Auckland Unitarian Church Service Auction 2021 Virtual Covid Edition Catalogue of Services and Items for Auction

How this year's auction works

- Read over this catalogue and decide which item(s) you want to bid on.
- Place your first bid(s) for one or more items by emailing Mary Mason at marymillermason@hotmail.com by 7:00 pm Monday, 6 December. The amount of the starting bid is stated alongside each item.
- Please include in your email to Mary:
 - The item name(s) and number(s) for which you are placing your bid(s)
 - The amount of your bid(s).
- Mary will tally all of the bids after 7 pm Monday. On Tuesday morning, she will send out a
 follow-up email showing all of the bids thus far and inviting further bids by 7 pm that
 same day. Mary will continue this process on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with final
 bids to be submitted to her by 7 pm on Friday, 10 December.
- Four LIVE auction items are located on the last pages of this catalogue. They will be auctioned live during the Zoom Auction on Saturday, 11 December, at 7:30pm. Don't miss it!!!! And plan your bidding appropriately.
- The link to Saturday's live auction by Zoom will be posted on the church website and included in the church's weekly newsletter to be sent on Thursday.

1. Cocktail Class (Ted Zorn) 4 spaces available, bids starting at \$30pp Sunday 19 December at 4:30pm

Would you fancy a Side Car with a sugared rim? A lemon drop? Or maybe a maple cinnamon whiskey sour? Or perhaps something simple and elegant ... the perfect martini? Ted is offering a short course in how to make delicious and fun cocktails to impress your friends and family... not to mention your own palate. The course will involve first asking you some preliminary questions about your goals, resources (i.e., what's already in your liquor cabinet and kitchen and what might be added if necessary) and taste preferences and then offering a customised course of up to 2 hours for up to 4 fully vaccinated and over 18-year-old participants.

The course will take place at the home of Betsy and Leigh Marshall (65 Kelvin Road, Remuera) on Sunday 19 December starting at 4.30 pm. As the event host, Betsy will be offering some accompanying scrumptious hors d'oeuvres.

We'll focus on the key tools needed (and "hacks" that you can use if you don't want to buy more stuff), key ingredients to have on hand (beyond the obvious), how to make some of Ted's personal favourites, and how you might organise your notes so that you can recreate new discoveries and variations on your favourites. Ted will bring along some special ingredients so you can try some things that you might want to consider. And we'll try a few "mini" cocktails to test and possibly expand your tastes (but small enough to still allow you to drive home!).



Please note that this course offered by Master Boozer Dr N E Briate, PhD (Dipsology), MSc (Spirits of Life), BS (lots of it). (aka Ted Z).

Disclaimer: Ted is not actually qualified in any way, just someone who likes to experiment and keep lots of notes, and has his own biases (e.g., I love sours, enjoy dry drinks like martinis, and don't particularly like creamy, very bitter [e.g., Negroni] or overly sweet drinks). Ted says he'll try to be adaptable to different tastes, though. Regardless, we'll have fun experimenting and learning together! Bottoms up! Proost! Salute! Skå!!

2. Portuguese Custard Tarts (Viv Allen)

12 tarts delivered warm to your door on a mutually agreeable date; bids starting at \$48



12 x delicious warm Portuguese tarts (Pastéis de Nata) delivered to your door via Viv and her EV - so not only scrumptious but also environmentally friendly. These delicacies will be ready to eat and share with your family and friends. If you've never been to Portugal these will transport you there. It is one of Portugal's great culinary gifts to the world and one of the greatest pastries to binge on: crisp, flaky pastry holding a creamy custard centre, blistered on top from the high heat of an oven.

3. Iberian Brunch (Traditional Cuisine from Portugal and Spain)

To be held in Freeman's Bay at 10am on Saturday 22nd January (Viv Allen and Jos Vroegop) 6 spaces available with bids starting at \$25pp





Come and enjoy a summer brunch with food from the Iberian peninsula, including traditional dishes such as:

- Tortilla potato cake
- Gazpacho chilled tomato soup–a secret recipe from Viv's Spanish teacher in Barcelona
- Portuguese custard tarts
- Savoury platter of traditional ham, cheese and olives.

Vaccinated guests only please. Rain or shine at the house of Viv and Jos at 18 Gwilliam Place, Freemans Bay at 10am Saturday 22nd January

4. One-way Airport Ride (Mary Mason) Starting bid \$40

One-way trip to/from Auckland Airport either domestic or international (fingers crossed) terminal. Mary has a 7-seater vehicle so can take several people and all their luggage. To be arranged at a mutually agreeable time, but it will never be too early or too late by her standards. Open to making this a round-trip offer if you're willing to pay double! Fully vaccinated passengers only please (with exceptions for ineligible children and those with a medical exemption).

5. Customised Quiz on Wheels (Kay Parish) Starting bid \$80

Kay will design a Quiz on Wheels, to take place in an area of your choosing, catering to your interests and for your own celebration, such as a special birthday or a family reunion. Questions and tasks can be designed to suit various group sizes, age groups and abilities. This is a fun way to learn a bit of local history; the competition is as serious as you want to make it. To be done on a mutually agreeable date.





6. Bike Tour of Northcote on Saturday 15 January 2022 (Clay Nelson and Rachel

Mackintosh) 10 spaces Bids starting at \$20 pp Leaving Downtown Ferry terminal 9.10am, returning approx. 3.00pm

Leave from Downtown and join Rachel and Clay at the Te Onewa Northcote Point Ferry terminal for a bike tour of Northcote Point and surrounds historical sites. After the ride, there'll be a picnic lunch complete with a refreshing glass of wine or bubbles at Little Shoal Bay or at Clay and Rachel's house (depending on the crew).

Don't have a bike? No problem. You can rent one on the waterfront. Sounds too strenuous? Still not a problem. You can rent e-bikes.

(Offer includes company, guided tour, and picnic. BYO bicycle and ferry tickets.)

7. Sermon Topic - See LIVE Auction Items on Last Page of Catalogue

8. Proofreading (Alexandra Bruce) Bids from \$25

The "Queen of puns and English Grammar" is offering to proof-read and edit your assignment before you submit it.

9. A Morning of Antique Silver Cleaning at the Church (Jenny Boyd and Alexandra Bruce) Starting bid \$40

Do you have some beautiful but tarnished pieces of silver from your grandmother that you are embarrassed to display at home? Worry not! Alexandra and Jenny will have them shining like new at their 'antique silver cleaning working bee' at the church. You bring it, we clean it. To be done on a mutually agreeable date. In accordance with AUC Management Committee policy, those entering the church will need to be fully vaccinated.





10. Personal Shopper for the UU Little Food Pantry (Anne Goodfellow)

4 spaces starting at \$20 per person

Are you always meaning to bring in items for the church's Little Food Pantry but don't quite ever remember to make it happen? Tired of carrying all the groceries in on a Sunday morning? Help is at hand and its name is Anne. With your guidance, Anne will select and purchase the items and then stock them in the pantry. You can even choose the month if you'd like. Anne is willing to do this for 4 different bidders.

11. Babysitting Services (Phebe Mason) Bids starting at \$40

We've all been locked down for too long. It's time for the adults to get out on the town or at least to a local restaurant on their own! Fully vaccinated recent school leaver Phebe will look after the kids while the grown-ups enjoy some time out. Up to 4 hours of babysitting to be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time before 15 February 2022.

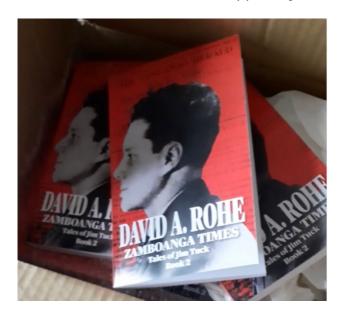
12. <u>Chocolate Guinness Cake Delivered to You – See LIVE Auction Items on Last Page of Catalogue</u>

13-17. Copy of Zamboanga Times: Tales of Jim Tuck (Book 2) by Dave Rohe

Rohe) 5 copies available at set price of \$40 (includes delivery within Auckland)

First come first serve item

Dave met Jim Tuck in the courtyard behind the fountain of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta, GA in 1982. (That's where Jim could sit and smoke!! [99]) Jim was in his 60s at the time and would sit out there telling stories and "holding court." His wife Margaret (an Australian nurse and trained midwife) held various leadership positions in the church, but as far as Dave knows, Jim never actually set foot inside the church. His life was extravagantly large and, according to Dave, worth recording. This is one book of a series of four and covers Jim's time in California, China and the Philippines just before WWII when he was in his early 20s.



18. Kylie's Lemon Ginger Kombucha (Kylie Chye) starting bid \$30 for 6-pack

Kombucha brewer Kylie is offering 6 x 750ml bottles of her special lemon ginger blend. It will be great for summer picnics and even better with gin (for those who imbibe). Pick up from Kylie's house in Northcote or she will deliver in the Auckland area.

19. Kylie's Wicked Apple Kombucha (Kylie Chye) starting bid \$30 for 6-pack

If lemon ginger isn't your thing ... never fear. Kylie also brews up a wicked apple kombucha and is offering 6×750 ml bottles of this fruity flavour as well. It too will be great for summer picnics and tastes great with some gin or maybe rum. Pick up from Kylie's house in Northcote or she will deliver in the Auckland area.

20. 4 hours of expert builder services (Hamish Mackenzie) Starting bid is \$200; market value is \$250

Expert builder Hamish is offering 4 hours of his professional services to do whatever needs doing around your place. Hamish specialises in small carpentry jobs on villas and bungalows. He can do repairs & renovations to maintain the fantastic character of these beautiful homes and delivers a reliable and expert service.

21. NEW Slow Cooker (Barbara Thomborson) starting bid \$20

Brand new 3 liter Living & Co ceramic slow cooker. Original price \$45. Delivery to your home in Auckland included.



22. NEW Electric Blanket (Barbara Thomborson) starting bid \$40

Summer's here now but winter will return. Stay warm with this brand new Ovela brand electric blanket measuring 1.6mx1.3m. It is washable, plush, and a beautiful deep green colour. The original retail price was \$249! Delivery to your home in Auckland included.



23. Walk in the Auckland Domain on Saturday 5 March 2022 from 10:00-11:30

(Shirin Caldwell) - 6 spaces available with bids starting at \$25 pp



1947 Auckland Museum and War Memorial. Whites Aviation Ltd: Photographs. Ref: WA-11626-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

Based on the intriguing new book *Shifting Ground* (Nov. 2021) by Lucy Mackintosh, veteran museum tour guide Shirin will offer a fascinating walk around the Auckland Domain. See it like you've never seen it before.

All participants must be double vaccinated and have received a booster if it is 6 months since your second vaccine. Bring a mask as the tour will finish with Shirin shouting coffee or tea in the Tuitui Museum Bistro and Cafe, the new cafe at the Museum.

About the book: Lucy Mackintosh is a curator at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Her book illuminates the many layered stories of Tamaki Makaurau and the inescapable legacies of empire and colonialism. "Vibrations of a deeper time are important for understanding our long and multiple pasts that have led us to the present," writes Lucy.

From the ancient stirrings of Matuaaho, the god of volcanic forces, 'a living breathing ancestor of Māori,' habitation by pre-European Māori, to our early colonial Pakeha history of the domain, come walk with Shirin and hear a little of:

- The volcanic cone of Pukekawa/Auckland Domain
- The less visible places that tell larger more complex stories about Auckland's past
- Our Domain, from ferns and wetlands, to pasture, crops, playing grounds and public park
- Potatau Te Wherowhero paramount chief of Waikato, had a house built for him by Government forces in the Domain. Te Wherowhero invited renowned Ngati Toa chief Te Rauparaha to live with him there in 1847 after he was released from government custody.
- And more...

Rain date will be Saturday 12 March from 10:00am-11:30am.

24. On Yer Bike 2022 - An Overseas Ride to ... Maraetai!!

Wed 19 Jan 2022 (Brenda and Gary Bendall) - 10 spaces with bids starting at \$15pp

Enjoy a 35-minute SeaLink ferry ride from the Downtown Ferry Building (Auckland) to Pine Harbour, then a stunning bike ride exploring the coastline to Maraetai, stop for lunch (at your own expense) if you wish at the Maraetai Café, then back again in time for the ferry home. The return ride from Pine Harbour to Maraetai and back is 12 km.

This ride is for mid-week only dates as the ferries to Pine Harbour do not run in the weekend or Public Holidays.

Also, because of Brenda's health issues and the safety of others, all participants over 12 years of age will need to be fully vaccinated.

Our aim is to undertake this journey on Wednesday 19th January, with a wet weather day the following week on 26th January. These mid-week dates are flexible depending on Covid restrictions and weather.



We ask that you join us for the SeaLink ferry to Pine Harbour that departs at 9:00 am from Pier 1C (within the main Downtown Ferry Terminal) with your bikes, helmets, water, sunscreen, masks, etc. Alternatively, you can meet us at Pine Harbour at 9:45 am for the start of the ride. The return ferry to Auckland leaves Pine Harbour at 1.00 pm, 2:20pm and 3:20pm.



This is a mostly off-road bike trail through lovely open parks. We have plenty of time to stop along the way to take in the wonderful views of our Hauraki Gulf. We'll provide some refreshments and nibbles for the ride, and you may wish to purchase lunch at your own expense at the Maraetai Café before the return ride. This ride is suitable for anyone who is reasonably confident riding a bike.

SeaLink ferry fares (one-way): Gold Hop Card free; Adults \$16 (\$11.60 with Hop Card); Child over 5 \$8.50 (\$6.10 with Hop Card);

Under 5 free. You'll find the Pier 1C terminal location and Pine Harbour timetables here: http://bit.ly/PineHarbourFerry

25. <u>Half a Cubic Meter of Firewood Delivered to your Home- See LIVE Auction Items on Last Page of Catalogue</u>

26. <u>Two VIP Tickets to an APO Concert - See LIVE Auction Items on Last Page of Catalogue</u>

27. "Cruise" on the Hauraki Gulf (David Fougere) Starting bid \$70

Imagine yourself cruising around the Hauraki Gulf, one of the best boating harbours in the world, in your own boat for the afternoon, crew at your beck and call. Lunch provided, a lovely summery sunny calm day (it had better be, since the boat is tiny and you could get very wet from spray in waves of any size!). Also needs to be warm since it has no windscreen. Oh, that lovely feeling of the wind blowing through your hair. Just you and someone you love, apart from your friendly crew (sorry, not good for more than about 3 adults, crew included), though an extra littlie or two could be OK. Or you could opt for several more people and simply go rather slowly, taunting the Plimsol line (not that this boat has one of course).

Depending on weather we could get adventurous and head to Rangitoto and/or Brown's Island, or up one of the many lovely small waterways (great if your environmental streak goads you into loving mangroves). Or, to Lucas Creek (all the way up to Albany, following the historic route of NZ's first ever exports - apples to the UK), or up past Greenhithe and Herald Island to Sunday afternoon jazz at Riverhead.

Or if you're really adventurous (and either a child or of rather Gandhi like proportions) this little boat could even take you and family water-skiing (one at a time only though).

A half day cruise with a difference. Fully post-modern, yet to be created by the participants. Fullers could never compete with this.

Be my vaccinated guests! Many options, even a walk on Rangitoto, or if we got lucky, lunch with the penguins off the end of the Whangaparaoa. Fishing an option too (but be warned, your host almost never catches anything!).

Wholesome lunch provided if we run over lunch time, hearty snacks and drinks if we do just a morning or afternoon.

What offers? Best done sometime before the summer runs out, likely dates February to May next year, very weather dependent, also dependent on satisfying already paid-up auction winners first! I'll enjoy this too! Insurance not included. All care, no responsibility. Swimmers preferred just in case. Experienced skipper with modest Coast Guard training. Not too bad at dodging rocks. Has seen dolphins, a whale and huge sting rays from this boat on rare occasions. Many sea birds too. And on a trip from one Unitarian service auction we saw seals on the north side of Rangitoto.

Passengers with an inclination to being litigious not accepted. Anything could happen here! Lifejackets **are** provided, though. Moderately full gamut of safety equipment on board, including marine radio, flares, fire extinguisher, anchor, GPS, depth sounder, and "alternative means of propulsion" (oars – these could be for you!).

Note on timing of boat ride: David says, "I've greatly enjoyed offering boat rides over some years at these auctions. Largely as a result of Covid (but also necessities such as suitable weather) I have rather a backlog of previous auction-winners to take out for rides of one kind or another – which I'm now greatly looking forward to. To all you good folks – see you soon – I'll be in touch! So ... there might be a bit of delay in getting around to this year's ride. Patience required. You'll be at the back of guite a long queue.



28. Men's Leather Jacket (David Fougere) Bidding starts at \$25

A friend of David's had an unusual neighbour who developed rapid onset dementia and had to move to a rest home. The good food there has meant he has put on a lot of weight! Unknown to David's friend, this neighbour was a bit of a hoarder, or you might say long-term planner. He had 6 beautiful men's leather jackets and a Swanndri jacket, which are now up for auction, that are now too small for the owner. Photos below.

These jackets are all in good condition. Most show very little sign of use. They fit David well (very average good Kiwi bloke size, M, maybe slightly skinny) – though one is a bit tight!

Take your pick! Just one up for sale at this auction. If you're the winner, David will bring them all to your place (in Auckland) and you can try them all on. No obligation to choose any particular one to bid on! You'll get the "best of the 7" when you actually see them all!

Because this will involve some personal contact, David would prefer to offer this only to people who are double vaccinated. However, he is willing to do this "at the gate" contactlessly if a non-vaccinated bidder is the winner.



29. Short Walking Tour of Selected Sites at Hobsonville Point (Paul Henriques)

6 spaces with bidding starting at \$30pp (includes beer tasting, lunch and round-trip ferry) (Note: sites covered will differ from those on the 2019 edition of this tour)

Discover a "new" part of greater Auckland ... Tour various sites of Hobsonville Point followed by a cold picnic lunch at Paul and Ann's place with craft beer tasting of beers from Hobsonville Point's Little Creatures Brewery (small beer samples offered as well as alternative beverages and vegetarian options available). The tour includes a viewing through the glass of Little Creatures Brewery and a description of brewing by Paul (unfortunately on weekends it isn't operating). Other selected sites included in the tour are the oval with its heritage houses and Fairy Works – Fairy Houses. The tour will be this summer or early autumn on a date suitable for all participants. It will include a short ferry ride to Hobsonville Point and then after the tour a return ferry to Beach Haven (cost of ferry included for those without a gold AT HOP card). Vaccine passes and masks required.



30. Customised Volcano Visit with a Volcanologist (Kate Lewis) – this tour package is for one group of family/friends of up to 6 fully vaccinated people

Suggested date is Saturday, 26 February. One winner. Bids start at \$80 for the group of 6.

Your group will be able to customise your tour to suit your interests and learn about the Auckland Volcanic Field with professional volcanologist Kate Lewis. How many volcanoes are in Auckland and how old are they? Will the volcano in your neighbourhood erupt again? How much warning will we have before another volcano pops up in Auckland? Find out the answers to these questions and more on a customised volcano adventure.

Kate is a volcanologist who has been teaching about volcanoes and other natural hazards and leading tours of Auckland's volcanoes for 10 years. She specialises in science communication, translating scientific concepts and language for non-specialists.





Auckland and North Shore from Rangitoto. How many volcanoes can you see?

The winner of this auction item can choose for their group either of the following options:

1. A day-trip to Rangitoto

We will walk to the summit, talk about lava flows, volcanic history and human history of the island, which could be about 4 hours long. If you choose a longer trip (5 or 6 hours) we will go through lava caves, explore a little more, and have some extra time to look at the historic baches near the wharf. People need to be relatively fit for this trip; it's about an hour uphill to the summit on a rocky, uneven track. We can go slowly, but you need to be able to keep solid footing up an occasionally steep slope and walk up stairs at the summit. Kate admits to stopping frequently to give little talks, so there will be a series of breaks to drink water and have a snack. It can be hot and/or it can rain, although we will reschedule if the weather looks too bad. You would need to purchase your own ferry tickets.

2. A visit to a volcano of your choice in Auckland by car and foot For example, Pupuke Volcano in Takapuna, which includes a fossil lava tree forest. Or Mt Eden for an overview of Auckland's volcanoes. Or a trip to Devonport to climb Mt Victoria and North Head. This choice would involve driving and then getting out of the car to wander around. There will be some walking but it is more accessible than Rangitoto. This trip is a half day, up to 4 hours depending on where we go. Kate will meet you there.

For both of the above options, Kate will provide the expertise. You and your group of up to five others will need to provide your own transportation as well as your own snacks and drinks. Also, either option will be weather dependent and rescheduled if the weather forecast is too bad.

The live auction items that will be offered during Saturday's Zoom Auction at 7:30pm are on the following pages.

You can only bid for them Saturday night.

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

The 4 items below will be auctioned on Saturday 11 December at our Zoom Auction, which starts at 7:30pm. These items are not part of the Monday-Friday auction. Please plan to participate in the Saturday event and bid big! You can find the link to the live auction on the church website and in this Thursday's church newsletter.

7. Choose a sermon! (Clay Nelson) Bids from \$30

Tired of waiting to hear a sermon on a topic you really, really care about? Choose a sermon topic for Clay to preach on in the next year.

12. Chocolate Guinness Cake Delivered to You (Nina Khouri) Starting bid is \$35

Following in the footsteps of the UK's Domestic Goddess Nigella Lawson, AUU's own cake baker Nina Khouri will prepare and deliver for you Nigella's famous Chocolate Guinness Cake. Here is Nigella's description of the confection: "This cake is magnificent in its damp blackness. I can't say that you can absolutely taste the stout in it, but there is certainly a resonant, ferrous tang ... it has a cream cheese frosting to echo the pale head that sits on top of a glass of stout."



25. UU Heritage Firewood with Holes from Long-Gone Borer, Delivery Included (David Fougere) bidding starts at \$40

David says: "If my old house had been renovated (which it hasn't been yet!) it might have looked something like the one in the pic below. But for Unitarians what's interesting about my house is that Barbara Holt's mother, Betty, was born there when the family briefly owned the house in about 1905. Barbara told me they sold it promptly because her grandfather discovered it had borer. (For anyone who didn't know Barbara, she was a long-standing AUC member who died only a few years ago. Betty also was a member when I first attended AUC in the 1980's.)

Well, that borer didn't bring the house down. Janet and I bought it in 1986 and it's still going strong. We've changed a few things since we've been there, and the result is that we have some of this heritage Unitarian house to offer as firewood. Borer holes and all. Also some rusty nails. (So, only suitable for those not fussy about borer, or perhaps with a woodshed well away from your house so your house, too, cannot succumb to borer – not that I'd think there'd be a single live one still in there.)

Types of wood included are kauri and other hardwoods, so likely to be good and long lasting burning. Will measure about half a cubic meter. If not quite that much, David will top it up with

pruning branches. All cut to a size that will fit in your fireplace and delivered to your place before next winter.



David is happy to deliver to you anywhere in Auckland as part of the deal. Delivery most likely early next year, at a time to be worked out that's mutually convenient.

Please note that the market price of pine (\$80 for a cubic meter) or Douglas Fir (\$150). This is much better wood though!

26. VIP tickets for two for Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra Concert – 2022

(David Fougere) Bidding starts at \$120 for 2 tickets + season brochure

David's company (Phoenix Research) provides research services to the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (APO), which is how he is able to offer these 2 VIP tickets. Your choice of (almost) any concert next year – though, of course, totally Covid-dependent.

Many concerts over the last two years have had to be cancelled because of Covid. And we can't be sure about next year. So bid now, win the auction (but don't pay yet), then wait and see! Only pay up if and when you're able to actually get to a concert.

If you opt for a Town Hall "main stage" concert, you get tickets in the balcony, a fabulous place for a spectacular view and appreciation of the orchestra (including all those instruments at the back that you can barely see from the stalls!) Plus you'll benefit from the special hosting for VIPs in the Town Hall Balcony area, with a glass of wine before the concert and further refreshments at interval. Here's how the APO describes the VIP package on their website:

- "Premium reserve concert seats
- Pre-concert and interval refreshments, including a selection of Villa Maria wines and platters by Dawsons
- Hosting in the APO's VIP hosting area with other VIP guests
- Complimentary concert programmes for each guest
- Price: \$140 per person + GST"

The lucky winner of this auction items gets a copy of the 2022 APO Season Brochure, to drool over and think about which concert you'd like to come to. (David will post it to the winner.) You'll almost certainly need a Vaccination Pass to be able to come to such a concert.

For the full list of upcoming APO concerts and events see: http://apo.co.nz/concert-events