

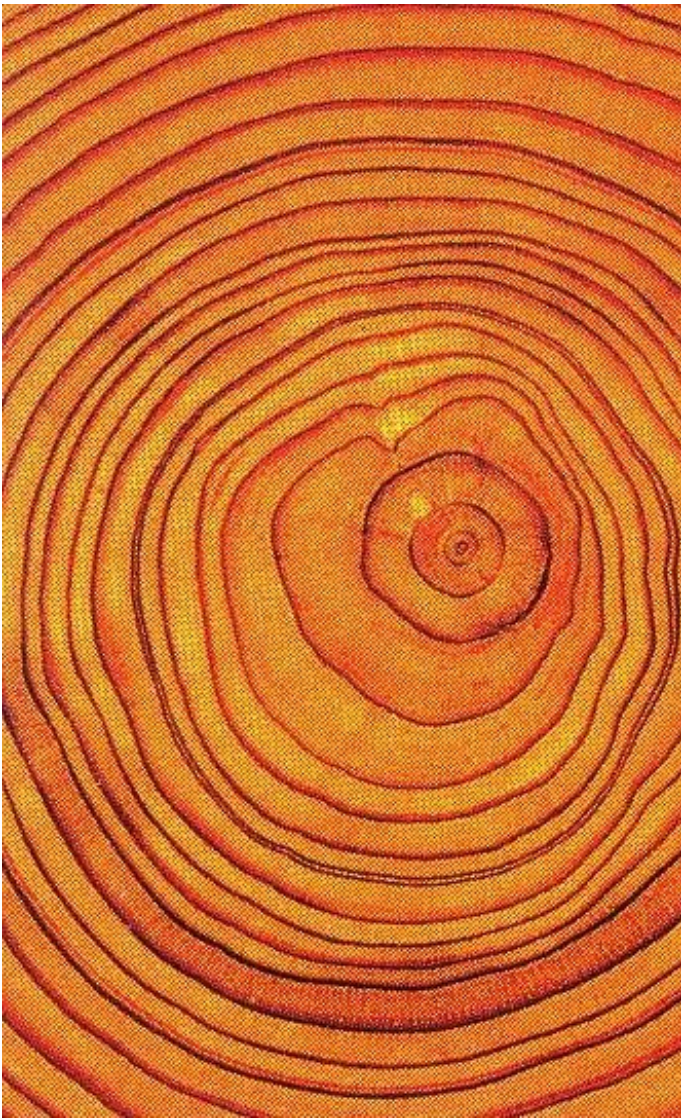
# Compass Rose



December 2012-February 2013

## Remembering by Heart

by Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey, Ph.D.



If someone mentions a poem that I love I might say yes, I know that by heart. These poems are the ones that spoke to me on such a deep level that they got into my heart the first time I heard them or read them. They are in my bones.

My maternal grandmother, Alice, homesteaded on the prairie in Colorado with her sister, Jane, probably around 1910. The closest place to get supplies was Sugar City, which was six miles from where they lived. They built a one-room cabin, planted a garden, and somehow managed to keep themselves together through all sorts of challenges. When the weather kept them inside, or when night fell, my grandmother would read. She had a little book with a collection of plays by Shakespeare. Over the years, she memorized all of the parts of four plays. She was so connected to Shakespeare that she brought his work into her way of speaking, her sense of humor – her ability to understand her life – in a way that took her far beyond the daily life she lived in the middle of nowhere on the prairie. Shakespeare was in my grandmother's bones.

Ray Bradbury's book, *Fahrenheit 451*, is set in a time and place where books are banned. They are confiscated and burned if found, and anyone who keeps them is subject to punishment. A secret group of individuals who refuse to let go of the depth, wisdom, and comfort they found in reading good literature decide to take to the woods. Each person must choose one book that matters most to them and memorize it. They become the book. It is the only way to be sure that the books will survive into future generations. If you were once Richard Jones, you might become F. Scott Fitzgerald, Leo Tolstoy, Jane Austen, Virginia Woolf, William Shakespeare, Homer, Plato, Fyodor Dostoevsky – any one of hundreds of great writers – by choosing to become one of their books. Ray Bradbury took the future of our culture to heart.

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## Mission, Vision, and Purposes

### Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo

#### Mission

We are a religious community of open hearts and open minds working together to transform ourselves and the world.

#### Vision

We are a growing, welcoming, and diverse congregation, grounded in and living out our liberal religious values.

#### Purposes

##### Worshipping

A sense of transcending wonder inspires our life together as a religious community. Through a diversity of services and rituals, we open our hearts and minds, and are moved to take action in the world.

##### Caring

All people are welcomed, dialogues flourish, and relationships grow and deepen through joyous and difficult times. Individually and collectively, we exemplify love, compassion, respect, and hospitality, both within our congregation and in the greater community.

##### Connecting

We invite and encourage all congregants to participate in congregational life, and we create opportunities, through social and spiritual fellowship, for everyone to form deep and lasting connections. We create meaningful connections with other Unitarian Universalists, and with other religious and service groups.

##### Learning

We have a cohesive and engaging lifespan religious education program, which inspires us to understand Unitarian Universalism, to nurture our spiritual growth and identity, to live in accordance with Unitarian Universalist principles, and to develop our leadership abilities. Our religious education program attracts and serves the greater community.

##### Acting

We demonstrate our liberal religious values through effective social action, providing leadership and creating partnerships in the local community and beyond.

##### Giving

We are generous with our time, talent, and money. Through our stewardship, our congregation thrives, and we create greater justice, equity, and compassion in the local and global community.

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### Compass Rose

A compass rose is a diagram, usually displaying the cardinal directions of north, south, east, and west, that appears in virtually all maps, charts, and other navigation systems. (The "rose" in the term refers to how the compass points resemble the petals of the flower.) It is our hope that *Compass Rose*, the quarterly journal of the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, will likewise serve as a guide to help you get your bearings as you travel in your spiritual journey.

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# At the Heart of Things: A Music Ministry Perspective

by Shawn Reifschneider, Music Director

What lies at the heart of UUSM? I have been passionate about musical excellence in worship, about music's integral role in worship, and about plentiful and robust congregational singing. I have invited on many occasions everyone to join the choir. I would bet more than a few members of our congregation think that I believe music is at the heart of UUSM.

While I do believe that music can speak to us in powerful ways, in ways unique to music, in perfect harmony with the message of the spoken word, making music the heart of the congregation would miss the mark. There are many fine musical organizations such as the symphony, the opera, the ballet, and choruses of every persuasion. And while they touch us in very deep ways, these organizations are not in my mind, religious organizations.

Religious organizations serve the society that created them. (Robert Latham proposes that society creates the institutions it needs such as government, education, and finance.) Religion's purpose is to provide answers to life's most vital questions: Who am I? How do I know what I know? Who or what is in charge? What is my purpose? What does my death mean?

In answering these questions, and modeling the transformative power of our answers, we fulfill our mission as a religious organization. Our Unitarian Universalist Principles guide us in our individual and collective search for these answers.

In the Christian scriptures, the apostle Paul speaks of the body of the church, and such a body having many members, parts or aspects with different functions and different spiritual gifts. This idea can be applied productively to our congregation. We utilize the spoken word to provoke us to thought and change. We utilize service to put into action and make visible the transforming power of our answers.

And where we gather and go, music is with us. It helps comfort us in times of need. It gives voice to our celebration of the abundance so manifest in the interdependent web of life. It helps us rally around to fight injustice. The song "Bread and Roses" has become an anthem of labor rights, especially the rights of working women. Beware the organization that writes songs to promote their cause – therein lies the power to change the world.



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## Article Submissions

Articles for *Compass Rose* (max. 500 words) may be submitted for consideration to [office@uusanmateo.org](mailto:office@uusanmateo.org). (Contact the office if you have ideas for longer articles.) Poetry, photos, and art work are also welcome. Deadline for the next issue (covering March-May 2013): **February 7, 2013**.

Events and calendar items for *Compass Rose*, the UUSM website, and other UUSM publications may also be submitted at any time to [office@uusanmateo.org](mailto:office@uusanmateo.org). Please include a title, inclusive dates and times, location, description (max. 50 words), cost (if any), and contact information. Longer announcements may be considered – please contact the office.

All submissions are subject to editorial discretion and revision.

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# Remembering by Heart

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The idea of living in a society where books are banned and burned may seem far-fetched, but in fact this was a common practice in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in Germany, The Netherlands, France, Italy, Spain, England, and elsewhere. Any book on the "Index" was not only burned if



found, its owner might meet with the same fate. This was true during the reign of both the Catholic and the Protestant Inquisitions. Any book that did not hold to the Orthodox Doctrine of the Trinity was considered heretical. Any individual who did not confess to the Orthodox Doctrine of the Trinity was risking his or her life. The abuses of the Church were monumental. Hair-splitting differences of opinion could be a death sentence. Freedom of reason and con-

science out in the open did not exist, so groups of dissidents would gather in secret, or take up residence in the woods in mountainous areas, so that they could live by what they knew in their hearts and minds to be right and true.

Of these groups, the Anabaptists were the largest and the most persecuted. "Ana" means "re-" in Greek. The Anabaptists thought it made no sense to baptize infants because they had no knowledge of the commitment that was being made in this sacrament. The person receiving the sacrament needed to be a believer. Jesus was baptized when he was 30, but since life-expectancy was so low in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Anabaptists made the age for baptism much younger. The Church made this practice a capital crime. Infants had to be baptized shortly after birth in case they died in sin. The Anabaptists did not believe that infants were born tainted with Original Sin. Nor did they bear arms, take oaths, or hold public office. They were pacifists, insisted on separation of church and state, and lived in small clusters where they shared in the community of goods. In 1529 the Second Diet of Speyer decreed death to Anabaptists, and it came to pass that they were hunted for bounty. Though officially founded on Jan. 21, 1525, in Zurich, the three radicals who led the dissenters had already been killed.

With the Anabaptists we find one of the strongest examples of knowing by heart. Most were illiterate. Their desire to know the New Testament was so strong that

"Readers" would make the rounds on a regular basis and the communities would gather to listen to Scripture. The listening went straight to the heart and stayed there. How do we know this? The records of the trials held by the Inquisitions are some of the most detailed and preserved to be found. In these records, the question frequently arises: How is it possible that a poor, illiterate peasant can answer the questions of the Examiner with exact quotes, book and chapter, from Scripture? Because they knew Scripture in the fullest, deepest sense of knowing by heart.

Though most Anabaptists were poor and illiterate, there were a few who were highly educated and wealthy. One, Annekan Jans van Briel, was drowned in Rotterdam at age 28. As she was being led to her death, she gave a letter and a purse of money to the man who had promised to raise her infant son. This letter was to be given to her son when he was old enough to understand it. It went viral, as we might say today, being published 16 times. The letter is quite long, but one part of it reflects a kind of passion that I, as a Unitarian Universalist, admire immensely:

*Therefore, my child, do not regard the great number, nor walk in their ways.  
Remove thy foot far from their paths, for they go to hell, as sheep unto death...  
But where you hear of a poor, simple, cast-off little flock which is despised and rejected by the world, join them.*

I know this by heart.

Peace and Love,  
Alicia

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# Delving into the Heart, Journeying to the Light

by Nancy Jasa, Co-Director of Religious Education

Working with the Coming of Age (COA) youth and mentors has left me fairly entrenched in looking at the heart of belief, faith, and community. There have been a lot

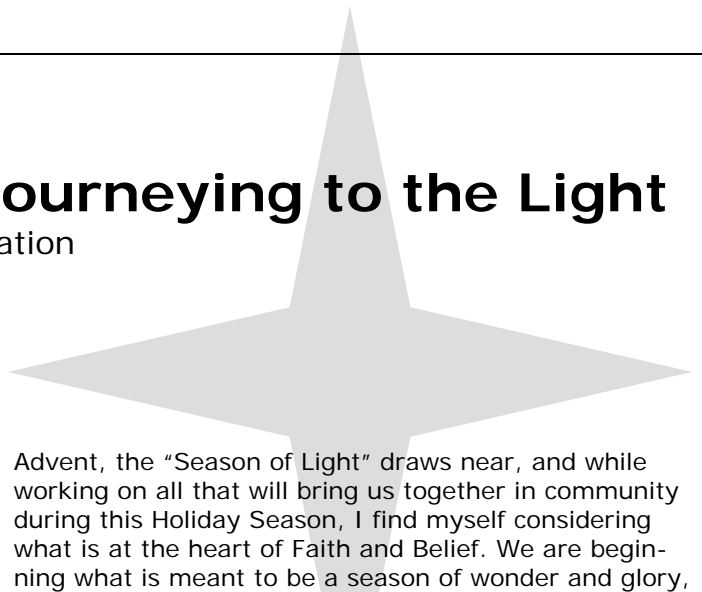


of parallels in various areas of youth and family programming pulling me below the surface on these topics. Essentially it started on our first night together in COA – parents, youth, and mentors – the day after the Fall Equinox, a perfect time to start the process of looking within: a journey to move beyond the recitation of our principles, stories of ethics and justice, and discover the still quiet voice within that connects us to the universal truth of our own

becoming. As the light wanes and our natural world's life force moves to its roots, we hope our youth will discover the core beauty of one another in a community built around covenant.

In considering the building of covenant with the youth, I had to acknowledge that for them, after years of covenant-building as children in RE, they pretty much view it as the List of Rules. If we were going to peel away the layers and dig deep so they could hear their soul sing, we had to begin with the heart of what makes a covenant. How can we model and experience community covenant as a spiritual practice? The heart of life-affirming covenant is the gift of trust and caretaking that we share. Covenant is the container that can make community holy.

As Unitarian Universalists, covenant is a part of each group that meets within our community. While working on the design of how we would make a Family Chalice Circle truly a "family" circle, I realized how much of our society, and for some of us our culture, keeps our generations separate. As a result I often encounter adults who are positive the youth will not like them. The youth and children are equally positive that the adults will not like them. In fact, once they trust in the miracle of covenant and step fully into community, allowing vulnerability to one another's beauty, mutual admiration begins and we can then journey together to the heart of community.



Advent, the "Season of Light" draws near, and while working on all that will bring us together in community during this Holiday Season, I find myself considering what is at the heart of Faith and Belief. We are beginning what is meant to be a season of wonder and glory, yet too many of us find it to be a season of anxiety, fear, and disappointment. As a church community, shall we join our youth and look below the surface of our faith, belief, and the season? Let us consider what is at the heart of the Winter Solstice when we reach the darkest night and begin our journey back into the light. What is at the heart of the miracle birth stories of Jesus, Krishna, Buddha, and many of our mythological gods? Do you wonder why Advent is called the "Season of Light," when it is actually moving towards the longest night? The Coming of Age youth will spend this season and the swing back into the light reaching into that deep part of soul. That place in our being that is both the dark and the light. I invite you to spend the season of Advent individually or as a family – biological or created – delving into the heart of your faith and belief. May you find glory and joy in celebrating the season in covenantal community by bringing that which is holy – the beauty that is the full miracle of your dark and light core self – your whole self – to our time together.

## Season of Light Devotional

There will be a "Season of Light" family devotional available to anyone interested in exploring a weekly time of centering and celebration. The devotional will be based on the natural kingdoms Advent season curriculum as developed by the Waldorf School. Minerals the first week, plants the second week, animals the third week, and humans the fourth week, all waiting for the miracle birth of the Christ Child in each of us. If you are interested in receiving via email four weekly installments beginning Nov. 29, please email [nancy@uusanmateo.org](mailto:nancy@uusanmateo.org).

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# Worshipping with All Ages

by Kathy van Leuwen, Co-Director of Religious Education

One of my favorite things about UUSM on Sunday mornings is seeing the faces of our elders: as they greet the children, as they watch the youngsters sit at the front of the Sanctuary to listen to the story, as they

sing them out of the Sanctuary. I also enjoy watching a child offer a shy smile, a high five, or even a hug to a familiar adult as they come in. It is heartwarming to see the genuine connections that people of all ages have made being part of this community. For many, our community is one of the few places they can experience the joy of being with young people.



Worship is at the heart of what we do at UUSM. Children and youth, like adults, need time to consider what is truly important, to come home to their true selves, and to gather with people who share their faith and their values. And when all ages worship together, older and younger members come together and interact in a rich and vital way.

We call this multigenerational worship. Why the term *multigenerational*? The Unitarian Universalist Association has adopted the term *multigenerational* to recognize that in our congregations there is a wide spectrum of ages present – from the infant to the elder. *Intergenerational* was the preferred term for some time, but many religious leaders now think that it implies a duality of old and young, adults and children, which does not fully embrace the full range of ages within our communities.

Being able to worship in the main worship room in the church – for the whole service – allows young people to become familiar and understand our liturgy, values, and norms. Giving younger members the experience of seeing what adults do when they worship helps them understand, respect, and revere Unitarian Universalism.

“The best way to be in community is to feel you are a contributing member of that community. That is why [multigenerational] worship and child and youth participation in the Sunday morning service are so important. There are remarkable adults and children in our congregations. It is a gift for them to experience each other.”

- Lydia Childs, *Essex Conversations*

Children learn best by doing and experiencing firsthand. To learn how to “do” worship, kids need to experience it, participating to the best of their ability: singing hymns, lighting candles for loved ones, joining hands. Our worship team has worked this year to give young people a larger role on Sunday mornings in the hope of making them feel more a part of our worship community. I am delighted by the eagerness and reverence with which our children light the chalice. I am proud to see youth who have grown up in this church solemnly



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serving as worship associates. I love that many of our children have become familiar with a core set of hymns and look forward to singing at church.

Repetition of important themes and rituals is another way that we instill a sense of religious identity and develop faith. Ritualizing worship traditions, such as the Water Communion and the Children's Holiday Pageant, and rites of passage, such as Child Dedications and Bridging Ceremonies, create deep learning and fond memories. In *Full Circle: Fifteen Ways to Grow Lifelong UU's*, Kate Tweedie Erslev writes, "There is value in repeating the same candle-lighting ritual at the Christmas Eve service year after year or using daffodils in the Easter service. Each six-year old who later returns as a fourteen-year old and still later as a twenty-one-year old will savor these memories and gain new insights." Our children should be present to experience these touchstones of our faith.

Not fully including and welcoming young people into our Sanctuary may mean losing future generations of Unitarian Universalists. The Rev. Krista Taves writes: "We are one of the only denominations that assumes kids can't sit through church...The result is that our children graduate out of the RE program with no experience of worship and the assumption that there's nothing in it for them. And we lose them in droves." Without the experience of being part of "big people's church," young people who have grown up UU are less likely to feel comfortable joining adults in worship when they have graduated from programs for children and youth.

As in other aspects of creating community, there are tensions that exist around worshipping with all ages. There are differing expectations for what behavior is appropriate. There are different views on whether multigenerational worship should be similar to adult worship or more experiential. Some may want the experience only occasionally, some on a regular basis. Church is a place where multigenerational expectations are confronted and negotiated. It is my hope that we can come together in ways which respect each other's needs while honoring our differences, because we have so much to gain from being together and so much to lose if our children don't find a spiritual home in our sanctuaries.

## Suggestions

Here are some suggestions for helping worship to be a positive experience for you and your family:

- Sit near the front. When children can see what is happening they feel more involved.
- Get settled early. Review the order of service and help children understand what will be happening. Feel free to whisper instructions to help children learn "worship etiquette."
- Help children look up hymns and share hymnals at your child's eye level. Line words with your finger for young readers or whisper each line before it is sung.
- During stories when children are invited to come forward, feel free to come with any young or unsure child.

If the experience proves difficult for you or your child, childcare is available for children of all ages during multigenerational worship, as well as a comfort room (in Hemingway Lounge) where you can listen to the service while attending to the needs of your loved one.

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# Voices

*Stories, reflections, and inspiration from the UUSM community*

## Thank You from the Minasalvas Family

We received this note on Oct. 8 from Rey Minasalvas, Helen's husband:

*Thank you very much for all the supports for my family, I could not express my feelings and I have nothing to say for all the goodness that you made for my family.*

*Helen now is under monitoring with her high blood pressure because since when she was discharged from the hospital she has a b/p of 160/120 and sometimes 180/120, maybe of thinking for the expenses. And I always tell to her that in every problem God have more solutions. And I thank God He answer my prayers.*

*Rey Minasalvas*

(Helen and Rey Minasalvas are lay leaders at our Ulay partner church congregation. Helen recently experienced severe complications during childbirth. The baby sadly did not survive. Our emergency collection on Sunday, Oct. 30 helped the family with the medical expenses that far exceeded the family's income.)



*The Minasalvas family*

## Ghost Stories

by Joy Beach Thomas, Home and Hope Coordinator

And heaven stories, I'm a sucker for both of them even though I'm pretty agnostic about an afterlife.

Last October, a guest minister told our children a great tale. Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul's story went something like this:

A busy businessman was hurrying out of a building when a homeless man reached up to him from the sidewalk. "Please help me." The businessman reached deep into this overcoat pocket and found a forgotten ham sandwich, which he quickly handed over.

Fast forward to the businessman waiting for dinner in a fancy restaurant. His companions received marvelous food, one plate after another. Finally, his dinner arrived – a moldy old ham sandwich! The "waiter" explained that the man was actually in heaven, where you receive the best that you gave to the less fortunate on earth.

At UUSM, we participate in a program called Home and Hope, where we give food and shelter to five homeless families. They live in tents in Beck Hall, and volunteers provide food, child activities, and a safe night's sleep. Our volunteers have been extremely hospitable and generous to the guests. No moldy ham sandwiches! So...perhaps we'll all see each other in heaven – where we'll do crafts, eat homemade peach cobbler, and talk late into the night. Or perhaps not!

Lest this article seems self congratulatory about our wonderfulness to folks facing hard times, I must confess that I enjoy being with these families. They've helped add richness to my life, and they've had lessons to teach me. When I pitied myself for not having my infant grandson to hold, someone put a baby into my arms and asked if I would mind rocking her so they could eat. When I was totally out of energy one Sun-





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day, a very heavy four-year-old wanted me to carry him about the church, and suddenly, I was Wonder Woman. I still chop garlic the way Maria taught me that night we made enchiladas for everyone. Teachers and lessons everywhere!

“Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded.  
It’s a relationship between equals.  
Only when we know our own darkness well can we be present with the darkness of others.  
Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity.”

Pema Chödrön

*The Home and Hope families will return to Beck Hall for the week starting March 3, 2013. And when the weather gets warm again, they’ll be at our Home and Hope partner church, First Presbyterian of San Mateo. All of us would love to have you join us.*

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## At the Heart of Things: An MSC Perspective

by Mark Eggleston

At the heart of our sun is a fusion reaction in which hydrogen is transformed into helium (at temperatures of millions of degrees...this is a fragment of a lyric of a nerdy song I first heard at Caltech...chat me up some time to get the details). The heat and light of this reaction produces a “habitable region” surrounding our sun. The earth, most fortunately for us, occupies this region.



At the heart of our Earth is an iron core. The circulation of liquid iron in this core gives rise to the magnetic field, which has been used by humankind to guide our exploration of the surface for centuries, until the modern age of GPS.

In very real ways, the hearts of these astronomical objects provide us with the basis of life and a way of knowing where we are. Moving from the large and distant to our own community, I wonder what lies at the heart of UUSM. In fact, one of the questions for the Congregation Record is, “Does the congregation have a mission – not a mission statement, but a glowing coal at its center – and if so, what is it?” (The Congrega-

tional Record is a document produced by the Ministerial Search Committee – or MSC – on behalf of UUSM and sent to the UUA for ministers-in-search to describe the congregation and its environs.)

Perhaps we exist to provide ourselves a community where we feel included. This is indeed the core of many social clubs. Perhaps we exist to provide services to others. This is the mission of fine organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Soroptimists, and many others.

Our mission statement reads, “We are a religious community...” Does that in some way make us different than social clubs and service organizations? Robert Latham preached in April 2012 on this topic. He said:

“...Your mission as a religious institution is individual and social transformation...a transformation that brings society into greater accord with your answers to the compelling questions of human existence. And as a community of faith it is to model this message so that the social order can actually see its transformative power at work.”

Alicia spoke in her sermon titled “Leo” of the Greenleaf model of leadership, specifically of leadership as serving others. Our mission statement continues “... working together to transform ourselves and the world.” Alicia’s comments point to a way of creating that “transformation of the world.”

How does this relate to the search for a settled minister? The minister is responsible for nurturing the mission and ministry of the congregation; in other words, to promote the spiritual health of the congregation. The minister seeks to fan the glowing coal at our center into an open flame...one that illuminates our way and helps others find their way in this confused, desperate, beautiful, and awesome world. The time of transition is an opportunity...to reflect on what lies at our heart, to hold, cherish, and nurture that glowing coal, and to share it with the settled minister when he or she is among us, that we might together fulfill the mission to which we have been called. May it be so.

**Ours is a caring community.** If you are dealing with a difficult time or simply want someone to be present with you, please know that our minister is here to support you spiritually, as are our Lay Chaplains. Please contact us at 650-342-5946 x 11 or [office@uusanmateo.org](mailto:office@uusanmateo.org) if you need the loving support of this congregation. Our Lay Chaplains are coordinated by Pam Gehrke.

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# Letters from Ulay: Giving the Gift of Education

by Carol Cook



When we visited the Ulay congregation in March 2011, I was struck by the energy and optimism of the young people and their parents – in striking contrast to the family stories we heard on our first visit in January 2009, when most children were dropping out of elementary school. Now 23 children are flourishing in school thanks to 20 UUSM families, individuals, and groups who reach out to these children as Education Partners. With a modest annual contribution we are making a huge difference in the lives of these students. They, in turn, give so much to us – so we are sharing our joy with these excerpts from some of the letters received by UUSM Education Partners:

*From Andrea Rosenfeld:* Being an education partner is such a small sacrifice on our end, and yet makes such a huge difference to our partner student. We recently received such a sweet letter from our student, so full of love and gratitude. She wrote: "First of all I would like to greet you [with] a kissable 'hi!' I am very happy because I [received honors] and am very excited because I am in grade 5 now. I hope [you] do not regret [your] support of me." It is so important that we are continually made aware of the huge difference our partnership makes to our friends in Ulay.

*From Julio:* I am longing to see you sometime my partner and my sponsor. I am happy and grateful for your help, specially the church would not be like this if not for the blessings that you share to us, and as well as the other good things like the school supplies that I would like to express my most heart felt thanks to all of you.

*From Rowela:* I'm so thankful to God and you for helping my studies in high school. Our parents could hardly afford to send us to school. I also hope that you could visit our church because we would be happy and honored if you could visit us, friends from other country. Thank you very much. God bless you always!!!

*From Jolina:* We are so thankful to God for this blessing that comes to my life, that send special people like you sponsoring me. Thank you very much for the goodness that you share to me and to my family and to our church as well.

*From Andrihina:* My dearest partner and sponsor...I try my very best in my studies. I wish to become a teacher or a nurse someday, so that I could greatly help other people because if I am a teacher, I could help and teach



the children but if ever in my second choice become a nurse, I could greatly help sick people.

*From Luzminda:* I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to you and other UU in San Mateo California for the help that you extend to us especially for my studies, to the school supplies which greatly help my study. I take my studies seriously because I know that you are helping me. Thank you very much and more power to you.

*From Ashley Kate's mother:* It is my hope and my prayer that we will continue our partnership through exchange of communication. In this way we will know each other's situation in life. By the way, when are you coming back? Ashley Kate always asks when she could see her *Lola* [Grandma] Susan and Carol. God bless you always!

If you long to be the recipient of a "kissable Hi!" please contact Carol Cook or Lori Fox – we have a few new children in need of Education Partners. To all of those who give to support this vital program – many, many thanks!

## Freedom of Mind

by Robert Voss

I take it on faith  
 You would free your mind  
 Warm to the subject  
 Desire to be free  
 Another desire  
 Like so many more  
 Conditioned by all  
 Our society  
 Bent to the input  
 Subject media  
 Acts of right and wrong  
 Understand the veil  
 That makes you feel free  
 And choose what works best,  
 But sadness obtains  
 With lack of control  
 It is essential  
 The editor rules  
 To filter our strain  
 Simplify the stream  
 Concretize the flow  
 Meld complexity  
 Into a substance  
 With which you can work,  
 Fleshing out these thoughts  
 You can choose you can  
 All the aforesaid  
 Gaining assumption  
 Between you and me  
 My aim is to gift  
 That freedom subscribed  
 In this flight of words  
 Pick up or lay down  
 You choose you can choose

This freedom of choice  
 I would plead with you  
 To educate well  
 Your soul editor  
 If it might feel bad  
 Examine choices  
 Made in the battle  
 Compassion will tell,  
 What I want for you  
 Is the same for me  
 With Freedom of mind  
 The struggle, the joy  
 The gift to be free

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# Worship Services

*Sunday services take place at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.*

## **Sunday, Dec. 2**

"Mental Health Matters"

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Meyers  
Worship Associate: Rev. Alicia Forsey

This morning's special collection benefits our Philippine Partner Church.

## **Sunday, Dec. 9**

"Mercy and Truth Have Met Together, Righteousness And Peace Have Kissed Each Other"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey  
Worship Associate: Tom Newman

## **Sunday, Dec. 16**

"Christmas Pageant"

Worship Leaders: Nancy Jasa and Marty Hoffman

Join us for this multigenerational Christmas celebration!

This morning's special collection benefits Second Harvest Food Bank.

## **Sunday, Dec. 23**

"Sing and Rejoice"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey  
Worship Associate: Anne Peter

## **Sunday, Dec. 24 5:00 and 7:00 pm**

"Christmas Eve Services"

Worship Leaders: Rev. Alicia Forsey and Kathy van Leuwen

We lift our voices in carol-singing and rejoice at this joyous celebration! Please bring cookies to share for a celebration after the service.

This evening's special collections contribute to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

## **Sunday, Dec. 30**

TBA

## **Sunday, Jan. 6**

"Walking Together"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

## **Sunday, Jan. 13**

"Menochio"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

This morning's special collection benefits Samaritan House.

## **Sunday, Jan. 20**

TBA

Worship Leader: Nancy Jasa

## **Sunday, Jan. 27**

"A Mind of Her Own"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

This morning's special collection benefits Coastside Hope.

## **Sunday, Feb. 3**

"Saint or Sinner"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

## **Sunday, Feb. 10**

TBA

## **Sunday, Feb. 17**

"The Cathedral in which We Live"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

This morning's special collection benefits our Philippine Partner Church.

## **Sunday, Feb. 24**

TBA

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

*For information and updates on upcoming services, please visit the website and click on [Worshipping](#).*

# Announcements and Events

## Religious Education

### Children's Holiday Service: Celebration of the Bells!

Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:00 am  
Sanctuary

Come enjoy a festive worship with people of all ages as we celebrate the holiday season around the world with the songs of bells. There is no Religious Education this Sunday, but childcare is available during the service and Coffee Hour.

**There will be no Religious Education classes on Sundays, Dec. 23 and 30.** Kids' Coffee Hour and nursery care are available during the worship service and adult Coffee Hour.

### Spring Religious Education Session Begins Sunday, Jan. 6

### Mystery Friends Sign-Ups Sundays, Jan. 6-20

What are Mystery Friends? Mystery Friends are kids (5 years and up) and adults from UUSM who would like to make a connection with an older or younger friend. Each adult is paired with a child who does not know the identity of his or her Mystery Friend. On the final Mystery Friends Sunday, "Sundae Sunday," April 7, the children will be introduced to their Mystery Friends and have the chance to meet face-to-face over ice cream.

What do you have to do to be a Mystery Friend? Kids and adults need to complete and return the sign-up sheet (available beginning Jan. 6) by the **Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> deadline**. Look for more details in upcoming E-announcements.

## Community Events

### Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are small groups (6-10 people) that meet for the sharing of personal views, accompanied by meditation, readings, and ritual. The circle is meant to be a comfortable setting for deep listening and making connections across diversity.

Two groups are currently meeting. Here are the schedules:

*Special Family Series* -  
Two Sundays a month, Oct 28-May 19,  
12:00-1:15 pm  
UUSM

At the same time as the adult circle (led by Francesca Guido), a children's circle will be led by RE personnel (Co-DRE Nancy Jasa and Diana Chung).

*Tuesday Evening Series* -  
Usually every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday,  
Oct. 16-May 21, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Hemingway Lounge

Led by Pam Gehrke.

Pam and Francesca can provide you the exact schedules. Contact Pam at 650-347-0582 or [psgehrke@gmail.com](mailto:psgehrke@gmail.com), or Francesca at 650-340-8979 or [fantine@sonic.net](mailto:fantine@sonic.net), or find one of them at Coffee Hour in Beck Hall.

### Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, Dec. 1, 3:00-6:00 pm  
Entire Building

We gather together once again at the start of the Holiday Season to spruce up our building, put up decorations, sing carols, and share a meal together! Please bring soup, salad, bread, cider, or other goodies to share.

This day also marks the start of the Alternative Gift Faire and the Mitten Tree project.

### First Friday Family Fun Nights

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 6:30-8:30 pm  
(next dates: Jan. 4 and Feb. 1)  
Beck Hall

Join this monthly multigenerational family night dinner with pizza and salad. Cost: \$5.00/adult, \$2.00/child, up to a maximum of \$15.00/family. RSVP with [jamiausm@hotmail.com](mailto:jamiausm@hotmail.com) for each event one week prior to the date.

### 2013 Circle Dinners

Jan. 26, Feb. 16, March 9, April 20

Connect with other UUSM folks at Circle Dinners. Participants' names are scrambled to ensure you'll meet a different group of interesting UUSM people at each of four gatherings. Sign up as a single or in pairs during Coffee Hour through November. If you'd like to know more or to sign up, contact Chair Becky Howland 650-759-9256 or [becky.howland@kla-tencor.com](mailto:becky.howland@kla-tencor.com)

### UUSM Annual Auction

Saturday, March 2, 6:00-10:00 pm  
Beresford Recreation Center

Save the date for our annual fun and fundraising event! The Women's Ageing to Sage-ing Group is working hard to organize the evening. Please contact any of the group's members if you would like to help! Stay tuned for details on what items to donate and how to volunteer.

## Musaic 2012 Holiday Concert

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:00 pm  
Sanctuary

Musaic's mission is to share beautiful men's *a cappella* singing in the Bay Area. If you were at the concert last year, you know it's not to be missed. If you weren't, don't miss out again! The sweet sounds of their voices will bring you into the spirit of the season.

\$20 general admission. Tickets available Sunday mornings at Coffee Hour, or go to [www.musaicsf.org/concerts.php](http://www.musaicsf.org/concerts.php).



## Alternative Gift Faire

Saturday, Dec. 1, 3:00 pm  
Sundays, Dec. 2-23, 11:00 am

Alternative Gifts support our Partner Church in the Philippines – and are a great survival strategy for you and your family in this consumer-focused season. Gifts available this year include:

**Share A Meal** – One weekly communal meal served to church members each Sunday after the worship service. Hunger and malnutrition are ongoing problems in this community.

**Scholarships** – Recipients are outstanding students who will be future leaders in the UU Church of the Philippines. We currently sponsor one high school student and one elementary school student.

We will also have Christmas cards to sign. Please take advantage of this opportunity to “be the change you wish to see in the world.” Thank you!

## Adult Enrichment

### In Her Name Circle

led by Joy Reichard  
Friday, Dec. 14 (Ann Benner Room)  
Thursdays, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14 (Beck Hall)  
7:00-9:00 pm

The group meets to celebrate the many manifestations of the Divine Feminine. On Dec. 14, we honor Guadalupe, Mother of the People. For info on the upcoming 2013 series or for any questions, please contact Joy at 415-819-8769 or joy@joyreichard.com. *Please note:* starting 2013, the meeting dates move to 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays.

### UUSM Book Group

Usually every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (see dates below), 11:30 am-12:00 pm  
Hemingway Lounge

Books to be discussed:

- Dec. 2 *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain and *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway (both books will be discussed)
- Jan. 27 *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver
- Feb. 24 *36 Arguments for the Existence of God* by Rebecca Goldstein

For info, contact Anne Silver at 650-740-7221 or annehsilver@yahoo.com.

## Social Action

### Donations for Safe Harbor

This Holiday Season, we are collecting new toiletry and bath products (shampoo, cream rinse, bar soap, shaving cream, razors, combs, brushes, nail clippers, emory boards) and gently used bath towels for homeless residents of the nearby shelter, Safe Harbor. Drop off donations and fill the laundry baskets in the Ann Benner Room, then volunteer to help deliver them. For more info, contact Lorie Esposito at 650-867-1853 or loriemsw8@yahoo.com.

### Second Harvest Food Bank

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6:30-8:30 pm  
1051 Bing St., San Carlos

We have another scheduled work date with Second Harvest. The work is mainly sorting food to be provided to the hungry in our very own county. It's fun and easy! For more info or to sign up, contact Lorie Esposito 650-867-1853 or loriemsw8@yahoo.com.

### Social Justice Sundays

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 16, Jan. 20, and Feb. 17)  
Social Justice Letters – Beck Hall  
Social Justice Council – Hemingway Lounge

Sign the monthly Social Justice Letter. For info, contact Peter Cross at 650-591-3642 or civ2100@gmail.com.

Put your faith in action and join the Social Justice Council's monthly meeting. For info, contact Caryl Hughan at 650-692-4147 or educaryl@gmail.com.

### Home and Hope at UUSM

We host Home and Hope families for a week twice a year at UUSM and help out twice a year at First Presbyterian of San Mateo.

Here are the 2013 dates:

March 3-10 - UUSM

June 9-16 - First Presbyterian

Aug. 25-Sept. 1 - First Presbyterian

Nov. 10-17 - UUSM

For info or if you'd like to volunteer, contact Joy Thomas at 650-520-9997 or joybeach@gmail.com.

## Ongoing

### Newcomer's Circle

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 2, Jan. 6, and Feb. 3)  
Hemingway Lounge

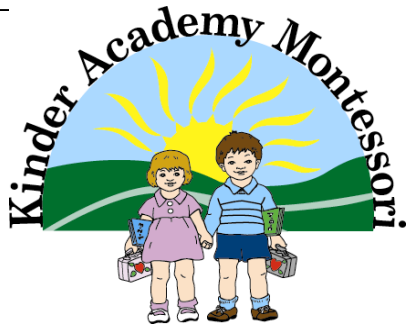
This is our basic introduction to what Unitarian Universalism and UUSM are all about. All visitors welcome, no RSVP required.



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Reception at UUSM

Saturday, Jan. 19, 3:00-6:00 pm

We open our doors once again for our annual community celebration of Martin Luther King's legacy. Please join us!



**A warm and happy place  
where learning is nurtured with love.**

- Preschool & Kindergarten Ages 2.5-6
- Full & Half Day Programs
- Art, Music, Computer & Chinese Classes
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**Open Enrollment**  
(650) 340-8819

300 E. Santa Inez, San Mateo  
KinderAcademyMontessori.net

#### **Knitters Group**

Every Sunday, 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
Loft (above Beck Hall)

Join us if you like to knit. For info, contact Christina Berdoulay at 650-343-5042 or csberdoulay@sbcglobal.net.

#### **Walkie Talkies**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday,  
9:00-10:00 am  
(next dates: Dec. 3 and 17, Jan. 7 and 21, Feb. 4 and 18)  
Offsite

Women's group strolls twice a month.  
For info, call Phyllis Mitchell at 650-340-9091 or Sally Reed at 650-697-8433.

#### **Women's Potluck**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 3, Jan. 7, and Feb. 4)  
Beck Hall

All UUSM women are invited! For info, call Phyllis Mitchell at 650-340-9091 or Sally Reed at 650-697-8433.

#### **Age-ing to Sage-ing**

Every other Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 4 and 18, Jan. 1, 15 and 29, Feb. 12 and 26)  
Hemingway Lounge

Seniors group meets twice monthly.  
For info, contact Kim Mortyn at 650-574-3250 or kmortyn@sbcglobal.net, or Dick Davis at 650-348-3966 or davisrlav@aol.com.

#### **Women's Age-ing to Sage-ing**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday,  
7:00-8:30 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 11, Jan. 8 and 22,  
Feb. 12 and 26)  
Hemingway Lounge

A Sage-ing group just for women. For info, contact Lillian Barden at 650-401-6089 or lilbarden@astound.net, or Randi Paynter at 510-333-4746 or randi.paynter@gmail.com.

#### **Choir Practice**

Every Wednesday, 7:00-8:45 pm  
Sanctuary

Join the choir and lift your voice in song. Childcare available. Contact Music Director Shawn Reifschneider at 650-759-5942 or music@uusanmateo.org.

#### **Women's Chalice Oval**

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 12, Jan. 9, and Feb. 13)  
Hemingway Lounge

This women's Chalice "Circle" continues!  
For info, contact Debby Leschyn at 650-591-6616 or dleschyn@gmail.com.

#### **Men's BBQ Night**

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:00-8:00 pm  
(next dates: Dec. 20, Jan. 17, and Feb. 21)  
Patio, Beck Hall

Join the UUSM men for a meal from the grill and topical conversation. For info, contact Truman Smith at 650-740-9773 or trumanwsmith@gmail.com.

*For more details on upcoming events and an online calendar, please visit [www.uusanmateo.org](http://www.uusanmateo.org).*

## **Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo**

### **Ministers**

Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey, Ph.D.,  
*Interim Minister*  
650-342-5946 x 12  
revforsey@gmail.com

Rev. Joy Atkinson, *Minister Emerita*  
revjoy@aol.com

### **Staff**

Kathy van Leuwen, *Religious Education Co-Director*  
650-342-5946 x 13  
dre@uusanmateo.org

Nancy Jasa, *Religious Education Co-Director*  
925-237-1647  
nancy@uusanmateo.org

Shawn Reifschneider, *Music Director*  
650-759-5942  
music@uusanmateo.org

Glenn Ricafrente, *Office Manager*  
650-342-5946 x 11  
office@uusanmateo.org

### **Board of Trustees**

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### **Coordinating Team**

Rev. Alicia Forsey, Chair  
Shannon Bodeau  
Diana Candee  
Tish Davis-Wick  
Francis Prévot  
Mark Wandro

300 East Santa Inez Ave.,  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
650-342-5946 ■ fax 650-342-1777  
office@uusanmateo.org  
www.uusanmateo.org

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday,  
10:00 am-5:00 pm

If you wish to meet with the Interim Minister, please contact her for an appointment.

**Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo**

300 East Santa Inez  
San Mateo, CA 94401

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