### Sunday, January 7

**Leftovers.** Though not consumed immediately, these morsels can be saved for a delicious meal in the future. They may also become a curse haunting us from the back of the fridge, taunting us to eat or throw away. Rev. Neal will suggest recipes for managing and thriving with the leftovers in our lives. No, not the food but the hurts, disappointments, and regrets, that we all collect in our metaphorical refrigerators. Rev. Neal Anderson will lead this service.

### Sunday, January 14

**Truth and Reconciliation.** Rev. Leslie Takahashi and Neal Anderson will lead this service to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the modern leadership of Rev. Dr. William Barber who is recreating the Poor People's Campaign.

### Sunday, January 21

**Humility for "Smart" People.** We live in a world plagued by the secret cost of shame, in which people are told to build themselves up and to think positive. How does the ancient practice of humility allow us to find a better balance and engage ourselves with reason and realism. This is the second in Rev. Leslie Takahashi’s series of "Do-It-Yourself” Virtues for these troubled times.

### Sunday, January 28

**Service of the Living Tradition.** Join us for this service in which we honor births, deaths, and members in our congregation. Led by Rev. Leslie Takahashi and the ministry team. This service will be followed by our Congregational Meeting.

## John McCutcheon at Devil Mountain Coffee House Saturday, January 6

One of our most respected and loved folksingers, John McCutcheon is also a virtuoso fiddler, and guitarist and master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammered dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed globally by critics and singers alike, and his 35 recordings have garnered every imaginable honor, including six Grammy nominations.

$30 suggested donation ($5 for children 6-15, under 6 are free) Cash or check only at the door (No one turned away for lack of ability to pay. Sliding scale tickets available only at the door.) Show: 8:00 p.m. Doors: 7:30 p.m.

## An Evening in Transylvania Hungarian Dinner January 20, 5:30 p.m.

Come join the fun at the MDUUC Partner Church Committee Hungarian Goulash Dinner (or vegetarian alternative) Saturday, January 20, 5:30 p.m. at MDUUC to support scholarships for students from our partner church in the village of Erdoszentgyorgy, Transylvania to attend one of the two Hungarian high schools in Romania.

There will be slides of Transylvania and narrative by Zackie Vinczen, recent Starr King School graduate who spent three weeks this summer in Transylvania, now a part of Romania but once a part of Hungary. Children from the Hungarian School which rents space from MDUUC on Saturdays will perform Hungarian dances.

Suggested donation is: adults $35; children under twelve $10. For questions, or to offer help, contact Aki Ramussen at aki@mduuc.org. Sign up for the dinner online at [https://goo.gl/Ze8pwj](https://goo.gl/Ze8pwj)
Dear Members and Friends,

Please join us for a free workshop with author Paul Kivel, who will be presenting material from his book Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Social Justice, now in an updated and revised fourth edition.

Paul will offer a framework around neoliberalism and interpersonal, institutional and cultural racism, along with stories of resistance and white solidarity. This workshop will provide practical tools and advice on how white people can work as allies for racial justice, directly engaging the participant through questions, exercises and suggestions for action.

About the Author:
Paul Kivel’s work grows out of four decades in community education, engaged parenthood, political writing, and practical activism, all focused on one overriding question: How can we live and work together to nurture each individual and create a multicultural society based on love, caring, justice and interdependence with all living things? Kivel is part of the group that started SURJ Showing Up for Racial Justice and a leader in the anti-racist movement.

This workshop will serve also serve as an opportunity to organize a chapter of SURJ in Central Contra Costa County.

SURJ IS A NATIONAL NETWORK OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ORGANIZING WHITE PEOPLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE.
Through community organizing, mobilizing and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.

Leslie's Logos

January 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

The least discussed of our Make It So goals is the one to live our values. And it is my favorite goal and the one that I feel is most important for it allows us to practice the wonderful art of imperfection.

As 2017 (a year with its share of imperfection) makes way for 2018, we can practice being what we want to see more of in the world. How do we do this? Well, it depends on our own vision for a better world.

If we want more peace, we can be more peaceful.
If we want more kindness, we can be kinder.
If we want more truth, we can be willing to tell more truth.
If we want more thought, we can be thoughtful.

One of my great aspirations as we continue our work towards being a place that experiences moments of Beloved Community is that we find ways to learn and make mistakes together. That the activities, commitments, policies, procedures and ways of being that make up the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church can be practiced, however imperfectly, in the ways we gather and serve and worship and relate. For the truth about a community of faith is that we hold the hope and aspiration for a future we have yet to know. And since we have yet to know it, we need to practice what it is and learn the skills to make it real in the world. Through our mistakes and our yearnings, our quests and our experiments, and especially through our willingness to learn from what we don’t know, we can grow.

Grow and be the ones to Make It So.

Look forward to living, growing and being what we believe together in 2018.

Happy New Year!

In faith, Leslie
A Message From Rev. Neal Anderson

It is my hope that each of you experienced some of the blessings of the season. It is appropriate that we are reminded of the Christmas story of an expectant family wandering and worrying about finding a place to rest after a long journey. This story of the unexpected blessings of the spiritual practice of radical hospitality calls us to consider our own commitments to the practice. On January 28th the members of the congregation will gather for a congregational meeting. On the agenda will be an opportunity declare our intention to accept a request for sanctuary from a person who is an undocumented immigrant in immediate risk of deportation. In this time of significantly increased anxiety for immigrants, including many long time residents of the US whose children are citizens, as they witness increased arrests (interior arrests of immigrants who have no criminal record has nearly tripled this past year), we ask ourselves what we are prepared to do to uphold our UU values and offer solidarity. You are invited to be part of the conversation that the Sanctuary Task Force is engaged in prior to the vote. The next opportunity will occur at 1:00 p.m. on January 7th in the OWL Room.

Our congregational meeting on January 28th will also offer the congregation the opportunity to declare our solidarity and support for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and Black Lives Matter (BLM). BLUU emerged out of black peoples organizing around the declaration that #BlackLivesMatter and subsequent grassroots organizing. Reading BLUU’s history, their organizing began at a July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, OH. Unitarian Universalists attending the Convening gathered in Cleveland and established the BLUU Collective.

BLUU is interconnected with organizing for Black Lives that has evolved in many forms, just as all UUs organize within and without of our congregations on many issues of justice. Black Lives Matter, rather than a traditional organization with by-laws and an executive, is the articulation of a global aspiration that has for too long not been true. People have been moved to organize in a diversity of ways to make the statement Black Lives Matter true. As we anticipate our vote, may we ask ourselves how we commit to the work in the world necessary to make the statement “Black Lives Matter” true.

A Message From Intern Minister Natalie Malter

So what can we do for ourselves in times such as these? While the holiday season can focus so heavily on the exchanging of material gifts, I feel as though the greatest gifts we can give now are those of presence and compassion. Although there is so much in this wild world that is frustratingly beyond our control, we can control how deeply we love each other and ourselves. As you move through this season, remember to be gentle with your spirit, to breathe deeply, and when possible to seek joy in the small and unexpected moments of connection and warmth amidst the cold of winter.
Update from the MDUUC Accompaniment Team:
By Mary-Helen Binger, on behalf of team members.

In June of 2017 our congregation approved the formation of an MDUUC Accompaniment Team to address the social justice concerns of treatment of immigrants seeking asylum this country due to threats of violence in their home country.

I initially joined this team as a way of learning directly about this problem, which so divides our country, yet involves many of the values of UU that drew me to MDUUC 5 years ago. My role on the team so far is to provide update to the congregation and organize gatherings of MDUUC members to meet the team members, and those we accompany through this process. Some team members who visited immigrants detained at the West County Detention facility in Richmond have been disturbed by the treatment of individuals, charged with no crime and representing little risk to public safety (or law enforcement) who are nevertheless detained as prisoners for months or years, without due process, forced to work for months with no pay, or access to legal aid necessary to navigate our very difficult immigration system.

The MDUUC Accompaniment team now has an immigrant to walk with. He is Justine Esomonu from Nigeria, West Africa.
You will have opportunities over the next few months to meet Justine, hear his story, and get acquainted with the process of applying for asylum in this country of ours.

STOP! Don’t read this hard copy - read the Beacon online!

Just send an email to publications@mduuc.org and ask to be taken off the mailed Beacon list. If you choose to continue to receive a hard copy, please send $15 to cover the cost of mailing. You can put it in the plate with a note, or drop or mail a check to the office.

Online you will receive the Beacon in color. To access it go to MDUUC.org/news/newsletter.
Try it - you’ll like it. If you must have a hard copy, why not print it out on your computer?

January Ministers’ Classes

Sunday Salon - Encountering Hope
January 14, 1:00 p.m. -Sanctuary-
Justice Unfurled - The Worth and Dignity of Every Person - Without Exception
January 17, 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary
Awakening Joy

Awakening Joy explores the principles and practices that bring us more peace, well-being and happiness. The program is Buddhist-based and backed by the findings of neuroscientists. We will use James Baraz’s book, “Awakening Joy: Ten Steps that will put you on the Road to Real Happiness” as our guide. The ten steps we will focus on are:

Intention, Mindfulness, Gratitude, Finding Joy in Difficult Times, Integrity, The Joy of Letting Go, Loving Ourselves, Connection with Others, Compassion and The Joy of Being. The format for each class will include guided meditations, readings, discussion questions, tools to us to create more joy in your life, sharing, connecting, and singing.

The ten session class will be held every other week on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 in the Children’s Chapel starting on January 16th and ending on May 22nd.

The suggested donation is $20.00 and the Facilitator is Joan Redding.

Thank You from Shelter Inc.

Thank you for being part of the SHELTER, Inc. community, for choosing to partner with us in making a difference for families in Contra Costa County. Thank you for entrusting SHELTER, Inc. of Contra Costa County with your generous donation in the amount of $844.00. I can assure you that your donation made to support Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter will be used responsibly and effectively.

It is because of your generosity, and the generosity of others like you, that SHELTER, Inc. is able to work effectively towards our mission: You are helping us prevent and end homelessness for low-income, and disadvantaged families and individuals by providing housing, services, support, and resources that lead to self-sufficiency.

Meet the Author and Book Signing:

"Sign My Name to Freedom",
By Betty Reid Soskin
(the oldest U.S. National Parks’ Service Ranger).
Sunday, February 25, 2017 1:00 p.m., Bortin Hall
Betty is currently working as an interpretative ranger at the Rosie the Riveter National Historical Monument in Richmond “Sign My Name to Freedom”

Save the Date: March 11th
Is Commitment Sunday

It’s 2018 - another new year and thoughts of MDUUC’ers naturally turn to .. what, exactly? Well, the following come to mind. There’s:

- The return of the sun and lengthening of the days. OK, that counts.
- The arrival of spring – warm days, green buds, flowers. All very nice, too.
- But what we absolutely, positively cannot overlook is:(you guessed it) COMMITMENT SUNDAY!! The service and big celebration afterward on March 11 when we affirm our love for and devotion to the church by making our pledges for 2018-19. Now, THAT is something to look forward to.

- So SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, March 11

Thanks from your Stewardship Committee

Vic Bogart will turn 97 on Jan. 10. You can send him a card at 1109 Golden Rain Road #1 Walnut Creek, CA 94595
**Beloved Commitments**

“Beloved Commitments” is a workgroup charged by the MDUUC board to develop an integrated plan to guide the congregation to Become Exuberantly Multicultural, as identified in the MDUUC 2020 Roadmap.

In the book, Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups, co-authors Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun describe “White Supremacy Culture.” Culture, they write, is powerful, precisely because it is ever present, but at the same time, so difficult to name or identify. They refer to characteristics that are “damaging because they are used as norms and standards...that can “promote white supremacy thinking. They are damaging to both people of color and to white people.” Three of these characteristics are:

- **Perfectionism** – little appreciation expressed among people for the work others are doing; little time, energy, or money put into reflection or identifying lessons learned that can improve practice
  
  **Antidote** – develop a culture of appreciation, create a learning organization, where it is expected everyone will make mistakes and those mistakes offer opportunities for growth

- **Sense of Urgency** – continued sense of urgency makes it difficult to take time to be inclusive, encourage democratic, thoughtful decision-making
  
  **Antidote** – leadership which understands that things take longer than anyone expects, discuss & plan for what it means to set goals of inclusivity & diversity

- **Defensiveness** – the organizational structure focuses on preventing abuse & protecting power rather than facilitating the best out of each person or clarifying who has power & how they use it
  
  **Antidote** – Understand the link between defensiveness & fear of losing power, face, comport, or privilege.

The authors list other characteristics of white supremacy culture to point out “how organizations which unconsciously use these characteristics as their norms & standards make it difficult, if not impossible, to open the door to other cultural norms & standards. Read more at: [http://www.cwsworkshop.org/PARC_site_B/dr-culture.html](http://www.cwsworkshop.org/PARC_site_B/dr-culture.html)

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**Save the Date!**

LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice Committee is at it again with “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL” on Sat, March 24, 5-8:30 p.m.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

What does it mean to “Make It So 2020”? Lofty goals or would you like to have a way to put them into action? If you answered YES to the latter, then keep those eyeballs reading. LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice Committee is at it again with “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL” on SAT, MARCH 24, 5-8:30 p.m.. Mark your calendar and get ready to dance! All you have to do is show up, have some fun with familiar faces and make new friends feel welcome. You’ll have a hearty vegetarian meal for a $10 suggested donation and then we’ll dance to some Eclectic World Dance Music with some Oldies and Motown thrown in for good measure. Percussion instruments for amateurs will be available to get the energy moving on the dance floor. There will be plenty of table room to sit down on the sidelines to eat and chat, but you won’t be able to resist getting pulled onto the dance floor with all the fun energy flying around.

In case you missed the successful launch of “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL” on Dec 2nd, there were lively board games happening. Awesome raffle prizes were given away during the evening. 56 people attended; 29 MDUUC’ers welcomed 27 visitors to our campus.

You will not want to miss the MARCH 24 dance! It is for ALL ADULTS...gay, straight, in between...heck, who cares! Marena will coordinate a separate, childcare dinner/activities for MDUUC kids only, up to 17 yrs.

FYI: You don’t need a partner for this event, but we won’t hold it against you if you have one!!! Now’s your chance to live your values and whoop it up in the process...if not you, who will?!!

See you in March...

Nancy Newhart, Chairperson, LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice Committee & “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL”
HATs OFF . . . . . . . . . THANKS:

★ To our Fall Religious Education teachers! Elsie Mills, Laurel Gaiser, Jana and Juan Contreras, Sandy Bonshahi, Ron Ahnen, Dave Hovey and Becky Iben.

★ To our OWL (Our Whole Lives) teachers! Garner Takahashi Morris, Julia McLeod, Will Dow and Mary Beth Spencer.

★ To our Coming of Age teachers and mentors! Lynn Gunney, Troy Yolchelson, Angela Canestraro, Elizabeth Dietsch, Peter Morse, Kathy Teplitz, Mary Ferrick, Ellen Sachtschale and Kelly Webster.

★ To our Craft Faire organizers! Elsie Mills, Nancy Falk, Kate Newkirk and Aurelia Faraday.

★ To our Tree Trimming volunteers! Garner Takahashi Morris, Heather Hsieh and Ben Meisel

★ To Scott Schrader for playing piano during tree trimming and during the craft faire, and for leading the kids in singing Christmas carols.

★ To all who helped create a great LGBTQ & FRIENDS’ “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL” – Potluck & Game Night (attended by 29 Members and 27 Guests):
  · Cynthia Krieger for graphics and lots of organization
  · Michelle Paquette for all the food shopping/cooking
  · Laura Zucker for organizing the music and donating her CD for the raffle
  · Elsie Mills, Kate Newkirk, Trudy Foote, Lianne Davis, Peggy Kern Payne, Mary Ferrick, Kate Newkirk and Rev. Neal Anderson all helped in many ways, from registration, to leading game tables, to clean up
  · Marena McGregor and Indigo Lewis for for childcare arrangements
  · Nancy Newhart for heading up this remarkable event!

And thanks to Michele Paquette, Bob Boster and Kathy Vail for the amazing cookie and cider reception on Christmas Eve!

HATs OFF! Honors, Accolades, Thanks! We encourage gratitude and appreciation throughout MDUUC. Send “short and sweet” admissions to thanks@mduuc.org.

Have You Noticed?
Facilities Committee Column

• We’ll soon have a new light pole in the middle of the campus that is expected to light up the area between the Bortin Hall/Sanctuary, Gilmartin and White Buildings. The permit has been approved and we will be scheduling the installation as soon as possible.

• At the January 6, 2018 Building & Grounds (B&G) Work Party, Laural Roaldson will be giving classes on how to prune fruit trees. We may not finish the pruning work in January, so the same classes may also happen at our February work party. If you come, please bring any hand pruners and/or loppers you have but mark them with your name so they will be returned to you.

• We need more help at the monthly B&G Work Party, so please consider coming. It’s the first Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. - noon. We have inside & outside jobs for everyone, no matter what your skill level is. It’s a great place to meet people and we’d love to see more teens and young adults. Come help, have fun with other good folk like yourselves and help save our church money by volunteering. Thank you for all you do for MDUUC.

A Message From Shelter Inc.

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It is because of your generosity, and the generosity of others like you, that SHELTER, Inc. is able to work effectively towards our mission:

You are helping us prevent and end homelessness for low-income, and disadvantaged families and individuals by providing housing, services, support, and resources that lead to self-sufficiency.

Next Month:
Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands at
Devil Mountain Coffee
House February 16 8:00 p.m.

The Open Women’s Group

The Open Women’s Group luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Bortin Hall. Our speaker will be Indigo Lewis, MDUUC Director of Lifespan Religious Education. Please arrive promptly at 10:30 and bring food to share for 6-8 people. All women are welcome. For more information, call this month’s facilitator, Shirley Thompson.

Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church BEACON
February Beacon Deadline: The next Beacon deadline is January 17 at 10:00.

Editor: Jean Wilcox
Mailing: Suzanne McPhee

Our Next Congregational Meeting is January 28th at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We will vote on the following items:

Endorsement of Black Lives Matter
MDUUC as Physical Sanctuary
Ordination of Natalie Malter
Confirmation of Ron Ahnen as Board Member

We will have a Congregational Forum on January 21st at 1:00 p.m. to discuss these important issues. Please join us for both of these meetings.

Mail: 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94596
Phone 925 934-3135
Office Hours Tues- Fri. 9:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.