



**Rev. Susan’s Message**  
Pages 2 - 3

**Rev. Maggie’s Message**  
Page 3

**Circle Of Life**  
Page 4

**President’s Message/Board  
Briefing**  
Pages 4 - 7

**RE-flections**  
Pages 7 - 8

**Ministerial Search Committee**  
Pages 8 - 9

**Social Justice Coordinating  
Committee**  
Pages 9 - 10

**Wheel of the Year**  
Pages 10 - 11

**Calendar**  
Page 12

**General Information**  
Page 13

### Summary of Sunday Services

**October 1: An Evensong Blessing**  
Evensong Facilitator: Abraham Peraza

The soulful and uplifting Evensong service comes to Sunday Morning! Please bring a poem, reading, or song that inspires you or is important to you so that you might share with the congregation in the spirit of getting to know each other through worship. Participation is encouraged or you may just sit back, relax and take it all in and nourish your spirit.

**October 8: Finding Heart in Small Group Ministry**  
Rev. Susan Manker, Rita Salama, Maggie Yenoki  
and Maria Wortham

What do you care most deeply about? How do we share our values with others, in small groups and in worship? We will explore the nature of small-group ministries, and kick off the program with sign-ups for these Finding Heart Chalice Circles.

**October 15: Advice from a CHALICE**  
Rev. Maggie Burbank Yenoki

The folks at “Your True Nature” [[www.yourtruenature.com](http://www.yourtruenature.com)] have built a successful business by offering advice gathered from sources we don’t normally consider to be deep wells of wisdom. The advice they share comes from diverse origins such as a bear, Mother Earth, our oceans, and many more! In this service, we will explore many of the ways the advice available to us from our own UU Chalice can bring us challenge, growth, and *resilience!*

**October 22: Diwali: Hindu Festival of Lights**  
Rev. Susan Manker  
Worship Associate: April Fissell Chokshi

Diwali is one of the most popular festivals for Hindus. It celebrates the yearly victory of light over darkness, and uplifts knowledge, goodness, and hope, in the way people have done for millennia: with lights. Millions of lights brighten the cities and homes, and we will celebrate in our own playful way this Sunday, as it is the happiest of holidays.

## Summary of Sunday Services

**October 29: Decision Making and the Search for Wisdom**  
Worship Associate: Christopher Sanchez

On our journey through life, we make many decisions, some small, some large and some of life-changing importance. We examine some of the ways that people make tough decisions; we explore where they found the wisdom or guidance needed to make them; and we extrapolate how we can adapt these findings in our own lives.

## Rev. Susan's Message



Death is often the theme for October, and though some of us are grieving the loss of two of our members this past month, Greta Fryxell and Carol Hayward, we hold one another with love and care through these rhythms of congregational life. Remember to reach out to Rev. Maggie Yenoki and me if you need pastoral care.

Maggie has started full-blown and full-time into her internship, and I wanted to introduce her and urge you to read her column (below this one). She is a Candidate for Ministry in the Unitarian Universalist Association, and has spent the last two years serving as half-time minister at the Sepulveda UU Society (the Onion) up in the North Hills. She relocated here in 2012 from Syracuse, New York, after completing her Master of Divinity at Drew Theological School.

Maggie completed four units of Chaplaincy Training (CPE), which translates to 1600 hours of health care ministry in hospitals, and she loves her chaplain work. Her husband, George, is a member of Throop UU Church, and they are newlyweds. Maggie enjoys cooking, writing, knitting, hiking, reading and sharing life in southern California with her son, Nick, and his new bride, Mary, as well as with George's son, David.

We put together an internship committee for her: Amy Randall, Erin Questad, Len Hayward, and David Adams. Carol Hayward was also a part of this committee, and was able to attend the first meeting by FaceTime before she passed. We all are part of Maggie's growth as a minister, and I encourage you to be both honest and gentle in your interactions with her as your intern.

Now, just one more of those million things I wanted to be sure to tell you. This Sunday, October 8, is the kick-off for our new small-group ministries program. We have three trained facilitators for this first year, which means room for about 24 to 32 people to participate. We will

explain the program on October 8, and begin the sign-ups, which will continue for the next two Sundays so those of you who can't be present at the service can still be involved. The three facilitators are Rita Salama, Maggie Yenoki, and Maria Wortham.

Another thing: you won't see Dia de los Muertos among this month's services. We moved it to the first Sunday in November so that I and anyone from the congregation can attend the National Mosaic Makers Conference that weekend, October 27-30, in San Diego. The theme is "leading vital multicultural congregations," and specifically leaders from our UU congregations who are consciously working on issues of race and culture have been encouraged to attend, but all are invited. This UU conference was started in 2012, but this year's invitation is an outgrowth of the happenings at General Assembly this year, and our new UUA president, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, will be speaking, along with other respected people in our movement. Go to <http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/mosaic-makers>. Deadline to register is October 13.

Wishing you all a Happy Halloween as the fall finally kicks in.

Love, Rev. Susan (520-203-4291)

\*\*\*\*\*



**Rev. Maggie Burbank Yenoki**  
**Intern Minister**

**Intern's Inklings**  
**Love Changes Everything**

While shopping at Trader Joe's this past Wednesday, I noticed a couple having a conversation about which type of turkey breast would make a better sandwich. They were nestled together with such deep eye-contact that it seemed as if they weren't even aware of the other shoppers in the very crowded store.

Although they may not have been aware of me, I was "strangely warmed" by them, and drawn toward the inviting warmth of the energy they shared. Their connection was powerful and gave me a twinge of glee as I scooped up a bit of the love oozing from them and placed it into my heart.

I recognized their love, and was nourished by it. Without any outward exchange with them, their joy brought a gift to me that I'd been seeking. The love I saw in a simple conversation about lunchmeat allowed me to change my perspective from one of grumpy dissatisfaction with the events in our world to a vision of connection and optimism. Their gift to me allowed me to share a new way of being with everyone I met later that day. In times such as these, let us remember the many ways the love we express in our lives will change the world... without much effort at all.

Blessings,  
Maggie

\*\*\*\*\*

**CIRCLE OF LIFE**

We are saddened to announce the deaths of two beloved members of the congregation:

Greta Fryxell died Sunday morning, September 24, at her home in Claremont. She was ninety years old and a long-time member of the congregation. We are tentatively scheduling her memorial service for December 2 here at Monte Vista. We are holding Greta’s daughter, Joan, and all their family in our hearts.

Carol Hayward died Friday evening, September 29, in hospice. She had been fighting cancer, and it rapidly overtook her this past week. She was surrounded by many family and friends in her passing. Carol and her husband Len were both candidates for our UU ministry and have been a delight to get to know in our congregation these past couple years. We do not yet have a date for a memorial, but we plan to hold one here at MVUUC. Our love goes out to Carol’s husband, Len, and all their family and friends who are grieving this tragic loss.

\*\*\*\*\*



**President’s Message**

**Board Briefs and Updates — September 2017**

Dear Beloved, BeUUtiful Community,

It is exciting to see all the changes that are happening in our congregation! My column this month is an update.

**Ministerial Search** - The process is well under way - and it is a process! The cottage meetings facilitated by the Ministerial Search Committee is one step in that process, but, much of their work is behind the scenes. Please note: they are working on a packet that prospective ministers will see, as well as updating our website, so extra photography and videotaping will be going on.

**Interim Ministry** - Rev. Susan is beginning her second year as our interim FULL-TIME minister. Some people are not aware that this is a change; Rev. Ann was part-time. In addition to wonderful worship services, Rev. Susan is working on organizational structures that need tweaking before our new minister comes, and of course, providing pastoral care and insightful guidance to our committees.

**Intern Minister** - We are very lucky to have an Intern Minister, the Rev. Maggie Yenoki, who is not green, although it's her favorite color, but instead brings a lot of experience with her. Rev. Maggie's wisdom is a welcome addition to our leadership and her open heart is a gift to us all.

**Land Use** - Our Land Use Task Force has compiled the information from the two congregational meetings they held. The information will be used to inform the developer of what our dreams are for a new facility.

**Adult RE** - This year we have a new Adult RE coordinator. Who better to do this than someone who has already been doing a fantastic job for years! Amy Randall is now our Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration. She has been working with her newly formed Adult RE Committee to plan programs. One offering will be Chalice Circles. You'll be hearing more about that on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Check your announcements and newsletter for others adult RE opportunities.

**Board of Trustees** - This year we have a fabulous, balanced board of three men and four women, thanks to the work of the Nominating Committee, and even more importantly, those who said "yes" to leadership.

**Service** - Leadership and volunteering are how we serve this congregation and our mission. This requires personal reflection on how we can best be of service to the church. When you reflect it looks like this

ME

WE

We sometimes think the church should serve our needs but as a friend of mine said, "I've found that when I take care of the we, the me is taken care of." Let us always be moving from an iChurch to a weChurch with open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

In service,  
*Rita Salama*

P.S. As always, you are invited to ask questions, make suggestions, or express concerns. Please contact me or one of the other members of the Board of Trustees.

### Important Dates

- September 29 - October 1—Camp de Benneville Pines Weekend
- Tuesday, October 3—Adult RE Movie and Discussion Night
- Sunday, October 8—New Member Class, Finding Heart Chalice Circles kick off
- Wednesday, October 11—Board Meeting
- Sunday, October 15—Adult RE: New UU Classes start (4 Sundays, October 15 through November 5)
- Saturday, October 14—Walk for the Hungry, Small Group Dinners
- Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.—Adult RE: "Class Conscious: Class and Classism in UU Life" (October 17 to November 21 (except October 31))

- Saturday, October 21—Halloween Party
- Sunday, October 22—Welcome to new members with cake on patio after the service

### **Highlights of the September 20, 2017 Board Meeting**

- The Board is working to complete the Negotiating Team that will draft the Financial Agreement for a settled minister.
- Board members are ensuring that the Nominating Committee has four members as required.
- Liaisons for all committees and groups have now been assigned.
- The Board unanimously approved formation of a Library Team under the umbrella of the Adult RE Committee.

**Ongoing Projects:** The Board continues to work on our agenda items of vision, land use, interim ministry, ministerial search, fiduciary responsibilities, and updating the bylaws of MVUUC.

Board meetings are usually held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Board meetings are open and visitors are welcome to attend. If you wish to speak to an issue, please contact the Board President at least one week in advance to be placed on the agenda.

### ***STEP UP AWARD FOR THE 2016/2017 CHURCH YEAR***

Every year we give a Step-Up Award to someone in the congregation who goes above and beyond to further the work and the mission of MVUUC. After receiving nominations, the Board without hesitation, unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that the winner of the award had to be Catherine Rowlee.

Catherine was the head of the Nominating Committee, which is no easy task to begin with, but last year, not only did the Nominating Committee have to find candidates to fill the regular committee vacancies, the committee also had to find the members of our Ministerial Search Committee. And instead of two Board members, the committee had to find four (two of Board members could not complete their terms). All of this when the Nominating Committee had only two of four members who were fully active. Catherine (with the help of Cynthia Humes) did an outstanding job!

On top of that, Catherine was, and still is, the chair of the Personnel Committee during this time of transition. She also serves on the Facilities Committee, the Land Use Task Force, the Adult Religious Exploration Committee, sells Fair Trade Product, and is active on Social Justice issues, and serves as a greeter.

You can always find Catherine doing something behind the scenes to make MVUUC more beautiful and welcoming.

A big THANK YOU to Catherine Rowlee for Stepping Up for MVUUC.

**Board of Trustees Gratitude**

The Board of Trustees thanks all who step up for MVUUC (whether nominated or not). Special thanks to these nominees, Alan Worley, Stephen Shirley, and Robert Tidwell, who give their time and talents in service to our congregation.

The Board also sends many thanks to Jesus Astudillo and Alan Randall for painting the eastern entrance gate to our playground. Extra kudos for persevering on a miserably hot day!

The Board appreciates all those who share their time and talents at MVUUC. If you know of someone who deserves special recognition for their service to our community please contact the Board President, Rita Salama.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RE flections**



It is autumn, at least on the calendar. As I sit here in Southern California 90 degree plus heat, it sure does not feel like autumn. But last week we did have some cooler weather and I know more is to come. But even here, it is my favorite time of year.

I moved to Southern California from Ohio at the age of six, and fondly remember autumn with the trees changing colors. I so missed those colored leaves, that my sibling and I took out our watercolor paint sets, and painted the green leaves red, yellow, and orange. We had to make it fall in California!

Perhaps your children don't have to paint the trees to enjoy autumn, but I do hope that family life has slowed down, and folks can spend time together. Here are just a few ideas for family fun in fall:

1. Go for a fall walk.
2. Be a tourist in your own town – visit a place you have never been
3. Cook together
4. Make fall décor for your home
5. Read together
6. Go for a hike
7. Try geocaching
8. Plant a garden
9. Go apple picking
10. Visit a pumpkin patch
11. Play board games
12. Get lost (and found) in a corn maze.



For me it is a time to calm down and clear my mind, and enjoy the kids and the program. Here is the end of a poem that sums up my feelings:

**Merry Autumn by Paul Laurence Dunbar**

The earth is just so full of fun  
It really can't contain it;  
And streams of mirth so freely run  
The heavens seem to rain it.

Don't talk to me of solemn days  
In autumn's time of splendor,  
Because the sun shows fewer rays,  
And these grow slant and slender.

Why, it's the climax of the year,—  
The highest time of living!—  
Till naturally its bursting cheer  
Just melts into thanksgiving.

**Happy Autumn! Enjoy it!**

Faithfully Yours,  
Amy Randall  
Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration  
Credentialed Associate

\*\*\*\*\*

**MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE  
NOTICE OF FILMING AT MONTE VISTA**

Dear Monte Vista Family,

The Ministerial Search committee is working hard to find the right candidate for our congregation and in order to do so, they need to know who we are as well. To that end, we will be putting an introductory video together and will require filming (with and without audio) along with additional photography at MVUUC events and Worship services that will be posted online and become part of the Congregational record. Filming will continue through the end of December 2017. Abraham Peraza will direct and produce this video. If you have any questions regarding this production, please contact Abraham directly at [abraham@montevistauu.org](mailto:abraham@montevistauu.org)

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with all of you on this "Magnus Opus" project.

In service,  
Abraham Peraza

**MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**UPDATE FOR OCTOBER ENCOUNTER**

Hello all fellow MVUUC members. We love including you in the process of our search for a new minister. We have concluded our cottage meetings. Thank you to the forty congregants who participated in the meetings. The information we gathered at these meetings will help frame additional questions for the congregational survey. The search committee is completing the questions for the survey. We will have it available to all congregants by the end of October. We are

hoping for at least 60% of the congregation to participate. All the information will help us to find a minister who fits the needs and desires of the congregation. It also helps us to represent our congregation’s identity and direction for our future.

Look forward to a future date of our Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. This workshop is designed to help us as a congregation to prevent unintended discrimination in the ministerial search. This is for the entire congregation and will include a Sunday worship service.

Thank you for your continued support and letting us be of service,  
The Ministerial Search Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

**Social Justice Coordinating Committee Report**

**Submitted by Margaret Davis**

**Walk for the Hungry and Homeless**

It’s almost time for the Walk for the Hungry and Homeless, sponsored by Inland Valley Hope Partners! This is the 44th year for the annual Walk, and our congregation has participated actively for many of those years. The word “homeless” was added to the Walk this year to more accurately reflect the mission to heal the community of homelessness and hunger. Another added feature to the Walk will be the inclusion of vendors from the Pomona Valley Farmers’ Market!

The Walk will be held on Saturday (another first), October 14, with registration beginning at 9:00 AM. Please see Teresia Santee or Catherine Rowlee to learn how to register for the Walk and/or sponsor walkers. This is a great opportunity for MVUUC to come together for an important local service project.

**dA Center for the Arts  
Civic Engagement Series**

The dA Center is a wonderful community support for the arts in the heart of Pomona, at 252 South Main Street. This season they are sponsoring a Civic Engagement Series on several Saturday mornings, hoping to bring local communities together for important issues and ideas.

On October 21st from 10:00-11:30 AM, the Citizens’ Climate Lobby will be featured with a program including music, games, art, hopeful stories, and opportunities for action. Please join them if you can and help represent our congregation at this worthy information/action event.

**Ethical Consumption**

As you likely know, MVUUC is a designated Fair Trade Congregation. This means we offer goods that are ethically produced and sold. We use coffee, tea, sugar, and soap at our church that is labeled fair trade.

Not everything we need and want has a fair trade label, so we must think beyond the label and consider what is now being called “Ethical Consumption”, meaning that it’s local, green, and fair as much as possible. An example of ethical consumption is shopping at farmers’ markets where you can talk with the farmers and learn about their ethics in production, wages, etc.

We should keep shopping for items with official fair trade labels, but we need to strive to be ethical consumers in all our purchases.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Wheel of the Year**  
**A Pagan Perspective on the Seasons**  
**Samhain - The Pagan New Year — October 31, 2017**

Once again, it is Samhain. Where does the time go? Although the wheel of the year turns in measured tempo, it seems as if every year it spins a bit faster — proving, at least from my point of view, that time is relative.

So, once again, it is time for Pagans to say farewell to the old year, as we extinguish the tired old year’s flame in the Cauldron of Being; then welcome in the beginning year, by lighting a brightly dancing new flame.

At this time, the veil between the worlds is thin, and we welcome visits from our beloved dead. This is not the time for a scary or spooky atmosphere. This is the High Holy Day of our Pagan faith. It pains me greatly to see how the non-Pagan world has turned it into a time of zombies, ghouls, vampires and a myriad of other evil and/or fright inducing beings. That being said, our Celtic ancestors did place a bit of the spooky into their celebrations, along with their more solemn practices.

Because the “Muggle World” has embraced this portion of the season, and knows little or nothing of the actual origins of Halloween, I welcome the opportunity this column gives me to set the record straight.

In the ancient Celtic world, Samhain-tide was the season of the third harvest — the meat harvest. To the Celts there were only two seasons: Summer and Winter, and Samhain means Summer’s End. This was the time when animals were brought down from their Summer pasturage, and returned to the village, where the herds were culled. Those not saved for breeding were butchered, and the meat was either cured or dried, thus preserving it for the harsh Winter to come.

In modern times, we cannot know the dire need to make ready for the Dark Time. Almost every bit of food that was consumed during the Winter months had to be prepared and stored in advance. If the harvest was poor and the animals thin, the prospects of surviving until spring were not assured. Thus, a bountiful harvest was a time of great thanksgiving and feasting.

For us, this blessed time is celebrated with great solemnity and pageantry. Do join us on October 27th, as our CUUPS group celebrates Samhain-tide with an ancestor altar, divination, messages for our Beloved Dead, and a re-lighting of the Cauldron of Being. We shall also feast, so bring something to share.

Until next time, Blessed Be!  
Jeanne Coats

\*\*\*\*\*

### MVUUC Calendar –October 2017

MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Out of Office / Vacations, Outside Rental, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Oct 2017 (Pacific Time)  
 Room 3, Sanctuary, Tentative, Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - An Evensong 2pm - Afrikan Drum	2 6:30pm - Circle Singers	3 2pm - Private Voice 6:30pm - Adult	4 10:30am - A Course in 6pm - Personnel 7pm - Finance 7:15pm - Meditation	5 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Music and 7:30pm - Choir	6 10:30am - Staff	7 8am - Congregational
8 8:30am - Men's Group 10:30am - FINDING 12pm - New Member 12pm - RE Council @ 12pm - Social Justice 2pm - Afrikan Drum 3:30pm - Freedom	9	10 10am - Book Group @ 2pm - Private Voice 6:30pm - Land Use 7pm - Evensong @	11 10:30am - A Course in 6:30pm - Board of	12 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Facilities 7:30pm - Choir	13 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	14 1pm - Quinceanera @ 6pm - Small Group
15 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - Advice from 12pm - Adult Religious 12pm - Social Justice 12:30pm - Sunday 2pm - Afrikan Drum	16 6:30pm - Circle Singers	17 2pm - Private Voice 6:30pm - Adult	18 10:30am - A Course in 7:15pm - Meditation/CI	19 2pm - Private Voice 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	20 10:30am - Staff 2:30pm - Knitting	21 5:30pm - Halloween
22 10:30am - Diwali: 12:30pm - Adult 2pm - Afrikan Drum	23	24 2pm - Private Voice 6:30pm - Adult 7pm - Evensong @	25 10:30am - A Course in	26 2pm - Private Voice 4pm - Social Justice 7:30pm - Choir	27 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	28
29 10:30am - Worship 12:30pm - Adult 2pm - Afrikan Drum	30 6pm - Montessori 6pm - Montessori	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)

Rev. Susan Manker (Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM - 12 Noon)  
Bookkeeper: Judy Bixel (Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon)  
Office Administrator: Tricia French (Monday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM)  
Facilities Assistant: Joyce Armenta (Tuesday, Friday: 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM)

#### Membership

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

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Meehan at 949-290-2615



Send newsletter articles to [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month.

---



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