

**My favorite year**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, CA. Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern, April 15, 2014

Opening/ Chalice Lighting

Rev. Naomi King

Wondrous Being, Life Amazing & Astounding, may we cherish this day  
& hallow it.

Check-in

*How is it with your spirit? Going around the circle, take one or two minutes to share about your life. One possibility is to share one high point and one low point of your recent days.*

Reading "To Memory," Mary Elizabeth Coleridge

Strange Power, I know not what thou art,  
Murderer or mistress of my heart.  
I know I'd rather meet the blow  
Of my most unrelenting foe  
Than live---as now I live---to be  
Slain twenty times a day by thee.

Yet, when I would command thee hence,  
Thou mockest at the vain pretence,  
Murmuring in mine ear a song  
Once loved, alas! forgotten long;  
And on my brow I feel a kiss  
That I would rather die than miss.

Sitting in Silence / Reflection Time

*We will begin and end with the sound of the bell.*

Sharing / Deep Listening

*Please share your thoughts on the questions below, or any other questions that come to mind regarding the topic of silence. During this sharing, we will listen deeply without response or thought of response, as a gift to each other and ourselves.*

What has/have been your favorite year/s of your life? Why?

What's primary in how you answer this question: how you felt, things that happened in the world, things that happened in your life, where you were, who you were with, or something else entirely?

Are the factors that made that year special something you can replicate to give yourself more terrific years?

## Sharing Together

*Now that all have shared, you may wish to engage with each other's responses.*

## Tending the Groups – Facilitators' Session

*How is your group? How can we help you help your group function well?*

## Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Naomi King

Bless these nights & days we have. May we bless them with all our being.

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Chalice Circles are small groups that meet regularly to deepen their relationships with each other and to grow spiritually. Chalice circles provide an open and supportive environment in which the inherent worth and dignity of each community member is respected, one that specifically promotes making connections and developing friendships within our congregation, and supports spiritual growth and the search for truth and meaning.

*“In the presence of compassionate non-judgmental listening and sharing,  
miracles happen.” — Marianne Williamson*