, but curriculum could not be followed. They continued with learning about Dreams,

Imagination, Shadows, and Block Sunday (making cities with building blocks). In March, the kids planted beans for spring, and had an Easter egg hunt (and made bunny ears) for Easter. April brought 'teddy bear month'. The bears made new friends, and enjoyed nice beds and blankets when not feeling well. They learned how to feel safe when lost and enjoyed a "Teddy Bear Picnic" with their human friends.

**Explorers** - Ages 6-8 Grades K-3 (This class uses a rainbow for the principles)

This class started the calendar year with learning about the UU 6 sources and a general overview of principles and sources. The first source they discussed was Awe. They explored our Jewish and Christian heritages, science, and earth-centered sources. The SPIRIT PLAY classroom continued to progress with wall hangings and two new centers (science and nature). After all the sources, they talked about Thoreau, and reviewed their year.

**Navigators** - Ages 8-11 Grades 4-6      ***Love Connects Us***

These kids explored our Unitarian heritage through the story of 18th-century scientist and Minister Joseph Priestley and the interconnectedness of scientific inquiry and religious beliefs. They also heard a story of Unitarian Universalist minister David Pettee, who sought the truth about his family's history of owning slaves. In finding truth, he found pain, but also joy and healing. This class did a 'Faith in Action' unit for several weeks. They brainstormed and researched topical issues. Then they decided on Climate Change, and came up with a list of suggestions for the issue. They wrote a letter to President Obama about their ideas. Then the class focused on one lesson about exploring the individual's quest for truth and meaning, a Unitarian Universalist value stated in our fourth Principle. The lesson portrayed truth as rarely absolute, and always shaped by individuals' life experiences and perspectives. And, they learned about the 19th-century Unitarian, Elizabeth Blackwell who overcame societal resistance and personal hardship to become the United States' first woman physician. As part of this class, they have to pick a church-wide "Faith in Action" project. With the help of several adults, the kids cleared part of the southwest field and planted a small garden. They also learned about homelessness, and made a display on the subject.

*Amy Randall*  
Director of Religious Exploration

### MVUUC Calendar – May 2016

MVUUC Calendar, Founder's Room, Minister's Office, Outside Rental, Room 1, Room 3, Sanctuary, Tentative, Worship, Holidays in United States

May 2016 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am - Freethinke 10:30am - Sunday 12pm - Planning 12pm - RE Council @ 2pm - African Drum	2	3 2pm - Private Voice	4 10:30am - A Course 7:15pm - Meditation	5 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Music and 7:30pm - Choir	6 10:30am - Staff	7
8 Mother's Day 9am - Annual 10:30am - Sunday 12:15pm - Chalice 2pm - African Drum	9 1:30pm - Montessori 8:30pm - Circle	10 10am - Buuk Group 2pm - Private Voice 7pm - Evensong 7:15pm - Finance	11 10:30am - A Course	12 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Faciilities 7:30pm - Choir	13 10:30am - Staff 1:30pm - Montessori 6:30pm - CUUPS	14
15 8:45am - Freethinke 10:30am - Sunday 12pm - BoT votes on 2pm - African Drum	16 1:30pm - Montessori	17 2pm - Private Voice	18 10:30am - A Course 7:15pm - Meditation	19 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	20 10:30am - Staff 2:30pm - Knitting	21
22 10:30am - Sunday 11am - Budget 12:15pm - Chalice 12:30pm - Impossible 2pm - African Drum	23 6:30pm - Circle	24 2pm - Private Voice 7pm - Evensong	25 10:30am - A Course	26 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Social Justice 7:30pm - Choir	27 10:30am - Staff 6:30pm - CUUPS	28
29 9:30am - RE Sunday 10:30am - Sunday 2pm - African Drum	30 Memorial Day	31 2pm - Private Voice	1	2	3	4

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours: Weekday mornings, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org)

Bookkeeper: Judy Bixel (Tuesday and Wednesday mornings)  
Facilities Assistant: Joyce Armenta (Monday and Friday mornings)  
Facilities Maintenance Worker: Fred Griffith (Monday and Friday mornings)  
Office Administrator: Tricia French (Monday, Thursday, and Friday mornings)

Rev. Ann is available by appointment. Her preferred email address for members and friends of the congregation is in our directory. She also receives messages at [revschranz@montevistauu.org](mailto:revschranz@montevistauu.org).

### Membership

We encourage all inquiries about becoming part of this wonderful, warm and welcoming community.

For more information, please contact  
Debbi Scurto at (909) 996-0689.



Send newsletter articles to [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org) by the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last Friday of the month.



**Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
9185 Monte Vista Ave.  
Montclair, CA 91763