



The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista United Church of Christ

February 2017

Melinda's Musings

You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it. – Maya Angelou

Back in the 80's I attended, and helped organize, a number of national marches to address the situation of HIV/AIDS, discrimination against LGBTQ folks, and for women's rights - especially a woman's right to choose. I've seen 500,000 on the mall in Washington. I've seen 700,000. And on Jan. 21, I saw over 1,000,000 women and men, old and young, of all nationalities, races, and religious affiliations peacefully gathered to remind the world that "women's rights are human rights".

The crowd was massive. It filled the approved and permitted route so fully that Colleen and I never even SAW the stage at all except via livestream on cell phones. Side streets were full and Pennsylvania Ave. (not even on the route and on the other side of the mall) was wall-to-wall people. We spent much of our time on the mall itself which was not meant to be used for the event, but ended it up completely filled by the overflow crowd. We kept moving west until some of the main crowd finally took to 14th street and we began marching and chanting as we moved north past the African-American history museum.



Photo from March

We followed a large group that turned left at Constitution and marched all the way out to 23rd where most marchers opted to visit the conveniently-parked food trucks in front of the Department of the Interior. Thinking we should also call it a day and find a Metro station, we started walking back toward the White House only to discover another massive march moving past the Old Executive Office building. We joined that march for several blocks and then opted to head

north again to Foggy Bottom to catch a Metro back to where we were staying with friends in Virginia.

So, "the march" on Washington was actually many, many marches running scattershot all over the District of Columbia with another 673 sister marches ranging from 200 brave souls in Amarillo, Texas to 750,000 in Los Angeles for a nationwide total of nearly 5,000,000 marching. It was by far the largest public demonstration in American, or world, history. Friends marched all over the nation and some friends I know were marching in Australia, London, Paris, and Tokyo. The old chestnut protest chant, "the world is watching" became "the world is marching".

It was also one of the most peaceful, yet determined gatherings I have ever attended. Kindness was the default of all those pressed together in the throng. The signs were creative and mostly handmade. For awhile we marched alongside a Muslim family from Afghanistan that was chanting "si se puede", the rallying cry of California farmworkers. We were moved by

the sacred silence of marchers from the Plum Village Mindfulness Community founded by Thich Nach Han and delighted to see InterPlay friends from across the nation bring their embodied wisdom to dance on behalf of the vulnerable and oppressed.

Unlike other marches, there were no fundraising buckets and very little “commerce” beyond food trucks and street vendors. Churches, synagogues, and theaters were wide open to give marchers a place to rest, use a real bathroom, and enjoy free food and beverages. First Congregational on “G” street NW, pastored by the amazing Sid Fowler, offered terrific hospitality on behalf of the United Church of Christ, the Potomac Association, and Central Atlantic Conference in its gorgeous modern facility built in 2011. It was a treat to see UCC colleagues from across the country including, our UCC voice in Washington, Sandy Sorenson. Sanitation workers the next day told the Washington Post that it was also one of the cleanest large events they had cleaned up after. Although trash receptacles were filled, marchers stacked trash and recycling next to the bins in neat, separated piles.

On social media I have repeatedly seen derogatory remarks about this march, not only from those who oppose women’s rights and the other issues addressed by the march, but also from some who bizarrely wonder why this group didn’t vote. Perhaps these massive marches should have happened sooner, but I’m pretty certain that anyone who would go to the enormous trouble of marching in Washington would also manage to go around the corner to vote.

Just as there were many, many marchers, each one of us had our own reasons for taking to the streets. For me, I marched because I felt compelled by my faith and practice to be counted among those who declare: #resistanceisfaithful. And since returning home have often felt myself humming this hymn by my friend Miriam Therese Winter as a fervent prayer:

O FOR A WORLD

O for a world where everyone respects
each other’s ways,
where love is lived and all is done with
justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and
misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle
with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our
vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the
foolish ones are wise.

Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God’s glorious
reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

*Words by Miriam Therese Winter ©
Medical Mission Sisters 1990*

This is the vision that I will continue to cast
forward with prayers, sacred action, and
community organizing so that it may come to
pass within my lifetime.

Love and many blessings,
Melinda



What’s Next for ***the GOOD table***
by Pastor Melinda

We have now had three “pop-up” live music
events at **El Cerrito Natural Grocery (NGC)**
with jazz duo, **Amy Ukena and Hans Raag**
including a lovely evening on New Year’s Day!
Our next live music event will be **Sunday, Feb.
5 from 6-8:30p** and each subsequent first
Sunday going forward.

The advertising materials **Howard Campbell** graciously helped create to advertise these events inside NGC have been stalled by the freakish destruction of two sign locations when NGC was damaged by a car driving through the Annex. In the meantime, NGC will begin advertising our monthly event in their own materials. We have gotten a few names for our mailing list and very positive comments from folks about our proposed café during these events. Hans and Amy are happy with their tips and the whole thing seems to be a win-win so far. I am sure it will continue to build a larger audience over time.

I have created a separate Facebook page for **the GOOD table** and am now using that to promote our pop-ups and to create an online presence for the project. A UCC colleague who does web consulting, **Bet Hannon**, also secured the domain name **thegoodtableca.org** for us for 99 cents. What a great deal! A new mailchimp list just for the project will also be coming soon. If you'd like to help launch this café project, it would be extremely helpful if members and friends would invite folks to the Sunday night events and/or encourage folks to like our Facebook pages.

Our next big step is to begin looking for real estate and tracking development in our target area. **Colleen Rodger** has agreed to head this effort while drawing support from **Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Brian Campbell-Miller**, and anyone else who wants to help.

On my to-do list is to begin **researching funding for the co-working space** and potential "community service" employees to maintain the space. Anyone want to help with this project? Got any high-level contacts in tech companies?

I also believe that another part of the model that can be "popped-up" is to have **regular office hours in a cafe** that are advertised under **the GOOD table** banner. So beginning on **Feb. 2nd, I will be at Catahoula coffee on Thursdays from 2-5p** and offering appointments as well as drop-in time. This is the closest coffee shop to our potential location

and I hope I can use it as a way to also bring more people into the Mira Vista orbit in both the short and long-term.

Finally, I want to set-up an **informational meeting for local church folks** to hear their thoughts and input about the proposed café. The first meeting may be just for pastors and any lay leaders they choose to bring. I will use some of the materials from the November retreat to create a tight, short presentation.



News from the Pews

Betty Coates celebrated her 92nd birthday on Jan. 21 and she's going strong! Her wonderful oral history focused on her time as a "Rosie the Riveter" is now available online from the Bancroft Library. The direct link is: http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/roho/ucb/text/coates_betty_2016.pdf but you can also find it by typing "Betty Coates oral history" into a browser.

Delighted to report that **Elise Hariton** has now completed her probationary period as a social worker in Solano County. She has also purchased her first home in Benicia. Congratulations Elise!

For her 88th birthday, ALL of **Adelle Lemon's** family will be gathering on February 4th, including her daughter from Albuquerque. **Nancy Lemon** reports that this is the first time that all have been together in a long time.

Colleen Rodger and **Melinda V. McLain** attended the **Women's March in Washington, D.C.** and were delighted to see lots of UCC colleagues at First Congregational Church on "G" street NW beforehand. Many other Mira Vistans marched in Oakland and elsewhere.

Brady Morales-Woolery is incredibly busy with work and auditions that have kept him away on Sundays, but sends his best to all.

Our music director and pianist **Ray Capiral** has resigned so that he can accept a position at Bethany UMC in San Francisco, close to his home. His last Sunday will be **February 12th**. We have been deeply blessed by Ray's big heart and fantastic skills at the piano.

Fiat Lux

by Tom Emanuel

can you unsplit
the atom?

can you rebury the fallout
when you've extracted
the uranium once already?

can you cram radioactive
toothpaste back into the tube
when you've already smeared Chernobyl
all over your best starched shirt?

nope

no going back—no calling mulligan
on the Big Bang, no recanting
Word Made Flesh
(burnt, radiation-poisoned,
mushroom-clouded)
no turning back the
half-life clock

that ship has sailed
payload delivered

so:

new line of questioning:

can we harness fission to power
fusion?

can we co-opt division to birth
reunion?

after all

you don't just
wake up one morning
knowing how to eradicate
all life on earth

it takes years of careful study
to learn to love the Bomb

we had to teach ourselves to
forge swords—maybe we can
teach ourselves to forge

ploughshares as well

I anticipate your objections:
to risk destroying the world
in hopes you'll thereby discover
the means of saving it—
it's a convoluted scheme,
inefficient, wildly dangerous

yep
sure is

but then again
so is mutually assured destruction

Photos from the March



February 1st - Adelle Lemon

February 1st - Barbara Cook

Best Wishes and love from Mira Vista!



Mira Vista United Church of Christ

780 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530
 phone: (510) 526-0110 fax: (510) 526-0110
 email: office@miravistaucc.org
 website: www.miravistaucc.org

XOXO
FEBRUARY

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	2 Community Office Hours with Pastor Melinda @Catahoula Coffee, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	3	4
5 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion followed by Semi-annual meeting & potluck Live jazz w/ Amy Ukena and Hans Raag @El Cerrito Natural Grocery, 6-8:30p. <i>FREE - invite your friends!</i>	6	7 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10am 	8	9 Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p Council meeting, Melinda's office, 7p	10	11
12 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	16 Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	17	18
19 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion	20 	21	22	23 Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	24	25
26 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa with Holy Communion	27	28				

Our worship life together . . .

Join us on **Sundays at 12 noon** for our celebration with music and preaching, then stay for lunch because our worship continues as we share food and friendship together at our common table, **La Mesa**. Feel free to bring food to share as you are able. We celebrate the sacrament of **Holy Communion every First Sunday**. All are welcome at our table!

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| February 5 | “Firm Steady Hearts”
<i>Semi-Annual Meeting during La Mesa</i> | Psalm 112:1-9 (10) |
| February 12 | “Walk Your Talk” | Psalm 119:1-8 |
| February 19 | “The Law of Love”
<i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i> | Psalm 119: 33-40 |
| February 26 | “Taking Refuge in God” | Psalm 2 |

The liturgical season of Lent begins on **March 1, Ash Wednesday**. Plan now to attend an evening service that will include prayer, contemplative music, and the imposition of ashes.

Mira Vista United Church of Christ
Semi-Annual Meeting & Potluck lunch
Sunday, February 5, 2017
The 2017 budget is the agenda for this meeting, right after church.

Mira Vista United Church of Christ
780 Ashbury Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Address Change Requested

Dated Material
February 2017



Mira Vista United Church of Christ

The Fellowship Post

Editor: Diane Young
published monthly by Mira Vista
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
780 Ashbury Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 526-0110
office@miravistaucc.org
www.miravistaucc.org

Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain, pastor
melinda@miravistaucc.org