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Summary of Sunday Services
10:30 AM

January 6: **"Why Stuff Happens"**
Guest Speaker: Ven. Kusala Bhikshu
Lay Leader: Catherine Rowlee

The Buddhist approach to understanding and acceptance. In gratitude for Kusala sharing his time and wisdom with us, a special collection will be taken to support his work with the feral cats of his community.

January 13: **"Setting our Intention for 2019!"**
Rev. Pratima Dharm

Dr. Wayne Dyer, emphasized the Power of Intention and often said that you don't attract what you want, but what you are, taking his inspiration from the ancient eastern masters. Rev. Pratima Dharm will speak on how to set our 'Intention' in the New Year (2019) to facilitate a life that is built truly upon 'all' who we are and our dreams on 13th of January.

January 20: **"Living Dr. King's Dream Today!"**
Rev. Pratima Dharm

We will celebrate Martin Luther King Day and his inspiring voice, vision and life that called our country to live by its noblest principles on 20th January. Rev. Dharm will lead the service and speak on the significance of continuing our struggle or fight for keeping Dr. King's dream of creating a vibrant, multiracial, multifaith and multicultural nation alive and building the beloved community.

January 27: **"Our Most Essential Relationships!"**
Rev. Pratima Dharm

Some of our most significant and influential relationships are not with our family and friends but with those who live and exist beyond our inner most circle! Rev. Pratima Dharm will speak on this phenomenon on the 27th of January and how these relationships uniquely shape and build our lives.



Rev. Pratima Dharm’s Message

Years ago, I remember writing ‘resolutions’ in my diary each December about all the things I wanted to accomplish in the coming New Year. I did this for years, until I realized that my resolutions had always consisted of goals I wanted to achieve for all the things I believed I lacked in my life. I wished for my dream family, my dream job, dream home and so on. Slowly over the years, I realized that I already had all the things I would ever want in my life. And so, I stopped chasing ‘big’ dreams and embraced my life just the way...it was...it is. But this journey of accepting all my faults and strengths has been a

long and painful one. Most of all it has involved setting a certain ‘intention’ for my life. Dr. Wayne Dyer, one of my favorite authors, said that it is our intention which creates our reality. So, I set a conscious intention to accept myself with all my warts. I also embraced the new mantra: ‘I am enough’ just as I am, which is a new concept for me. And I continue to consciously tune into the intention of practicing ‘being enough’ as my own daily reality.

This practice has involved having a certain mind set or intention for staying positive and seeing my good or positive parts, rather than focus upon the negative parts. I have had to condition my mind to see myself, others and the world around me with a new lens. Each morning after I wake up, I intentionally draw my palms together and tune into the awareness of how my hands would be a blessing to me and to others! I also focus on the daily magic of my children’s smiles, the vivid green of the leaves on the trees, the bright hues of the morning sky or the gentle beauty of the setting sun, the wiggly walk of the earthworm escaping heavy rain, the laughter of family and friends, the thrill of watching the perfect rise of a soufflé in the oven and so many more seemingly mundane but vividly memorable images. Dr. Deepak Chopra writes that according to the Upanishads, ‘Intention’ affects every occurrence, every decision or choice that we make, shaping our deepest desires, further influencing the unique pattern of our lives.

The Indian texts declare, “We are what our deepest desire is. As our desire is, so is our intention. As our intention is, so is our will. As our will is, so is our deed. As our deed is, so is our destiny.” And so, the possibilities of our intentions can become endless realities only when we recognize the need to release them into the larger universe to blossom! After we set an intention, we must let it go and not think about it. And with contented hearts and minds, let these possibilities arise naturally, filtering other people’s negativity or criticism and staying firm on our own positive intention for ourselves. Most of all, the Bhagvadgita guides us to trust ourselves to draw the good into our lives by giving up our need to control the outcome of every action or thought. And so, may we embrace uncertainty and practice detachment as the Buddha teaches and be open to what the Sacred and Holy will open for us all in the future...in good season and time in the New Year 2019!

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Pratima Dharm

RE flections



Happy New Year! Not only is it the start of a new year, but it is the start of a new Religious Exploration semester. Here is what is happening in the children/youth classes:

Chalice Children (ages 1.5-5 – PreK-K)

Our Pre-K class is known as Chalice Children. The teachers for this class are paid staff with volunteers filling in as needed. The class will continue Spirit Play, focusing on Unitarian Universalism, especially the 7 principles (known as promises). *Spirit Play* is a method of teaching, rather than a curriculum. *Spirit Play* gives the children the tools to find and live their answers to the existential questions (*Where did we come from? What are we doing here? What is our purpose?*). The classroom is set up for the children to pick their own activities and work at their own pace. We will use lessons pertaining to our central story of agreeing to live in community and right relationship, including our central symbol, the Flaming Chalice. We will also bring in stories about Martin Luther King Jr., Valentine's Day, Norbert Capek (Flower Ceremony), Baby Dedications, and St. Francis (Blessing of the Animals).

Explorers (Lower Elementary Ages 6-10; Grades 1-4)

For this semester we will be continuing our theme of World Religions & Cooking. The class, will be covering Jainism, Sikhism, Shinto, Baha'i, and Earth Centered practices. They will have 2 lessons about each. For the Earth Centered lessons, one will focus on Paganism, and the other will focus on Native Americans, specifically the Hopi peoples. The goal of this curriculum is to introduce world religions through stories and allow children to explore the differences and similarities to their own lives. Each lesson will also include a cooking lesson that relates to the culture being studied. The children will get to eat their hard work at the end of each lesson.



Searchers (Junior High Ages 11-14; Grades 5-8)

The children in this class vote on topics that they would like to learn. For this semester, the class will have 4 sessions on art, 4 sessions on sports, and 4 sessions on social action (using 4 Harry Potter lessons about the environment). Their classes will include guest speakers, art projects, games, and projects.

Did you know that the equestrian statue of Paul Revere in Boston, Massachusetts and the Angel Moroni atop Salt Lake Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah and many Native American statues were created by an American sculptor, Cyrus Edwin Dallin, a Unitarian?

YRUU (High School Age)

This small group continues to meet, form bonds, and discuss personal and life issues.

Coming of Age (interested 8th-9th graders)

The 4 Coming of Agers continue to meet about twice a month with their class and once a month with their mentors. They are learning about Self-Growth, Unitarian Universalism, Leadership, Spirituality, and Worship. They will be presenting the service on May 5th as the culmination of this program.

We are always looking for folks interested in assisting the classes. Please contact me if you can help on one Sunday! Thanks!

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



MVUUC ANNUAL GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

Available Auction Events

Seats are still available at other AWESOME events throughout the year! Click this link to our website [Post Auction Events](#) or check the list on the green table at the back of the Sanctuary to see what's available. Contact Maribel Dana or Rita Salama to reserve your spot.

Auction Statements

To see your purchases and your donations go to www.togetherauction.com/montevistauu. Click on **LOG IN** in the upper right-hand corner, follow the directions on the log in page. Then click on **STATEMENT** tab at the top. Questions? Contact Maribel Dana or Rita Salama. Net auction profit will be announced soon!

Chalice Lighter Grant

Helping Our Member Congregations

In the last several months the Board of Trustees encouraged members to sign up for the Chalice Lighter program. They planned to apply for a Chalice Lighter Grant as soon as we had enough members contributing as Chalice Lighter supporters. In order to receive a grant, we must have 20% of members contributing to 3 yearly calls of \$20 per call. Currently only 19% of members are participating. This was an increase of 1% over June. At this time, we are still unqualified to be an honor congregation. If more can sign up and maintain that for a year, we should be able to apply for a grant next year. See the link for the online signup.

Please visit the page below and learn about all the good your help can provide for congregations in our Pacific Southwest District. You will also be helping our own congregation with fundraising for our growth. MVUUC may be applying for a grant next summer.

Flyer with detailed description of Chalice Lighters:

<http://www.pswduua.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/CL-Flyer-2017.pdf>

Online Chalice Lighter Enrollment: (Be sure to enroll in the Pacific Southwest District’s program.)

<https://register.pwruua.org/chalice-lighter-enrolment/>



Wheel of the Year A Pagan Perspective on the Seasons Pagan January, 2019

There are no Sabbats in January on the Neo-Pagan Wheel of the Year, but that doesn’t preclude other Pagan activities. The very name January comes to us from Ancient Rome. Pagan history is everywhere and is easily found by researching the history of our modern customs and practices. Some of the days of the week and some months of the year are named after Pagan gods. This month we are going to take a look at the month of January and find out what part Paganism plays in the first month of our calendar year.

Janus was the Pagan Roman god of beginnings, endings and of gates and doors. He was depicted having two faces with one face looking to what was behind and one face looking toward what lay ahead. The reasoning behind the symbolism of two faces was that both gates and doors have two sides. To end something, or to start a new beginning, one must pass through the portal to be on one side or the other, never remaining in the middle.

Janus frequently symbolized change and transitions such as the progress of future to past, from one condition to another, from one vision to another, and young people's growth to adulthood. He represented time, because he could see into the past with one face and into the future with the other. Hence, Janus was worshipped at the beginnings of the harvest and planting times, as well as at marriages, deaths and other beginnings. He represented the middle ground between barbarism and civilization, rural and urban, youth and adulthood. Having jurisdiction over beginnings Janus had an intrinsic association with omens and auspices.

Janus' worship preceded the founding of Rome as a city, and he became very important to the Romans some time during the 6th century B.C.E. Though many Roman gods can trace their roots to the Greek pantheon, Janus stands out as having no Greek counterpart. His ability to look both forward and behind made him the Guardian of Entrances and Exits; the best example of this being the Ianus Geminus, a double-gated temple (one door facing the rising sun and the other, the setting sun) found on the Roman Forum. When the gates of the temple were closed, it represented peace within the Roman Empire. When the gates were open, it meant that Rome was at war. With Rome's warlike nature, the gates were seldom shut.

The popularity of Janus can also be seen on Roman coins. The earliest coins depicted an older bearded face looking behind with a younger clean shaven face looking forward. As the Roman Empire grew both faces were shown as clean shaven. Later on in the empire both faces were shown as bearded with Janus holding a key in his right hand.

Janus was also made a martyr by the Roman Catholic Church and later became known as Saint Januarius.

Personally, what does a gate or door represent to you? Is it an opening to new adventure into the bright world of opportunity? Or is it a way to pass through into a place of refuge, to shut out the outside world for a time? Either way you look at it, you would never think of stopping in the middle—you would pass through.

So it's fitting that January, as the beginning of a new year, represents gates, new beginnings, new journeys and doorways, don't you think?

Until next month.

Happy New Year and Blessed Be!

Jeanne Coats

MVUUC Calendar – January 2019

MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary, Jan 2019 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles) Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 Happy New Year	2 4pm - Personnel 7pm - Finance 7:15pm - Clear	3 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Choir	4 10:30am - Staff	5
6 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - "Why Stuff" 12pm - RE Coming of 12pm - RE Council 12pm - RE Council 12pm - RE Parent Class 2pm - African Drum	7	8 10am - Book Group @	9 3:30pm - ADT Security 6:30pm - Board of	10 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Facilities 7:30pm - Choir	11 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUP Liquid 9pm - Private @	12 8am - Community
13 8:30am - Men's Group 10:30am - "Setting our 12pm - Committee on 2pm - African Drum	14	15	16 7:15pm - Clear	17 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	18 10:30am - Staff 11am - Reserved 3pm - Nella Jarrett	19 1pm - RE Sleepover @ 1pm - RE Sleepover @
20 RE Sleepover @ RE Sleepover @ 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - "Living Dr." 12pm - Humanism 12pm - Membership 12pm - Social Justice 2pm - African Drum 4pm - Set Up - Auction 5pm - Auction Cooking	21	22	23	24 4pm - Social Justice 6pm - Choir Set-up and 7:30pm - Choir	25 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUP Liquid 9pm - Private @	26 9am - Board Retreat @ 9am - Board Retreat @ 5pm - Spaghetti Dinner
27 8:30am - Men's Group 10:30am - "Our Most 12pm - Humanism 12pm - Membership 2pm - African Drum	28	29	30	31 6pm - Choir Set-up and 7:30pm - Choir	1	2

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: officeadmin@montevistauu.org

Rev. Pratima Dharm - Thursday, Friday: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration: Amy Randall - Friday - 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Office Administrator: Tricia French - Monday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Bookkeeper: Tracy Batres - Monday, Tuesday: 12:30 - 4:30 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

Mary Darrow at mlbdarrow@gmail.com or 909-608-2363
or Sara Langford at sarailangford@gmail.com



Send newsletter articles to officeadmin@montevistauu.org by the 23rd of the month.



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