SUNDAY SERVICES
9:00 A.M. MEDIATION
9:15 & 11:15 a.m. Two Service’s
Worship and Children’s Programs

Sunday, November 5:
Black Holes and Beloved Community. As we mark the week of another Election Day, many of us are in deep contemplation about how we can truly achieve Beloved Community—an ideal where all are honored, heard and held. As Unitarian Universalists, we are facing our own challenging conversations about race, deepened by those who stay engaged. How can we deepen our ability to hear differences among us as a step to being in an authentic exchange. We will take a collections for the Movement for Black Lives UU in response to a national challenge to increase our ability to serve UUs of African descent. Join Revs. Leslie Takahashi, Neal Anderson and Ranwa Hammamy as well as members of our congregation for this important conversation.

Sunday, November 12:
I Need to Breathe - I don’t think that I am the only one suffering from Executive Order disorder, the daily if not hourly dose of anxiety and despair brought on by the latest heartbreaking announcement from D.C.. Shortness of breath often accompanies these moments, as I wonder what it is I might do, often feeling helpless and afraid. I am asking myself, “How do I get my breath back”? This Sunday let us join together to explore possibilities for breath-giving in these breathless times.

Sunday, November 19:
Awakening to Hope. Jon Kabat-Zinn once said, "Little things? The little moments? They aren’t little." In a time when our nation is coming to terms with an epidemic of addiction in our midst, how do we cultivate awareness and a sense of our own power to make change by focusing on the seedlets of hope? Join Rev. Leslie Takahashi for this service.

Sunday, November 26: ONE SERVICE AT 10:15 a.m.
The Daily Challenges of Gratitude. In this season of Thanksgiving, we reflect upon that for which we are thankful and also on how gratitude is anything but an easy practice. Rev. Leslie Takahashi will lead this service which will feature our annual bread and cider communion.

Did you miss a service? Did you know our sermons are recorded and archived to watch later? Go to mduuc.org to learn more.

ServU 2017
“Our Biggest Social Event & Fundraiser of the Year”
Saturday, November 4, 2017

WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?
• Silent and Live Auction bidding on get-a-ways, gourmet dinners in home, tea parties, yummy lunches at Luna, Nick’s Seafood, Pomegranate, Bridges, Vino’s, Le Sen Bistro, and more.
• Take a look at Oscar night, SF neighborhood tours, concerts, museums, dancing, singing, music, and art!
• Be sketched in charcoal, enjoy specialty evenings, bocce ball, and game nights.
• Check out hikes, cycling on the Moraga trail, kayaking, and many other active events.
• Family and kids’ activities, landscape design, handyman services, tech support, home-baked yummies, cooking classes, and more.
• New “Wine Pull” game and your chance to Bid on the Raffle prize(s) you want.

NEW – NEW – NEW - Online Catalog Pre-bidding and Deadlines!
Go to https://mduuc.org and click on the ServU link. Bidding online is simple and fun! Online pre-bidding for ServU is extended to 12:01 a.m., Saturday October 28. Browse the auction catalog (new items added daily), get your questions answered, register to bid, and place your pre-bids.

IMPORTANT!
• In church bidding will still happen on Sunday Oct 29 – ONE DAY only. Get your early bids in now! Ease the hectic pace on November 4th.
• Bidding on LIVE AUCTION events, ARTISAN ITEMS, and RAFFLE can only happen at the ServU event.

GOOD EATS: No long buffet lines! Please bring hearty hot or cold appetizers or desserts (finger food only) to serve 8 and enjoy around cozy round tables.

ITEMS STILL NEEDED: Raffle basket goodies and wine for our Wine Pull (bottles valued at $15 or more). Drop them off - we’ll make them pretty! Please contact servu-committee@mduuc.org or visit the ServU table on Sunday.

Questions? Contact servu-committee@mduuc.org
Dear Members and Friends,

A source of joy and inspiration for me this month has been the morning stars. Up early as I often am, I have seen them in their morning beauty and it is a great pleasure. Stars remind me of both of how small each of us is and how vast life and the universe is. When I behold a star, I feel all the complexity and collision of these truths as if I am witnessing all the explosive power of a star’s birth. The vastness of truth is held in the fact that I behold celestial bodies, can even use them for guidance, though their light went out many eons ago. And I think about the fact that new light has been formed that we haven’t even seen yet and which will one day be a source of guidance.

As we approach another Election Day, we mark the passing of a difficult year. Within this year, many have felt their very existence threatened, many have felt as if who they are and what they cared about was being decimate, others have felt as if what they have worked for all their lives was being systematically dismantled. We talked a lot in the first weeks about the need to talk across difference and we thought we were talking about talking to folks “out there.” What we discovered is we need to learn to do this within our own religious community as well.

Rev. Neal and I will be thinking about other ways to make these conversations happen. What I appreciate are those who have spoken out directly about their truths or their discomforts, those who have “tried on” other perspectives and those who have been willing to accept that in this complicated and disturbing world, multiple truths are possible. I am heartened that with our willingness to stay engaged, MDUUC can continue to be a laboratory for the kind of multi-faceted dialogue we so need to model in our democracy.

Thanks to all who remain in the conversation! With gratitude and in faithful resistance, Leslie

Rev. Leslie Takahashi serves as the Lead Minister of the congregation. She can be reached at 925-943-3135 ext. 112 or leslie@mduuc.org

Join Leslie for Coffee & Conversation.
A Message From
Rev. Neal Anderson

As Unitarian Universalists we gather around the promises that we make, to one another and to that which we are most loyal and value. Given that covenantal relationship is foundational to our faith, Rev. Leslie and I, following the long established tradition of UU professional ministerial teams, developed a Covenant to guide our relationship and the sacred vocation of ministry that we share at MDUUC. A covenant is not a contract nor is it a unchanging document. A covenant is a living, breathing aspirational commitment that we are called to renew each day. A covenant cannot be compelled by consequences rather it is fortified by grace and forgiveness, particularly when we fall short, forget, flounder or just mess up.

Though each promise within our covenant is equally important, I wish to highlight my deep commitment to the continued success of Rev. Leslie’s shared ministry with you by agreeing to voluntarily leave MDUUC in the very very unlikely event the congregation forced Rev. Leslie to leave against her wishes. This commitment, which is routine in many covenants between lead and second ministers, is important to me as a clear and concise symbol of my loyalty to the congregations call of Rev. Leslie as your Lead Minister. It is vital for the success of our shared ministry that the congregation understand that I will not stay if Rev. Leslie is “pushed out”. This covenant becomes even more important given the differences in Rev. Leslie and I’s race and gender identities and how each of those identities have either been historically advantaged or marginalized. In witnessing multiple UU ministers and ministries I know that as a white male and straight identified person, I have privileges that UU ministers and people in general who do not share my identity are not afforded. I am blessed to serve the mission and vision of this congregation and to serve you all as part of the professional ministerial team as we strive to make our values real in the world.

Here is our covenant:

Covenant Between Revs. Leslie Takahashi and Neal Anderson

As colleagues in ministry and in serving together the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, we make the following covenant:

We will treat one another as colleagues and prioritize a respectful relationship.

We will engage in and encourage direct communication.

We will speak with one voice with the congregation and with congregants.

We will honor and affirm our respective ministerial roles with the congregation.

We will recognize and acknowledge the differences in power and authority awarded on the basis of race, class, culture, gender, etc.

We will check out our assumptions with one another.

We will make trust and a generosity of spirit foundational to our relationship.

We will ask for what we need.

We will care for, support and challenge each other.

We will abide by MDUUC Covenant of Right Relationship.

We will support each other in having a healthy life-ministry balance.

We will be mindful of our own personalities, styles, skills, and growing edges, and how those interact with the other’s for the sake of an effective and balanced ministry team.

We recognize that our ministries are linked and that if Leslie is asked to leave her position as Lead Minister against her wishes, Neal will voluntarily end his ministry as well.
Multi-generational Dance for Hope
Saturday, November 11th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Bortin Hall

Join Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church members, friends, and neighbors for a fun multi-generational dance! DJ Kaleo Ching will share music from around the world, including Caribbean, Electronic, African, Soukous, Funk, Hip Hop, Nuevo Flamenco, Middle Eastern, Fusion, and Rock. He will be joined by Mary Ferrick on hand drums. Suggested donation is $5 per person or $10 per family at the door, and proceeds will benefit the MDUUC Youth Group. Snacks will be provided. This is an alcohol and drug free event. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Restorative Practices on Wednesday!

Need a quiet spot in the midst of your week? Wednesday evenings may be the recharge you seek. We offer restorative spiritual practices at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. with the connection of our Community Dinner at 6:30 p.m. (The dinner is a light meal with vegetarian and vegan and gluten-free options for a suggested donation of $8/adult.)

Here is our schedule for November:

November 1:
5:30 Vespers, led by Intern Minister Natalie Malter
7:30 Guided Meditation with Rev. Leslie Takahashi

November 8:
5:30 Yoga as Practice with Rev. Leslie Takahashi

November 15:
5:30 Vespers led by Rev. Leslie Takahashi

November 22:
No gatherings for the holiday

November 29:
5:30 Vespers with Rev. Neal Anderson
7:30 Guided Meditation with Rev. Leslie Takahashi

You can get more information and sign up for the dinners at www.mduuc.org/news/events/.

Ministers’ Justice Unfurled Classes November 1st and 15th

Why is the Unitarian Universalist Association collecting money to support a historical gift to the Black lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)? Justice Unfurled will talk about the history of the Empowerment Controversies on Unitarian Universalism at our next Justice Unfurled gathering on Wednesday, November 1st. On November 15th, we will look at the Movement for Black Lives and how it began. Justice Unfurled is led by Revs. Neal Anderson and Leslie Takahashi and are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Did you miss Rev. Neal Anderson and Leslie Takahashi’s first class, “How Did the Unitarian Universalist Association End Up In A Conversation About White Supremacy?” If so, you can watch it here on the MDUUC YouTube channel:

https://youtu.be/yQrMSIJwtMM.

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?
Kitka at Devil Mountain Coffee House
Saturday, November 18, 2017 8:00 p.m.

Kitka is an American women’s vocal arts ensemble inspired by traditional songs and vocal techniques from Eastern Europe. A frequently occurring symbolic word in Balkan women’s folk song lyrics, Kitka means “bouquet” in Bulgarian & Macedonian.

A women’s vocal ensemble unlike any other, these sophisticated singers blend a contemporary sensibility with specialized vocal techniques that have been distilled over centuries. Using only the pure unaccompanied voice, Kitka creates a constantly shifting landscape of sound, pulsing with angular rhythms, where dramatic dynamics leap from delicate stillness to shattering resonance, and seamless unisons explode into lush, incomprehensible chords.

More than just a concert, an evening with Kitka unites vibrant music, enhanced by a subtly changing stage picture, compelling song introductions, and each singer’s warm rapport with the audience. Listeners are transported by a continuous unfolding of music that flows seamlessly from ethereal, contemplative pieces to rousing earthy rhythms.

This is powerful music by accomplished musicians who offer more than just exquisite execution—these women clearly share a passion for what they do. Kitka: joyful voices uniquely blended in exquisite dissonance and harmony.

$30 suggested donation ($5 for children 6-15, under 6 are free)
More info and tix: dmch.mduuc.org.

"Love, Loss, & What I Wore"
Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m. in Bortin Hall by Nora and Delia Ephron, directed by Jean Wilcox

The international hit comedy “Love, Loss and What I Wore” is a scrapbook of stories about unfortunate prom dresses, the traumatic lighting in fitting rooms, high heels, short skirts and the existential state of having nothing to wear. The framework is based on a popular book by Ilene Beckerman which delightfully links matters of life and love with matters of the closet. Accessorizing these tales — which are mostly comic but often sentimental and touching — are the mothers who disapprove, the men who disappear, the sisters who’ve got your back. Funny, powerful, and compelling, this play addresses all the important subjects: prom dresses, bras, purses, and why we all wear so much black.

Nora Ephron is best known for her romantic comedies and was nominated three times for the Academy Award for Best Writing: for Silkwood, When Harry Met Sally, and Sleepless in Seattle. Delia Ephron’s movies include You’ve Got Mail and The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. In writing this Drama Desk Award-winning play, the playwrights have been described as "literary alchemists expert at mixing the sentimental and the satirical and turning out something poignant."

So come and try this play on for size and perhaps re-live some of the life experiences that may be hanging in the back of your closet. Reservations may be made by email to jeanmar3@comcast.net. The $15 admission payable at the door (cash or check only) includes complimentary cookies and refreshments served at intermission. Wine will be available for a charge. Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Please note that, due to some mature themes, “Love, Loss and What I Wore” is not suitable for children.

New to UU or MDUUC?
The next Getting to Know UU Class will be held Saturday Nov 18th from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Bortin Hall.
This fun, interactive gathering will help you to learn more about this congregation and Unitarian Universalism. sign-up at the Umbrella Table. Refreshments? Yes!
Child Care? Yes! sign up or email neal@mduuc.org by Nov 5th.

DRUUMM Gathering For UU People of Color

Interested in learning more about the growing ministries for people of color in Unitarian Universalism? Curious about how you can create and be supported by programming dedicated to UUs of color? Join Rev. Ranwa Hammamy for an update on the work of DRUUMM. Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m. in the Oak Room. (This gathering is specifically for people of color - individuals of Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and/or Indigenous/First Nations descent).
MAKE IT SO SOCIAL
Dec 2 - Potluck & Game Night

“MAKE IT SO SOCIAL” is the name of the new, ROCKIN’ quarterly social group for ALL adults. It was created by the LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice Committee as a celebration moving toward MDUUC’s “Make It So 2020” goals to create an exuberantly, multi-cultural and identity diverse community where everyone feels welcome and included. Every quarter there will be a potluck and an activity.

The first one will be a Potluck & Game Night on Sat, Dec 2nd from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. in Bortin Hall. We invite you to bring your friends to come kickback (now that you and the relatives have finished your last bite of turkey leftovers!) and play some games and make new friends! BRING A HEARTY SIDE DISH to share for 6-8 people and if you have a favorite game to share, bring that along too (or play with ours). Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Suggested donation $5. Donations receive raffle tickets for some awesome prizes raffled throughout the night! No one turned away for lack of funds. Seating is limited, so RSVP online at: http://potluckgamenight.evenbrite.com or sign up at the LGBTQ & FRIENDS Social Justice table in Bortin Hall. We appreciate receiving your RSVP by Nov 24th so we can order the correct number of game tables to accommodate all players.

Looking forward to YOU being part of this successful launch of "MAKE IT SO SOCIAL".

Beloved Commitments
By Linda Russell

Hello, Beloveds! That is the greeting for the reminders and updates as many go through the 8-week UU Beloved Conversations course on race. That is the salutation that invites people to join us for our monthly movie night. That is the call to the members of the new Beloved Commitments Task Force, the Work Group charged with developing an integrated plan to become Exuberantly Multicultural by 2020. Creating Beloved Community is a powerful act, defining, and defined by, how we are with each other and all who come through our doors.

Inherent in the worth and dignity of everyone is the deep need to be heard and understood. When I hear some say, “I am not a racist,” I appreciate that, and I wonder, “Have you told anyone besides the people of color in your church community?” Have you said that to family when they express views that are uncomfortable to you? Have you said anything in your company’s discussions on hiring or your school district’s choices of whose story is told and how? If you are the parent of a bi-racial child, or a child adopted from another culture, are you teaching them to understand the realities, as much as the ideals, of race in America? We must open our collective lens to the realities outside our familiar. These issues impact all of us and what we bring to this Beloved Community.

As the Chair of the Beloved Commitments Task Force, I am honored to serve with Rowena MacGregor, Elsie Mills, Catherine Der, Pat Arthur, Aki Rasmussen and Rev. Leslie, as our Board Liaison. We will be developing ways to expand our congregational engagement on issues of race and will be approaching others (you!) at MDUUC for help as we continue to support our Beloved Community.

In Case You Haven't Heard...

The Mt. Diablo Peace Center has found a new home for its office. Since September first, their office can be found at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Carol Lane in Lafayette. We had a chance to support their on-going efforts on Sunday, Oct. 29, when we will dedicate our monthly Share-The-Plate to them (not to late for your check!). The center, which began as a committee of this church, is eager to maintain close relations with MDUUC and will continue to hold some of its programs here. We can take pride in having given birth to the center which is the voice for peace and justice in Central Contra Costa County and carries on an active program for causes we hold dear.

Board Buzz

The Board would like to thank all of those who attended the Congregational Forum on October 15th and the Congregational Meeting on the October 22nd. During that second meeting, we voted unanimously to designate Ranwa Hammamy as our newest Community Minister. Our members also overwhelmingly also passed a Resolution for Emergency Sanctuary for DACA recipients facing imminent deportation. We also began talks about if and how we will show support, as a Congregation, to Black Lives Matter. We have another Congregational Meeting on the November 19th, in which we will continue the discussions around BLM and Sanctuary. We hope to see you all there!
HATs OFF . . . . . . . . THANKS

★ To the inspiring and dedicated Fall Quarter RE Teachers: Elsie Mills, Laurel Gaiser, Sandy Bonshahi, Ron Ahnen, Dave Hovey, Becky Iben, Will Dow, Mary Beth Spencer, Garner Takahashi Morris and Julia McLeod

★ To Zach McShane for constructing a hat for Indigo an upcoming event.

★ To Lugh Baxter for accompanying the Children’s choir.

★ To Merry Nail who helped with Childcare during an on-site emergency.

★ To Joan Redding who gave the church a gift by bringing the Science of Happiness to MDUUC.

★ To Rev. Leslie Takahashi who will be the minister of the week at the Chautauqua Institute thanks to the advocacy of our member Kathy Harrick.

★ To all of those who donated to ServU and to Peggy Kroll, Jen Marsh and Peter Morse for providing the leadership for the event.

★ To Joanne Finn for her spirited guitar accompaniment to “There’s A Hole in The Bucket” in the service “There is Always a Previous Step.”

★ To Elsie Mills and Johanna McShane, gratitude for all their organizing help in Religious Education. And to Julia McLeod for offering a second OWL 8th Grade parent orientation.

★ To Zach McShane for constructing an apple pie hat for Indigo for the apple pie night.

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

The Beacon is MORPHIN'
The Communications Advisory Committee and Beacon Task Force are working on changes for events and article submissions. Submission will be more streamlined. Events and articles will be more accessible on the MDUUC website. Additionally, the look and electronic ‘feel’ of the Beacon will be changing. Look for smaller and bigger changes over the next few months.

(communicatons@mduuc.org)

THE HUNGRY-U
By Maria Rieger
History Committee

In 1962, early in the Gilmartin years, the Board and Minister were worried because the church expected income was short by an important sum...$1,200! The Finance Committee, at the time chaired by Bill Cage, struggled to find a way to raise money. Member Lillie Chase is credited with coming up with the idea of getting people who could dance and sing to conduct a sort of vaudeville review and sell tickets for a show. At the time there was a popular nightclub in San Francisco called the Hungry-I and Bill Cage came up with the idea of calling their event the Hungry-U. They would include an Art Auction, with art donated by members.

Their first event, on June 9, 1962, netted $550.- thus canceling almost a half of the church’s debt. But this was not accomplished without hard work and much enthusiasm displayed by church members. According to Beverly Scaff’s book “Sp great a Vision”, Lillie Chase recalled asking Marilyn Steenberg to bounce across the stage intermittently on a pogo stick. Marilyn agreed, then turned to her husband and asked: “What is a pogo stick?” People sang and danced who had never performed before and had to begin literally from scratch. Lillie Chase created the first Hungry-U and produced, directed, wrote the music, choreographed or performed in every one of them.

As Scaff writes: “This was the beginning of the longest running tradition in the history of the church. From 1962 to 1989, a period of 27 years, there were 28 Hungry-UUs. These shows turned many a shrinking violet into a star performer, provided hours of delight for our church community and enriched our homes with beautiful art work.” They also enriched the church’s finances.

Our History Committee wishes to highlight those significant events, still fondly remembered by our long time members. A small niche in the Hall Corridor, close to the entry to the Sanctuary, has been assigned to our Committee to contain displays. Our next display, coming soon, will hold memorabilia and programs of Hungry-UUs presentations. Stop by in your way in or out the Sanctuary to enjoy some memories of times past.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Malter, Intern Minister
Marena McGregor, R.E. Assistant & Childcare Coordinator
Mark Tuning, Music Director
Brett Carson, Accompanist
Larry Crummer, Accompanist
Publications Coordinator, Christian Melton
Tristan Thielman, Acting Facility Manager

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Steve Reyes, Sharon Solstice, Kathy Teplitz, Bill Yarborough, &
Lugh Baxter

December Beacon Deadline: The next
Beacon deadline is November 22 at 10:00.
Go to www.mduuc.org, and go to the Members Site and fill out
a publicity form

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Mailing: Suzanne McPhee

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Thanksgiving at MDUUC:
A Holiday Tradition

A wonderful way to spend a holiday. Bring a dish to share
and an appetite for good conversation. We will provide
the turkey and fixings. Can you help make this happen?
We need turkey chefs! And this year we can use some
good organizers and people with a welcoming presence to
make this happen. Sign up by November 15th so we can
gauge interest. Sign up available under the Connect tab at
mduu.org.

HOW TO STAY IN THE LOOP
• Find us on Facebook
  www.facebook.com/mduu/ 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/