**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**9:00 A.M. MEDIATION**

**9:15 & 11:15 a.m. Two Service’s Worship and Children’s Programs**

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**Sunday, March 4**

“Hinterland’s Who’s Who?” Rev. Neal spent the first 35 years of his life in Canada and first came to Unitarian Universalism as a young adult in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This Sunday, he will share stories of Unitarian Universalist and Canadian history and explore some cross-cultural experiences of a Canadian doing UU ministry in the USA. How is the expression of faith impacted by the places where we come from?

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**Sunday, March 11**

**One Service at 11:15: “Strong Roots, New Buds”** with Revs. Mary Katherine Morn and Leslie Takahashi. Join us for this special service on Celebration Commitment Sunday. We will have both our band and our choir and our children’s choir as well! The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn is the Director of Stewardship and Development and Special Assistant to the President for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Mary Katherine’s passion for fundraising arises from her belief that ministry is the work of unleashing the best we have to give—and though we sometimes forget it, unleashing financial giving is what makes much of the rest of the ministry possible. Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

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**Sunday, March 18**

“Legacy”. Author Stephen Cave says there are four kinds of legacies which we can leave, an important concept in our “living tradition” when we nurture new growth as offshoots of the deep roots and strong trunk of those who have come before. We will reflect on legacy, tradition, change and how we best prepare ourselves to nurture new buds. Rev. Leslie Takahashi will lead this service.

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**Sunday, March 25**

“Faithful? Who Me?” Does the idea of faithfulness have any traction for us as religious liberals in 2017? What does it mean to be faithful when we don’t all believe the same thing and when we don’t all agree on how we connect to what we believe in? This service will include a service of renaming for those gender-queer, gender-questioning and transgender folk who have claimed a new identity out of faithfulness to who they are. Please contact leslie@mduuuc.net by March 20 to be included. This is part of Rev. Leslie Takahashi’s DIY Virtues series, looking at traits once valued which have fallen out of favor in our times.

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**Celebration of Commitment Sunday**

**March 11 at 11:15**

Special service at 11:15 a.m. with Guest Preacher Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

Pizza lunch and fun following the service

Bouncy house, popcorn and more fun for families!

Music and merriment

Dedication of our new Black Lives Matter banner

Carpooling competition for the neighborhood networks (see inside)

And most of all a chance to pledge your support for our community for the 2018-19 program year.

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**Time for FELLOWSHIP at our Annual Dinner**

**Saturday, March 3 at 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Come join your community for a potluck dinner, a bit of entertainment and frivolity. If you are a new member or even if you’re not, take this opportunity to meet some of your fellow UUers. There will be entertainment and childcare. Special tables will be available for new members, young adults and families. If you would like to join either of these tables, please identify yourself as such to the Greeters at the door

**PLEASE BRING POTLUCK ITEMS BY LAST NAME:**

If your LAST NAME begins with A or B or C

Please bring: FINGER DESSERTS like BROWNIES

If your LAST NAME begins with D - Z

Please bring: MAIN DISHES, SIDE DISHES, SALADS
Dear Members and Friends,

Seen any beakers in the Sanctuary? Test tubes in the Children’s Chapel? I ask because I know we have been doing some good experimenting in the laboratory of the congregation in this first year of implementing our Make It So 2020 goals. I think about it that way often, that what we do together is a good practice and experimentation for other aspects of our life. We might take on being a leader if we have never led before or in an area in which we have never led before. We might try to allow others to offer guidance, comfort or support if that is something that we have never experienced before. We might practice new nurturing practices to sustain our health and breath in these troubling and demanding times. We might experience renewed trust in a democratic process, especially one that is done within the deep work of Covenant as a way to reassure ourselves that the democratic principles that are so important to so many of us are not gone but simply need revamping for new times. We might try listening to new truths, or to new voices that we have not ever been able to hear before.

As we enter into the last quarter of this program year, I am awed by the places we are experimenting and trying things on. Some of our experiments have gone well and others have taught us new lessons. I celebrate that we have had difficult conversations and done so in a manner that is respectful and covenantal. I honor that those of us who have stayed in conversation with one another have been able to learn from one another’s points of view. I celebrate that we have welcomed brilliant new folks into our ministry team, especially Rev. Neal Anderson and Indigo Lewis, our devoted new Director of Lifespan Religious Education. I honor that we have a renewed commitment to stewardship to be sure that these new people and their wonderful families will continue to settle in well. I am pleased that we have welcomed back Jen Marsh to take our communications to the next level. I celebrate that we have expanded or options for living our values, for serving our families, and for being exuberantly Multicultural. And I celebrate that we are more clearly speaking of our need for continued and expanded stewardship with new ways to give time that fits today’s schedules and reminders that dollars help support all that we do.

So many gather each week. For worship, learning, restoration of the spirit, to learn how to resist injustice and live our values, for community and care and fellowship. We live in times of great ferment and change and we hold the seeds which remind us that much hope is amid the buds, with our strong roots holding us. I celebrate this community of memory and hope and its commitment to being an imperfect and yet implacable, resilient and renewing, aspirational and inspirational.

Please come and Celebrate on Commitment Sunday March 11.

In faith,
Leslie

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“\[When first visited MDUUC, it was just one person who made all the difference, they greeted me and made me feel welcome.\]” — Many members who claim this as their experience.

On Sunday, February 4th Rev. Leslie and I hosted a gathering of people at MDUUC who have a special responsibility for radical hospitality here, our greeters, ushers, and coffee ministry folks. During our time together we asked, “What are guests looking for when they enter our doors?” and “Why do people come to us?” It has been my experience over the past 10 years as a parish minister that more often than not people come to church during a time of transition in their lives. They are feeling unmoored for a time and are hoping to make new connections and find spiritual practices that will sustain them. It is the responsibility of our religious community to offer each of these seekers a warm and loving welcome and to ensure that the visitor understands that their presence, engagement and gifts are desired. For it is in each person bringing their whole selves to the life of this community that we not only transform ourselves but also the world and fulfill the mission that we have cast for ourselves.

At the centre of the spiritual practice of radical hospitality is love. May we open our hearts to the other and practice opening the door to hearing their stories so that we might deepen our own ability to love. It is important for all of us that we not leave the practice of radical hospitality to just those designated by their role. We are all greeters! We are all ambassadors for the mission and values of our religious community. Let us all see ourselves as greeters and each time we meet visitors and those discerning if MDUUC will become their religious home offer the warm embrace of radical hospitality.

Breath and Spirit - Saturday March 10 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A time to restore your spirit through gratitude, self-focus, and meditative practices. Join Rev. Leslie Takahashi and a group of wise teachers for a morning of healing and calming. In these times, focusing on ourselves and our own resilience and health is essential.
Greetings,
From the brand new to the reimagined, from the multigenerational to the multicultural, the last seven months has found faith development at MDUUC happening in many ways. Guided by the hard work of the LEAP Council, and the supporting committees of Adult RE, Children & Youth RE, Our Whole Lives & Coming of Age, highlights of the year have been both programmatic and in support of MDUUC’s Make It So 2020 priorities.

Within the container of programming for children and youth, we’ve tackled a wide variety of topics:
• Our Whole Lives sexual health education for 5th/6th graders and 8th graders
• A brand new Coming of Age program for 9th/10th graders that guides our youth into a deeper understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith as they discern their beliefs
• Topics of race, money, friendship, identity, beauty and what could constitute a “tool” of our faith have all been focus areas in our classes for Kindergartners through 7th graders.
• Once a month 1st-8th Chapel where we explore different ways of worshipping and experiencing the spiritual. Faith development happens in other ways as well, often in an all ages setting.
  • This fall we enjoyed Apple Pie Night, the Harvest Festival and the Blessing of the Animals service.
  • Over the winter holidays we had ornament decorating, tree trimming, a Santa Claus visit, the craft fair, and the family friendly Christmas Eve service.
  • A new Youth Leadership Team of seasoned high school youth and adult youth advisers working together to guide the energy and interests of the high school youth group.
  • Adult mentors who are helping the Coming of Age youth on their exploration of faith.
  • And, coming up soon, an all ages game night, the Easter egg hunt, and the family picnic.

Guiding our direction, of course, is the Make It So 2020 vision. This year we, the LEAP Council and Ministry team, are working towards 2020 objectives through actions such as:
• Assessing teacher recruitment approach to ensure we have great teachers.
• Examining different models of Religious Education to determine what best supports our 2020 goals.
• Partnering with the committees of Membership, Social Justice & Place Council to integrate better integrate religious education within the whole life of the congregation.

I hope this snapshot gave you a flavor of what is happening in RE, but please always feel free to ask me questions on Sunday or shoot me an email if you’d like to know more.

Warmly,
Indigo
In this time of much anxiety and stress, we wish to offer restorative practices for the healing and wellness of your mind, body, and spirit.

**Wednesday, Mar. 7**
Vespers, 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Saturday, Mar. 10**
Breath and Spirit Retreat

**Wednesday, Mar. 14**
5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary: Harmony Singers. “Harmony Singers offers a song circle with easy, gentle calming songs and short, silent meditations. You are invited to join in the singing or simply allow the songs to relax and refresh your body, mind, and spirit”.

**Wednesday, Mar. 14**
Evening Song, with Jo Gelinas at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Saturday, Mar. 17**
A second program with Linda Russell offering "A Light Conversation With Death" at 10:00 a.m. in the Children’s Chapel.

**Wednesday, Mar. 21**
Vespers, 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday, Mar. 21**
“Monkey Mind, Meditation, and Haiku” led by Suzanne Lofquist focused on quieting the restless mind while reading and writing various haiku.

**Wednesday, Mar. 28**
Centering Prayers in the Unitarian Universalist Tradition. 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Led by Rev. Leslie Takahashi

If you are planning to attend a Wednesday evening event please consider joining the community Dinner in Bortin Hall at 6:30 p.m.

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**Save the Date!**

**Natalie Malter’s Ordination Ceremony**

**Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.**

Join the MDUUC community to celebrate the ordination ceremony of our current Intern Minister, Natalie Malter. The ceremony will begin at 4 pm in the Sanctuary and will be followed by a reception in Bortin Hall.

Sally Edgerton, Nancy Newhart, Hisako Tanaka, and Arliss and Art Ungar are serving on the Ordination Planning Committee. There will be many different ways to contribute to this special occasion for all who are interested in helping out. More information about volunteer opportunities will be forthcoming.

Beginning soon the Ordination Planning Committee will be raising money for the ordination fund after services during coffee hour. The money donated to the fund will help cover the costs for travel and lodging for out of state ministers as well as decorations and food among other expenses. If you have questions please contact a member of the Ordination Planning Committee or email Natalie Malter at intern@mduuc.org.

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**All Ages Game Night**

**Saturday, March 17**
5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bortin Hall

Please join us for a family friendly, all ages game night in which we will share our favorite games and a potluck of our favorite foods!

We will both have games available and encourage you to bring games that can be enjoyed by a variety of ages.

JENGA, LIFE, SORRY, BINGO, CARDS, SETTLERS OF CATAN, KILLER BUNNIES

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**Upcoming Young Adult Events at MDUUC**

**Saturday, Mar. 3** - MDUUC Fellowship Dinner at 5:00 p.m. in Bortin Hall. Aurelia Faraday and Intern Minister, Natalie Malter will be hosting a special table for Young Adults at the annual Fellowship Dinner.

**Saturday, Mar. 10** - MDUUC Young Adult Retreat from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Bortin Hall-- Come spend the afternoon connecting with other young adults and getting to know new friends! There will be time for contemplation, meditation, conversation, art and crafts, and snacks. For more info contact intern@mduuc.org

For more info about the Young Adult Group at MDUUC? Please contact Intern Minister, Natalie Malter at intern@mduuc.org.
LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice Committee is at it again with “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL” on Saturday, March 24, 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

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 Saturday, March 24 from 5:00 - 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.

You will not want to miss this March 24 dance! It is for ALL ADULTS…gay, straight, in between…heck, who cares! Childcare available RSVP by March 19 to childcare@mduuc.org

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 on the 24th!

Nancy Newhart
Chairperson, LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice Committee & “MAKE IT SO SOCIAL”
Neighborhood Network Carpooling Competition

Did you know that all church members are assigned to a Neighborhood Network based on the area where they live? The hope is to foster connection between neighbors and to give people opportunities to share rides and meals together. For Celebration Commitment Sunday on March 11, there will be a special competition to see which neighborhoods can do the most carpooling. You can get to know someone new and help out the environment by reducing the number of cars on the road (and in our church parking lot)! On Sunday, March 11, we will collect information about who carpooled to church, and the Neighborhood Network with the most people carpooling will win a fabulous prize. What a fun way to get to know your neighbors, help the environment, and improve parking access at church! Visit Bortin Hall after church services to see the map of neighborhoods and find people in your network! Email Intern Minister Natalie Malter at intern@mduuc.org with any questions.

March B&G Work Party Class

Laural Roaldson is continuing her classes at the B&G Work Party, Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - noon.

Her topic this month is “Tree root collar excavations and drip irrigation repairs”. Anyone is welcome to join; they’re free! Bring work gloves and wear clothing fit for working on a hillside and possibly mud. For March, if you have any of the tools listed in the facilities column, please bring them. Remember to mark them with your name so they will be returned to you. Look to future weekly emails, order of service and the next Beacon for more details about April and May classes. THANK YOU, Laural and all!

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?

Devil Mountain Coffee House Alex DeGrassi and Andrew York Duo
March 16, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

With roots in seemingly different traditions de Grassi, getting his start as a self-taught folk and jazz musician and York as a trained classical guitarist, their mutual passion for exploring all types of music has led these two acclaimed composers/performers to find a common ground where steel-string and classical guitar interact seamlessly.

Juxtaposing original compositions, improvisation, and unlikely arrangements of just about anything, this collaboration is sure to delight!

“Alex de Grassi is a treasure… his technical wizardry as well as his vibrant and poetic music-making make him one of the most distinctive steel-string guitarists performing today.” – New York Guitar Festival director David Spelman.

Andrew York is one of today’s best loved composers for classical guitar and a performer of international stature. His compositions blend the styles of ancient eras with modern musical directions, creating music that is at once vital, multi-leveled and accessible. Andrew received a GRAMMY as a member of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet during his sixteen years with the cutting-edge ensemble.

$35 suggested donation
($5 for children 6-15, under 6 are free)
Cash, check, credit card, Apple Pay, or Android Pay at the door.
(No one turned away for lack of ability to pay. Sliding scale tickets available only at the door.)
Full price tickets are available in advance.

***** SAVE THE DATE *****
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 12:30 – 2:30
CHILI – COOK-OFF
Some Like It Hot…or Not!
YES, IT’S COMING BACK! Raise $$$ and have FUN! Taste award-winning Chili entries. Vote for the best!

Enjoy homemade cornbread, the Margarita Bar, Specialty desserts, a kids’ menu, music, family fun, and more. Visit the Chili-Cook-off Table in Bortin Hall for more information.

WE NEED: CHEFS, $$$ SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS, JUDGES, AND YOU
Contact Peggy Kroll for more info
HATs OFF . . . . . . . THANKS:

Terese McGregor for her help with organizing the RE Closets

Dave Hovey & Johanna McShane for chaperoning the YRUU field trip to SF

Rowena and Alan McGregor, Peter Morse, Peggy Kroll, Joan Armstrong, Art and Arliss Ungar, Nancy Rivara for bringing Betty Reid Soskin to speak and read from her book on Feb. 25.

Don Green for assisting with the arrangements for our new membership photo directory, pictures for which will be beginning to be taken in April

Trudi Frazel for her leadership of the Worship Associates

Patricia Crazen and Carol Fiddler Hasse and the Pastoral Visitors for organizing the addiction workshop in February.

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

New Publicity & Calendar Forms

We have new forms and procedures for submitting information to publications and calendar for events, room reservations, Beacon articles, and announcements for the order of service and weekly email.

Please go to https://www.mduuc.org/instructions-publications-forms for information and instructions on how to submit your stuff.

We also have a new online version of the Beacon that at https://www.mduuc.org/the-beacon, where you will find links to more info, registration pages, more images and all upcoming events.

Pastoral Visitors Committee is looking for the following items to increase our pastoral visitors library:

1. Small Portable CD Players w/ wo head phones.
2. Head phone for portable CD Players
3. Books (Light, easy novels, self-help, inspirational) on CD’s.

These items are for our visitors to loan to our congregants who might be supported in listening to books. If you have any of these please feel free to contact one of the co-chairs of the committee: Patricia Craven or Carol Fidler-Hasse.

This donation would be greatly appreciated.

Have You Noticed?
Facilities Committee Column

• That there have been some small upgrades in the Bortin/Sanctuary Hallway bathrooms. The men’s is now sporting a taller privacy screen for, well, more privacy. And a grab bar has been installed in one of the women’s stalls for those who can use a bit more help to get up or down.

• That the co-chairs of the Kitchen Committee, Jaynese Davis, and Deb Dannucci, are working to make our main kitchen more useful. Some of the things they’ve done are to attach pot lid racks, clean and reorganize the side kitchen and shelves, purchase a new coffee maker and blender, and create a suggestion and request clipboard. THANK YOU, Jaynese & Deb.

• That we have three defibrillators; one in each of the main buildings. These are smart machines, using voice commands to fully instruct the user on what to do, and when to do it. No experience or medical background needed. An easy-to-watch training video is available here. Don’t be intimidated by it. You could save the life of someone you know!

• That there has been some digging going on? We’re working with Absolute Plumbing to determine the scope of our irrigation water leak problem so that we can fix it. More news to come.

• That Laural Roaldson is continuing her classes at the B&G Work Party. In March, the topic is “Tree root collar excavations and drip irrigation repairs”. In April, it’s “Weeding that really works and follow up tricks”. And in May, the title is “Fertilizing: Which types for which plants and how much”. Anyone is welcome to join; they’re free! Bring work gloves and wear clothing fit for working on a hillside or in the dirt (possibly mud). For March, if you have any of the tools listed at the end, please bring them. Remember to mark them with your name so they will be returned to you. Look to future weekly emails, the order of service and the next Beacon for more details about April and May classes. THANK YOU, Laural! March Useful Tools: Round tip or digging spade shovels, trowels, small picks, and hand pruners.

Shameless Advertising: 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 am–noon, with a break that includes coffee and food. 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 folks like yourselves and help save our church money by volunteering. We’d love to have you join us now and then.
Mail: 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94596  
Phone 925 934-3135  
Office Hours Tues- Fri. 9:30 a.m - 3:30 p.m.

Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist church  
55 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek CA 94596

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BOARD of TRUSTEES
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April Beacon Deadline  
Beacon deadline is March 22 by 10:00 a.m.

Ministers and Staff
Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Lead Minister  
Rev. Neal Anderson, Minister for Engagement & Justice  
Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, Community Minister  
Rev. Dr. David Sammons, Minister Emeritus  
Indigo Lewis, Director of Lifespan RE  
Chuck Rosene, Congregational Bus. Administrator  
Natalie Maller, Intern Minister  
Marena McGregor, R.E. Assistant & Childcare Coordinator  
Mark Tuning, Music Director  
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Tristan Thielman, Facilities Manager  
Worship Associates - worship@mduuc.org  
Board of Trustees - board@mduuc.org

Commitment Celebration Sunday  
Mar. 11, 2018  
ONE SERVICE 11:15 a.m.

• Only one service at 11:15 followed immediately by celebration  
• Talk by denominational leader: Mary Katherine Morn, UUA Director of Stewardship & Development  
• Extra parking, carpooling assistance, and shuttle service will simplify getting to the church  
• Lots of FUN AND YUMMY STUFF: Pizza, popcorn, playing, partying, music, magic & more  
• Dedication ceremony for our Black Lives Matter Banner

HOW TO STAY IN THE LOOP
• Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/mduuc/ and like our page!  
• You can also follow Rev. Leslie Takahashi on Twitter  
twitter.com/leslietakahashi @LeslieTakahashi.  
• The Friday email can be viewed at www.mduuc.org/news/newsletter/weekly-announcements/