# **July 2018**



A welcoming spiritual community advancing a positive message that teaches people of all ages and faiths how to thrive in a

changing world.

## Ministers' Message

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July has always been one of my favorite holidays, mostly because there are no holier-than-thou types telling us what we are doing right and wrong as we celebrate the day. There are always gadflies complaining that Christmas is too commercial, Thanksgiving is not thankful enough and Memorial Day is not solemn enough. But on July 4<sup>th</sup> we get to do as we please; celebrate in the way that seems most appropriate. In other words, freedom.

But for those who wish to ponder the philosophical and symbolic significance of the day, the best thing to do is to read the Declaration of Independence (even though it was actually passed on July 2, 1776, when the final wording was approved). In addition to being a declaration of independence from Britain, it was also a declaration of human rights as demonstrated by these words:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

So how, when it comes to living up to the high aspirations set forth above, are we doing in 2018? Many good arguments can be made that, when the founders originally said "all men are created equal," there were numerous exceptions and qualification lurking beneath the literal meaning of those words.

The language intentionally excluded women and the word "men" was understood to be tacitly qualified with the word "white." Equality has been a long struggle for people both here and around the world.

Fortunately, we have made progress and the rights of women, people of color and gay people are gradually being advanced. The challenge we face is in avoiding these twin pitfalls: declaring "mission accomplished" (all is well) or insisting that things are as bad



Revs. Mark & Karen Schindler Co-Ministers

or worse than ever (ignoring the real progress thus far).

There is ample evidence for the continued existence of injustice and inequality in this country. Statistics show that a fifth of the American population still believes that women should return to traditional roles, a tenth is opposed to interracial dating and there are more than three thousand hate crimes per year. We have made real progress and there is still work to be done.

This is especially important to remember in light of a tipping point that is approaching. Based on recent census population projections, white people will be a minority in America by 2045. According to the Brookings Institution: "New census population projections confirm the importance of racial minorities as the primary demographic engine of the nation's future growth, countering an aging, slowgrowing and soon to be declining white population."

How will today's majority be remembered when they have moved into minority status? What, bearing in mind that self-evident truth of universal equality contained in our founding document, will be their legacy? What examples of moral and ethical behavior will be passed on to the new majority? Are we setting a good example? Just some thoughts for consideration during our grand national celebration of freedom and equality.

#### Phone: 530-888-6489 Website: www.unityofauburn.com

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### **Special points** of interest:

- **Zephyr Point** Thanks
- Sisters Group: Frankie and Gracie & TED Talks

## Chaplain's Corner

### **GOOD-bye**



Therese Finn Chaplain

By the time you read this I'll have said goodbye to Unity of Auburn, my spiritual home for over 20 years. The past few months, as I've moved through the grief and stress of letting go and accepting change, have been a whirlwind of emotions. But now I've reached the place where I can focus more on the "good" than the sadness in goodbye.

As I look forward to a new chapter in my life, I'm immersed in gratitude for all the good I've received from you, my spiritual family—good that will continue to enrich my life wherever I am.

I'm grateful to Rev. Mark for opening my mind to new ideas and teaching me the value of challenging and questioning old belief patterns.

To Rev. Karen for her steady, wise guidance and leadership as my minister and, as a friend, her love and support.

To my chaplain team for giving so much of themselves in service and for being my soul sisters, confidantes and a never-ending source of inspiration.

To my congregants and everyone who has come to me for prayer. What a joy and honor it's been to hold sacred space with each of you.

To my Sisters' book study group for the wonderful combination of friendship, deep sharing and fun.

I'm grateful that Unity of Auburn is an accepting, safe place where I felt free to stretch myself and discover my strengths by being a facilitator, speaker, teacher, coordinator, and even an actress (thank you Margaret Main!).

Finally, I'm thankful for the hugs, Sunday services, potlucks, retreats, parties, variety shows, concerts all the ways we found to come together as a spiritual family. Being a part of Unity of Auburn has been one of the richest experiences of my life and the memories and connections I've made here will stay with me forever. Thank you all! (Or maybe I should I say Thank Y'all!)

With deepest love and gratitude,

Therese Finn



Mary Lou Banahan Youth and Family Leader

#### Unitots Sundays, 10:00 a.m. UniKids and UniTeens Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. Location: Youth and Family Ministry Wing

## Youth and Family Ministry

Dear Friends,

The summer months have brought young members to our children's ministry. It has been nice to get to know new young people and begin introducing Unity principles to them. Once again, I am touched by how fortunate these children are to learn such important lessons at a young age. We are enjoying the picture book lessons and discussions regarding how each applies to living life and to shining our lights. Blessings to these young people and their families!

Our teens have been busy enjoying their summer. I trust we will see more of them after school begins in August!

I appreciate the cool evening breeze as I write this letter. This morning I talked to my summer school students about enjoying the breeze and holding it in our minds to remember during the afternoon heat.

Cool Breezes and Blessings, Mary Lou Banahan



## Social Action

The Spiritual Social Action Team at Unity of Auburn is an umbrella organization encompassing all of our outreach events and activities that work together to make a positive difference in the world and support our vision which is to co-create a world that works for all. We ask members to support the Interfaith Food Closet. They will take extras from your garden. Drop them off at 12972 Earhart Avenue, Suite 301 (behind Pacific Power) Auburn, CA 95602 or call 530-885-1921.

# Ongoing Classes and Study Groups

#### 12 Step Meetings at Unity of Auburn **Noon Prayer** Monday through Thursdays, 12:00 Noon-12:30 p.m. Location: Upstairs in Church Office **Gold Rush Al-Anon Family Group** Mondays, 7:30 p.m. During Noon prayer we experience various types of Location: Manning Hall meditation: guided, mindful, or in the silence. We also hold the high watch for those who have placed their names and needs in our prayer chest and anyone you may Women's Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group be praying with. If you can't attend, pray with us (Women only; childcare available) wherever you are! Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. Location: Manning Hall **Yoga With Friends Primary Purpose Narcotics Anonymous** Mondays, 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Bring water and a sticky mat or feel free to use a chair Location: Manning Hall for gentle yoga. **Chaplain Prayer Circle** A Course in Miracles Sunday, July 15 at 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Our prayer circle is now on the third Sunday of the Location: Youth and Family Ministry room month. The chaplains will guide us in a 5-10 minute The course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, prayer practice focusing on using our Divine for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim, however, at removing the blocks to the awareness of strengths to transform our desires and intentions into love's presence, which is your natural inheritance. The physical manifestation. We will stand witness for opposite of love is fear, but what is all-encompassing can one another as we commit to take positive action. have no opposite. Open to all. A love offering will be accepted. Facilitated by Ruth Ackerman.

## Adult Education



Rev. Rick Reich

**"Spiritwind" is a study group for Spiritual Adventurers.** For the month of July at Spiritwind we will be doing a series on "Alternative Forms of Healing." In this series, we will be hearing a number of guest speakers who specialize in various healing modalities such as Reiki, Theta Healing, and various other healing forms. One of our presenters will be our own Marra P. Swan, a Reiki Master and teacher, with whom some of us here at Unity of Auburn have studied. Spiritwind meets every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at Unity of Auburn on 1212 High Street. *Love offering accepted.* 

### Women's "Creative Insight" Circle Saturday, July 21st 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Connect with other women for a day of sharing. Take some time for yourself to creatively play and explore in a safe, loving, fun and reflective environment. Let the creative woman who lives inside bring you insight and greater inner-awareness.

### July Theme: Finding My Power ... Embracing My Inner Dragon



Eat lunch at a local eatery, bring an addition to our community salad, or bring your lunch. RSVP to: Deborah at 916-652-7709.

Location: imagePathways Gathering Place 461 Main Street, Newcastle, CA 95658



Frontiers of Consciousness Monday July 23rd 6:00 PM

Why Buddhism is True Facilitator: Rev. Mark

The field of consciousness studies has expanded rapidly in the last 20 years; however, we seem to be no closer to finding an answer to the question of exactly what consciousness is and how it came to exist. In this class we will study the ideas and theories of leading experts in this fascinating field by watching video presentations followed by discussion.

We will continue to meet every fourth Monday until we have solved the "hard problem of consciousness." Actually, we will probably run out of material to discuss before that happens but who knows where this might lead?

In July we will continue with a series of talks given by Robert Wright, author of the new book *Why Buddhism Is True*. He explores the links between Buddhist philosophy and what we have learned about human consciousness through neuroscience and evolutionary psychology. The Buddha's diagnosis of the human condition and his prescription find strong support from those disciplines.

Thanks!

## Special Events

## Sisters of the Good

In July, we will begin watching the Grace and Frankie series. We will also celebrate July birthdays on the 11th. Once we finish the series, we will look at TED talks or other interesting Youtube videos for the rest of the summer.



All women are welcome to attend. A love offering will be accepted. No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.

A Big Thanks to the following people for making our Annual Zephyr Point Retreat such a success:

Sharon Hardie (Retreat Coordinator Extraordinaire)
Therese Finn (Pre-Registration)
Patty Davis, Elizabeth Rawson, Mercedes Breaux (Remarkable Chaplains)
Suzy Reynolds (Yoga Master)
Donna Wood (Check In and Out)
Elizabeth Rawson (Shuttle Service AKA Lizzie's Lyft)
Dawn Pace & Mercedes Breaux (Registration Packets)
Jon & Pixie Dufour (Rockin Music)
Attendees (the BEST!)

Mark your calendars for the third week in June next year and we'll do it again!







## Message from our Board of Directors

Have the new tax laws affected how you are setting your financial priorities and your choices as to how you will continue to support Unity of Auburn? We understand some of you may no longer have a tax advantage for charitable contributions.

Unity of Auburn keeps doors open and lights on with the Love Offerings of its congregation. Your Love Offerings are 62% of the 2018 budgeted income. This might be the right time to evaluate what Unity of Auburn means to you and how much it means in your life—how it fills your spiritual community needs and so much more.



Without the consistent financial support of the congregation, your Board of Directors will need to be proactive in its financial considerations and may need to make hard choices around what our future will look like. Unity of Auburn has no reserves to get us through the tough spots. Our thermometer is true to our current needs. \$8,900 a month is the Love Offering goal we must meet to maintain financial health. We are 5 months into 2018 and we've missed our goal to date by \$7,400. In May our Love Offerings were a total of \$6,000. Do the math. By the end of the year we are looking at an \$18,000 deficit.

Sharon Hardie

Our costs have been modified many times. The next cuts would guarantee Unity of Auburn could no longer meet its mission. We are on a constant search for additional income sources. We have maximized the income sources we have.

There is no magic here. We have no benefactors. It is in your hands. Please understand: To keep Unity of Auburn flourishing, your financial support is not an option. **IT IS A MUST**.

## Board of Directors



Staff

Shelley Rutherford.....President Justene Da Costa....Vice President Sharon Hardie....Treasurer Brennan Toohey....Secretary Russ Purvis....Member Edna Sparkes....Member Bill Mahl....Member Pat Lord....Member

**Board of Trustees** 

#### Unity of Auburn Staff

Karen and Mark Schindler	Co-Ministers
Lynn Liddell	Licensed Unity Teacher
Marra P. Swan	Licensed Unity Teacher
Mary Lou Banahan	Youth and Family Leader
Ken Kligerman, AFM	Keyboard/Piano

Unity of Auburn July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Celebration Service 10:00 am Youth and Family Ministry	2 Noon Prayer 4:00 pm Yoga	3 Noon Prayer	4 Independence Day <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5 Noon Prayer 6:00 pm Spiritwind	6 Office Closed	2
8 10:00 am Celebration Service 10:00 am Youth and Family Ministry	9 Noon Prayer 4:00 pm Yoga	10 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer 5:00 pm Sisters 6:30 pm A Course in Miracles	12 Noon Prayer 6:00 pm Spiritwind	13 Office Closed	14
15 10:00 am Celebration Service 10:00 am Youth and Family Ministry 11:30 am Prayer Circle	16 Noon Prayer 4:00 pm Yoga	17 Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer 5:00 pm Sisters 6:30 pm A Course in Miracles	19 Noon Prayer 6:00 pm Spiritwind	20 Office Closed	21 9:00 am Women's Creative Insight Circle
22 10:00 am Celebration Service 10:00 am Youth and Family Ministry	23 Noon Prayer 4:00 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Frontiers of Consciousness	24 Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer 5:00 pm Sisters 6:30 pm A Course in Miracles	26 Noon Prayer 6:00 pm Spiritwind	27 Office Closed	28
29 10:00 am Celebration Service 10:00 am Youth and Family Ministry	30 Noon Prayer 4:00 pm Yoga	31 Noon Prayer				

### Unity of Auburn

Offering practical, spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living!

1212 High Street Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: 530-888-6489 Email: admin@unityofauburn.com Pray with Silent Unity: 800-669-7729

### Join our Facebook pages:

Unity of Auburn Unity of Auburn Events Unity of Auburn-High Street Thrift and Gift

### Lessons and Soloists

#### July 2018 Talk Titles

July 1, 2018 Talk: Self Evident Truth Soloist: Elizabeth Gillogly

July 8, 2018 Talk: Life and Liberty Soloist: Brenda Boston

July 15, 2018 Talk: The Pursuit of Happiness Soloist: Clint Ritchie

July 22, 2018 Talk: A Global Perspective Soloist: Dennis Cain

July 29, 2018 Talk: Your Guess Is As Bad As Mine Soloist: Jon Dufour



The unity of freedom has never relied on the uniformity of opinion.

-JFK



**To donate:** Bring good quality clean items when the shop is open. *Reduce ... Recycle ... Reuse* Check us out on Facebook : Unity of Auburn - High Street Thrift and Gift Unity of Auburn 1212 High Street Thrift & Gift Shop

Hours Open: Monday—'Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm Sometimes Open Fri, Sat & Sun 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (*if* we have volunteers) We are in need of volunteers and donations! Sign up at Unity Central