

During sabbatical I learned that cultivating creativity involves “polishing the mind” by rubbing one’s thoughts against the intellect and inspiration of others. I’ve been polishing my mind by listening to several practicing Jews who carefully research their religious tradition, a faith that is very much alive for them.

As a consequence of those rich conversations, we’ll be focusing on the passage from the Bible when Abraham, the patriarch of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, is approached by three strangers. He is sitting outside his tent in the desert, with his wife, Sarah nearby. When the strangers arrive, he greets them openly, washes their feet, and asks Sarah to care for their animals. They are invited to stay. Every character and gesture of greeting has meaning for the time in which Abraham and Sarah lived. We’ll be exploring how some of those gestures might apply to our lives today. The reflection we will do is appropriate for the Days of Awe, the High Holy Days of the Jewish religion.

From Sunday, September 27 to October 4, we will celebrate Sukkot, the seven days that follow the Jewish High Holy Days. Some sources say the festival comes from an agricultural background and is a harvest festival, while others believe its roots come more directly from the Biblical reference of being wanderers in the desert.

During Sukkot practicing Jews construct a temporary structure, decorate it, and invite honorary guests, friends and family. Gathering and eating in its shelter reminds us that all we possess, and life itself is transitory. It also serves to consider those who have no home, and who are hungry. Every one who comes is welcomed as an honorary guest.

The Sukkah will be ready for us on Sunday, September 27, and will remain on the grounds until October 4. Come during the day for a time of reflection. Come in the evening with your dinner, and see who else is present. All are welcome.

– Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister, RevBanks@uudavis.org, 530-753-2581 x205

Unitarian Universalist
Church of Davis (UUCD)



Theme Journal
September,
Hospitality

'Hospitality' is to welcome guests, but more than that, it is to care for them. Hospitality is more than just being polite and serving tea because each guest comes to us with a journey, a story, a heartache, or sometimes just tired feet.

With that kind of hospitality, the kind that understands seeking, learning, and growing can be challenging; I want to welcome you to Lifespan Learning this September. Together we can foster nurturing environments, safe places to ask heartfelt questions, and enthusiastic support for all our efforts!

This is an exciting month to welcome one another. Our youth groups are forming for the year, and you young folks are welcome to covenant with MUUGs or UNIQUE. Way Cool Sunday School is refreshed after a holiday full of Summer Stars, and the Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Committee continues to search for programs that will enrich and enliven our religious education.

Toward the end of this month is the Jewish festival of Sukkot, which honors the protection of God while the Hebrews were wandering many years in the desert. Temporary shelters are built to illustrate the hospitality God, the blessings of simple necessities. Inside, people celebrate the ways we depend on the environment, community, and greater spiritual connection as we journey through our own lives. Please help us to build a sukkah on Sunday, Sept. 27. Then stop by any time through Sunday, Oct. 4 to learn more about this pilgrimage of spirit, share a simple meal, and offer blessings.

May we find many ways to meet you on your journey!

– Adrean Dills, M.Div., Interim Director of Lifespan Learning, re@uudavis.org, 530-753-2581 x204

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❖ www.uudavis.org → Events/Publications → 2015-16, September, Hospitality ❖

Sunday Worship

Hymn of the Month, "There Is a Love" by Elizabeth Norton; lyrics inspired by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker's words

September 6, 10am ONLY, *Costs of Living*; Jessica Clay; Lee Ann D'Amato, Worship Associate. Labor Day originated to celebrate the labor movement; it has now evolved to celebrating the end of summer and the chance to finally buy that item at a reduced cost. Let us explore this complex day, its history, and its relevance. We can be reminded of our values and how they pertain to where we spend our money and how much the workers of the world are paid.

Jessica Clay is a Starr King student who has a special interest in the issue of living wage. An interview with her can be found at <http://www.sksm.edu/2015/01/28/i-am-starr-king-an-interview-with-jessica-clay/>



September 13, TWO SERVICES 9:30 & 11:15am (second service is All Ages), Senior Minister, Rev. Beth Banks; Intern and Campus Minister, Laura Thompson; Lifespan Learning Director, Adrean Dills; Worship Leaders, Karen Klussendorf & Amber Harris Special Guests: Allegra Silberstein & Alannah Griesemer

Our Ingathering Water Communion service honors the shift in our lives to autumn. This year we celebrate with the Juuliebells, Sparks Choir, and an interactive story for everyone, *The Woman & the Wave*. We'll draw on participants from the congregation to make the story come alive.

Bring water from the place you found sustenance in the summer months. Every year we use this Sunday as a moment to pause and ask ourselves, "How have I changed?" The ritual is complete when we take the water we gather and bless our thirsty grounds. What part of our grounds will you choose to bless?

Following the blessing, gather for a reception to welcome our 2015-2016 Campus Minister and Intern, Laura Thompson!

Spirited Collection for TrevorProject.org - supporting LGBTQA Teens. *Make checks payable to UUCD, memo, Trevor.*

September 20, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, Rev. Beth Banks

The message for this service offers a deeply personal challenge that addresses how we open doors to others. Come to the service having imagined this fantasy: for one week you invite the first stranger walking past your door to come inside, share dinner and put their feet up in the easy chair. They may be the person delivering the mail, a skate boarder pulled by a dog, someone sifting through the recyclables, or the neighbor down the street you have yet to meet. What they have in common is that you don't know them, and you welcome them to your table. This week spans the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and we will begin our reflection with Hebrew Scripture.

Child Naming and Parent Dedication Ceremony: Joseph Marineau, and parents Erin and Mathieu Marineau

Special Collection: Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network. Checks to UUCD, memo YIIN. <https://www.facebook.com/YIIN.Group> (More details later in the journal under "Give")

September 27, 9:30 & 11:15am, *New Slow City*, Bill Powers. *New Slow City*, Bill Powers' newest book, is the personal telling of his attempt to live a slow and intentional life in one of the world's most fast paced cities – New York. Wondering about downsizing? Imagine living in a 350 square foot micro-apartment: people met, challenges faced, all inspiration for nourishing the soul and finding more heart and joy in our living.

Bio: William Powers is a best-selling author of Twelve by Twelve and the recent New Slow City. Also author of books on Liberia and Bolivia, Powers integrates personal strategies and real-life experience from his time in Latin America, West Africa, and NYC.



Reflect

The Committee on Ministry invites you to make the theme part of your spiritual practice: *True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person. Henri Nouwen has described it as receiving the stranger on his own terms, and asserts that it can be offered only by those who 'have found the center of their lives in their own hearts'.* — Kathleen Norris, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*

Attend

Hospitality at the Sukka: In this month, we are honoring one of the Sources of inspiration for Unitarian Universalism. The Jewish festival of Sukkot will be honored Sunday, September 27 to Sunday, October 4.

Beth and Adrean will be having an early picnic dinner in the sukkah (temporary hut) on Monday, September 28 before the Program Council Meeting. Beth will return on Thursday evening for dinner, too. You never know, staff or other church leaders might be found under the shelter of the sukkah during the day or evening. Any group, family or individuals are invited to experience hospitality as the host (first to arrive) or visitor (anyone who arrives after you do). Your role? Welcome, welcome, welcome. Whoever comes through the door, they are the person you have been waiting to see, and you want them to know it.

Want to contribute to someone's feast? You can leave some snacks in mouse proof containers that will be provided.

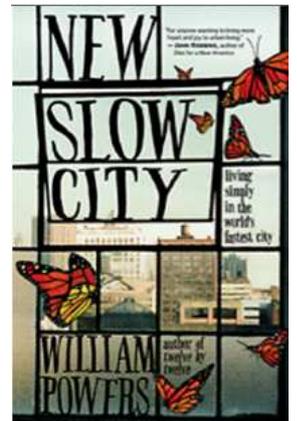
If you want to be a part of decorating our temporary structure, contact Beth or Adrean. Know that your contribution (written blessings, pictures, etc . . .) are a donation to the community who will gather over time.

Read

Live Well! Viva Bien! National best-selling author of *New Slow City: Living Simply in the World's Fastest City*, William Powers will give the keynote talk at a Cool Davis workshop "Living Well Today." His presentation includes insights from living and working in New York City and his current efforts in Bolivia, a country that in 2010 passed laws protecting the rights of Mother Earth and formalizing government policies on "vivir bien," the indigenous concept of "living well". Special guest Sue Barton will add a Davis perspective when she shares the local challenges and joys of simplifying life. Sue is a homeowner in Parkview Pl, the only LEEDS multi-unit building in Davis certified platinum.

The workshop, which will include slides, breakout groups, and refreshments, is 3-5:30pm, Sept. 27, at UUCD. The suggested donation at the door is \$10-20. Proceeds shared with the Bolivian community-based school in the town of Samaipata, "Flor de Montana", which focuses its education (K-12) around Mother Earth and furthering the principles of "vivir bien." Workshop reservations: <https://living-well-today.eventbrite.com>. Mr. Power's visit is co-sponsored by Cool Davis, the Green Sanctuary Committee of UUCD, Church and Society Ministry of Davis Community Church, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, and the Yolo Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice. The event is open to the public. — Judy Moores

<http://www.newworldlibrary.com/BooksProducts/ProductDetails/tabid/64/SKU/82393/Default.aspx#>



Act

Guardians of the Grounds: When you care for one area of our grounds, the earth welcome you, and you - in turn - help to welcome those who come onto our grounds, and feel the sacred care that has developed. Learn more about this program at worship Sept. 27, and join in!

Give

Special Collection: Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network. Checks to UUCD, memo YIIN. <https://www.facebook.com/YIIN.Group>

YINN is a group of people serving and advocating for immigrants in Yolo County. They believe that by working together, we can make our community a better place for all of us to live and thrive. You're welcome to attend a meeting and raise any item or issue pertinent to immigration or immigrants in Yolo County. Our activities and programs do not include or promote any religious beliefs nor do they advocate for any political stance.

Donate anytime: <http://tinyurl.com/DonateUUCD>

Listen

Download or listen online to edited Sunday services at www.uudavispodcast.org

UUCD Clergy & Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Elizabeth "Beth" Banks

(530) 753-2581 x 205, RevBanks@uudavis.org Full time. Day off: Friday.

Rev. Banks is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, originally from Duxbury, Massachusetts. She taught English to political refugees who had relocated to Spokane, Washington. Her work with cultural studies took her to South Korea, where she taught college level English conversation. She served for two years as an Interim Minister for Religious Education at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester. For nine years she was the Parish Minister at the First Universalist Church in Rochester, New York, and served as a campus chaplain at the Eastman School of Music. Rev. Banks has been at UUCD since August, 2000.



Intern and Campus Minister (Sept.-June): Laura Thompson

(530) 753-2581 x202, campusministry@uudavis.org Full time.

Laura Thompson is a graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She has a Master's of Divinity with a focus on pastoral care. She recently completed a chaplain residency program and is currently serving as the summer ministerial intern for Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance. Laura previously had a long career in food service as a chef and manager. The jump from chef to minister would not be as awkward as one might think, as Laura sees them as both vocations about nourishment. She still loves to cook and now engages it as one of her primary spiritual practices.



Time in Davis brings Laura away from her home in St. Paul, MN where she lives with her wife, Emily and their dog, Pip. Laura likes to spend her free time walking, listening to music and conversing with friends new and old.

Interim Director of Lifespan Learning: Adrean Dills

(530) 753-2581 x 204, re@uudavis.org Full time. Day off: Friday.

Adrean grew up in Billings, Montana and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. She has a Masters of Divinity from the Buddhist-inspired Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. She has worked in other communities as a lay minister for a Unitarian Universalist Church and as a spiritual care coordinator/chaplain for medical and hospice programs.



Adrean recently moved to this area when her husband took a position in Sacramento and they have attended, along with their young daughter, services and activities in our congregation. She is excited about becoming a part of our church community.

Religious Exploration (RE) Coordinator: Meghan Kelly

(530) 753-2581 x 204, re@uudavis.org Part time; primarily works Sundays.

I am very excited to be working with this congregation in this new way. I am a lifelong UU who believes this faith is a phenomenal way to grow up. I have previously taught R.E. and lead Coming of Age here in Davis. District wide, I help run and staff the middle school program, MUUGs, which hosts four retreats and a weeklong summer camp each year. I enjoy cooking, reading and exploring the world, especially through the eyes of young people. I look forward to getting to know you all better and helping this congregation grow and change.



UNIQUE Youth Group Director: Jacob Sacks (begins mid-October 2015)

(530) 753-2581 x 204, re@uudavis.org Part time; primarily works Sundays.

Jacob Sacks is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. After growing up in the UU Church of Fresno, he attended UCD from 2007-2011 where he was very active in the campus ministry. He also was involved in the church, assisting with various RE activities such as the Coming of Age



program. After completing his undergrad, he lived in San Diego, taught English in Spain, and returned to Davis in late 2014. This year he participated in the Spiritual Activist Leadership Training program, a young adult social justice program done through UUJM. He looks forward to deepening his church connection with involvement as a youth leader and as a teacher in the OWL program.

Music Ministry

(530) 753-2581 x 203, music@uudavis.org Part time.

Liturgist & Sparks Choir Accompanist: Nancy Lower (pictured furthest left) holds a BA in music from UC Davis and an MA from CSU Sacramento. She has taught at Sacramento City College for 35 years and has worked in church music programs for 25 years. A conductor, pianist, and singer, Nancy has been integral to our music program for over a decade.



Sparks Choir Director: Laura Sandage (pictured center) holds a BM in voice performance from UOP, an MA in French Literature and PhD Candidacy in Comparative Literature from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her work as a community musician in Davis since 2001 includes songwriting, performing, recording, composing and directing. She has taught music and theater skills at all age levels, and has brought music and playful group process into camps, spiritual retreat settings, workshops, and worship. She currently sings with the Vocal Art Ensemble and directs the Free Range Singers. A UU since 2011, she is also a practicing Shambhala Buddhist.

Juuliebells Handbell & Handchime Director: Barbara Meixner (pictured furthest right) earned her BA and MA degrees in music from Mills College in Oakland, California. She studied harmony, counterpoint, composition and orchestration with noted composers Morton Subotnick, Luciano Berio and Darius Milhaud. She began attending UU services in September 1992 and became a member in 1998. For most of her adult life, Barbara has been a professional Suzuki piano teacher and arranger of accompaniments for much of the Suzuki piano repertoire. Since January 2010 her focus has been leading and arranging music for the UUCD Juuliebells Handbell and Handchime Choir.



Congregational Administrator: Mandy Dawn Kuntz

(530) 753-2581 x 203, office@uudavis.org

Full Time (M-F, 9am-5pm); Office hours 9am-3pm, Monday - Thursday.



Accounting Manager: Jennifer Johnson

(530) 753-2581 x 203, bookkeeper@uudavis.org

Part time: 10am-5pm Monday (works from home);
10am-5pm Wednesday; 9am-4pm Thursday.



Facilities Manager (Buildings, Grounds, Rentals): Chris Hendrix-Chupa

(530) 753-2581 x 203, cell (530) 383-0890, facilities@uudavis.org

Half-time.
