

Compass Rose



December 2011-February 2012



In the summers, in New England, we played endless evening games of hide and seek! Starting in different front yards and stretching our hiding across fences, stands of trees, and under front porches. All over the neighborhood. The games went until we were parched from hunting and hiding in the darkness! As people ran for home base, parents would sit and watch from rocking chairs, silently rooting for the game, not for particular children. The kids who hid and were not found were called home by the cry, "Olley, Olley, Oxen Free!"

Looking Forward

Olley, Olley, Oxen Free!!!!

by Rev. Denise Tracy

We did not know what it meant, specifically. But we knew that some people were not accounted for and a new game was about to begin. "Come in out of hiding and play again," was the message.

So I say to you who are reading this and who have not returned to UUSM this season (or for several seasons), "Olley, Olley, Oxen Free!" There is a new season starting at UUSM. Everyone is needed! If you have been hiding or out of contact, if you have drifted away for any particular reason or no particular reason...come in...come back...return...a new season is beginning. We are beginning again.

We have listened to 133 people in small groups led by me, the Transition Team, and the Search Committee. We are creating some new goals and reframing not just the answers; we are reframing the questions. Some of you are in the process already. Look around! Is someone missing? Call them. Invite them to return. The best way to recreate our congregation is with everyone we know and love, new and seasoned members, those who have been absent and those who have been here all along. We need everyone!

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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.

Olley, Olley, Oxen Free!!!!

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Come out of hiding! Return to the group!

My son's youth group in a recent church loved the game of sardines. We got the kids to pay attention and do things with both heart and speed by promising a game of sardines at the end of each evening. Sardines is the game where one person hides and the others join her/him when they find them. The game ends with everyone piled together, laughing and giggling with pleasure. Unitarian Universalist Minister and author Robert Fulghum suggests this is what he hopes heaven is like... everyone coming together in one big happy group. I don't know about heaven, but I do think that most of us would like to be involved in a group where joining in is filled with happiness and connection. Where we sit close together and link arms and feel that we are part of something uniting and joyful. Some giant camaraderie like that found in a good game of sardines!

So come out of, into, around, through, over, under. Fly, walk, jump, run, skip...however you can get here...and join UUSM in our process of recreating our community. We will all be blessed by everyone who decides to come and go with us to our new future...And may we find ourselves filled with joy at being part of this journey.

"Olley. Olley, Oxen Free!" Come home! Be part of a religious community where our central principle is LOVE!!! Where happiness and community are the beginning and end of all we do and dream.

Blessings,

Your Transition Minister,
Denise



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 March-May 2012): **February 9, 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.



We Are Better Together

by Nancy Jasa, Co-Director of Religious Education

I've learned a lot from the UU youth community about what "Being Together" means. Our youth know how to tap into the resources of community and lift the awesomeness of each individual tenfold simply through giving, receiving, and sharing one to another. Our youth explore the synergy of working together on problems and for solutions. They quest and search together. They find renewal together in a space they make sacred. Watching our youth interact is a reminder of all the ways in which we, as a community, are better together.

Community is used in our tradition by youth and adults alike as a container for connection. Our connection can happen in worship, in social justice work or simply doing the business of the church. Many of our youth talk about how important this community is for them. Their UU community is their sacred space. Often it is nearly the only place where they can truly be themselves, without pretension, without game playing. The UU community is a place where our youth are able to connect with Spirit, Social Justice, and one another. They are able to question, explore, try on, and learn from each other with open hearts and minds. There is a trust, a covenant that they have with each other that allows them to do all this in a way that supports them to be leaders in the wider community. Is it fulfilling to talk with people of like mind, like values, welcoming and inclusive in all the ways we strive to be?

Take Sunday morning worship, any singular moment that touches you, whether that be a song we sing especially well together so that it gives you goose bumps and swells your heart, or a point in the sermon that you simply had never thought of in that illuminating or inspiring way before. Maybe for you it was seeing the interaction between a child of our congregation and an elder that lit a fire in your heart. I often find the honest and open emotions of a member sharing their joy or pain and seeking refuge in their community to be all the worship I need for a Sunday morning. As adults we are able to hold that moment of sacred observation to ourself and it can give us some peace, some solace. Imag-

ine for a moment taking your observation and sharing it with someone else, or in a small circle of friends. They nod and add their experience, thought, emotion to yours, and what was a seed of true beauty has blossomed between you and another in a shared moment that you probably do not experience quite the same way in your work day/week bustle. Is connection the core of "Beloved Community"? Are we better together in that moment?



Our youth prefer to have companions on their journey. Facing the world, an overwhelming, confusing, and often incomprehensible place, by yourself is a scary thought. When our youth share their concern for an injustice in the world, they caucus and brainstorm, find a way to stand shoulder to shoulder with each other to make a positive difference. They link arms, singing and skipping their way into the darkness, trusting that their combined strength and enthusiasm can bring the light to a few more of the inhabitants of our web of existence. Can we find more love, joy, and hope when we face the world together?

Listening to the youth quest and search and process together is the epitome of this quote they shared with me, author unknown: "We may not have it all together, but together we have it all." Being in search, any type of search, at any age, is hard work. Whether we're searching to find our self and our place in the world, the right school, the answers to professional questions, how to best serve community or how to fulfill commitments, it is hard work and can be draining work when engaged in alone. When we engage in search together and ideas light a fire under imagination, we can then experience the fireworks of possibility and abundance. Is there excitement and energy when we envision together?

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Connections

by Kathy van Leuwen, Co-Director of Religious Education

It was the summer my mom was marrying Gene, and he and his three kids were going to move into my house. I was fifteen. I was very unhappy.

But before the wedding, my mom, my younger sister Lisa, and I went camping, like we had nearly every summer before, with our good friends the Smiths, mom Jan, daughters Melissa and Heather. These camping trips are among the best memories of my childhood. Over the years we'd traipsed all over New England, catching fireflies in Vermont, rolling down sand dunes in Cape Cod, and hiking the green hills of New Hampshire. For one delicious week each year, we'd pile into the Smith's paneled station wagon, two of us crammed in the "way back" among sleeping bags and bags brimming with groceries, and head off on another adventure.

While I looked forward to the trip with the Smiths, this year didn't feel the same. Much of the lightness was gone. Two years before my father had died unexpectedly. A few months later, Heather Smith had been hospitalized with childhood leukemia. Our world had changed drastically.

Yet one transcendent moment stands out from that trip for me. It was a walk with Jan, my friends' mom. Jan had watched me grow up, written to me when my dad

had died. As we made our way on a grassy bluff overlooking a rocky Connecticut shoreline, we talked. Jan listened to me and laughed at my jokes. I don't remember what we talked about, but I do remember how I felt. I felt seen. I felt heard. I felt liked and accepted by an adult I admired at a time when my own mom and I were having trouble seeing eye to eye. This simple kindness touched me deeply. It was a lifeline.



Working with young people, I am humbled by how much the well-meaning attention of a grown up can mean to a child. The multigenerational nature of our faith community makes UUSM ripe with such possibility. At teacher training, I remind our Religious Education leaders of the potential impact they have on kids even though they may never realize it. Jean Harrison Nieuwejaar writes in *The Gift of Faith*:

These one-on-one connections are the most formative in children's lives, and when they have occurred in religious community they have a particular potency because of that spiritual context. When the religious communities we turn to are safe and healthy, we allow ourselves to be more open and vulnerable there, and so we can be touched in deeper places.

At UUSM we are blessed with dozens of people who give their time and attention to our children and youth, as Sunday morning religious educators, Our Whole Lives sexuality education leaders, Coming of Age mentors, high school youth advisors, and even "Mystery Friends."

I believe the desire for honest, soul-to-soul connection is one of the primary reasons we seek religious community *at any age*. We all need to be accepted and affirmed simply for who we are, to be seen and heard. Often when we first enter religious community, we are facing some kind of life or existential crisis and are especially in need of this gift. But while connection is one of the fundamental things we seek from our faith communities, it can be elusive, especially when we are new or our primary experience of the church is the hustle and bustle of Sunday mornings.



*Mystery Friends Ethan Bull-Vulpe and Wade Leschyn.
Photo by Tom McCune.*

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Gather the Spirit Harvest the Power

UUSM Capital Campaign 2011



The Road Less Taken

by Christy Conklin, Capital Campaign Steering Committee

We are coming to the end of our long and winding road with this Capital Campaign. As Julia Wilson, the Steering Committee Co-chair said, ours has not been a traditional campaign, given that we no longer have either the ministers we started with or the building we sought to buy!

Also, times are hard these days and many members and friends have simply been unable to contribute due to personal financial constraints. The Visiting Stewards have also heard from a number of folks who have chosen not to pledge to the Oak Grove building in particular, because of their concerns about its financial viability, location, etc. Others have felt that a time of ministerial transition is not the best time to be holding a Capital Campaign. I just want you to know that we hear you, all of you. We *are* you; we are all in this together. We on the CCSC are now completing the work you asked us to do back in January, and in the coming months we can discuss and decide as a community the best way forward.

We have not reached our original financial goal of \$2.2 million. As you recall, this goal was at the high end of the Financial Feasibility Study results, as compiled by our campaign consultant. Rev. Hart's process in developing the numbers in her report was not transparent to us at the time for reasons of confidentiality. Knowing what I know now, my own calculations show that a goal of \$1.5-\$1.8 million would have been more accurate for this congregation, and the fact that we are currently at around \$1.2-\$1.3 million, with all the challenges we have faced in the past year, is understandable.

With all that said, I also have to say that I see a number of important successes in this campaign. First,

many of us thought hard about our desire for a brighter future for Unitarian Universalism on the Peninsula, and we dug deep into our psychological bank accounts of what money we needed for ourselves vs. what we could share with the future of our faith – and then we wrote generous pledges to this Capital Campaign. Each and every one of these acts of commitment and faith strengthens us as people and strengthens this congregation.

Second, this congregation has now nearly completed its first Capital Campaign in 40 years. Congregations that want to thrive need to exercise their fundraising chops about once a decade, and we have been remiss in this area of congregational life. We were rusty, with no institutional memory to help serve our efforts. But now that we have completed our campaign, we have built an important skill set that will serve us in the future.

Third, we now have a large pot of pledges that we can revisit when another building becomes available that suits our needs. We will be able to act quickly and decisively if a steal-of-a-deal comes on the market. We could not have done that *before this very moment*, and that is a huge step forward.

And lastly, we have finished what we started, which creates one heck of a selling point for our ministerial search: we are a church that raised \$1+ million in pledges for a new building, even in challenging circumstances. This says to a new minister that this congregation pulls together around common goals and will not be deterred even during hard times. And I want the kind of minister who wants that kind of congregation.

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Voices

Stories, reflections, and inspiration from the UUSM community

Welcoming the Stranger

by Margaret Cross, Social Justice Council Member

I have never forgotten what it was like to be the “stranger,” the newcomer to California in the early 70’s when my husband Peter and I packed up our life in suburban Chicago and landed in a bungalow just off Alcatraz Avenue in Oakland. Right away I noticed that anything I wore to any event was wrong. Anything that I took for granted was “the right way to respond” in a social situation was probably a misstep. I definitely did not belong here.



But I did belong at church, our neighborhood church. The church women were in a flurry of banner making when I walked into my first “ladies aide” meeting, and I knew I could do that. In a

very short time I had fashioned a five-panel felt banner depicting Matthew 25. The leftmost section had a loaf and the opposite end a chalice. Next came figures visiting the sick and in prison, and finally the central panel had figures encircling the stranger. It was satisfying, it told the story, and they hung it just below the choir loft. This is faith at its heart – we are all one.

Not too many months later I completed course work for a K-8 teaching credential and began subbing in the Oakland schools. In those years the poorest neighborhoods were mostly African American, and I was daily surrounded by dark faces and bright eyes. I treasure that experience of sharing daily life for a time with children, many of whom lived in situations no child should have to endure and saw things no child should see.

It was not strange then that when Peter and I decided to adopt a child, we looked to adopt a child from another culture. There were children needing families and couples like us wanting to have a family. What could be more natural? Through an inter-country adoption agency we did adopt first a little boy and later a little girl from Korea.

As they grew, we moved to the Peninsula and again were strangers, until we walked through the doors of our neighborhood church. It was here I met Rev. Wendy Taylor, with whom I would later share the joy of drawing strangers into community out on the south coast. And now we have chronicled the story of how Wendy started talking to a few guys in the street and it grew to be Puente Ministry with the help of dozens of men and women eager to carry the message to those strangers that we are indeed all one. Fortunately it has been my joy to have traveled this process with her, helping out as I was able and coming to really know how a community can welcome strangers. The book in which this story is told is *No Longer Strangers: The Practice of Radical Hospitality*, available online and at our book signings in November.

It was this same spirit that resonated in Peter and me as we began to get acquainted with everyone at UUSM. And it is that spirit that prompted many of us to ask “Who is my neighbor” in the study series this fall. Through these experiences and the practice we enjoy with each other we can move out into the community to welcome the stranger wherever we may be and live our belief in the worth and dignity of every human being.

We Are the Ones

by Lori Fox

“We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.” The Hopi elder spoke it in a prayer for the Hopi Nation. June Jordan wrote it in a poem for South African women, to celebrate International Women’s Day in 1978. That poem inspired Alice Walker to write a book of essays around it. Barack Obama proclaimed it on Super Tuesday in 2008. Rappers and folk singers wrote their own diverse songs around it. Political activist Angela Davis delivered it to the crowd this week at Occupy Oakland. Some ideas are so good that they truly belong in the public domain.

While many of us are taking to the streets to protest a system that concentrates wealth and income in the top

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1% of our nation's population, we can also recognize that an even more outrageous economic separation exists worldwide. As world citizens it's in our interest to advocate for those who live in extreme poverty. I'm talking about people like our UU friends on Negros Island in the Philippines. We can use our collective power to help empower others.

This past March, ten of us from UUSM traveled to Ulay to join our partner church congregation for a weekend-long Community Capacity Building Assessment. Guided by several local leaders who were trained by Dr. Richard Ford, the people of Ulay determined for themselves how to start improving infrastructure. We were honored to witness their respectful decision-making process and learned a lot about alternatives to simple voting. These men and women *are* the Ones they've been waiting for!

In the months since our visit, CCB remains active. Despite reluctance from the local government to finance a water project, the group is developing a plan to serve the eight families close to Ulay chapel who lack a safe and reliable water source. Road maintenance and access to electricity are other major priorities. All of these projects will take faith, creativity, teamwork, manual labor, and fundraising from the entire community. It is our hope that these dreams might be realized without sacrificing livelihood and education in the short term. Therefore, we ask our congregation to support this work with our contributions from one special Sunday collection per year and the annual Alternative Gift Faire.

The Alternative Gift Faire will take place in Beck Hall between Sunday services starting Nov. 27. Stop by the Partner Church Committee's table to learn how you can honor a loved one with a donation to one or more projects that support the UU Church of the Philippines in its struggle to become self-sustaining and promote justice.



Lori with her partner church student Jorelyn Sumiga. Jorelyn now teaches in the Ulay RE program

In Oakland Angela Davis had this to say about social and economic justice, "Our unity must be complex. It must not be simplistic. We do not consent to corporate inequality...We do consent to community...to education...to health care." Unitarian Universalists, and *all* people of faith, know that we are called to do this work all over the world, not just for our own families and congregations. We redistribute resources not only from outrage at injustice, but from of a sense of gratitude for all that we have. We are the ones who must act.

Thoughts About UUSM

by Anne and Randy Silver

UUSM – not the building but the people, the spirit, the love, the music, the children's smiles, the striving to make the world a better place – is important to us beyond measure.

If you have a short-term vision of UUSM, then we really do not need a Capital Campaign. If, however, you are like us and hope to see our congregation thrive during and beyond our own lifetimes, it is obvious that we need a better facility (with parking!).

Several days ago I found an architectural sketch dated Dec. 12, 1993 for a proposed worship space at the Medical Dental Building. We were then considering purchasing a property on California Drive in Burlingame. I also found a "Report of the Building Development Committee" dated Nov. 17, 1993 which listed the many reasons that we cannot upgrade our current structure (the major one being lack of parking and the City's unwillingness to permit anything without it).

We have been trying to obtain a new, larger home for UUSM for at least 20 years. We have been operating under the assumption that we would find a close-to-perfect building that was for sale and then ask its owners to wait while we launched a Capital Campaign.

We have been naïve; we have been putting the horse before the cart.



We hope that losing the Christian Science Church building will be a wake-up call. We cannot realistically expect to obtain a larger facility, one that will house adults, our growing numbers of children and youth, and new activities for the community, unless we go searching with money in hand.

It's like trying to buy a personal residence in the current market. Any reasonable buyer will go to a lender and become "pre-qualified." We have just assumed that we could do it the other way around.

As soon as we heard that the building had been sold to another church, we sent an email to Denise, Andrea, and the chairs of the Capital Campaign to remove the Oak Grove building contingency from our pledge. Our pledge is for a new home for our beloved community.

I've heard people say that we have a lot of work to do to revitalize UUSM because in the past few years our membership has declined and our committee structure sort of fell apart. These things do not have to be done separately from a real estate search. Perhaps losing the Oak Grove building to another church can give us new energy to finish our Capital Campaign and to embark on our search for a new facility.

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 ministers are here to support you spiritually, as are our Lay Chaplains. Our Lay Chaplains are coordinated by Ann Mason and Reeba Lynn. Please contact us at 650-342-5946 x 11 or office@uusanmateo.org so that we can provide you with the loving support of this congregation.

Two by Robert Voss

Artist

Expression is transgression
Through the outer law
And around the time
I Bloody Well Feel Like It.
The purpose of your soul
Is to transgress the law.

Transgress and transmit
Against the conflict other.
Sub Rosa not corrupter
But outlaw against
All the feeling arrangers
Keeping the key to the lock.

Everything outside
Created by others
Is designed to inflict
Control of your culture
Save Art.
Save Art.

Artist's Manifesto

I've lost the desire to know it all,
As failure was my constant companion.
Since science was my wherewithal,
How well I felt was strictly measured.

But voided volume left inside

A hole

Cold and lonely finally filled,
Created opposing the outside
Because this is my space unmeasured.

My life becomes a question,
And the answer left alone.
Now a true observer,
Artist's sight I feel,
Balancing creation
With the Is to be.
Close your eyes and see.

But Art and Science?
There is no division.
Merely mental redux
With no synthetic revision.

We Are Better Together

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Community is sacred space for our youth. Worship with youth often revolves around our connection with each other in reflective and affirming ways.

A song often used in youth worship is "Building Bridges," Hymn #1023 in *Singing the Journey*.

Building Bridges between our divisions, I reach out to you, will you reach out to me? With all of our voices and all of our visions, friends, we could make such sweet harmony.

Ritual in youth worship often includes: passing the peace, passing the love, passing the strength, passing the acceptance, passing from one to another to another, and, yes, friends, "We Are Better Together!"

Connections

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If connection is something you'd like to find more of at UUSM, I encourage you to take advantage of small group offerings, where it is easier to get to know people on a deeper level. Opportunities include small group ministry (Chalice Circles), fellowship in the form of Circle Dinners or First Fridays, and Adult Religious Education offerings, such as Rev. Denise's Tai Chi class. Serving is another way to get to know people better. This could mean singing in the choir, helping out at a UUSM workday, or (gasp!) serving on a committee. For more opportunities, look through this issue of the *Compass*

Rose and stay abreast through the E-announcements. Also, don't hesitate to ask a member of the staff or lay leader for ways to get connected.

Relationship is the heart and soul of religious community, but it doesn't just happen. It requires that we make ourselves vulnerable, give of our time, and risk being transformed by another. Being seen for our unique and true selves is a precious gift, one that we can give each other. May it be so.

The Road Less Taken

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So we have much to be proud of. If you have not made your pledge yet, you may still do so now. It is still so important that every member and friend make a pledge right now, so that we can revisit each pledge when our next potential new building comes along.

Please make a point of thanking the Visiting Stewards, who did valiant service in connecting with all the mem-

bers and friends over recent weeks. Without them, this campaign would not have happened. And to my fellow members of the Steering Committee – it has been a real pleasure working with such a capable, indefatigable, cheerful, hard-working group of people. Thank you.

Worship Services

Services take place on Sundays at 9:00 am and 11:15 am unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, Dec. 4

"Unpacking the Bag: Transition Ministry"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Sally Reed

This Sunday's special collection will benefit Samaritan House.

Sunday, Dec. 11

"Searching for Angels"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Chris Hazzard

Sunday, Dec 18

"Children's Holiday Service: Every Child Pageant"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Owen Thomas

This year's holiday pageant celebrates the Christmas story. No rehearsals required! Children of all ages invited to participate. Nursery care available all morning.

Saturday, Dec. 24

(4:00 and 6:00 pm)

"Christmas Eve Services"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Kenny Preston

Traditional candlelight service, each followed by a cookie reception.

Sunday, Dec. 25

(11:15 am service only)

"Christmas Day Service"

Worship Leader: Shawn Reifschneider
Worship Associate: Kenny Preston

This service will be multi-generational. There will be no Religious Education classes or nursery care this morning.

Sunday, Jan. 1

(11:15 am service only)

"Lessons for Living"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Regina Johnson

Sunday, Jan. 8

"Goodbye 2011: A Service on Those Famous People Who Have Passed in 2011"

Worship Leader: TBA
Worship Associate: Marjorie Robinson

Sunday, Jan. 15

"Let Justice Ring Out! What UU's Need to Remember and Know"

Worship Leader: David Sammons
Worship Associate: Caryl Hughan

This Sunday's special collection will benefit North Central Neighborhood Association.

Sunday, Jan. 22

"Living the Watercourse Way: A Service on Taoism and Tai Chi"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Pam Sachs

Sunday, Jan. 29

"A Transylvanian Faith: Our Heritage from Eastern Europe"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Anne Peter

Sunday, Feb. 5

Worship Leader: Olivia Holmes
Worship Associate: Joe Sandmeyer

Sunday, Feb. 12

"All You Need Is Love: The Beatles"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Dick Davis

This Sunday's special collection will benefit Peninsula Interfaith Action.

Sunday, Feb. 19

"The Story of UUSM"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Caryl Hughan

Sunday, Feb. 26

"The Miracle of Friendship"

Worship Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy
Worship Associate: Cordelia Leoncio

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

Announcements and Events

Religious Education

High School Youth Group

Sundays, Dec. 4, Jan. 8 and 29, Feb. 12 and 26, 5:00-7:00 pm
Youth Room

The High School Youth Group continues to meet for fun, fellowship, and justice-making. For more info, contact RE Co-Director Nancy Jasa at 925-237-1647 or nancy@uusanmateo.org.

Multi-generational Worship on Sunday, Dec. 25

No Religious Education classes or nursery care this morning.

New Year's Fire Communion Children's Chapel

Sunday, Jan. 1, 11:30 am
Beck Hall

All children are invited to participate in a worship celebrating our positive intentions for the new year with a New Year's Fire Communion. All children will begin in the service and then be sung out to Beck Hall. Due to the holiday, there will be no Religious Education classes this Sunday.

Spring Religious Education Session Begins Sunday, Jan. 8

Mystery Friends Sign-Ups

Jan. 8-22

Mystery Friends are kids (5 years and up) and adults from UUSM who would like to make a connection with an older or younger friend. Each adult is paired with a child who does not know the identity of his or her "Mystery Friend." On "Sundae Sunday," April 15, the children will be introduced to their Mystery Friends and have the chance to meet face-to-face over ice cream.

Kids and adults need to complete and return the sign-up sheet (available beginning Jan. 8) by the Jan. 22nd deadline. Look for more details in upcoming E-announcements.

Mystery Children's Chapel

Sunday, Feb. 19, 10:15 am
Sanctuary

Children in Grades 1 and up are invited to participate in a child-focused worship experience celebrating the first of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, the experience of mystery and wonder.

Younger children participate in Religious Education classes as usual.

Community Events

Circle Dinners

2012 dates are Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 24, and April 21

Circle Dinners are informal Saturday night potlucks – a cherished tradition at UUSM. You sign up for four great dinners with changing groups of 8. November is sign-up month. For more info, contact Bob and Rae DuFore at 650-340-7145 or brdufore@sbcglobal.net.

Hanging of the Greens

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

Join us at this lovely, traditional, inter-generational kick-off to the Christmas season! We'll start by decorating UUSM for the holidays and do crafts for kids of all ages. Once the space is beautiful, we'll sing carols and share a wonderful light meal courtesy of the new UUSM JUUST Food (food justice) Group! The Alternative Gift Faire table will be available, and we'll set up our UUSM Mitten Tree to benefit Homework Central. All ages are welcome!

Caroling Caravan

Saturday, Dec. 10, 1:00-2:30 pm
Offsite

We visit our homebound members to sing them some lovely carols! You do not have to be a member of the Choir or an expert singer. For info, contact Barbara Du Mond at 650-349-3784 or bdumond@astound.net.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 8
Sanctuary

Mark your calendars for our next Congregational Meeting. Details soon.

UUSM Annual Auction

Saturday, Feb. 25, 6:00-10:00 pm
Beresford Recreational Center
2720 Alameda de Las Pulgas, San Mateo

Save the date for our Annual Auction. This year's theme: Mardi Gras! Stay tuned for more information.

Alternative Gift Faire

Sundays, Nov. 27-Dec. 18

Saturday, Dec. 3, 3:00 pm

Stop by the Alternative Gift Faire table between services and at the Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 3. Alternative gifts are perfect for many on your gift list and support a worthy cause, our Partner Church in the Philippines!

How it works: Donate to the programs of your choice. For each donation you get a lovely gift card with an insert explaining to the recipient how the gift given in their honor will make a significant difference in the lives of the community of Ulay in the Philippines.

The AGF table will also have Christmas cards to sign for each family in Ulay. Take advantage of this opportunity to "be the change you wish to see in the world." Your donation in any amount will be most appreciated.



Adult Enrichment

Book Release: *Celebrate the Divine Feminine*

Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30-8:30 pm
Beck Hall

Come and celebrate the release of UUSM member Joy Reichard's new book, *Celebrate the Divine Feminine: Reclaim Your Power with Ancient Goddess Wisdom*. For more info, contact Joy at 415-819-8769 or joy@joyreichard.com.

The Galactic Embrace: 2012 and You

with Linea Van Horn, President of the San Francisco Astrological Society
Sunday, Jan. 8, 6:30-8:30 pm
Beck Hall

This presentation includes a clear description of the incredibly rare, very temporary, and perfectly visible alignment that is occurring right now. This is the inaugural offering of our Adult RE Second Sunday Speaker Series. For more info, contact Joy Reichard, Adult RE Coordinator, at 415-819-8769 or joy@joyreichard.com

The Spirituality of Women's Friendships: A Mini Retreat

Sunday, Jan. 22, 1:00-4:00 pm
Beck Hall

Come and spend a morning with the women of UUSM exploring the spirituality of Women's Friendships. There will be a short article to read in preparation.

We will reflect on the importance of our relationships. Childcare provided if reserved.

Tai Chi Workshop with Rev. Denise

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Beck Hall

The Five Elements: Learn a simple and easy moving meditation. Spend a morning with UUSM friends. Wear comfortable layered clothes and non-tread shoes or slippers. Bring an open mind and a willingness to relax and enjoy yourself. Childcare provided if reserved.

Social Action

Second Harvest Food Bank Sort

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30-8:30 pm
Second Harvest Food Bank
1051 Bing Street, San Carlos

The work is typically sorting produce, packaged good, and cans. Teens age 14 and up and accompanied by an adult are welcome. For more info or to sign up, contact Lorie Esposito at 650-867-1853 or loriems6@sbcglobal.net.

Social Justice Letter Signing

Every 3rd Sunday
10:15-11:00 am – Beck Hall
12:30-1:00 pm – Ann Benner Room
(next dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 15, and Nov. 19)

Make your voice be heard! For info, contact Peter Cross at 650-591-3642 or civ2100@gmail.com.

Social Justice Council Meetings

Every 3rd Sunday, 12:30-2:00 pm
(next dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 15, and Nov. 19)
Hemingway Lounge

Find out the many ways you can put your faith in action. For info, contact Caryl Hughan at 650-692-4147 or educaryl@gmail.com.

Home and Hope at UUSM

Feb. 12-19
Beck Hall

We host Home and Hope families again for a week. If you'd like to help out, contact Joy Thomas at 650-349-6530 or joybeach@gmail.com.

Ongoing

Knitters Group

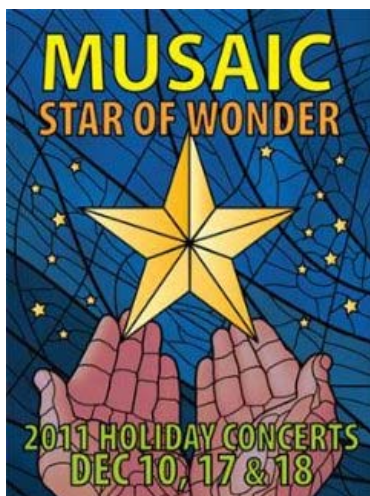
Every Sunday, 10:15-11:00 am
Loft (above Beck Hall)

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.

Newcomer's Circle

Sundays, Dec. 4, Jan. 22, and Feb. 26, 10:15-11:00 am
Hemingway Lounge

This basic introduction to our community allows people a chance to learn what UUSM is all about. All visitors welcome, no RSVP required.



MUSAIC 2011 Holiday Concert

Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:00 pm
Beck Hall
\$15 adults, students free with ID

Musaic's mission is to share beautiful men's a cappella singing with the Bay Area community. Their music is rooted in classical choral traditions, through a repertoire that includes a variety of genres and languages. The members of Musaic are passionate about men's ensemble singing, and enjoy the artistic balance and musical fellowship it brings to our lives. Come hear the beautiful sounds of the season.

Tickets can be purchased on the Musaic website www.musaicsf.net via PayPal by clicking on the concert link.



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

- Preschool & Kindergarten Ages 2.5-6
- Full & Half Day Programs
- Art, Music, Computer, and Chinese Classes
- 10% discount for the UUSM members

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

UUSM Book Group

Sundays (see dates below), 12:30-2:00 pm
Hemingway Lounge

Upcoming books to be discussed:

- Dec. 4 *The Gift of Rain* by Tan Twan Eng
- Jan. 22 *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather
- Feb. 26 *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Nora Neale Hurston
- Mar. 25 We pick new books

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

Walkie Talkies

Every 1st and 3rd Monday, 9:00-10:00 am
(next dates: Dec. 5 and 19, Jan. 2 and 16, Feb. 6 and 20)
Offsite

Women's group strolls twice a month.
For info, call Phyllis Mitchell at 650-340-9091 or Mary Ann Weisberg at 650-344-5951.

Women's Potluck

Every 1st Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm
(next dates: Dec. 5, Jan. 2, and Feb. 6)
Beck Hall

All UUSM women are invited! Bring a potluck dish and a book to share. For info, call Phyllis Mitchell at 650-340-9091 or Sally Reed at 650-697-8433.

Age-ing to Sage-ing

Every other Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 pm
(next dates: Dec. 6 and 20, Jan. 3, 17, and 31, Feb. 14 and 28)
Hemingway Lounge

Seniors group meets to prove the adage that with age comes wisdom. 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: Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 14 and 28)
Hemingway Lounge

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

Choir Practice

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

Join the choir and lift your voice in song. Childcare available. For info, con-

tact Shawn Reifschneider, Music Director, at 650-759-5942 or music@uusanmateo.org.

Women's Chalice Oval

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 pm
(next dates: Dec. 14, Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22)
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, 6:15-8:00 pm
(next dates: Dec. 15, Jan. 19, and Feb. 16)
Patio, Beck Hall

Join the UUSM men for a meal from the grill and topical conversation. For info, contact Randy Silver at 650-591-3056 or randy-silver-photo@juno.com.

In Her Name Circle

Led by Joy Reichard
Every 2nd Friday (see dates below), 7:00-8:30 pm
Ann Benner Room

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

- Dec. 9 Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven and Mother of Christ
- Jan. 13 Kuan Yin, Bodhisattva of Compassion and Mercy

Martin Luther King Day Celebration presented by the Open Door Committee

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, 3:00-6:00 pm
Ann Benner Room and Beck Hall

Join us for UUSM's 22nd Annual Community Reception honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This is truly our "Open House," where we invite our neighbors to come join us and celebrate. All are invited, including children, to attend this wonderful community event!

For more info or to help out, contact Open Door Chair Steve Davis at 650-638-0211 or ceo@secureplay.com.



Feb. 10 Brigit, Celtic Triple Goddess
and Catholic Saint

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

In the Wider Community

Do Human Rights Have a Future?

with William Schulz, UUSC President
presented by the Commonwealth Club
Monday, Dec. 5

5:30 pm – Networking Reception

6:00 pm – Program

Commonwealth Club

595 Market St. (2nd Floor) at 2nd St.,
San Francisco

William Schulz, Unitarian Universalist
Service Committee President and former
Executive Director of Amnesty Interna-
tional USA, will outline the major human
rights challenges around the globe today
and reflect on how our understanding of
human rights may change in the future.
Cost: \$8 for UUSM members (use the
coupon code "sfforschulz" when register-
ing). For more info or to register, call
415-597-6705.

Songs for a Winter's Night

with the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus

Directed by Shawn Reifschneider

Dec. 16 and 17, 8:00 pm

Dec. 18, 3:00 pm

Christ The Good Shepherd Church

1550 Meridian Ave., San Jose, CA

The weather outside is frightful, but our
chorus is so delightful! This holiday sea-
son, experience the joy of traditional
favorites as well as new songs that will
leave you enchanted and wishing winter
would never end. Tickets are \$20, avail-
able at www.sgmc.org or at the door.

Transforming the Failures of the 20th Century with an Engaged Faith for the Future

facilitated by Rev. Jeanelyse Doran
Adams and Rev. Robert T. Latham
Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:00 am-4:00 pm
(9:00 am registration)
UU Church of Berkeley
1 Lawson Road, Kensington

This is the first workshop in the
"Transforming Ourselves and the World"
series of the Pacific Central District
(PCD). Discover your congregational
story, begin to harvest the seeds of
transformation for a vital liberal religious
faith, and prepare to lead change more
effectively.

Lunch will be served. \$40 registration,
\$10 childcare. For more info, contact
PCD Executive Director Chuck Rosene at
510-530-1437 or pcd@pcd-uua.org.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2012

See Alaska through the eyes of local
UU's in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau,
and Sitka with friendly homestays and
unique tour activities. Programs led by
Dave Frey, member of the northernmost
UU congregation. For more info on your
Alaskan trip of a lifetime, call 907-322-
4966, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or
visit www.whalecoastAK.org.

For more details on upcoming
events and an online calendar,
please visit www.uusanmateo.org.

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

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



Special Floral Arrangements

Contributing Sanctuary flowers for Sunday services
helps beautify the Sanctuary and honors those close
to you. This is your chance to say "Congratulations!"
"I love you," "I miss you," or "I'm proud of you." The
flowers are yours to take home afterwards. Cost is
\$100, with the proceeds going to fund UUSM
programs. Contact office@uusanmateo.org if you are
interested. To view samples, go to the website and
click on Giving.

Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo

300 East Santa Inez
San Mateo, CA 94401

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