“... The goal of creating a Beloved Community for all people, [requires] a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives ...”
~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1957

Dan Hotchkiss, a long-time consultant for the Alban Institute, has helped hundreds of mission-focused organizations like ours to become more Beloved Communities. He observes that there is a fundamental paradox within any organized religious community—a paradox that presents challenges in staying true to its mission as a prophetic voice in the world while sustaining its stability as a healthy organization. He concludes:

“No wonder ‘organized religion’ is so difficult! Congregations create [places] where people can nurture and inspire each other—with results no one can predict. The stability of a religious institution is necessary for the instability that religious transformation brings to the world. The need to balance both sides of this paradox—the transforming power of religion [its spirit] and the stabilizing power of organization [its body]—makes leading [and growing] congregations a unique challenge.”

There are so many changes that face us right now in the form of this pandemic. Changes that are creating so many uncertainties, that demand our attention at every turn and cannot be ignored, or avoided, or denied, or distanced from.
But there is also a great truth, a profound certainty emerging at this time: We are profoundly being awakened to the interconnectedness of each to all, and we are realizing, undeniably, as if for the first time, that we are one... one world, one planet, one being:

“A network of mutuality,” King called it, that we are all caught up in,”where injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

A beloved community, where its stability as a religious institution is necessary for the instability which religious transformation brings to the world.

Q: How do we build beloved community in a time of great change?
A: By embracing the changes. By facing our fears. By understanding and embracing the paradox. By holding fast to the
Mission
We are a religious community of open hearts and open minds working together to transform ourselves and the world.

Vision
Together, we create a welcoming, diverse, and vibrant community, where our accessible, sustainable campus is a sanctuary for spiritual growth; a center for transformative love and justice; and a home for liberal religious exploration, education and empowerment.

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.

Unitarian Universalism’s Principles and Purposes
As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we at UUSM covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
Beloved Community in a Time of Great Change
continued from front page

truth that it is only through change... changes in our thoughts and actions, changes in our hearts and souls, changes in our practices, changes in our lives... both qualitatively and quantitatively... that beloved community can emerge.

We live in a time of great change... So the world is ripe for becoming the beloved community that will secure humanity's, and the planet's survival.

This quarantine, this pandemic, has made me aware of just how important the role of beloved community is in my life... in all its forms: my connections to people I love, its clarion call for justice and equity it bids me to hear, and the prophetic voice for change and transformation that our Unitarian Universalist values call us to live out—both here, in my own heart but also out there—in the world.

Although I miss being in proximity to others working to change the world right now, I am aware that the world is in need of us finding new ways to bring one another together... to enliven and empower us to make the changes that change the world and build beloved community.

Projections are emerging that say we may not be able to safely come together in large gatherings (to sing together) until a year from now... in May or even September of 2021.

That is sobering.... and given that reality... it becomes incumbent upon us to ask what changes, indeed, are required of us to continue to build beloved community in an extended period of physical distancing? How will we remain both prophetic and stable as a religious community, as a community of open hearts and open minds, as a beloved community?

One way is for us all to shed our fears of technology and to become more adept at using social media... and to offer or ask for the help required to do so...

I’m so thrilled when I see our seniors and legacy members joining our online small group discussions and Sunday morning services. There was a time not so long ago when *email* was a challenge for many of us and now we’re all Zooming in—because that change was required to build and maintain beloved community!

Your staff and leadership are thinking and planning about how we will continue to share, and connect in the days ahead. It will require all of us supporting one another in the new normals that are emerging and are, as yet, even unknown to us.

In this moment in history, the efficacy and purpose of this Unitarian Universalist Congregation must remain prophetic in its vision while building the solid base of stability and connection that provides for it...

Together we can make what changes we need in order to make this community stronger, braver, bolder, wiser.... more beloved!

See you Sunday,
Ben ◆

Beloved Community in a Time of Great Change
continued from front page

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 September–November 2020): August 16, 2020.

Events and calendar items for *Compass Rose* and other publications may also be submitted at any time to office@uusanmateo.org. Please include a title, inclusive dates and times, location, blurb (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.

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.
Reflections from Religious Exploration

The Time We Are Given
by Tanya Webster, Director of Religious Exploration

In a blink of an eye, spring has come and gone while we shelter in place. Time seems to speed by, yet I also feel it dragging the toes of its trainers along the pavement, slowing my journey down the road. Days repeat, days blur, days just are. At Blue Boat Chapel, one child summed it up perfectly; “Well, I don’t really have a high, or a low, to share. Everything’s just sort of a middle.”

And so, we wait. And we give thanks – for our loved ones’ health, for the brave and good citizens who show up every day to tend to our ill and to our communities. And we pray - each in our own way with thoughts, reflections, energies, prayers, music, sending love. And we hope – that we come through this time unscathed or at least mendable, that our community comes through these times mendable.

JRR Tolkien wrote these words of wisdom in The Fellowship of the Ring:
“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

I’ll bypass around the mounds of good advice about using your time during quarantine. I’m guessing you already know “you should” declutter your house and your soul, nourish your family, tend your victory garden, learn a new skill or teach your children, and buff up the sophistication of your tapas talk. You’ve developed must-read lists and queued up your watch list. You’ve noticed you need more sleep to combat the sometimes overwhelming crush of this situation, when your emotions might go up and down, and up, and down. You have found causes to support and ways to help others.

Is this what we can do with the time that is given to us? The activities above are constructive ways to approach sheltering and are certainly valid. However, my advice is to take breaks often from trying to create constant meaning and growth in this time. Be gentle with yourself and others. Perhaps it is enough to JUST BE YOU.

JUST BE the good person you already are, spreading “pockets of good” in the world by your very nature. BE the clown you are, finding humor and joy around you. BE the practicing yogi of your life, balancing on your sitz bones of resilience and persistence. BE the world citizen you are, modeling to others how to embrace a caring, sane, and sustainable life.

Perhaps it is enough to JUST BE, doing only what needs to be done and what you enjoy. Consider resting and prepare to show up for the critical rebuilding that comes next. When we emerge from our shelters into the community sunshine, BE the steward you already are. Help our world grab hold of the silver lining of quarantine and re-craft that fabric into a more equitable world, where every person and our planet can thrive. You are what’s needed in the days to come.

Blessings and deep gratitude to you,
Tanya Webster, Director of Religious Exploration ♦

RE Programming, Moving Forward

We are now looking at how to move forward into a vibrant, sustainable online community that provides regular RE lessons and messaging, in addition to Chapel and Storytime.

Here are the highlights: Blue Boat Chapel moves back to 1-2 times/month, while the in-between weeks will return to age-group RE lessons. Middle schoolers will move into more regular meetings again. Most Blue Boat Chapels and RE groups will move back to Sundays, the day we’re all used to committing to church community time.

Please contact me with any thoughts or suggestions you may have, as we work now to re-craft the best ‘new normal’ we can for these times, until we can be together again. I am so grateful to travel with you and your families along our shared journey. ♦

Compass Rose, June - August 2020
Extraordinary times call forth extraordinary people, and the Novel Corona Virus-19 Pandemic is no exception. Fortunately for UUSM, many of these extraordinary people are part of our congregation and, even after weeks of social isolation, some of these brave souls chose to join us. They had been participating with us in work and worship and were formally inducted into our congregation as Members and Friends in early May.

Because we do not have access to our physical bulletin boards, here are some of their statements:

**Dianne Baker** — Dianne has been a pledging Friend of UUSM for more years than she will admit, but finally decided to take the next step. She has served faithfully as a Sunday morning Usher and Greeter, has participated in social events and the annual Auction, and enjoys her Age-ing to Sage-ing group. When I assured her she would not need to drive over the hill from the Coastside at night for a committee meeting, she signed the Membership Book. It is a pleasure to welcome Dianne who has provided a warm welcome to so many visitors.

**Mareva Godfrey** — Mareva immigrated with her family as part of the first wave of exiles following the Cuban Revolution. She was only 8 years old. She became a US citizen at 18 and is a proud mixture of her two cultures. After a 36-year career as an educator, she retired in 2015 to mentor new teachers in the San Mateo School District. By guiding the professional growth of their teachers, Mareva continues to have a positive effect on the lives of our elementary and middle school kids. While she was in high school, Mareva attended the UU Fellowship in Corvallis, Oregon with her family, and so it felt logical to explore the denomination when her own kids were young. With them in mind, she started her UUSM journey about 3 decades ago. Although our Congregation did not become a guiding force for her family at that time, in the past 2+ years she has come to treasure our diverse community of smart and dedicated kind-hearted people to worship with and learn from. In the process, she has made new friends and found a spiritual re-awakening.

**Doug Handerson** — Doug writes, “I am so happy to be joining the UU San Mateo family. My family is already long-time members: my brother Hal Handerson, and my sis Lori Fox. My parents came from different religious traditions and compromised on the All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis where I grew up. A little over a year ago I moved from San Jose to share my partner’s home in North Central San Mateo which makes it easy to be part of my new congregation. At the present time, we are enjoying the virtual services, hosting Lori and Hal every Sunday. I served the residents of the City of Santa Clara for over thirty years in the Planning Department. I coordinated Long-range planning for the City for twenty of those years. I fully retired in 2018. I am so thankful for being able to retire up the Peninsula, and to join you folks.” We are thankful for your presence, Doug, and for your encouragement to grow more small groups in our Congregation.

**Karen Maki** — Karen grew up in the Bay Area. She is single, and lives with two male cats and a renter in North Fair Oaks, an unincorporated neighborhood in Redwood City. She is retired after working in high tech for Intel and other companies for 25 years, but she holds a Masters Degree in Counseling and an MFT (which she has never used). She spent the last 20 years volunteering for the Sierra Club and currently serves on the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee. Karen was attending the UU Fellowship of Redwood City when she came to UU San Mateo for the Beloved Conversations Series. After occasional visits over the next year and completing the Starting Point Series for UU Seekers, she has decided to make UUSM her home. She loves walking, good movies, especially Indian movies, and travel. We are happy Karen has chosen to travel with us.

Continued on next page
Lisa Stalteri — Lisa works in real estate law which has thrown her into the middle of the pandemic crisis. She has been slammed handling communications between unemployed tenants unable to pay the rent and landlords unable to pay their mortgages. She treasures Sunday Mornings as a moment to breathe with her husband PJ and her children. Lisa began visiting last Summer during Rev. Ben’s Sabbatical time and became a mainstay of the middle school RE program in the Fall. She credits PJ with the memorable dish she brought for our Stone Soup Sunday at Thanksgiving time. The kids collected warm coats for homeless neighbors, and we feasted on home-made soup. We welcome the Stalteri Family.

Three more people have chosen to remain committed Friends at this time:

Stephen and Nancy Weller have been active community members in San Mateo for 40 years, where they’ve worked and raised their boys. Steve is now a retired physician who volunteered with Mission Hospice where he met other folks from UUSM. They both enjoyed the Starting Point Series, and Nancy especially liked getting to know other members at the many Party Palooza events they bid on. Steve writes, “I feel very fortunate to have become associated with the Unitarian Universalist Church, and especially UUSM. I enjoy the positive spirit of our membership, our foundational principles of equality and all-inclusiveness, and our efforts to improve the quality of life for our Community at large.

Nancy says, “Every Sunday leaving a UUSM service, I feel spiritually uplifted. Reverend Ben and so many of the worship associates have inspired and educated me on many levels. Joel’s musical leadership, Paul’s piano accompaniment and the choir are a joy to my soul. I continue to be impressed by the commitment of this ‘small but mighty’ Unitarian Universalist community to make a difference personally, locally and globally.”

Amie Tyler — Amie, her husband and two sons ages 13 and 7, and dog, Rufus live on Poplar Street in San Mateo. Her youngest son went to preschool with Desiree LaBeaud and Aleksey Lavery’s youngest son, so we are friends as well as neighbors. Amie works at Visa now, but she started her career as an ESL teacher in Madrid. Then she taught primary school and slowly found herself in Corporate America. She is currently getting a master’s degree in Spiritual Psychology. Amie is a storyteller at heart who collects stories about how people answered their soul’s calling. If you know anyone with a story to tell, let Amie know! Stories are published at amietyler.com. She and her boys have been coming off and on since just before Ben went on sabbatical. She says, “I love this community and am so grateful for it. I find it is supportive and enriching to myself and my children. My husband will likely not be found at church but you can always stop by and say hi at the navy blue house on Poplar Street.”

Going Forward While Staying Connected
The need to maintain a physical distance from others may remain in place for some time, but our need for community also remains. Even while I urge you to give our new extraordinary Members and Friends a warm and welcoming phone call, I urge you to also reach out to everyone in the Congregation, to anyone you haven’t seen at Sunday Virtual Coffee Hour, anyone who might live alone or who might be feeling isolated, anyone who is not in a UUSM Small Group. Stay home, stay well; but stay connected. Check the Breeze directory or contact me for information or suggestions: connections@uusanmateo.org.
Virtual UUA General Assembly, June 24-28

The General Assembly of UU Congregations will be a 100% virtual event this year. That means it is affordable and accessible! Virtual GA Registration is $150. The program is now posted.

Virtual General Assembly 2020 offers an opportunity to gather and deepen our connections with each other and our faith. In addition to the General Sessions, Synergy, the Service of the Living Tradition, and Sunday worship, registered attendees can also enjoy daily morning worship, live workshops, an on-demand library of programming, presentations by featured speakers, coffee hours, worship reflection time, and evening entertainment.

GA registrants are able to watch and ask questions in live sessions. Delegates will be able to propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote in general sessions.

Click the link to review the speakers, worship services and workshops, then register:
www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants

NOTE: Registration is not required to view or participate in the Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, or Sunday Morning Worship. More information: www.uua.org/ga

The June 28 GA Sunday Morning Worship will also be UUSM's online worship service. You do NOT need to register for Virtual GA to attend. All are welcome!

UU the Vote

We know the stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, the communities we love and the beloved community we seek to create are under attack. Our religious community must speak with moral courage and act with prophetic clarity and determination in the 2020 electoral cycle. Our UU values of interdependence, democracy, and the inherent worth and dignity of all people are direct antidotes to the fear, bigotry, and inequity that define our world. In this political moment, UUs are called to join forces with all people who want to organize our communities and our nation to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate. Let’s UU the Vote in 2020!

More at: www.uua.org/justice/vote2020

UU Coastside Community News

The Touchstones theme for June is Good and Evil. On June 7 at 11 am, Rev. Barbara Meyers of Mission Peak UU Congregation in Fremont presents "May Nothing Evil Cross This Door." In July, Skinner House releases her new book, Spiritual Mental Health Matters. Tom Devine is our musician that day.

On June 21 at 11 am, Dave Rokosky will present: May the Principles Be With You. Beginning in the Garden of Eden and hurtling through Shakespeare, he will take us on a journey to what the Second Law of Thermodynamics has to do with good and evil and UU Principles. The Big Bang and the entropic two-step will have cameo roles. Mo Robinson will be our musician.

Touchstones theme for July is Harmony.
On July 5 at 11 am, we are planning an all-music celebration featuring multiple musicians, so stay tuned.

On July 19 at 11 am, Minister Emeritus Rev. Chris Schriner of UU Mission Peak presents “Theism and Atheism: The Differences That Unite Us.” Rev. Chris asserts that believers and non-believers have a lot more in common than they think. Mo Robinson, Irish singer/songwriter, draws from his own divine collection of songs.

UU GUIDANCE ON GATHERING IN PERSON WHEN COVID-19 SUBSIDES

By UUA Safe Congregations Team, May 14, 2020

In the midst of uncertainty, it is the UUA’s strong recommendation that congregations plan for ongoing virtual gathering and operations through May 2021. This applies to worship, events, committee meetings, staff meetings, one-on-one visits, rites of passage, and more. While smaller gatherings may be able to resume sooner if conditions improve, it is advisable to plan for virtual operations that could continue for a full year.

We are guided by science and our deepest values, not politics, when we urge congregations to not resume full in-person operations until concrete public health criteria are met. As the pandemic continues to play out, we will continue to face uncertainty. Though we do not anticipate a return to full in-person programming until the pandemic has subsided, we anticipate that there will be, in the next year, a time when planning for some in-person programming may make sense.

More information at:
www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance

News from the UUA

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https://uusanmateo.org 7
Sacred Space
by Connie Spearing, Connections Coordinator

Through March, April and into May we waited for the day when we could come home to UUSM, when we could walk through the doors, see the chalice and the stained glass windows, see each other’s faces and raise the rafters in song. Virtual hugs are nice, but they can’t take the place of the real thing.

The other shoe fell in May with the realization that it will be months before we will be able to gather as a whole congregation. It may even be some time next year. I must admit to a few days of total panic, even depression at the thought. After all, I’m the Connections Coordinator; my life is all about showing up and encouraging others to do the same. Ours is not a solitary salvation; we carry out our mission together, and re-charge our spiritual batteries by gathering together in our sacred space.

Then I caught my breath, looked around my house and rested in gratitude for its shelter. Things could be worse, but I needed an alternative sacred space in order to maintain resilience for this new life. I needed a substation sanctuary.

I had already constructed a home chalice by turning a pretty pot upside down, balancing a small plate on its flat bottom and topping that with a pillar candle. I light that on Sunday mornings during our on-line worship service.

Without intent, I had also begun to place small, meaningful objects near the chalice. What if I added a few votive candles to light during Joys and Concerns? I had the beginning of a home altar. Maybe I could bring photos of loved ones to the altar, or pinecones from Lake Tahoe or seashells from last summer’s trip to the beach or fresh flowers from the garden.

My granddaughter added a rainbow chameleon which she thinks is very UU, and her mother added a statue of the Buddha from her Cambodian Culture. Being of an earth-based spiritual nature, I tend toward candles, sticks, rocks and water with a colorful tablecloth, but our altar is flexible, seasonal and reflective of our current mood or need.

I began to notice other sacred spaces in my life. There is the table where the portraits of my parents sit, the mantle with the kids’ graduation photos, and the cabinet of grandmother’s china. Our teenager thinks his shelf of sports trophies is sacred, and I have to agree that for him it is. I call whatever causes us to pause, take a breath and feel a connection with something greater than ourselves a sacred space.

Do you have a sacred space? Do you have a home altar? A corner of the garden or a shelf of favorite books, a spot that can be counted on to bring a moment of peace? You might want to assemble one for resilience in the days ahead. You are invited to take a photo of whatever is sacred to you and share it with your congregation in the Sunday morning pre-service slide show. We might all be surprised by finding sacred space.

Send photos to share on Sunday mornings to office@uusanmateo.org with Sunday Photos in the subject line. ✿
Chartres Cathedral Wasn’t Built in a Day — CDTF Report
By Rev. Pam Gehrke

If you visit Chartres Cathedral in France, one thing you might notice as you approach is that the two spires over the building’s main entrance do not match. This is because one was built in the 12th century and the other in the 16th. I find it odd that the designer of the later spire, which replaced the original after it was destroyed by lightning, chose to update the style. The result is an asymmetrical façade.

This asymmetry calls attention to the fact that the cathedral was built over a period of centuries. What might have transpired in the time between the original towers’ construction and the completion of the new spire? We might imagine fires, wars, and advances of building technology. And yes, the construction was no doubt interrupted—possibly more than once—by epidemics of infectious disease.

So how does UUSM’s campus compare with a medieval cathedral? Like Our Lady of Chartres, its improvement and development depend on the support and participation of a whole community over a long period of time. In this particular moment, we have a special opportunity to contribute to reconfiguring our disrupted social order as we shape our meeting spaces in alignment with our Unitarian Universalist values.

Please consider taking a turn, either as a member of the team or a helper to work on a limited task. As we begin gradually to emerge from isolation, we also move to a new phase of planning and building. It is an exciting time to bring your talent and voice to realizing our vision of an “aesthetically beautiful, multi-functional, environmentally responsible, harmoniously integrated campus” — from the Campus Development Task Force (CDTF) vision statement.

The CDTF includes Ron Lambert, Kelsey Lang, Caryl Hughan, Marty Hoffman (Board President), Rev. Ben Meyers, Barbara Du Mond (co-chair), and Pam Gehrke (co-chair).

Pastoral Care in the Age of Covid-19
By Steve Latner, Pastoral Care Committee Chairman

The novelist J.B. Priestly said, "The English people were at their finest during World War 2." Disasters can bring out the best in people. We often see a sense of community during difficult times that is at times missing when all is well.

The current health crisis will not last as long or be as deadly as World War 2. In this country and this area we’ve been very lucky. The inconvenience of waiting in line at a supermarket, or wearing a mask pales in comparison to the strict lockdown in many European and Asian countries. Certainly we have it easier than the civilians bombed during time of war. But still I see the spirit among us of care and concern for our neighbors. It comes out in a greeting more sincere than during "normal” times.

"How are you?” "Stay safe.” "What can I do to help?" These words have become more than perfunctory greetings.

All of us now are members of a ‘Pastoral Care Ministry’.

What can you do to help? Phone or message a UUSM congregant. Contact us oldsters that live by ourselves. Contact that young couple who are 'sheltering in place’, or the family with the newborn. Say "hello" to that family with school age children. Reach out to that couple living in a retirement community.

Ask people if they need help. In the past two months there have been thirty-three million new claims for unemployment in our nation. There are funds we have available to help during emergencies. Let me or Reverend Ben know if someone is in need, or if you are in need. All such conversations will be kept in confidence.

The other suggestion is, take care of yourself. Stay active, walk or exercise if you are able. As much as possible stick to healthy routines. But also allow yourself that special treat, the bowl of ice cream, or that trashy novel you’ve been meaning to read.

We will get through this together!

Contact Steve. ✉
Circle of Life — Homer Eaton
By Rev. Ben Meyers

Our beloved Homer Eaton died from complications of the COVID-19 virus on May 18. We grieve the loss of this beautiful man and his generous spirit which served the people of this congregation in too many ways to fully cite or measure. We send love and condolences to his wife, Evelyn, and their two daughters, Barb and Becky. Homer contracted the virus around April 4 and spent several weeks in the hospital before being allowed to return to his elder-care home in Redwood City in early May, where he died surrounded by the care team at the facility who grew to love Homer in the short time they knew him. He was a unique and unrepeatable person of spirit, character and action.

Homer was a long time member of UUSM whose legacy of love and service shaped the mission and vision of this religious community for decades. His physical contributions can still be seen, and their impact felt, each time we gather. His handiwork in our sanctuary is everywhere: he ‘leveled’ the pews which sit on the raked floor and added the carved chalices on the end of each, he built the choir risers and hand-rails and sculpted the metal altar which holds our chalices. He designed and constructed the adaptable wooden altar that we use in our rituals, and he crafted the beautiful chalice sculpture hanging prominently on our chancel wall that gives us the beautiful focal point which lifts up our eyes to something higher and uplifts our spirits whenever we gather. He touched us in many ways and his legacy of love lives on.

Homer Eaton was an important and impactful part of our community and we miss him deeply. We give thanks for the gifts of his life shared so abundantly during his lifetime.

With grief and gratitude,
Ben ◆

Ulay Partnership Update
by Carol Cook

We heard from Ulay and the UU Church of the Philippines that all members and staff are safe and well. Worship services were suspended under requirements of Enhanced Quarantine – similar to ours, plus no travel outside of the jurisdiction, and only one member per household granted a pass to go out to purchase essentials. On May 1, Enhanced Quarantine was replaced by General Community Quarantine, slightly less restrictive. Good news: there have been very few cases of COVID-19 on Negros Island, and none in the region around Ulay Chapel. However, hunger has been an issue as people are confined at home without work.

The UUCP supplied some food relief, and Share A Meal funds left over from last year were used to purchase more food for each Ulay family. New funds for Share A Meal were wired in mid-May. The new school semester, normally starting in June, has been delayed until August 24. We sent Education Partner funds in early May, so that some could be used to purchase food for Ulay families.

Sadly, the remaining sessions of Learning to Livelihood training that we began with NEW Pathways to Enterprise in February have been on hold due to COVID-19 quarantine. NEW Pathways is hard at work preparing plans for the next steps to be taken as soon as they can be put in place.

Thanks to your amazing generosity during the Alternative Gift Faire in December, and in the March Partner Church Special Collection, we were able to raise the $6,000 needed to fund NEW Pathways economic training for Ulay, plus $1,040 for Ulay’s Share A Meal program, and a modest contribution to the Ulay College Fund. This year, in addition to the thirteen elementary school students and thirteen high school students sponsored by UUSM members, we are sponsoring four college students!

Exciting news! Ulay has added 3 new Education Partner students — and one 1st grade girl still needs a sponsor. Sponsorship is $120 per year for elementary school. To become an Education Partner, or learn more about the program, contact Carol Cook: partnerchurch@uusanmateo.org.

Many thanks for your generosity and support!
Poetry Corner

Lost Smile, by Robert Voss

On your best day
If you smile,
Will it last awhile?
Was it just a little bubble,
Feeling mirth abandon?
Did you act a fool,
A little drool
At your soporific
Happiness, they will think?

Be serious rather.
Suppress your gaiety.
Let them see
You mean business.

Long enough goes by,
But quickly comes your cry,
You no longer have to try.
The smile is dead and gone.
You couldn't put one on
If you tried.
So sad it died
On your worst day.

Edge, by Robert Voss

What was that thought? I forgot.
Something else tied a knot
In the conscious that bought
A brighter shinier stronger lot.

I must be hiding something.
What I present is so little.
Could it be that love, that hole,
That blank darkness
At the edge of my heart?
I try to keep it from taking over.

I watch every move, every step, for art,
That noble messenger of all kinds,
But especially the unkind heart.
Take me to the brink and tear it apart.

I'm glad I didn't fail to tell,
Since you seem so full of fell.
You might eventually need to spill
And break my darkling spell.

Great Spirit Prayer
Translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887

Oh, Great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes
ever hold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things you have made
and my ears sharp to hear your voice
Make me wise so that I may understand
the things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.
Help me remain calm and strong in the
face of all that comes towards me.
Help me find compassion without
empathy overwhelming me.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy: myself.
Make me always ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my spirit may come to you without shame.

~ From the UU Coastside Community Newsletter
The Value of Getting Involved
By Betsy Taub

Hi All! I’d like to encourage everyone to get more involved in the inner workings of UUSM!

Now that most meetings are held over Zoom, we’ve reduced the hassle of sitting in commute traffic and finding a parking spot at UUSM!

I can honestly say I get more by participating in these groups, than I give. And, it is truly the best way to get to know fellow UUSMers better, have increased closeness with them and fulfill that sense of community we all crave. And, it does not require a boatload of extra time or effort!

I love meeting new people through the Welcoming Team, and sharing what UUSM means to me. It’s easy to “sell” when you so thoroughly believe in the product!

I enjoy the Pastoral Care Committee, as we reach out to just listen or take action to help someone who might be going through a rough patch or an extended rough tapestry! It just feels good to help people! That is the reward in and of itself!

I love being part of Worship Associates as we help with various parts of the service, and even have an opportunity to give a talk or mini-talk! It answers my love of researching, writing, expressing my sense of humor, and desire to grow in my public speaking skills!

I’m enjoying being part of the Board, as I get better acquainted with some of the issues and challenges facing UUSM. It gives me a chance to get more exposure to Robert’s Rules of Order, to observe good leadership practices, and to stretch my own leadership muscle—also a goal of mine.

I hear being part of the Choir is fabulous as well. And there are other opportunities for fun and growth.

I think of UUSM as a safe “experimental-setting laboratory,” which gives us the opportunity to grow—especially in areas of interest we might have, such as increasing our communications skills and leadership skills.

So come join me in some of these fabulous opportunities for growth, as well as getting to know UUSMers better—definitely worth some bonus points right there!

If you’d like to explore these or other “getting involved” opportunities, please check Breeze for my contact info and give me a call or send me an email or text. I’ll be happy to point you in the right direction!

Guaranteed satisfaction! 😊😊😊😊😊

Join the Party!
By Christine Thorsteinson

Join our party and help us raise $15,000 for UUSM ministry by June 30.

Our annual fundraiser (and friendraiser!), Party Palooza, is a wonderful event that celebrates the best of our community — fellowship, connection, creativity, generosity, and fun, all in the spirit of growing together. When we purchase theme parties, cooking lessons, sermons and more, Party Palooza raises $15,000 to support the ministry of UUSM. Unfortunately we were unable to come together in person to enjoy Party Palooza this year, and this leaves us with a significant deficit in our budget.

But it isn’t too late to join the party! Although our Party Palooza has shifted to Zoomapalooza, we still need everyone’s support to raise $15,000. Make a special contribution today and help meet our financial goals. A gift of any amount is appreciated but consider what you may have planned to spend at Party Palooza as a guide. You can make a donation online at https://uusanmateo.org/what-we-do/how-things-work/donate-now/ or by check, if you prefer. Please indicate Party Palooza Support in the memo. Contact Karyn Collins in the UUSM office office@uusanmateo.org if you need assistance with giving. ♦

Guaranteed satisfaction! 😊😊😊😊😊

UUSM Sanctuary Chalice, created by Homer Eaton
Chalice Lighting
by Leslie Minasalvas, Ulay Congregation

May this light offer comfort to the uncomfortable, love to the ones who feel unloved, peace of mind to those who worry a lot, strength to those weak and afraid of the outcome of this crisis.

May through this light we find our way to a better understanding of what’s happening, what causes it, and what help we can offer to the people that are mostly affected by the pandemic.

May this heat of the chalice give us the courage to be authentic in every conversation we have with our family, colleagues, friends, and all people.

Let this light and heat be the bridge to our better honest relation to one another.

Let us unite what’s separated.
Let this be our source of happiness not sorrows.
Let us be the light to one another.
Amen.

Leslie’s words were used for our chalice lighting in our Sunday, May 27, online worship service. Leslie is a college graduate of the Education Partners program.
Upcoming Services

During the COVID-19 Quarantine, Worship services take place on Zoom on Sundays, 10:00-11:00 am. Slide show and music begin at 9:40 am. The Zoom link will be sent via email a few days in advance. Please check our website at uusanmateo.org for information.

Monthly Themes: Sunday Services and Mid-week Meditations will revolve around the following themes:
Good and Evil - June
Harmony - July
Creation - August

UU Coastside Community Meetings
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday, at 11 am, temporarily on Zoom. For info: email uucoastside@gmail.com

Ongoing
Meetings are temporarily on Zoom. Watch for links in This Week @ UUSM emails, or contact the organizer.

Welcome and Connections Circle
Every Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 pm on Zoom. All are welcome! Zoom in for a live chat with visitors and one another. Led by Connie Spearing
connections@uusanmateo.org

Campus Development Task Force
Wednesday, 6:00 pm on Zoom. For info: Barbara Du Mond or Rev. Pam Gehrke at cdtflead@uusanmateo.org

UUSM Book Group
Every 4th Sunday, 11:30 am-1:00 pm On Zoom. For info: Anne Silver
bookgroup@uusanmateo.org

Co-ed Age-ing to Sage-ing
Every other Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 pm On Zoom. For info: Dick Davis
coea2sagingleads@uusanmateo.org

Women’s Age-ing to Sage-ing 1
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 pm On Zoom. For info: Lillian Barden at womensa2saginglead1@uusanmateo.org

Women’s Age-ing to Sage-ing 2
Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 1:00-2:30 pm On Zoom. For info: Sheila Sandow at womensa2saginglead2@uusanmateo.org
Our Congregational Covenant

- We cultivate attentive listening, care-filled speaking, a culture of gratitude, and compassionate honesty.
- We communicate directly with one another, especially when we are in conflict.
- We engage one another thoughtfully, seeking understanding and acknowledgment even when we disagree or our needs will not be fulfilled.
- We trust one another’s intentions. We also recognize that our individual behaviors and actions have an impact regardless of our intentions.
- When we hurt or are hurt, we seek reconnection and/or forgiveness as appropriate.
- We are responsible for ourselves and we are accountable to one another for creating opportunities to encourage, challenge, and connect.

Through these choices and actions, we realize the interconnected network of mutuality of beloved community.

Call of the Digital Open Road

It's summertime and the digital highway is open in every direction!

Where will you go with UUSM?
What's missing in your life?
What feeds your soul?

New circles for summer will offer virtual small groups gathering for fun and spiritual nourishment. Watch for offerings such as:

- Sing-a-long with our favorite UU songs
- Crafts to explore themes for growth
- Creating sacred space
- Waging peace and spreading random acts of kindness
- An earth-based spiritual practice

Tech Angels are standing by —
to help us navigate digital highways to connections.

Summer is here! Send your ideas soon and share your suggestions with Tanya at dre@uusanmateo.org and Connie at connections@uusanmateo.org.

Enter, Rejoice and Zoom-in!

Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo

Ministers
Rev. Ben Meyers, Minister
minister@uusanmateo.org
Rev. Joy Atkinson, Minister Emerita
If you wish to meet with Rev. Ben, please contact him for an appointment.

Board of Trustees
Marty Hoffman, President
Betsy Blosser, Vice President
Charles Du Mond, Treasurer
Christine Thorsteinson, Secretary
Aleksey Lavery, Trustee
Jose Mendez, Trustee
Betsy Taub, Trustee
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Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday: 10:30 am-5:30 pm;
Friday: 10:30 am-2:30 pm
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Return Service Requested