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Summary of Sunday Services
10:30 AM

Sunday, April 7  Let Us Commit To Education!
Rev. Pratima Dharm
Worship Associate: Julie Steinbach

The key to a successful partnership with the international Calapayan church in the Philippines is through education, especially when many children continue to remain unschooled or given other opportunities for growth in third world countries. Rev. Pratima Dharm will speak on April 7th on how to partner with an intent and a goal to impact the overall welfare of the Calapayan church and its people, through an emphasis upon education.

Sunday, April 14  “When Hope is Hard to Find—So Much is Unfolding”
Rev. Ellen Livingston
Worship Associate: Catherine Rowlee

One of my favorite hymns is “Come Sing a Song with Me”. The chorus goes “And I’ll bring you hope when hope is hard to find.” Although Carolyn McDade wrote this forty three years ago, many of us are finding ourselves hope-challenged these days. I think it’s time to be reminded that in this Springtime of our year there are so many possibilities for optimism, in our lives, in our world, “so much in bud.” Especially for us today with the Installation of our new minister, Pratima Dharm.

Sunday April 21  Earth Day
Rev. Pratima Dharm
Worship Associate: Catherine Rowlee

We will celebrate Earth Day at Monte Vista on the 21st of April, where Rev. Pratima Dharm will speak on global warming and its far reaching effects on our planet. The drastic changes in the climate for the worse is calling us to take more intentional care of mother earth, especially to save the loss or extinction of various species and our environment as a whole to ensure a better future for our children.
Summary of Sunday Services  
(Continued)

Sunday April 28  Hymnal Sing Along  
Worship Associate: Chris Sanchez

Throughout the year, we sing many hymns, some of which may have special meaning to you. Other hymns are just plain fun to sing. This Sunday, you get the chance to revisit your favorite songs as we take a famous bit of advice and "play it again"!

Rev. Pratima Dharm’s Message

As we enter the season of Spring, the brighter and sunnier days naturally perk up our mood more than usual and our tendency to say hello to our neighbors with friendlier and brighter smiles increase! But, I wish our neighbors and I talked more throughout the year. Though I feel blessed that my children go to fine schools, live in a seemingly safe neighborhood, have a beautiful home and food on their table in this country, I do miss having closer associations with those we live around. Mostly people keep to themselves and we barely have any opportunities for love, laughter or play. I remember, people in my childhood knew each other deeper and there were more than friendly ‘hellos’ shared. We shared our family stories around community fires till the wee hours of the morning. Our neighbors could not have been more different! They were Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Jain, Zoroastrian, Bahai, Christian, Jewish, and so on.

We were also culturally different as each state in India comes with its own language, dress, food, and so on. But despite the obvious differences, we went to each other’s homes on the day of their special religious festival to join in their celebrations, festivities, fun and play. We shared our joys and sorrows in a way that made us feel included and a deep bond of love existed between us. And so, it is natural for me to miss those connections which gave a sense of belonging to us. As a result, there remains a deep longing in my heart to experience a similar community of love, laughter and play today. Jesse Dylan writes, “When you awaken love and laughter in your life, your mind lets go of fear and anxiety, and your happy spirit becomes the healing balm that transforms every aspect of your human experience.”

We do need to bring our community closer together, since we seem to be tolerating and keeping our distances from others who are different from us.

Especially in the wake of the Christchurch killings and many other similar crimes of hatred, there is a need to cross boundaries of religion, culture, language, politics and even economics in our communities.
today. We must strive together to bring down the walls that have been created for so long due to fear and anxiety of the ‘other’. Our Unitarian Universalist faith especially calls us to cross these human boundaries to share and co-create more meaningful and authentic relationships. Let us pledge to play some more and take a chance even with strangers, inviting ourselves and others to participate in fun and laughter within the spaces of our intimate celebrations. Only then can we hope to catalyze a living reality of newer, joy filled and transformational interactions and relationships with others. May we together trust ourselves to go deeper, nurture each other and allow others to nurture us as well. Our blessings will surely awaken and emerge amongst us then with a pure spirit of love that is larger than all of us!

Blessings and Love,
Rev. Pratima Dharm
Presidents’ Message

Beloved MVUUC CommUUnity,

We have commenced a season of celebration that continues on. Springtime celebrations of renewal, rebirth, resurrection, liberation, forgiveness, frivolity, and devotion abound. Some of our youth and a scattering of adults took part in the fun of Holi after the service on March 23, and they looked beautiful and lively with all the splashed and splattered colors. We had scrumptious samosas with colorful sauce and potato salad on the patio, and I think most didn’t know the water balloons and colors were flying in the playground adjacent to the patio, until of few of the participants emerged to show the results. Thank you, Reverend Dharm, for introducing us to this holiday and the splendid lunch.

As was mentioned last month, March 30, at 10 AM, the Poor People's Campaign will be at the MVUUC Sanctuary. The Campaign is headed for Washington DC, June 17 - 19, with events to be held in various cities between now and then. Santa Ana, the poorest city in Orange County, will host a couple of events for the Poor People's Campaign, referred to as "witness and testimony." Also on the morning of March 30 at MVUUC, a work party for maintenance is scheduled for 8 AM, and yoga is at 9 AM. A busy day.

Upcoming is Reverend Dharm's installation, set for April 14 at 4:00 PM. We need all who plan to attend to RSVP ASAP. Thank you. The Sunday following that is Easter, and I expect we'll get a visit from the humanoid Easter Bunny.

Warm Regards and Best Spring Wishes,
Cynthia Allaire, MVUUC Board of Trustees President

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Refections

On Sunday, April 28 the Adult RE Council will be presenting a Congregational Book Discussion of the book: So You Want to Talk About Race? by Ijeoma Oluo. The book is “an actionable exploration of today's racial landscape.”
In 2019, any discussion of American culture talks about race and the many ways in which it touches every aspect of our lives. But, why do we have to keep talking about race, you may ask? I am definitely not a racist, we all may say to ourselves or others, so why do I have to discuss it?

“Being privileged doesn't mean that you are always wrong and people without privilege are always right. It means that there is a good chance you are missing a few very important pieces of the puzzle," Oluo writes.

So You Want to Talk About Race? gives readers the missing pieces so they can start to have empathetic, fact-based conversations about some of the most important racial issues facing Americans today.

According to another author, and race relations scholar, Dr. Robin DiAngelo, “we live in a society that is deeply separate and unequal by race.” So how is it that so many of us who are white individually feel so free of racism and yet we live in a society that is so profoundly separate and unequal by race?

DiAngelo goes on to say that just because we say we are not racist, or we have friends of color, does not change the outcome of the society we live in. In fact, she says that these thoughts “function to take race off the table and to exempt the person from any further engagement. And in doing that they function to protect the current racial hierarchy and the white position within it.”

This does not have to be our intent of what we do, but nonetheless it is the societal impact. DiAngelo continues, that feeling bad about racism is not productive. Instead, we should start to do something to dismantle the systemic racism that benefits those that are white at the expense of others.

And the best place to start is with awareness, education, and discussion.

So, go to your nearest library, computer, bookstore, or contact the Adult RE Council, and get the book: So You Want to Talk About Race? by Ijeoma Oluo.

Then join the discussion on April 28th after service. After all, what is the worst that can happen? You may listen, discuss, and learn. It may be uncomfortable, it may be awkward, it may be hard, but in 2019, “there are few things more important than learning about how America's racial divide was constructed, and how we can begin to tear it down.”

Faithfully Yours,

Amy Randall
Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration
Credentialed Associate
References:

https://bigthink.com/videos/how-to-solve-racism

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Join Us at General Assembly

UUA General Assembly, Spokane—June 19-23 2019

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System opens March 1 at 9 a.m. PST at uua.org/ga. Full-time registration is $425 for adults and $240 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers. Rates increase on May 1. Theme: “The Power of We”

General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year’s theme is about collective power, “The Power of We,” as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our
deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

**Spokane**

The Spokane region is the gateway for adventure and exploration in the Intermountain Northwest. Located driving distance from Glacier National Park and Yellowstone, Spokane is nestled in natural beauty. Spokane is located on interstate I-90, 110 miles from the Canadian border and 18 miles from Idaho. It is the largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis.

Spokane International Airport (GEG) is serviced by Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, and United Airlines. Nonstop service is offered to 17 destinations, including Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, and LAX.

Spokane is accessible by rail via Amtrak’s Empire Builder route (Chicago - St. Paul/Minneapolis - Spokane - Portland/Seattle). It is also reachable by Greyhound Bus.

**Excellent Programming**

GA will offer more than 100 programming selections over the course of five days. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, sharing inspiring models and stories, and concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home." More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

**Financial Aid Available**

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).

If you have any questions, call or email Maribel Dana - 951.203.1233 slonirish@gmail.com

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Update on CIM Group Proposal Regarding Our Property
February 27, 2019

This week I was contacted by a new person from CIM Group. Jon Prystasz, a Development Associate, is now assigned to the Montclair Place project. He is trying to get up to speed on all the projects around the mall. I sent him a redacted copy of our first 2 meetings with CIM and the Land Use Task Force’s Annual Reports for 2017 and 2018, so he can understand our point of view in the matter and see how involved the whole congregation was with the our reply to CIM. Mr. Prystasz commented that it looked
like another year on the rezoning by the Montclair Specific Plan; we had been warned of this before. I requested that he meet with our committee soon.

Folks new to Monte Vista may not have heard of this offer to MVUUC. We were asked in November of 2017 by a Vice President of CIM Group if we wanted to move our location or have the company build us a new facility in exchange for some of our land. On April 9, 2017, our members voted to stay in this location and negotiate with the CIM Group on building a new facility.

I am resending the two Annual Reports for 2017 and 2018 for members and friends to review, reminding ourselves of all that we accomplished together after voting to work toward a possible agreement with CIM Group.

Thank you, Maribel Dana
Chair, Land Use Task Force

Congregation Annual Meeting
May 21, 2017
Annual Report for Committee Chairs and Group Leaders

Submitted by: Maribel Dana               Date Submitted: June 1, 2017

Committee/Group Name: Land Use Task Force

Committee Chair/Group Leader: Maribel Dana
Committee/Group Members: Bruce Mount, Megan Gallegger, Cynthia Hume, Vasu Dev, Catherine Rowlee

Bullet List of Major Highlights/Accomplishments (Please limit to five bullet points)

June-August 2016—Prepared a response to an offer by the Moore Real Estate Company connected to the Tan family that owns lots north of and adjacent to our land.
Conducted a review (of the history of Monte Vista’s efforts to make use of the property we own; published a review of 4 possible visions for land use along with positive and negative effects and presented to the congregation on 8/6/16.

September—Presented the Land Use Committee Review to MVUUC as part of the Board’s work on visioning. Planned for congregation to narrow the choices.

October-January 2017—Contacted by Vice President (Development) of CIM Group that owns most of the Montclair mall. 1/10/17-Met with VP and learned CIM wanted to relocate us or build us a new church in exchange for a deal regarding our property. Spoke with Pacific Western Region leaders and 2 other congregations to learn about their experiences and best practices.
March-April—Offered 6 informational meetings to members that included a Power Point presentation of all we knew at that time. Published online minutes for the first 5 meetings for members to review before the vote. On 4/9/17, members voted to begin negotiations with the CIM Group. A total of 74 members attended the 6 meetings and the 4/9 congregational meeting had more than a quorum—52 members present.

April 25-May—Met with the CIM Vice President and two architects to discuss the needs of MVUUC and possible plans. Did a walk-through with our visitors. Contacted CIM again to request a visit to a Los Angeles site.

Goals for Upcoming Year:

Keep the congregation fully informed about developments.

Find a realty company and a real estate attorney to review any negotiations or agreements.

Follow up with UUA consultants regarding any negotiations regarding land.

Congregation Annual Meeting
May 20, 2018
ANNUAL REPORT: LAND USE TASK FORCE

Submitted by: Maribel Dana
Date Submitted: May 1, 2018

Committee/Group Name: Land Use Task Force

Committee Chair/Group Leader: Maribel Dana

Committee/Group Members: Vasu Dev, Cynthia Humes, Bruce Mount, Rita Salama, Catherine Rowlee, Megan Gallagher, Amy Randall ex-officio, Rev. Susan Manker ex-officio.

Bullet List of Major Highlights/Accomplishments

• July 2017- CIM Group VP Greg Williams visited the LUTF and shared some information about their 20 year plan for this area. The Task Force planned to hold In-gatherings of members and elicit their ideas for a vision of a possible future facility.

• August 2017- Two in-gatherings were held with 18 topics on 18 giant Post-It notes for the members to view, discuss, and write about their dreams. A total of 54 members attended 2 sessions. This information was organized into the Transcription of Topics, Congregational In-gathering. (A link to this is still on our website, the December Encounter). On August 1, Maribel Dana, Catherine Rowlee, Julie Steinbach and Harry Ragland visited a CIM Group site at The Lot in West Hollywood to increase understanding of the company’s work.
• November 2017—CIM Group’s architects from Studioneleven met with the LUTF (11/15) to share preliminary ideas for a sanctuary based on a previous survey taken by the Task Force. The LUTF liked much of their plan and decided to prepare an itemized response that included the congregational visioning from August.

• December 2017-February 2018—LUTF met 6 times to fine tune our response to the ideas presented by the architects. Finally on 2/16, our document was sent.

• March 2018 to present—On 3/30, the Studioneleven architects requested a calendar of events from us and Montessori. Architects said they needed it for a timeline for the Master Plan and hoped to provide a more detailed update in a few weeks’ time. The calendar took a while to prepare and was mailed to them on 4/25/18.

Goals for Upcoming Year:

• Continue to keep the Congregation informed of progress and focus on the vision.

• Remind all that there is no deal with CIM Group yet and that is not possible without a congregational vote.

• With CIM, begin a financial discussion and protect the interests of the congregation, including retention of the cell tower and the rental income from the International Montessori School.

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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. The good news is that, currently, we are over that 20% threshold; however, if some of us become inactive we could lose eligibility, so please go to the website and become a Chalice Lighter if you have not done so already.

https://pswduua.org/about-us/about-the-district/programs/chalice-lighters/

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:
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

Earth Day — April 22

Is Earth Day a Pagan Holiday? Well... not really, but it’s worthy to note that most Pagans view the environment as something vitally important. So, although it’s not an official Wheel-of-the-Year Sabbat, Earth Day has become an important celebration. If you have sworn to be a steward of our planet, then Earth Day is a wonderful way to honor our Mother, The Earth.

The first Earth Day celebration was held in 1970, and sponsored by the Earth Day Network. This annual celebration is a time when people worldwide honor our planet and (hopefully) take a few minutes to try to make a difference in the world. So this is a time when Pagan practices and those of the rest of the caring world join forces.

Regardless of how you observe this day, even if it’s just for a few minutes, take the time to thank Earth Mother for her gifts, and take another moment just to be glad we’re all a part of it.

Some things you can do to make a difference in your own space; try one of the following:

- Turn off the lights you’re not using
- Shut off appliances that don’t have to be on all the time
- Pick up some garbage that isn’t yours
- Ride a bike or walk instead of driving
- Plant a tree
- Use cloth grocery bags instead of paper or plastic
- Recycle relentlessly
- Plant a vegetable garden or buy from local growers
- Build a birdhouse and put out a feeder, and/or a bird bath
- Plant a Butterfly Flower Garden, especially milkweed for the Monarch Butterfly. (They are severely endangered because of lack of habitat)
- Save the excess shower water in a bucket for your garden.

A pagan chant that sums it up:

The Earth is our Mother
She will take care of us
Her sacred ground we walk upon
With every step we take
The Earth is our Mother
We must take care of her
To those of us who care deeply about our Mother Earth and the need to conserve, preserve and maintain our beautiful blue planet, Earth Day is vitally important.

Until next time, Blessed be,
Jeanne Coats
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<td>4pm - Personnel</td>
<td>8pm - Choir Set-up and 8pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Choir</td>
<td>9am - Food Prep - 10:30am - Staff</td>
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*MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister’s Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary, Apr 2019 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)*
GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours:  Monday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: officeadmin@montevistauu.org

Rev. Pratima Dharm - Thursday, Friday:  10:30 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 - Monday, Friday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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 sarajlangford@gmail.com

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

Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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Montclair, CA 91763