

2017 Third International Women's Convocation Guide 5th Edition



You are invited to attend the Third International Convocation of Unitarian*Universalist Women and People of Progressive Faiths

February 16-19, 2017, Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA, USA.

The theme of the Convocation is *Weaving Global Partnerships...Forging a Just Future Together*. The Convocation will offer community and connection, information and inspiration, as well as motivation and momentum that lead to action and change.

Asilomar, "the refuge by the sea," is located at the tip of the Monterey Peninsula overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It occupies 105 acres of secluded forest and dunes that are preserved by the California State Park System as a nature center and historic site. The accommodations at Asilomar are charming and comfortable; rooms have wifi internet access but do not have televisions or telephones. Many of the historic buildings were designed by noted architect Julia Morgan and built between 1913 and 1928. Morgan was part of the Arts & Crafts movement that influenced architects, designers, and craftspeople. Other buildings were designed by architect John Carl Warnecke and built in a style complementary to that of Julia Morgan's.

SCHEDULE (subject to modification)

Time	Thursday - Feb 16	Friday - Feb 17	Saturday - Feb 18	Sunday - Feb 19		
7:00	Tours / Arrivals	Spiritual Practice; Yoga; Meditation; Tai Chi	Spiritual Practice; Yoga; Meditation; Tai Chi	Spiritual Practice; Yoga; Meditation; Tai Chi		
7:15						
7:30						
7:45						
8:00			Breakfast (served 7:30 - 9:00 AM)	Breakfast (served 7:30 - 9:00 AM)	Breakfast (served 7:30 - 9:00 AM)	
8:15						
8:30			UU WORSHIP (#2) with music	UU WORSHIP (#3) with music	Plenary	
8:45						
9:00			Major Speaker (#2) Capability approach; intro to streams (why these five?)	5 Streams in Parallel; Stream Speakers 3 & 4 Solutions		
9:15						
9:30						
9:45						
10:00						
10:15						
10:30			5 Streams in Parallel; Stream Speakers 1 & 2 Introducing the topics	5 Streams in Parallel GSG (#3) Ranking	UU WORSHIP (#4) with contemplative action (4), spiral dance, closing the circle, music	
10:45						
11:00						
11:15						
11:30		Free Time	Free Time	Free Time		
11:45						
12:00						
12:15						
12:30		Lunch (served noon to 1:00 PM)	Lunch (served noon to 1:00 PM)	Lunch (served noon to 1:00 PM)		
12:45						
13:00	Training of small group leaders (GSP)	5 Streams in Parallel (GSG #1) Introductions & orientation & begin Issues	Workshops (8 - 12 in parallel)	Departures / Tours		
13:15						
13:30						
13:45						
14:00	Arrivals		Major Speaker (#4)			
14:15						
14:30			Major Speaker (#3)			
14:45						
15:00						
15:15						
15:30			5 Streams in Parallel GSG (#2) continue Issues	5 Streams in Parallel GSG (#4) Action Steps & wrap up		
15:45						
16:00						
16:15						
16:30						
16:45						
17:00		Free Time	Free Time			
17:15						
17:30	Happy Half Hour with music	Happy Half Hour with music	Happy Half Hour with music			
17:45						
18:00						
18:15	Dinner (served 6:00 - 7:00 PM)	Dinner (served 6:00 - 7:00 PM)	Dinner (served 6:00 - 7:00 PM)			
18:30						
18:45						
19:00	Free Time		Free Time			
19:15		Workshops (8 - 12 in parallel)				
19:30	Opening Ceremony incl. worship, music, chant,					
19:45						
20:00			Candidate Forum for UUA President	Celebration Entertainment with music		
20:15						
20:30						
20:45						
21:00	Contemplative Action (Talk #1)	Contemplative Action (#2)	Contemplative Action (#3)			
21:15						
21:30	Chalice Circles	Chalice Circles	Chalice Circles			
21:45						
22:00						

*GSG = Global Sisters Groups

Theme

The theme of the Convocation is *Weaving Global Partnerships...Forging a Just Future Together*. We are expecting more than 500 U*U women, mostly from the U.S. and Canada, and from Bolivia, Western and Central Europe, Romania, India, and the Philippines as well. We will explore the topics of economic empowerment, violence prevention, education, leadership development, as well as health and reproductive justice. We will worship together, and there will be time to explore the beauty of the California coastline.

Program Elements

Worship

Throughout the Convocation you will find various opportunities for worship. On Thursday and Friday evening short Dharma talks in the Buddhist tradition will prepare us for meditation. In the early mornings, you can participate in different spiritual practices; every day includes a time set aside for UU worship. In the evenings, groups will meet for chalice circles or meditation. On Sunday we will have a full UU Sunday Service.

Theme Streams

When you register for the Convocation you will be asked to identify which of the following five themes most interests you:

- Health and Reproductive Justice
- Violence Prevention
- Education
- Economic Empowerment
- Leadership Development

We will spend time together in plenary as well as in streams dedicated to these themes. Speakers will introduce each stream theme before the work on these topics begins.

Global Sisters Process used in Global Sisters Groups

The Global Sisters Process (GSP) is a small-group decision-making process modeled on community capacity building, inaugurated at the First International Convocation in Houston (2009). It was also a central element of the Second Convocation in Transylvania (2012). The *Global Sisters Groups* (GSG) met several times during the two convocations, providing an opportunity for participants to talk in small, facilitated groups in order to build a shared understanding of issues impacting women's lives locally and globally, and to articulate responses as women of faith. We will be using this process again at the Asilomar Convocation.

The process involves four steps:

1. Introduction to the process
2. Identifying issues
3. Ranking issues
4. Developing Action Steps

Each stream will have multiple small groups (*Global Sisters Groups*) working through the four steps. On Sunday all streams report back in plenary and share what they developed during the previous two days. This ensures that you will learn what was developed in all streams.

Meditation and Chalice Circles

Each evening we close the day by meeting in small meditation circles. During this time, we might check in with each other or simply enjoy each other's company in silence.

Workshops

On Friday and Saturday, a variety of workshops will be held in parallel. They will be related to the theme talks, faith exploration, nature and the location in which we are meeting, and other topics of interest. If you have a workshop you would like to offer, please contact Laura Nagel at program.iwc@gmail.com after you have registered.

Selection of Speakers

Below are some of the speakers that have confirmed their participation in the Third Convocation (in alphabetical order).



Rev. Florence Caplow is a minister at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend, Washington. She is also an ordained Soto Zen priest, teacher, and writer, on the board of the national UU Buddhist Fellowship. Her most recent book is *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*.



Dr. Cecilia Conrad is managing director at the MacArthur Foundation where she heads up the MacArthur Fellows Program, as well as the Discovery Grants, 100&Change, and the MacArthur Award for Creative & Effective Institutions.



Olga Flores, Bolivia, is a human rights activist focusing on the rights of women and indigenous peoples and their intersection with environmental issues.



Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray is a candidate for the office of President of the UUA.



Cecilia Hofmann, Philippines, is the founder of Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation (GWAVE), an NGO that educates male advocates on gender issues like violence against women, positive masculinity, sexuality and reproductive rights.



Rev. Hope Johnson serves on the Board of UUSC and chairs the UU Living Legacy Project, an organization that deepens understanding of the U.S. civil rights movement.



Dr. Rica Lamar is Director of the Manbha Foundation based in Shillong, Meghalaya, in the Northeast of India. Her work focuses on women's health and ending women's sexual exploitation.



Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt is President of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA.



Rev. Allison Beth Miller is a candidate for the office of President of the UUA.



Gizella Nagy, Transylvania, was the convener of the Second Convocation in 2012. She went on to develop a leadership school for women in Transylvania.



Reema Nanavaty is the Economic and Rural Development Director of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India. Her work for women's economic empowerment and independence brings livelihood opportunities for millions of poor Indian women. In 2013, she received the government's Padma Shri Award.



Rev. Jeanne Pupke is a candidate for the office of President of the UUA.



Prof. Diana Strassmann is Director of the Poverty, Social Justice, and Human Capabilities Program at Rice University, Houston, TX. She is also the founding editor of *Feminist Economics*, the journal of the International Association for Feminist Economics.

Art and Music

The Convocation will feature ongoing art projects that encourage your participation. We will have live music during worship, receptions, and during our Friday evening celebration.

Free Time

We have scheduled free time in the program so everyone can take advantage of Asilomar's inspirational location. There will be numerous opportunities for relaxation in nature, including tours guided by state park rangers. You might like to take this time to go for a stroll along the beach, to explore nearby Carmel, or to drive on the 17-Mile Drive, widely recognized as one of the most scenic drives in the world. The famous coastal landmark runs through Pacific Grove to the famous golf course of Pebble Beach. Of course, with so many wonderful women in attendance, you might just want to take time to get better acquainted.

Pre and Post Tours

The conference will open on Thursday evening, February 16 and end mid-day on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Pre and post Convocation tours are available. The pre-Convocation tour is an all-day tour offered on Thursday, February 16. The post-Convocation tour is an 8-hour, afternoon and evening program on Sunday, February 19. If you decide to take the pre tour, you must make your room reservation starting on Wednesday. If you decide to take the post tour, you should make your room reservation through Sunday night unless departing on a late evening flight. You have the option of signing up for either or both tours when you register for the Convocation. Each tour is limited to 32 – sign up now to reserve your space!

Pre Tour, Thursday February 16: Carmel Mission, Big Sur, and Carmel winery with tasting

Post Tour, Sunday, February 19: Monterey Bay Aquarium, Cannery Row, and sunset dinner on Fisherman's Wharf

For more information on the pre or post tour, please contact Zsafia Sztranyiczki at admin@icuw.com.

Registration

Registration is open at <https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/third-international-womens-convocation>. The registration fee is \$350. Discounts are available for UU ministers and young adults (ages 18 to 40). Bring one or more friends from your church and you qualify for a group discount of \$50 off each.

Make your room and board reservation following your registration for the Convocation.

Accommodation and meals

Participants staying at Asilomar will have accommodation and all meals included (starting with dinner on Thursday and ending with lunch on Sunday). Room and full board (double occupancy) is \$575.88 per person. You can either register together with your roommate at Asilomar or, upon request, the Asilomar staff will assign roommates. For more information, visit <https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/third-international-womens-convocation/>.

This page also hosts a video featuring the site.

Off-site participants

Participants who stay offsite pay a site usage fee of \$300 for the three days. The usage fee includes access to the conference facilities as well as breakfast tickets for Friday, Saturday and Sunday; dinner tickets for Thursday, Friday, Saturday; and lunch tickets for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Suggestions? Questions?

Do you have an art project that you would like to share with everyone at the Convocation? Do you have a meditation practice that you would like to share during the morning spiritual practice sessions? Would you like to share your musical talent in some way? Please get in touch! Contact Laura Nagel and Zsafia Sztranyiczki at program.iwc@gmail.com. Also contact them with any questions you might have.

The Convocation has been endorsed by the following organizations:

UUA International Office
UU Service Committee (UUSC)
UU Women's Federation (UUWF)
UU Partner Church Council (UUPCC)
UU-United Nations Office (UU-UNO)
Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
European Unitarian Universalists (EUU)
Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
International Association of Religious Freedom (IARF)
Association of Unitarian Women of Hungary (MUNOSZ)
International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU)
Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's Association (CUUWA)
International Association of Liberal Religious Women (IALRW)
Association of Unitarian Women of Romania (UNOSZ)
Women and Religion of the Pacific Central Region
Seng Kynthei Women's Wing of UUNEI (India)
Unitarian Union of North East India (UUNEI)
Unitarian Universalist Women and Religion
UU Women's Association of Philippines
Hungarian Unitarian Church (HUC)

This is the fifth edition of the guide. A new edition of this guide is published whenever more information becomes available. Please check our website for the latest edition: <https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/third-international-womens-convocation/>.

