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## The Cornerstone

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church  
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
310-377-6771

**February 2017**

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### *GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES*



It is time to celebrate on **Sunday, February 12**, with those in our Church family who have been or were married for 50 years or more. We would love to post the stories of how you met as well as display your wedding photos. If you'd like to tell your story, please email a short description of how you met to Rachel Stam at [rachel@rhumc.org](mailto:rachel@rhumc.org). We still have the anniversary list from last year, but if you are new to the congregation, or have now been married for 50 years, please email Rachel with your name and wedding date, or contact the church office at 310-377-6771. In addition to sending in your stories, please consider bringing a wedding photo to the church office

during the week of February 6<sup>th</sup> identified with your name. Photos may be retrieved in the office the following week. Thanks for your help! And congratulations!



*from the pastors*

*Jonathan Chute*



The new year is happily begun, so of course I am still catching up from the end of the last one. The Christmas lights are down and the tree taken away. This year's stayed remarkably fresh till the end, and we wondered about leaving it up just one week longer.... But there's still a reindeer out in the front garden. Some of the lights were out, and rather than put it back in the garage for ten months knowing that it needs to be fixed, I thought if I left it out I would tackle the problem. I think of that every time I come home at the end of the day. "There's that reindeer I need to fix!" So far no progress.

But I wanted to take this opportunity, belated though it is, to say "Thank you!" to our church family for the year we shared together. We found our way through personal, familial, regional and national triumph and tumult. Your generosity and compassion helped us to a strong finish in 2016. It is truly a gift and a joy to serve such a hopeful and caring congregation. You make a difference to more people than you know. On behalf of the whole staff I want to say thank you as well for your generosity with us at Christmas time. It is so encouraging to feel your care for us. You are more than kind.

I'm also catching up on another important front. It wasn't really my news to share in the first place, but word had gotten around to enough people that I just thought "everyone" already knew. Our daughter Hannah, who grew up here at RHUMC, but who went away to school in Rochester, NY, who lives there now and looks as though she will for some time to come, will be getting married this coming October. That happy event will also take place in Rochester, which is where her fiancé, Daniel Breslawski, was born. She and Daniel have known each other for a couple of years now. Thyra and I like him very much. Hannah likes him even better.

They will be getting married at Asbury-1st UMC in Rochester, on October 22. Hannah joined the congregation last year and now sings in the choir. It's a healthy, hopeful place and active in mission in the community there. The ceremony will be shared by her pastor, Stephen Cady, and our long-time Presbyterian friend from Canada, Rick Horst. Hannah was the flower girl at Rick's wedding a little over 15 years ago. It's fun to see how things have come around this time, with him helping at *her* wedding. I get to be the dad, of course, which I have to think is an even higher calling than my pastoral work.

There's more to come in the year ahead. Easter is late this year, so we've got another month before Lent begins. This month we have loving marriages to celebrate, Scouts to honor, and Black History Month to share. We've made a good beginning already, and I look forward to what lies before us!

Grace and peace,

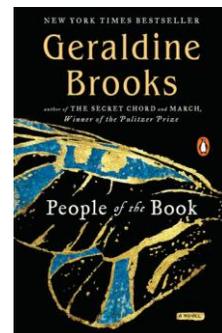
*Jonathan*



February Book Discussion  
*People of the Book: A Novel* by Geraldine Brooks  
**Monday, February 27**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room  
All readers welcome!

Dear Friends:

Last summer during a visit to the Huntington Library I was thrilled to view the Ellesmere illuminated manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. It was one among many old and venerable manuscripts on display in the library exhibit halls which evoked feelings of awe and reverence in me. That memory came to mind as I read the first pages of *People of the Book*, a work of fiction, inspired by a true story, which promises to be both fascinating and informative.



Here is the publisher's description of how the story begins:

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding – an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair – she begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation.

Brooks is a Pulitzer Prize winning author who started her professional writing career as a journalist and has now written several remarkable novels which bring history to life. *People of the Book* is recommended by an interfaith book group association and can be expected to evoke some good conversation. Start reading now, and come join the discussion!

Together with you in faith,

April

## Mission Rebuild Trip to Weed, CA – April 23-29

YOU can help! After a disaster, Methodists get to work. They bring comfort to those who have lost their belongings and their houses – to fire, to flood, or to other natural disasters. United Methodists Volunteers in Mission organizes the sites to be helped. RHUMC will send a team to Weed, CA which is not far and we can be of comfort and help to some residents who are still out of their homes from a fire two years ago.



Serving on a disaster mission can be a life-changing experience. You will be exposed to the miracle of the human spirit and the miracle of the Holy Spirit in action. You will never regret it.

Weed is near Mt. Shasta in Northern California. It is a 10-hour drive or a flight can be taken to Redding, followed by an hour and a half drive. Accommodation will be in a motel and house with kitchen facilities. We will do our own cooking, and Jan Johnson has already volunteered to be the Food Manager, so we can be assured that we will eat well.



Requirements are a willing spirit, flexible attitude, and a willingness to learn and to serve. We will be doing a variety of tasks that will be specified as we near to the time to go. We will provide to the organizers a skills inventory to determine the jobs that we will be assigned. There will probably be painting to be done, as well as sweeping, perhaps hammering nails, and such. I have gone on 3 trips and my skills go no further than hammering nails so do not worry if you are not a skilled carpenter.

Don't miss this chance to prepare yourself to really make a difference in the world and live out your Christian faith. Please contact me at [nancy.rasmussen12@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.rasmussen12@gmail.com) or Jan Johnson at [janaleejoh@aol.com](mailto:janaleejoh@aol.com) if you are interested in serving. We will provide a needed service in the magnificent environment near Mt. Shasta. Please join us!

## Medical Mission Trip to Guatemala



RHUMC has again set up a special fund to support Hearts In Motion (HIM), a non-profit organization which provides care and medical treatment for children, families and communities in Central and South America as well as the U.S. Cindy McCoy will be traveling on her 6<sup>th</sup> trip to Guatemala March 10, 2017 to participate in the Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery, Dentistry, general medical outreach clinics. Typically, during this one mission, over 50 surgeries are completed and approximately 1200 to 1500 patients are seen in the outreach medical and dental clinics. Your past donations have helped support the building of an orphanage, a home for abandoned elderly, and costs for shipping a large container of clothing, toys and medical supplies.



Cindy is seeking support from her church family to help make this trip possible.

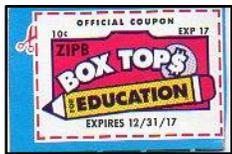
This year, Cindy has recruited retired neonatologist, Dr. Priscilla Hancock. Your support will help defray costs to attend this mission and the incredible work it achieves. If you would like to support the goals of this mission, please make your check payable to RHUMC and write HIM in the memo line of your donation.



As before, if you have generic reading glasses, hand towels, small stuffed animals/soft toys and band aids or similar over the counter medical supplies, these would be gratefully welcomed and can be brought to the church Welcome Center. Thank you!

## Mission News

A big thank you to everyone who has been clipping labels and box tops for Education. We continue to collect and send these to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky where they are used to buy much needed items for the school. Even though the Labels for Education program is winding down, Red Bird is still



collecting the labels. The Box Tops for Education program is going strong, so please keep clipping! In the past, everything from lockers to school supplies to vans have been purchased. A collection box is in the Narthex for your contributions. More information can be found at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>.



Stay tuned for the Mission Committee's upcoming winter project. Opportunities to help will be available soon!

## Dawn Unity Group



The Dawn Unity Group's Interfaith Bible Lecture "The Different Ways Christians and Jews Read Prophets," will be held **Sunday, February 12**, at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Some portions of the Hebrew Bible are read similarly by Christians and Jews while others are viewed completely different and the books of the prophets are perhaps the most divergent of all. This difference is not often presented and analyzed, so it will be a very special informative evening when two respected Biblical scholars and teachers will do so. Bob Rothman will moderate the discussion as Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher, Loyola Marymount University, and Prof. Marvin Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology, both of whom are widely published and lecture internationally, will make this a memorable evening of Biblical insight. There is no charge for the 90-minute program. For any questions call 310-833-7008.

## Confirmation Class



Confirmation is getting underway and is available for youth from **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade**. Confirmation explores one's individual faith, what it means to be a part of a church family and what it looks like to receive God's grace into your life in a conscious way. This Confirmation process has been designed to offer opportunities to strengthen each youth's relationship with Christ and this church community, with a flexible pathway to completion. Contact Kimmie at [kimmie@rhunc.org](mailto:kimmie@rhunc.org) to sign-up and receive more information!

## From Roxanne Morse...



Thank you Salvation Army Bell Ringers! The season may be into its Relaxing Phase, but I wanted to let you celebrate the good work you did as a bell ringer this year. Our mighty band of volunteers raised over \$1570! My thanks for our season on the sidewalk that benefits so many in our community. See you next year and feel free to spread the word to anyone else who would like to be on the Bell Ringing Team.

## Ash Wednesday – March 1



Lent is one of those seasons of the church that seems to be both highly anticipated *and* a little bit anxiety-producing. We look forward to the thoughtful time leading to Easter, while knowing that sacrifices are expected – but what sacrifices? What is good enough to prepare us for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ?

“Ash Wednesday is a kind of baptismal branding. We are marked on our foreheads with the cross of Christ, which is a tree of life to beckon us back to the garden. . . coming back to baptism is hard work, like pruning vines, like plowing the earth, like the discipline of training for a contest. Of course, neither the hard work nor the training do the job. All of us will learn this once again, when Lent is over and we have failed but God has not.” (*A Lent Source Book*)

Our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil will start at 7:00 a.m. and continue to 7:00 p.m. There will be signups on the patio on **Sunday, February 26**, for specific times during the day – more than one person is welcome at any time. We just want to make sure that someone is in the sanctuary at all times on that day.

The service will start at 7:30 p.m. with readings, music, prayer, and the imposition of ashes.

### Save the Date –



Health and Wellness Service Opportunity

### RHUMC Blood Drive Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Located in the beautiful Blood Donor Center  
at Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Donor sign-ups will begin Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
after all 3 services on the patio or in the narthex.



## CAFÉ MUSIQUE

**Rolling Hills  
United Methodist Church  
presents  
Café Musique**  
*gypsyswingtangofolk&wildclassical*  
**Friday February 10, 7:30pm**  
**26438 Crenshaw Blvd**  
**Rolling Hills Estates**

Featuring  
Brynn Albanese  
Rolling Hills High  
Class of '86 Alumna

free admission / donations appreciated  
More information at [www.rhumc.org](http://www.rhumc.org)  
(310) 377-6771

Café Musique, featuring former PV native Brynn Albanese, lives up to its name with a musical pallet that includes gypsy, swing, tango, folk, and “wild classical.” They are based in Central California, and have performed around the world. A recent review reads: “Leading the way is the siren song of violinist Brynn Albanese. She charms, seduces, and delightfully entertains the audience through a whirlwind of musical genres. The group dynamic is part of the fun, and the band offers range as well as depth, moving from exhilarating tango to the intense folk music of Eastern Europe to the lovely songwriting of guitarist Craig Nuttycombe.”

Brynn Albanese, daughter of PV educator and musician Claude Albanese, is a graduate of Peabody Conservatory of Music, played with the Boston Pops and Boston Symphony, and was concertmaster of the Boston Philharmonic, SLO Opera, Hague Philharmonic in the Netherlands and others. She recorded on many iconic movie scores, including Schindler’s List and Jurassic Park.

Café Musique will be performing **Friday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Donations are appreciated.

## *Second Sundays At Two*

*Sunday, February 12, at 2:00 p.m.*

*~ presents ~*

## *Stars of Tomorrow*

*~ from the ~*

**USC Thornton**  
School of Music



*left-to-right*

**Joseph Lorang** 2nd-violin / U.S.A. ~ **Hyunyoung Lee** viola / South Korea,  
**He Chang** 1st-violin / China ~ **Yasmina Spiegelberg** clarinet / Switzerland  
**Javier Iglesias-Martin** cello / Spain

*Perform Johannes Brahms' great late autumnal masterpiece*  
***“Quintet for Clarinet & String Quartet”***

This top international ensemble of advanced students from the renowned USC Thornton School of Music was selected by Director of Chamber Music **Karen Dreyfus** and coached by Professor of Violin and Chamber Music **Lina Bahn**.

*Contribute What You Can ~ 100% for the Artists*  
*All Are Welcome!*



## **2017-2018 Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fall Registration**

### **Registration Dates –**

#### **Friday, February 17 to Friday, February 24**

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Members and Preschool Committee Members

#### **Monday, February 27 through Friday, March 3**

CURRENTLY ENROLLED and RETURNING FAMILIES

**All registration cards MUST BE RETURNED by Friday, March 3.**

#### **Monday, March 13 through Friday, March 17**

WAITING LIST FAMILIES

The waiting list families will be contacted by phone to come and register based on available spaces left after the above registration. Boy/girl ratio is also taken into consideration.

#### **Wednesday, March 22 – NEW FAMILIES, OPEN ENROLLMENT**

After all the above registration, if we have an available space, the child will be enrolled based on boy/girl ratio in class and age. If not, the child will be put on the waiting list and will be contacted as soon as a space becomes available.

#### **FALL CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Currently enrolled families will receive fall class assignments on Wednesday, March 29, and Thursday, March 30.



we're  
HIRING!



Hiring for Summer Camp Counselors and Jr. Counselors has begun. We are looking for fun, energetic youth interested in becoming a part of our summer family. You must be 16 years old to apply for a Counselor position. Graduating 8th graders and older may apply for our Jr. Counselor Program to earn volunteer hours. Applications are due by **MARCH 3, 2017**.

Here is how to apply:

1. Email Megan: [kidzone.midzone@gmail.com](mailto:kidzone.midzone@gmail.com)
2. Fill out the Application that can be found on the website– [rhunc.org/ministries/childrens-ministries/kid-zone-camps](http://rhunc.org/ministries/childrens-ministries/kid-zone-camps)

## Sierra Service Project – Silent Auction

On **Sunday, February 26**, after all three services the Junior and Senior High youth will be holding a Silent Auction fundraiser on the patio. Our youth will be donating their time and talents to help pay for their week at SSP. Other items are also available.

Come get your auction on!



## Valentine Care Packages



Please let us know if you have a special person in your life that might be away at college, a home-bound person, or someone who might really benefit from a lovely package made by the children of the church. Please call the church office at 310-377-6771 by Monday, February 6, with their name and address or e-mail Debra DeLuca at [debkd3@icloud.com](mailto:debkd3@icloud.com).



**Jr. and Sr. High Youth  
Enjoying  
Dinner & a Movie**

## Club Maintenance



On January 14, a hard-working group of eight took care of several items on our maintenance work list, including the solution to a clicking noise coming from the south side air-conditioning vent. New inner tubes in two of our wheelbarrows will make activity easier using these tools. We also relocated the AED from the office to the Sanctuary to comply with location regulations.

The next two opportunities to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **February 11** and **March 11** at 8:30 a.m. Please mark these dates on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And also, note that a lunch is served. Jim Showalter will be the coordinator for the February date.

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Associate Pastor	April Herron
Senior Pastor Emeritus	Martha Rowlett	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Music Dir., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Service	Patti MacLeod
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson
Children/Youth Director	Kimmie Stradling	Admin. to Pastor	Curt Wuestenhagen
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman	Facility Manager	Rick Mitchell
		Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Grant J. Hagiya
Fax Line	310-544-4123	District Superintendent	Mark Nakagawa
Web Site	<a href="http://www.rhumc.org">www.rhumc.org</a>		

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS  
8:30 & 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
**Next Cornerstone deadline is February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
[www.rhumc.org](http://www.rhumc.org)