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**Summary of Sunday Services**  
**10:30 AM**

**January 7: Beyond Categorical Thinking**  
Rev. Jory Agate

Rescheduled to Rita Salama's house due to insurance loss

**January 14: Martin Luther King Sunday**  
Rev. Susan Manker, Rev. Maggie Yenoki

Canceled and held picnic in Larkin Park due to insurance loss

**January 21: Becoming Fluent in Faith**  
Rev. Susan Manker, Amy Randall, Rev. Maggie Yenoki

Religious language is used to control and include, as well as free and include. Many of these words trigger deep emotions in us. Can we redefine and embrace these religious words? Can we be more metaphorical and less literal? What are the challenges in becoming fluent in faith? April Chokshi is Worship Associate.

**January 28: The Struggle for Justice**  
Rev. Susan Manker

We celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday in the park, due to insurance issues. So this Sunday we will celebrate this great leader by looking at the challenges to justice that are prevalent in our country and our world today, and explore what is being done to uplift justice here and now.

## Rev. Susan's Message



I want to thank everyone for their kindness and creativity in handling the changes that the loss of our insurance caused. Church Mutual did let us know 60 days in advance that they would not renew our insurance, citing the reason as the number and cost of the claims, mostly from the damage caused by the vandalism in November of 2015. With some pressure from Tim Brennan, VP of Finance at the UUA, Church Mutual has given us a 60-day extension, dating back to January 7. Yes, the Board took up the effort to try to find another insurance company, but we have also had illnesses on the Board, and discovered the difficulty of finding insurers when we have had such high claims.

In scrambling to find another venue for the January 7 Beyond Categorical Thinking service, led by Rev. Jory Agate, we discovered the complicated nature of trying to meet without liability insurance even at another venue. The Board and the Search Committee came up with an alternative: to meet at President Rita Salama's house with just the Board, Leadership and Search Committee. I hear it went very well, and I am so pleased, as Rita has said in her emails to all of us, with the ways people have handled themselves through this difficult time.

We held our Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday at Larkin Park as a picnic, and over forty people were there. We sang some songs with Cindy and Marcel, and shared our food and joy of community there under the trees and warm sun. And now, we have learned as of this Wednesday, January 17, that our insurance has been reinstated for the time being. I cannot express how grateful I am to Rita for her great diligence and persistence at this time. She really is awesome, and I hope you all give her kudos to the max! That's not to say the rest of the Board wasn't also working very hard on this—they were. But it pales in comparison to Rita's dedication on this issue on all of our behalf.

This is a great way to start the new year. For this congregation to weather such a difficult issue as losing our ability to meet on Sundays and all week long, and the cancellation of many gatherings, kudos to us all. This bears out what I've told the Transitions office at the UUA, that you know how to be in religious community, whether it's in our current buildings or in a park. You know how to keep things going. I cannot imagine any minister not feeling reassured to witness, even from afar, the way you have handled this crisis. So, now, no worries!

This newsletter was held back also because of this crisis—my fault, but I came back from Christmas vacation to crisis and have been working with everyone on it as well, and I, too, have been ill. We got the rest of the January services sorted out and decided to go ahead and hold the Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday service on January 28. Amy Randall and the Religious Exploration Council have made some calendar changes, so be careful in reading what's coming up and check your dates and the website calendar if you're not sure.

It sure makes just the ability to meet on our campus seem like a great privilege when we've lost it. Happy New Year to you all, a little belatedly, but much more joyously!

Love,  
Rev. Susan

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**Intern's Inklings**  
**Think Free!**

There was a time last week when my husband George and I were hopping around trying to capture a cricket who had found his way into our home. George holds too many of the Buddhist traditions from his upbringing and he would not chase the cricket in order to end its life. He wanted to catch it in our homemade trap that we'd made from a clear plastic cup and a piece of advertising we had received in the mail that was made from card stock. Our mission was to set it free outdoors in the cold night where its beloved mate might hear those very loud chirps calling out its plea for procreation. We had fun chasing it here and there, watching it hop and trying to second-guess where it might be landing next. We giggled and felt free, like children trying to capture fireflies on a dark evening.

While pondering the theme of 'Freedom' that our worship will focus on during the month of January, there are many images that come to mind that call us to journey into the deeper meanings we might explore. Hopping crickets give us one metaphor. Our English language deems 'Freedom' a noun, but its presence is often more ethereal than evident. How might we embrace a sense of freedom amid the oppression of the things that press down on us in these difficult days? How can we break free in our hearts and minds while the world seems heavy?

The words of Austrian psychologist and author Viktor E. Frankl give us a place to begin to unfold all that we can find together within this theme in the month ahead. Frankl claims, "The last of human freedoms - the ability to choose one's attitude in a given set of circumstances."

May this freedom bring you great hope in the days ahead.

Blessings,  
Rev. Maggie Yenoki, Intern Minister

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### SPIRIT LEVEL GRANT

Call for **MVUUC SHINING STARS** - The Matching Grant for Ministerial Search started Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We now have \$4,328 from MVUUC Shining Stars!! We are on our way to the \$10,000 goal. Please be sure to mark any contributions for the SPIRIT LEVEL GRANT (SLG). Contributions can be put with the Sunday offering, in the Pledge mail box by the office door, mailed to MVUUC or by the MVUUC website at Stewardship. Remember **WHAT YOU GIVE IS WORTH 2X TO MVUUC**. Questions contact Sandra Grajeda, [sgrajeda@earthlink.net](mailto:sgrajeda@earthlink.net)

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#### President’s Message

Dear Beloved, BeUUtiful Community,

*The following was written well before the insurance situation became a crisis. Things happen in spite of our best plans and hard work and we handle them to the best of our ability. Dealing with this difficult situation doesn’t change how I feel about 2018 or our congregation. I hope you agree.*

Happy New Year! Oh, what a year 2018 will be for us! We look forward to a new minister being with us in the fall and a concrete plan about our campus. We will also, sadly, have to say goodbye to Rev. Susan.

A few weeks ago, the Ministerial Search Committee asked me to write a letter to ministerial candidates who would be taking a look at our online packet. It gave me great pleasure to brag about us! Everything from how warmly we greet people who step inside our doors, to our engaging worship and music ministry including a world class pianist, our vibrant religious exploration program for youth and adults, our active social justice program, committees that are functioning well, people who are stepping up to fill leadership roles, and the array of activities available for people to find ways to connect with others. The weather, as well as the proximity to hiking, the beach, Disneyland and the plethora of cultural opportunities, entertainment offerings, and dining experiences are icing on an already very enticing cake. To help us prepare for our ministerial search, please plan on attending the Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop on Sunday, January 7, which includes the worship service and the workshop that follows.

2018 will be an exciting time in the life of our congregation—and in the life of the new minister. I can’t wait to see what the future will bring to this warm, welcoming congregation of *Many Beliefs; One Community*.

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 (Maribel Dana, Joseph Greene, Cynthia Humes, Dave Darrow, Nick Von Glahn, and Sandy Grajeda)

### Important Dates

- January 28, 12:00 Noon—Midyear Congregational Budget Review and Town Hall
- Tentative—February 24—Annual Dinner and Kickoff for Stewardship Drive
- Tentative—March 18—End of Pledge Drive
- Tentative—April 22—Budget review 2 weeks before the congregational meeting
- Early in May—Candidating week
- Tentative—May 20—Annual Congregational Meeting

### Highlights of the December 2017 Board Meeting

1. **Insurance Policy:** Dave Darrow is researching a new carrier due to Church Mutual's cancellation as of January 7, 2018.
2. **Ministerial Search Timeline:** The Ministerial Search Committee is on track. Board approved draft contract (Letter of Call and Ministry Agreement) for a new minister.
3. **Interim Ministry Appraisal:** Rev. Susan and the Board shared their 12-month appraisals.
4. **Stewardship Campaign:** Board approved Len Hayward as Stewardship Chair.
5. **Nominating Committee member**—Sean Gallagher has accepted the Board appointment to fill the vacancy
6. **Semi-Annual Congregational Budget Review Meeting:** Set date for January 28, 2018. Made plans to include Town Hall for other areas of congregational business.
7. **Bookkeepers Retirement:** A search is underway for a replacement for Judy Bixel; a retirement party is being planned.
8. **Active Shooter Policy:** Board unanimously approved the policy. Implementation to be planned. Many thanks to Amy Randall and her team for working on this.
9. **Treasurer:** The Board unanimously approved Sandra Grajeda, who has been chairing the Finance Committee to fill the remainder of Barbara Dev's term as Treasurer.

### Board of Trustees Gratitude

Thank you to

**Sandra Grajeda** for stepping up to be Treasurer.

**Ruth Greene** to take Sandy's place as chair of the Finance Committee.

**Len Hayward** has stepped up to chair the Stewardship Campaign!

**Barbara Dev** for serving first as a Board member and then as our Treasurer.

*Please express your gratitude to Sandy, Ruth, Len and Barbara for their leadership to ensure our fiduciary health.*

**FUN!draising:** The Board is still searching for members for the Fundraising Committee (formerly Ways and Means). The emphasis is on FUN! If you like to have FUN and like to plan, coordinate and organize FUN events, please contact Board President, Rita Salama at 509-630-3385, [salamatoyou@yahoo.com](mailto:salamatoyou@yahoo.com).

**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.**

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## **RE** flections

In January 2018 we will begin a new semester for our children with our continuing theme of *Deepening OUr Faith*. In the new year we will be focusing on Social Justice work with Unitarian Universalists. In addition to changing the curricula, we are condensing our classes. We will go from five age groups to four age groups due to the size of our enrollment.



The new classes and age groups will be:  
Chalice Children (Pre-school and Kindergarten)  
Explorers (grades 1 – 4)  
Searchers (grades 5 – 8)  
YRUU (Senior High)

As we have always done, these groupings are not set in stone. Changes can be made after a parent/director discussion.

The Chalice Children class will continue with the *Chalice Children* curriculum. The class delves into our Unitarian Universalist faith by providing experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcends everyday understanding, and the life issues we share. There are stories, activities, and plenty of time for free play. The children will be learning about the stars, moon, rainbows, dreams, imagination, shadows, and more. They will also enjoy Teddy Bear Month in which they discuss friendship, getting lost, and illness.

The Explorers class will be doing a curriculum called *Faithful Journeys*. The children explore how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions. During the session, the participants will hear stories of Unitarian Universalists who have put faith into action. They will discover a “unity of faith” in the many different ways Unitarian Universalists, including themselves, can act on our beliefs.

*Harry (Potter) and UU* is the name of the *Searchers* curriculum. The kids will join forces to form a chapter of Dumbledore’s Army, as they work to fight several Horcruxes: Illiteracy, Hunger, and Animal Cruelty. This Harry Potter inspired curriculum seeks to help participants learn that change is possible through multiple avenues, and can happen whether the problem is local or worldwide.

Students will have the opportunity to make a difference in their community and the world through hands-on projects that will also teach them social responsibility.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2018!

*Amy Randall*

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration  
Credentialed Associate

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**MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Hello Fellow Congregants,

We currently have ministers interested in the settled minister position at MVUUC. All our information gathering and hard work is becoming visible to us. We will be viewing the potential minister’s information within this month, and we will start contacting them. We really cannot stress enough our hope that each of you will attend the Beyond Categorical Thinking service and workshop. There will hopefully be a day in the near future that we present a minister for the congregation to meet. The workshop will aid us in viewing a potential minister objectively. Confidentiality is a continued requirement of our committee, especially at this point. We are unable to divulge any potential minister’s names or information. This is for their protection of privacy. We will continue to share updates of the process with the congregation. Thank you for your understanding.

We will have an informative meeting to share the results from the congregational survey and the cottage meetings. This will occur after a Sunday Service, will last a half hour, and we will notify you of the date.

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

**“Beyond Categorical Thinking Service”**

*Due to insurance issues, this meeting was held at Board President Rita Salama’s Home.*

Join us Sunday, January 7, 2018 for a special worship, luncheon and after church workshop to help us see beyond our assumptions as we envision the future of our professional ministry. Guest preacher and workshop leader, Rev. Jory Agate will invite us to explore and open ourselves up to seeing outside our usual boxes.

Rev. Jory Agate has been a UU minister since 1992. She served the First Parish in Cambridge as their Minister of Religious Education for 10 years and worked for the UUA for 10 years in the Ministry and Religious Education Departments as the Youth Programs Director and later as the Ministerial Development Director.

She has served our denomination in a number of different capacities, most recently spending 11 years on the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the ministers’ credentialing body, for several

years as its chair. She has led trainings throughout our movement on religious education leadership, Our Whole Lives, Renaissance Modules for religious educators, professional development trainings for clergy, and Beyond Categorical Thinking programs for congregations.

Rev. Agate grew up active in congregations in Connecticut and California and she is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. She has also worked with our UU congregations in the Philippines where she also served as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Rev. Agate has recently shifted her ministry to work in the field of counseling and psychotherapy and has a specialty in working with clergy and clergy teams.

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### Update from the Land Use Task Force—October 16, 2017

Members and Friends,

We thank you again for attending the two August sessions of dreaming/visioning about the possibility of a new facility here at Monte Vista UU Congregation. A total of 54 attended those meetings and shared their ideas about a new sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, classrooms, storage, sustainability, growth, technology, etc. Our team compiled all the giant Post-It notes and created the document *Transcription of Topics—Congregational Ingathering for Dreaming—8/13 - 8/20/17*.

If MVUUC decides to move forward on a deal with CIM Group that owns the mall, your ideas will be used to inform planning, and you will be invited again to be part of that effort. Remember, this document is not a blueprint; it is a sharing of ideas from members of all ages. **Be sure to read the newest information about our most recent visit with CIM Staff in the Board President’s Column.**

The last 3 topics—16, 17, 18—were not available at the first meeting on August 13, so they have much less content. We can work on these topics again in the future.

Please click on the following to link to view or download a copy of the *Transcription of Topics* document:

[Land Use Transcription of Topics](#)

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### ACCEPTANCE POLICY FOR MVUUC LIBRARY

We accept books and other media that deepen the understanding of our faith, enhance our search for meaning and provide guidance for our interfaith journey. Works that affirm the sources of our tradition and promote the seven Unitarian Universalist principles are especially welcomed.

Before donating books please contact Delores Burris, [burr88tm@gmail.com](mailto:burr88tm@gmail.com), or Rev. Ellen Livingston, [revellenuu@gmail.com](mailto:revellenuu@gmail.com), so that we may facilitate the acceptance of your gift.

Works that fall outside our guidelines will be made available to the congregation, donated to the Prison Library, Goodwill, or other charitable organizations.

Thank you,  
Library Team

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### News from the Social Justice Coordinating Committee

MVUUC has some positive social justice action to report! Here is some of the good news:

- Our church “adopted” a family as requested by the Inland Valley Hope Partners. This is a family of six, a single mom with five daughters ages two through twelve. There were 45 tags on the family tree and all requests were filled by MVUUC congregants. Toys, books, and household items were among the packages. Thanks to our RE program for sponsoring this each year!
- In December we held our second annual Taste of Fair Trade and offered many samplings of fair trade products. This was well received and Equal Exchange sales were especially robust. Thanks to the SJCC team and Debbi and Terrie for pitching in. Special appreciation to Catherine Rowlee for keeping this program going strong for many years.
- We often connect with homeless folks on our property at MVUUC. Thanks to Maribel for spearheading a plan to assist them. There is now information near the telephone in the volunteer room that will help us in guiding needy folks to services like food, shelter, transportation, domestic violence shelter, permanent housing, and other support. Check it out!
- Our Share the Plate collection in December totaled \$415.00 for the local Community Meals program.

The January Share the Plate offering will be taken for the Prison Library Project. This program sends new and used reading materials to prisoners all over the country. They receive over 300 letters from prisoners requesting books every week! MVUUC has been a great supporter of this program, so let’s show our stuff again in January.

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MVUUC Calendar – January 2018

MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary, Tentative, Jan 2018 (Pacific Time) Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 6:30pm - Circle Singers	2	3 10:30am - A Course in 8pm - Personnel 7pm - Finance 7:15pm - Meditation	4 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Music and 7:30pm - Choir	5 10:30am - Staff	6
7 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - Beyond 12pm - Ministerial 2pm - African Drum	8 7pm - Finding Heart	9 10am - Buuk Group @ 5pm - Evensong Set-Up 7pm - Evensong @	10 10:30am - A Course in 6:30pm - Board of	11 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Facilities 7:30pm - Choir	12 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	13 9am - Land Use 12pm - Camp
14 8:30am - Men's Group 10:30am - Martin 12pm - Internship 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - RE Council 2pm - African Drum	15 6:30pm - Circle Singers 7pm - Finding Heart	16 7pm - Council of Chairs	17 10:30am - A Course in 7:15pm - Meditation/CI	18 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	19 10:30am - Staff 2:30pm - Knitting	20
21 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - Becoming 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - Social Justice 2pm - African Drum	22 7pm - Finding Heart	23 5pm - Evensong Set-Up 7pm - Evensong @	24 10:30am - A Course in	25 4pm - Social Justice 6pm - Choir Set-up and 7:30pm - Choir	26 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	27 9am - Land Use
28 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Midyear 12pm - Ministerial 2pm - African Drum	29 7pm - Finding Heart	30	31 10:30am - A Course in	1	2	3

**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.

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