

Compass Rose

September-November 2012

Choose to Bless the World

by Margaret Cross, Board of Trustees President



*You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?*

Choose to bless the world.

Charles Du Mond challenged us all with this quote as he shared with the congregation his experiences at the General Assembly in Phoenix. What will you do with your gifts? What a challenge!

As I mulled over that question, I began to wonder what we, as a religious community, might do with our gifts. And, first of all, what are they? Without doubt a central question before us as we move into this next chapter of our life together. What is it that draws us together each week? What do we add to the community simply by being here? What is the gift of UUSM?

You may well be asking yourself, "What indeed, what group gift is there? What could it be?" Certainly we already "give" gifts. After all, we as a group do send money each year to our partner church on the other side of the globe. We even give them the gift of our friendship and visits! Some of us give generously so children there can go to school. As if that were not enough, we even pick out a number of worthy local organizations and give each one a special collection. Is there more?

From time to time we also give our energies to justice causes. Every year we, in smaller groups, gather to sort food at Second Harvest, serve the Home and Hope families, and tutor kids at Homework Central. This Fall we will even fan out into the community to register voters and encourage them to actually cast their votes. All these good activities require our time and our presence. What other gift might we have to offer?

Welcome, Rev. Alicia Forsey!

Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey, Ph.D. most recently served the UU Church in Eugene, Oregon as their two-year Interim Minister. She is a professor of history and a parish minister, Visiting Scholar at the Graduate Theological Union, and Adjunct Faculty at the Humanist Institute.



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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.

Choose to Bless the World

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Every day as I watch the cable news or read the headlines on my computer screen, I am reminded that we, as Unitarian Universalists, do have another special gift, a gift the contemporary world is hungry for, and that longing is lurking behind every news story of any day.



Those stories usually tell the tale of greed, materialism, and violence, and the result is often human tragedy. All too many lives seem to be caught up in the net of injustice and fear. We, as Unitarian Universalists, know about another way to live in the midst of this ongoing hatred, distrust, and death.

For example, in our world where people with darker skins than mine are not paid a living wage for backbreaking, dirty work so you and I can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables at low prices, we claim a principle declaring the worth of every human being without regard to skin color or educational background. Our Principles open up that world and reveal an opportunity to serve, to work for justice in the fields for all instead of turning our faces away in isolation and despair. We have the gift of a different way of seeing, and that in turn reveals the gift of purposeful service to bring justice for all.

Our Principles go on to remind us that we are all part of the web of life. Thus when, for example, families in East Palo Alto are threatened with displacement at the hand

of greedy land developers, we are ready to join with others to oppose this action, demonstrating that there is another way. When people of faith join hands, even the most powerful can be defeated. This is the gift of hope which we can share.

These are simply two nearby examples of how life lived in harmony with our Unitarian Universalist principles opens up exciting possibilities for service, gives us a whole different perspective, and nudges us toward a whole new way of living. This life filled with real focus, meaning, and purpose is a gift we can share with others. Remember, the Underground Railroad and the end to slavery came about because of the beliefs put in action by people like you and me who lived out their faith in another time of greed and fear. History is full of examples of how people who lived in keeping with their religious principles, many of them Unitarians like us, changed the way things were going, ushering in a new period of justice. I am suggesting that this is the gift we as a congregation can use to bless our community in the days to come.

This new life of purpose offers connections with other people, face-to-face connections, as we join in working together for the good of everyone. This joy brings new energy to life, makes each day exciting, and only costs *everything!* For when we offer another person an opportunity to join in this life of real mission, we are offering them the greatest gift of all.

In Faith,
Margaret Cross

Article Submissions

Articles for *Compass Rose* (max. 500 words) may be submitted for consideration to 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 December 2012-February 2013): **November 1, 2012**.

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. 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.

With Justice and Compassion

by Kathy van Leuwen, Co-Director of Religious Education



This spring in Religious Education, we spent four weeks exploring immigration in the United States from a Unitarian Universalist perspective of love, compassion, and justice in developmentally appropriate ways using a curriculum named *With Justice and Compassion*.

Children were given the opportunity to explore and affirm

their own family's history of immigration while appreciating the ways in which Unitarian Universalists value difference and diversity. We learned about the role of immigration in United States history and gained knowledge of the historic mistreatment of new immigrant populations. Our time together was anchored in the spiritual practice of the Buddhist *meta*, or loving-kindness, meditation, reminding us to be compassionate to ourselves and to others.

Why talk about immigration with children and youth? Immigration is an issue that affects them. Our kids may be going to school with immigrants and may have friends and family who are immigrants themselves. They may be talking about immigration at school and hearing about it on the news. Exploring this complex and powerful issue gives our kids the chance to consider fairness in the context of human rights. Wrestling with immigration gives adults the chance to model our Unitarian Universalist values, "to invite all voices, and to allow for multiple interpretations and points of view... to serve as a role model for your group of learners, speaking for just and compassionate change on issues about which you feel passionate." (Mandy Neff, *With Justice and Compassion*, UUA 2012.)

With Justice and Compassion is an example of anti-bias education in a religious context. At General Assembly this year, educator and activist Louise Derman-Sparks outlined the goals of anti-bias education in her lecture, *Bending Toward Justice: Race, Immigration, and Religious Education*:

1. Each child will demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, family pride, and positive social identities.

2. Each child will express comfort and joy with human diversity; accurate language for human differences; and deep, caring human connections.
3. Each child will increasingly recognize unfairness, have language to describe unfairness, and understand that unfairness hurts.
4. Each child will demonstrate empowerment and the skills to act, with others or alone, against prejudice and/or discrimination.

These goals of anti-bias education align strongly with our Unitarian Universalist principles: specifically, to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every individual and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

As a faith community, we are in a unique position to do anti-bias education with children because we are often in contact with children and their families over the course of many years. Children learn about difference, whether it is racial, gender, sexual orientation, one way or another, but we do have some choice about how they learn about it. What better place than the loving, supportive context of our congregation?

In her lecture at General Assembly this June, Louise Derman-Sparks explained that learning to live comfortably and fairly with diversity begins in children's early years. So, too, does the damage of racism and other "isms" to healthy development. By the age of three or four, children are aware of and curious about differences among people, including race, gender, and abilities. They are also absorbing misinformation and identifying with stereotypes. Internalized racial superiority and oppression are visible by this age. For example, some preschool-age children have already learned that English is the language of power and refuse to speak Spanish.

In adolescence, kids are looking for a conscious sense of self, both as unique individuals and as members of social groups. If racism hasn't been directly addressed by this stage, youth may blindly accept what society has taught them, become apathetic, or try to "opt out" of their social identities.

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We Are the Weavers and the Web

by Connie Spearing

The call from the young female voice came on a Friday afternoon. "Can you be an adult advisor at WUUKY?" I have to confess I actually asked, "What's a WUUKY?" It sounded scary: a week in the Mendocino Woodlands, a cabin without electricity, and 108 UU Pacific Central District (PCD) Youth. At first I said No, so she gave my arm another twist. "If you don't come, we'll have to turn some kids away." When I finally said okay, she replied, "Great, be ready to leave on Sunday morning."

Adult Volunteers for Youth Needed

by Nancy Jasa, Co-Director of Religious Education

The Pacific Central District (PCD) supports both High School and Junior High Retreats. There are three weekend retreats during the year and one weeklong camp in Mendocino each year. The PCD retreats have youth from many congregations throughout the district that regularly participate. For many of the smaller churches this may be the only youth programming that these youth have access to within our denomination. As this program grows, there is a growing need for adults to support by participating in these retreats. Both groups are at the point where they have to turn away youth because there are not enough adults supporting the program.

If you would like to give to our youth in what I have experienced to be a truly life affirming way, volunteer to be an adult advisor for one of their weekend retreats. Please contact me for a conversation of obligation-free inquiry with any questions or fears that you may have about supporting the youth in this desperately needed way.

Adults = over the age of 25. Retired persons are welcome; the youth do not discriminate based on age. For questions, please contact me at nancy@uusanmateo.org.



So, there we were: nine adults huddled around a picnic table in the red-woods. We were to provide an adult presence, but the camp was youth organized and youth led. We were not to offer advice unless requested, not to interfere unless a situation was dangerous, and to take any problems to the youth leaders called Deans. Oh, yes, most importantly, have fun!

There were the usual camp activities: hiking and crafts, dancing and night games like Capture the Flag. There were also discussions on all the subjects our mother's warned us not to bring to the dinner table, like politics, religion, and sex. It was spirited and noisy, but whenever a Dean with instructions called "A hush fell over the crowd," it did! There was a silence so sudden an army sergeant would have been envious.

A lot of learning took place, but it was all so much fun that at first I didn't notice. Take for example the Bondage Feast. I imagined a kinky food fight and planned to opt out, but I was assured it was good, clean fun – which it was. Instead of the usual cafeteria-style dinner, we all sat around one table the length of the lodge and were served. The menu was sloppy Joes with corn on the cob. It was like a Medieval banquet, except that each diner's right hand was tied to his or her neighbor's left. Hilarity ruled as the food arrived and we tried to get bites into our mouths. One of the older youth, a veteran WUUKY camper, was on my right. He whispered, "Watch how long it takes the younger ones to figure out this is a lesson in cooperation." I lent him my hand as he buttered his corn, but wondered how we adults could have this much fun exploring the potential of cooperation.

Small circles called Touch Groups met after every meal. These are the basic organizing units of the camp. The members formed a support group and working team by sharing feelings, planning activities, and taking turns at kitchen clean-up. The 10-member groups with their youth leaders was where I began to understand WUUKY. I witnessed how these young people supported

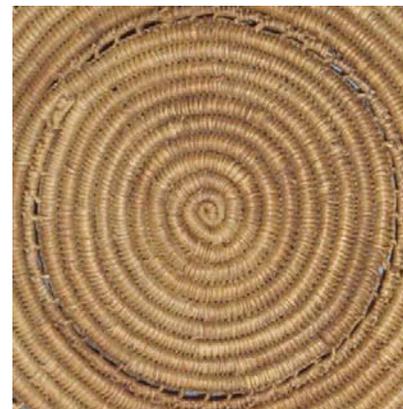
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each other and applauded one another's talents. At the same time they tried not to be *That Guy* (*That Guy* who does annoying or anti-social things). Everyone was welcome, even this old lady; alternatives were celebrated; abilities were accommodated; and growth was encouraged. At our last meeting, after we all agreed we were the best Touch Group **ever**..., they thanked me for sharing my stories. I was moved to tears and thanked them for the gift of listening.

I was there to support our young people. I had no idea what a gift the youth would give me, no clue that entering WUUKY World would be a transformative experience. I came to believe that at WUUKY and other Conferences, our youth have succeeded in creating the Beloved Community that we talk about. All who entered their circle were enveloped in loving relationship, commitment to justice, and a sincere but play-filled search for truth and meaning. I hope they may take away the great gift our young people are offering, their example that a better world exists when we are open to it.

Perhaps the true spirit of WUUKY, Wonderful UU Karmic Youth, was best expressed in daily worship. Every evening we formed a huge circle under the sky, lit a chalice, and declared a sacred space. We sang favorite hymns that everyone knew or simple ones we could

learn quickly. Our senses heightened by the fresh air and scent of the redwoods, we lit candles in the dark or practiced walking blind with a sighted partner. We listened to each other breathe in holy silence or shared short thoughts. Then, holding hands, we danced in a big circle that began to form a spiral as we sang: *...Into the center, the center of the web. We are the weavers; we are the web. We are the dreamers; we are the dream.* Fists raised, feet stomping, the last verse rang through the night: *Rising up! Rising up! Out of the ashes, we are rising up!*



With Justice and Compassion

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Our children are growing up in a world that is more and more diverse. All children need to know that who and what they are is good, and that difference is also good. Multi-racial kids need to understand that they are multi-racial and not hide part of who they are. For those of us who are white, we can learn to not take advantage of privilege, that it is possible to be white and anti-racist.

To help them make sense of the complexity of our world, kids need critical thinking skills. They need to learn to assess what they see and hear in school, in the media, and in the larger world. As they get older, we can help them understand that laws may not be synonymous with morality.

When young people learn that issues hurt real people, they want to help. It is important to teach children that people of all ages can make a difference in

our world, and to help them stand up for themselves and for those who can't in the name of justice.

What I learned at General Assembly in Phoenix deepened my commitment to provide education that is explicitly anti-bias at all ages. We as adults can't guide children in this work unless we've gone on our own journey and are prepared to answer their questions about difference and to interrupt and intervene when needed. No matter what our age and background, we can expand our anti-oppression awareness and justice-making skills. What I wish for our children – and adults – to experience is the powerful promise of justice and compassion this work, as part of our liberal faith, holds for this world.

Voices

Stories, reflections, and inspiration from the UUSM community

What Are Our Gifts?

by Amanda Payne

As a person who has grown up in this community, I have always felt an amazing amount of support in pursuing my aspirations. No matter where I was or how I was feeling, I knew that UUSM was there for me. I believe that as a community of open hearts and open minds, we inspire our children and youth to believe that they can truly do anything. Here, children (and adults) get to know so many different types of people with such a variety of passions that it is almost impossible to keep that spark of inspiration from igniting. In the Religious Education program, we give the children and youth the space to grow while guiding them on their spiritual path. It's so exciting for me to see the rebirth of the UUSM youth group as I found that to be an incredible support when I was a teen. I love that UUSM has hosted youth conferences, and that the OWL and Coming of Age programs have been so successful. One of the most moving experiences I've had recently at UUSM was when Connie Spearing read Alexa Stefanko's reflection from General Assembly. Tears rolled down my face as I listened to the beautifully heartbreaking and inspiring details of her experience. In the coming months, I hope to see more youth involvement in our worship services. So, I think that one major gift we offer as a community is our ability to nurture our young people to become loving, compassionate, strong, capable, accepting, humorous, motivated, and powerful leaders of tomorrow.



Home and Hope bed sheets drying on the clothesline

The Gift of Home and Hope

by Joy Thomas

"What a gift this is," said a homeless mother during our last Home and Hope week. Homemade food, crafts for their children, safe and private sleeping, and someone to chat with after dinner, just like the days before homelessness. Those are the gifts we give temporarily homeless families when we host them at UUSM or the First Presbyterian Church.

The Home and Hope families will be staying in Beck Hall on Nov. 4-11. We'd love to have you share your talents, whether it's baking your wonderful peach cobbler, patiently listening to a teenager's favorite song on the internet, hanging sheets in your backyard, or simply caring enough to drop off some food with a friendly wave.

Contact UUSM's Home and Hope Coordinator Joy Thomas at 650 520-9997 or joybeach@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

Voices continued next page

Your Gifts Sustain Our Philippine Partners

by Carol Cook

With the generosity of our UUSM congregation, our partner congregation in Ulay, on Negros Island in the Philippines, is thriving! Membership and attendance are up, and the congregation is well organized with lay leaders, officers, and RE teachers.

These life-enhancing programs are made possible by our gifts:

Share A Meal provides a healthy cooked meal to the members each Sunday after church. Our annual gift of \$1,040 fully funds this program.

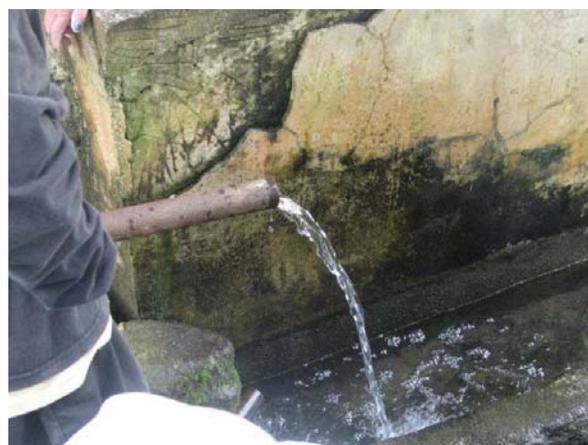
Scholarships and Education Support: High school student Leslie Mae Minasalvas and elementary student Jeremae Lopez receive scholarships. 27 children are able to attend elementary school or high school this year, thanks to the support of UUSM Education Partners and other donors. Our gift this year: \$5,047.

The Ulay Water Project is the outcome of the Community Capacity Building workshop that was held in Ulay in March 2011. UUSM members Charles and Barbara Du Mond, Lori Fox, Homer Eaton, Reeba Lynn, Duane Thompson, and Carol Cook and Susan Grieger traveled to Ulay to bear witness to the process and offer our support. Ulay church and community members chose as their highest priority a project to bring water to the cluster of families that live near the Ulay chapel. Our gift of \$2,505 is funding this project now underway!

Marife Belimac, who is overseeing the project, sent this report on July 31:

The project started on July 14, 2012. Rey Minasalvas and I went to Bacolod City to buy materials for the project: 20 rolls of no. 2 water pipe, 6 rolls of no. 1 water pipe, 2 rolls of 3/4 water pipe, 24 pcs. deform. bar no. 10 fittings to install water pipe, 24 bags of cement, 10 kls. sahara, 4 kls. tie wire, 4 pcs. plywood, gravel and white sand, common nails, 4.5 kls. G.I pipe no. 2.

On July 15, 2012 we started to haul the materials to the construction site with the UU members and other people from the community who availed themselves for the project. But we didn't finish hauling the materials because of the



Top: Rey Minasalvas and Rev. Lopes rolling pipes for the water project. Bottom: The gift of water.

weather condition and the road to the construction site is not approachable by a cargo truck, so we used manual hauling. July 16 we continued to work, we divided the group into two. First group with Rey laid the water pipe from the main source of water to the first water tank and the other group with me hauled the materials.

Be sure to see Marife's great photos of the project: www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.446175305423414.102511.100000928446077&type=3&l=41dc80a640. More information and photos will follow as planning and implementation continue!

Your generosity this past year also funded \$2,000 for emergency surgery for Rev. Lopez, a \$120 annual stipend for Rev. Lopez, and \$268 to the UU Church of the Philippines to administer the monthly visits to Ulay from Dumaguete. Our Partnership with Ulay makes a significant positive difference in the lives of the families of the Ulay congregation. Many thanks for your generous gifts to our Partner Church!

How Do You Leave a Party?

by Susan Donham

How do you leave a party? How do you say goodbye, or do you say anything at all? During an early training session for the pastoral care associates, we were asked the question. I would expand it: how do you say goodbye after a family get-together or to a family member at the beginning of a day? How do you leave for the airport?

At any parting we have a chance to practice saying goodbye. Our patterns may reflect how we will approach the goodbyes we say when someone is dying or when it is our turn to die. Are there ways that you would want to change your patterns?

For me, I have found ways in which UUSM is very good at saying goodbye and ways in which it is not. The memorial service for Bob DuFore represented to me some of the very best of UUSM as a congregation. We came together as a community, grieved together, and celebrated the life of a member who lived our principles, and how he contributed to our community and how the congregation contributed to his life and the life of his family. The memorial service embodied what a spiritual community can be. But when Chris and I decided to move to Baltimore this year, to be closer to my parents, I could not find a way to say goodbye to the congregation, to say thank you or simply where we were going. I remember a woman at a reflection group last winter saying that she wished there was a way for people to say goodbye, because when someone did not come for a couple of Sundays she did not know whether something had happened to them and she should be calling to offer help or whether they had left the congregation. She felt people often simply disappeared.

I love the ritual with which UUSM welcomes new members, but I do not know of any ritual, even small, to say goodbye. I remember the joy and love (and yes, nervousness) I felt as I pledged to enter into covenant with this congregation, and I felt a renewal of those feelings whenever I pledged as a member to new members. But how to say goodbye? I tried starting early, letting people I talked to at Coffee Hour know weeks ahead that we would be going, and yet when my final Sunday came, some people were surprised I was still here and others were learning for the first time. The book of Joys and Concerns presents a possible solution, although I have not heard it used that way. Printing a list of milestones for people in the *Compass Rose* could be another solution, although that may not work as the congrega-

tion grows bigger. I welcome other suggestions. To me, goodbyes are important, a ritual of parting rather than disappearing.

Do we not want to hear people's pain if they are leaving hurt by their experiences in this community? Are we hiding from our own sadness? Do we want to pretend leaving doesn't happen? Certainly, if goodbyes are practicing how we react to death, much of American society tries to pretend death does not happen.

As I start to minister as an interfaith chaplain rooted in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, a significant portion of my work focuses on goodbyes. Slow, lingering ones. Sudden ones, some so sudden those left behind are the only ones that can say goodbye. Ira Byock, a palliative care physician working with patients and their families as the patients are dying, hypothesizes that there are fundamentally four statements that are part of saying a healthy goodbye: Please forgive me. I forgive you. Thank you. I love you. Saying them may take the form of simple statements or sharing long stories and reminiscences or holding a hand. It doesn't work to simply say the sentences if you do not mean them – better to say an honest statement than an empty one, to begin with where you are and where you are trying to go. In some ways, the process of reaching these statements reflects our covenant of right relations. Goodbyes therefore contain powerful potential.

My own attempt:

Thank you: for teaching me how to live my faith in community – I was a life-long UU before UUSM, but I had not been a member of a congregation since childhood. For sharing your support, collectively and individually, when my sister died. For being a deep and integral part of my formation as a UU minister. And to the 4th and 5th grade RE class last year, thank you for sharing your creativity and ideas about the UU faith – I learned a lot. I hope you did, too.

Please forgive me: for the times when I spoke out definitively when I did not understand other people's perspectives, and for the times when I did not speak out and the silence hurt others. For the times I did not step forward when the congregation needed someone to jump in and do the work we needed to do to be a community.



Susan and Chris Donham

I forgive you. I am still working on healing from some of the pain I experienced this past year in connection with the congregation, but meetings late this spring helped the healing process when I felt that we were working on acknowledging the congregation's problems, how we all had roles in them, and taking constructive steps to become the congregation we seek to be.

I love you. I believe that this congregation and this Unitarian Universalist movement holds wonderful potential. That our history demonstrates how we can help transform the world and our selves, from great social movements to the Coffee Hour conversations when someone shares or listens deeply with another. I have loved worshipping together, sharing ideas, and being there for one another. Goodbye and thank you again – I am sad to leave.

Our new church home will be the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (corner of Charles and Franklin), the church where William Ellery Channing preached the Baltimore Sermon in 1819 claiming Unitarian as a positive name for our movement. My child dedication was held there when I was a baby. If you are in town, please stop in, I think you'll feel at home. (Yes, even with some of the conflicts – it has its own "Jesus Window" issue in the form of a Tiffany glass mosaic of the Last Supper created in the late 1800's.) The principles and the welcoming feeling we UU's hold in common.

"We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community and, the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again."

Welcome!

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Dr. Forsey is responsible for the project that saved and made accessible the Earl Morse Wilbur Rare Book Collection that documents the intellectual history of Unitarianism.

Here are the events in which we will be welcoming Rev. Forsey:

Sunday, Aug. 26, 10:00 am (Sanctuary)

Come and join us for Rev. Alicia Forsey's first service at UUSM!

Sunday, Aug. 26, 12:00 pm (Ryder Park)

We hold our Annual Picnic. Rev. Forsey will be attending, so this is your chance to say Hi and have a little chat!

Sunday, Sept. 9, 10:00 am (Sanctuary)

Our Water Communion service will include a congregational ritual with Rev. Forsey, in which we will covenant with her as our Interim Minister.

Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:30 am (Beck Hall)

We gather for a Potluck Reception Luncheon in honor of Rev. Forsey.

See the Announcements and Events section for more details on these events.

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 if you need the loving support of this congregation. Our Lay Chaplains are coordinated by Pam Gehrke.

Will Ike Go to Heaven?

A Remembrance of Ike Herman

by Ami Seebode

Ike Herman, a longtime member of UUSM, passed away earlier this summer after a long illness. You may wonder why an article of remembrances about Ike has this title. It says so much about Ike in just a few words, and it actually was the title of a sermon Ike purchased at one of our auctions. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Joy Atkinson, and I'll let you answer the question after you have finished reading the comments of other members of UUSM. (Thank you, Sheila Sandow, for remembering this sermon title.)

Ike Herman was born in Brazil, met his wonderful wife Jean at the University of Minnesota, and settled in a gorgeous home, designed by Jean, in Hillsborough. For over 40 years they both were among our church leaders, often hosting events, one of the most memorable being a New Year's Eve party with unique challenges (e.g., pinning the football on a life-size cut-out of 49'er Roger Craig, dropping marbles into bottles, etc.), dinners, committee meetings, and choir gatherings.

Kim Mortyn writes, "Words are inadequate to recall the countless contributions made by Ike Herman to our congregation throughout his long membership at UUSM. When I joined the church in 1973, I soon learned the Hermans were an integral part of the solid foundation on which UUSM was built." One of Kim's most cherished memories was of Ike as cashier for the Annual Flea Market. "Year after year, there was dear Ike, happily smiling, greeting customers in English and Spanish...making sure everyone left completely satisfied with their bags of bargains. Thank you Ike!!!! You provided a shining example for others to follow, and you continue to be gratefully appreciated at UUSM."

Gretchen Warner remembers Ike back in the 60's when the hot-button issue was the Vietnam conflict. She writes, "In the 60's, I guess almost everyone was against the war in Vietnam except Ike. I was a young mother then and hardly knew anything about the war. One Sunday, Ike stood up and said he had changed his mind about Vietnam and people cheered." Another incident she remembers occurred when she was very discouraged about church. The Hermans called on her for a pledge and she became so excited about Unitarian Universalism that she decided to stay as a member of UUSM. "Mainly, I just remember how kind they were. Ike was quite a Latino gentleman and let me speak Spanish with him. They were both faithful members of



Ike Herman with wife Jean

our church, always present and always contributing, very open and with a great sense of humor."

Carol Cook's memory of Ike and Jean occurred on the first Sunday Carol and former husband Bob attended UUSM in 1984. "Because of that warm welcome," recalls Carol, "Bob, a lifelong Presbyterian, willingly defected to UUSM." Carol also states she served with Ike on the Finance Committee for a number of years. I might add that Ike was a terrific trustee of our finances, and we certainly have missed him in that capacity.

Frank Seebode writes, "Ike – one of the great pillars upon which our church was built – gracious to all, calling every woman lovely or beautiful, faithful fundraiser, conscientious caretaker and overseer of our resources, a founder and regular attendee of Men's Steak Night, humorist, accepting of all...these are all phrases that come to mind when I recall the many years of pleasurable association with Ike. It is sad that many who have joined us in the last decade never had the opportunity to know him as he was isolated in his own world of Alzheimer's disease."

I think you may be getting the picture. When Frank and I were new members of UUSM, Ike and Jean took us under their wings, welcoming us, delighting in our children, and generally being present if needed for advice and counsel. We looked up to our elder church statesmen, holding them in high esteem, listening and taking their advice in matters of church governance. Ike was a leader in the financial aspects of UUSM over many years. He was a generous man, giving to UUSM wholeheartedly both monetarily and of himself. His and Jean's presence among us has been sorely missed over these last several years, and we will miss Ike now all the more acutely.

Generous in Spirit – Ike is in *our* Heaven.

Announcements and Events

Upcoming Worship Services

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

Sunday, Aug. 26

"Turning the Page"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey
Worship Associate: Margaret Cross

Join us this morning as we meet our new Interim Minister, Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey, Ph.D. Rev. Alicia will speak about staying in the present while we are moving forward, and her sense of the possibilities and hopes for the new church year.

Sunday, Sept. 2

"Beloved Economy"

Worship Leader: Pete Olandt
Worship Associate: Anne Peter

Pete Olandt is a graduate of Starr King Seminary for Ministry and Executive Director of Beloved Cafe.

Sunday, Sept. 9

"Water Communion"

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey
Worship Associate: Caryl Hughan

Be sure to bring the water you have collected in the summer for our annual Water Communion rite! We will also hold a covenanting ritual with Rev. Alicia Forsey this Sunday.

For information and updates on upcoming services, please visit the website and click on Worshipping.

Music at UUSM

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@usanmateo.org.

Children's Choir

Rehearsals will begin Sunday, Sept. 23. Parents who are willing to help, please contact Children's Choir Director Marty Hoffman at 650-876-1904 or martyjhoffman@gmail.com.

Emma's Revolution Concert

Sunday, Oct. 14, 7:00-9:00 pm
Sanctuary

Save the date! More info soon.

Religious Education

Religious Education Sessions Begin for Pre-Kindergarten through 9th Grade

Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
RE Space, Youth Room, Petite Sorbonne

For more information, check the Learning section of the website at www.usanmateo.org/index.php/Childrens_RE.

Age of Reason Kick-Off Family Worship

Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Sanctuary

For 3rd and 4th graders and their families.

Age of Reason and Rainbow Worship Rehearsal

Sunday, Nov. 4, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Sanctuary

For Pre-Kindergarten through 9th grade.

Unitarian Universalist Ritual of Religious Becoming and Rainbow Worship

Sunday, Nov. 11, 10:00-11:00 am
Sanctuary

Children in 3rd and 4th grades who have completed the Age of Reason Program

will share what they have learned and participate in a Ritual of UU Becoming. Participating children and youth (Pre-Kindergarten and up), please arrive by 9:30 am. No Religious Education this Sunday.

Youth Activities

Coming of Age – 8th-10th Grades

Orientation and Opening Ceremony –
Sunday, Sept. 23, 6:00-8:00 pm
Beck Hall

Regular Meetings –
1st and 3rd Sundays, 6:00-8:00 pm
Youth Room

Coming of Age is a year-long program designed to mark the passage from childhood to youth. For more info, contact Co-DRE Nancy Jasa at 925-237-1647 or nancy@usanmateo.org.

Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gatherings (MUUGs) at UUSM

Nov. 2-4

Save the date! More info soon.

Community Events

UUSM Annual Picnic

Sunday, Aug. 26, 12:00-4:00 pm
Ryder Park
1625 J. Hart Clinton Dr., San Mateo

Wear Hawaiian shirts – we'll all say ALOHA! to our new Interim Minister, Rev. Alicia Forsey. Bring something to grill, a dish to share, and nonalcoholic beverages. Plates, utensils, cups, and napkins provided.

Sunday Volunteer Training and Orientation

Sunday, Sept. 2, 11:15 am-12:15 pm
Sanctuary

This is a great way to learn how to greet and welcome service participants and help keep UUSM a warm and inviting spiritual home. Old hands and newcomers alike welcome! For info, contact Anne Peter, Sunday Service Volunteer Coordinator, at 650-343-7852 or annepeter@att.net.

Vision

by Robert Voss

On wings of eagles I soar
An ocular acuity affixes my heart
-- sight by feeling --
A test I would suggest
To measure your native heart
(That fine inner faculty)

Look up, charge the view
Look down and recognize
well the earthly burden.
Foresight becomes us
You have made me elect
Now I take your direction

See that which may be
See what is to come
Perhaps we're imperfect
But the heart knows how
To shift and dance with the tide
Charging its power of clarity

We will see the future
We build a raft to get there
Then let go to facilitate
The coming of another and
another
Leaders follow, follow leaders
Together we'll all get there

Programs! Programs! Get your
Programs
Any organized activity
of the congregation
Is a program
Providing participants
With bonding opportunities
And heartfelt play

We have a vision
We are a vision
We see a vision
On wings of eagles I soar
Come, hold my hand,
Let's fly together

First Friday Family Fun Nights

Every 1st Friday, 6:30-8:30 pm
(next dates: Sept. 7, Oct. 5, and
Nov. 2)
Beck Hall (Nov. 2 date is offsite)

Join this monthly multi-generational
family night dinner with pizza and
salad. Cost: \$5.00/adult, \$2.00/child,
up to a maximum of \$15.00/family.
RSVP with jamiauum@hotmail.com for
each event one week prior to the date.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 9, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Sanctuary

We hold a Congregational Meeting on
this Sunday. Join us! Childcare will be
available.

Potluck Luncheon Reception for Rev. Forsey

Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Beck Hall

We'll have a party to give a warm
UUSM welcome to our new Interim Min-
ister! Stay tuned for details.

Sign-up For Chalice Circles

This series of twice-a-month meetings
will run from mid-October through mid-
May. Questions? Interested? Contact
Pam Gehrke at 650-347-0582 or
psgehrke@gmail.com, or Francesca
Guido at 650-340-8979 or
fantine@sonic.net, or find one of them
at Coffee Hour in Beck Hall.

Adult Enrichment

In Her Name Circle

led by Joy Reichard
Usually every 2nd Friday (see dates
below), 7:00-9:00 pm
Ann Benner Room

The group meets to celebrate the many
manifestations of the Divine Feminine.

Sept. 14 Shekhinah, The Feminine
Face of God

Oct. 12 Tara, Tibetan Goddess and
Bodhisattva

Nov. 16 Hecate, Queen of Witches or
Wise Crone?

For info, contact Joy at 415-819-8769
or joy@joyreichard.com.

Transforming with the Divine Feminine: Enrich Your Life with the Goddess

with Joy Reichard
Saturdays, Sept. 22, Oct. 20, and
Nov. 17, 9:30 am-1:00 pm
Beck Hall

In this three-part workshop, you will
learn about the Divine Feminine and
how to deepen your personal connec-
tion to her and enrich your own spiri-
tual growth. Fee \$297; or \$397 with
private 75 min. session. Sign up at
www.joyreichard.com/Transforming or
email joy@joyreichard.com.

UUSM Book Group

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

Schedule:

- Sept. 23 *Mountains Beyond Mountains*
by Tracy Kidder
- Oct. 28 *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua
Achebe
- Dec. 2 *The Paris Wife* by Paula
McLain and *A Moveable Feast*
by Ernest Hemingway (both
books will be discussed)

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

Social Action

Social Justice Sundays

Every 3rd Sunday, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
(next dates: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, and
Nov. 18)
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 meet-
ing. For info, contact Caryl Hughan at
650-692-4147 or educaryl@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, Sept. 22, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Offsite

Join the next building day at a 36-unit
condominium project in Daly City.
For more info or to sign up, please contact
John Berdoulay at 650-343-5042 or
johnberdoulay@sbcglobal.net.



**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
- 10% discount for the UUSM members

Open Enrollment

(650) 340-8819
300 E. Santa Inez, San Mateo
KinderAcademyMontessori.net

Social Justice Fair

Sunday, Oct. 14, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Beck Hall

Visit the Social Justice tables to find ways to become more involved! For info, contact Caryl Hughan at 650-692-4147 or educaryl@gmail.com.

Home and Hope at UUSM

Nov. 4-11

We host Home and Hope families once again for a week. If you'd like to help out, contact Joy Thomas at 650-520-9997 or joybeach@gmail.com.

Ongoing

Newcomer's Circle

Every 1st Sunday, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
(next dates: Sept. 2, Oct. 7, and Nov. 4)
Hemingway Lounge

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

Knitters Group

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

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

Walkie Talkies

Every 1st and 3rd Monday,
9:00-10:00 am
(next dates: Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 1 and 15, Nov. 5 and 19)
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 1st Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm
(next dates: Sept. 3, Oct. 1, and Nov. 5)
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: Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 6 and 20)
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 2nd and 4th Tuesday,
7:00-8:30 pm
(next dates: Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 13 and 27)
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.

Women's Chalice Oval

Usually every 2nd Wednesday,
7:00-8:30 pm
(next dates: Sept. 13 [Thursday], Oct. 10, and Nov. 14)
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 3rd Thursday, 6:00-8:00 pm
(next dates: Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15)
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.

**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

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dre@uusanmateo.org

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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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