

# Compass Rose



March-May 2011

*Did you ever think there might be a fault line  
passing underneath your living room:  
A place in which your life is lived in meeting  
and in separating, wondering  
and telling, unaware that just beneath  
you is the unseen seam of great plates  
that strain through time? And that your life, already  
spilling over the brim, could be invaded,  
sent off in a new direction, turned  
aside by forces you were warned about  
but not prepared for? Shelves could be spilled out,  
the level floor set at an angle in  
some seconds' shaking. You would have to take  
your losses, do whatever must be done next.*

*When the great plates slip  
and the earth shivers and the flaw is seen  
to lie in what you trusted most, look not  
to more solidity, to weighty slabs  
of concrete poured or strength of cantilevered  
beam to save the fractured order. Trust  
more the tensile strands of love that bend  
and stretch to hold you in the web of life  
that's often torn but always healing. There's  
your strength. The shifting plates, the restive earth,  
your room, your precious life, they all proceed  
from love, the ground on which we walk together.*

- "Fault Lines" by Robert Walsh

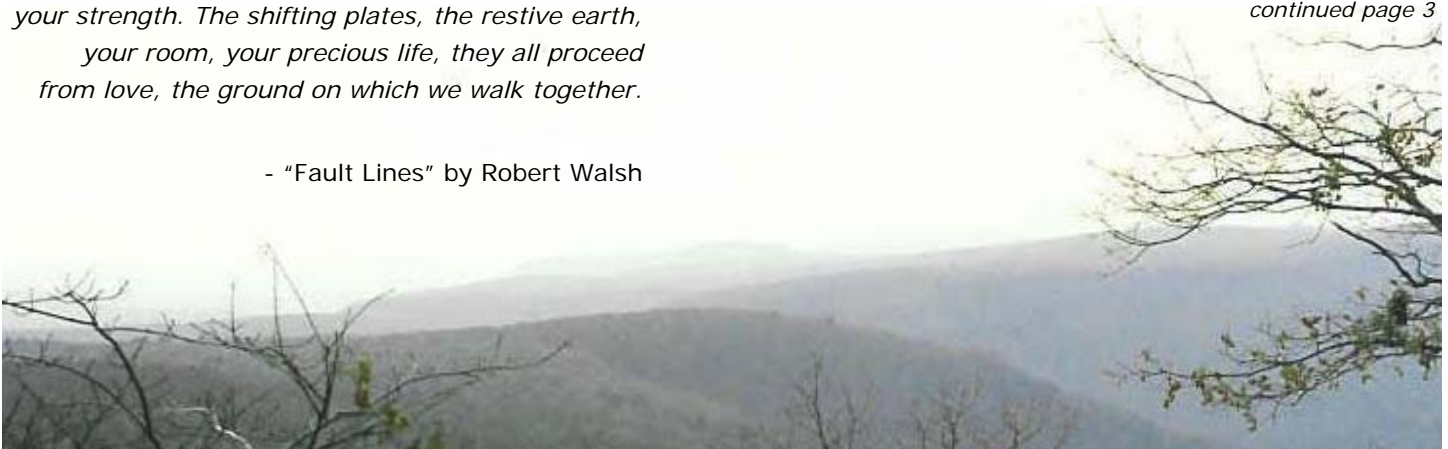
## Transitions

by Rev. Vail Weller, Lead Minister

By now you will have received the letter informing you that I will be ending my time as your Lead Minister as of June 30. This has been a very difficult decision. I have loved my time with you and I am glad there is still time left for us to spend together, to say goodbye to one another, and to appreciate all that we have shared.

I have been asked to serve the larger movement as the Special Assistant to the President for Major Gifts for the Unitarian Universalist Association. It will mean that I will work with the major donors to our Association and will represent donors and congregations to the administration. I am extraordinarily honored to have been offered this role. The more I learned about the job, the more I saw that it really would be a tremendous fit for my gifts, and I began to feel called to the work. As you know, I believe that stewardship is a very important spiritual issue, and I look forward to being able to be involved in conversations at the denominational level.

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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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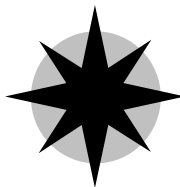
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### Compass Rose

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

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# Transitions

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You must also know that it surprises me that the universe works in this way, as I did not envision leaving the ministry in San Mateo at this time. But I cannot deny the call,



just as I would want you to follow your path, even when it takes you in a direction you weren't anticipating. My family and I plan to continue to live in San Mateo, although it will be necessary for me to withdraw completely from UUSM in order to make space for your next called minister.

I hope that you will come on Sundays regularly, so that I can share as much time with you as possible. I hope that you'll participate in the congregational conversations about

the upcoming transition. I hope that you'll share with me your thoughts and feelings about my departure and the eight years I have been privileged to serve UUSM. I know I have much to be grateful to you for, and I look forward to the chance to tell you.

Through all the seasons of life, the church abides. The relationships that we enjoy here are what nourish and strengthen the congregation. Let the tensile strands of love stretch to hold us all in this time of rebirth and regeneration.

See you on Sunday!

Love,  
Rev. Vail Weller

## A Giving Congregation

*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.*

In the past months, UUSM has raised the following amounts at our special collections:

Nov. 14	Peninsula Interfaith Action <b>\$1,078.00</b>
Dec. 12	North Central Neighborhood Association <b>\$901.00</b>
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Collection <b>\$1,468.50</b>
Jan. 16	Habitat for Humanity <b>\$1,202.00</b>
Feb. 6	Philippine Partner Church <b>\$2,162.00</b>

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## Article Submissions

Articles for *Compass Rose* (max. 500 words) may be submitted for consideration to [office@uusanmateo.org](mailto:office@uusanmateo.org). (Contact the office if you have ideas for longer articles.) Poetry, photos, and art work are also welcome. Deadline for the next issue (covering June-August 2011): **May 12, 2011**.

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

All submissions are subject to editorial discretion and revision.

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# To Set the Oppressed Free: The Fast We Have Chosen

by Rev. Lauren Smith, Assistant Minister



“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

- Isaiah 58:6

Renunciation has a bad rap in Unitarian Universalist circles. Ours is an expansive, life-affirming faith, so the spiritual path of giving things up doesn't seem to fit. It strikes us as too punitive. Most UU's are inclined to encourage folks to indulge in a delicious piece of chocolate, rather than give it up.

But I think we've got it wrong. The path of renunciation doesn't have to mean giving up pleasure or joy. Rather, it's the discipline of giving up those things that obstruct our experience of an even deeper, more abiding peace, joy, love, and sense of connectedness with all things.

Millennia ago, the Buddha noted our human capacity to “mistake suffering for happiness” – our human tendency to long for things that actually impede our capacity to know the deeper peace we seek.

And in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus told the parable of the wise and foolish builders. He said, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. But everyone who hears these words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rains came down, the streams ran, and the winds blew and beat against the house, and it fell with a great crash.”

We seek to build our individual and collective lives on a foundation of justice, equity, compassion, and love. The path of renunciation invites us to set down whatever gets in the way of that hopeful vision. Anything that denies the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Anything that impedes justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Anything that does harm to the web of life of which we are a part.

Ours is a covenantal faith. We come together not out of shared beliefs, but out a shared commitment to walking together as a people of faith. And this is the spirit of Lent.

This year, we'll honor the Lenten season by engaging in a season of spiritual practice.

**Forty for the Earth** is a 40-day period in which participants will be invited to engage in a daily spiritual practice on behalf of the earth. You choose the practice! You might wish to give up the use of plastic water bottles, or commit to preparing only locally-grown food. Please see the brochures strategically placed around the church for more details. There will be weekly reflection questions to consider and periodic between-service opportunities to check in with others who have made a similar commitment.

The **Lenten Financial Fast** is a challenging opportunity to transform your relationship with money and consumer culture. Participants will be invited to give up the use of credit and debit cards for a 21-day period, keep a spending journal, and cut back on non-essential spending. Again, there will be weekly reflection questions and periodic opportunities to check in with others on the fast.

We take up these disciplines out of a hopeful vision for our communities and for the whole of life, out of faith that we can know an abiding peace that transcends the circumstances of our daily lives. It's no accident that Easter – the holiday celebrating rebirth – follows Lent. If we engage in these practices wholeheartedly, something new and unexpected will inevitably be born in us.

I look forward to walking this path with you in the coming months, and discovering together what will be born.

In faith and love,  
Lauren

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# ...born and re-born again

by Deanna Vandiver, Intern Minister

“Love, yes, love your calling,  
for this holy and generous love will impart strength to you  
so as to enable you to surmount all obstacles.”

- St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

Six years ago this May, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans was on the brink of a breakthrough. Membership and pledging levels had reached modern-era highs, a new minister had been called, counter-oppression work was going on within the congregation – the excitement was palpable on a Sunday morning.



Then there was a burglary in June. And then another in July. In August, the School District chose not to renew its lease with the congregation, creating a vast hole in the budget. And then Hurricane Katrina came through town, and the next day the levees broke.

The church sat in 4-5 feet of water for three weeks. The congregation was scattered across the country. The newly called minister and her wife found themselves digging through muck, trying to pull their dreams out of the destruction, standing on the side of love with a congregation they barely knew.

In the late 1820's, a “change in inner conviction” led the Rev. Dr. Theodore Clapp to begin preaching universalism in New Orleans. This change inspired the Mississippi Presbytery to try him for heresy. The vote was for excommunication. Rev. Clapp returned home to New Orleans after his conviction in February 1833 and attempted to resign as pastor. Instead, a new church was born when the majority of the congregation voted to leave the Presbytery with him. Since 1833, this congregation has survived yellow fever epidemics, the Civil War, fires, fire-bombings, bankruptcy, conflict, and now the Federal Flood of 2005. Born out of a conviction that all are loved, this congregation has been re-born, re-created, time and time again.

Knowing its own history, being in relationship with the larger denomination, and living into the mystery have certainly played a large role in this almost miraculous

continuity of Unitarian Universalism in the city of New Orleans. And perhaps as significant as all of the above is the thread, woven throughout each incarnation of the congregation, of loving, yes loving, the calling to be a liberal religious presence in the Deep South.

I invite you, in this season of re-birth and re-creation, to think about the calling of your congregation, the calling of your life. Know your history, your own story. Be in relationship – with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, with the Pacific Central District, with UU churches on the Peninsula, with each other. Live into the mystery that is each new day with an open heart and a curious mind. And love, yes love, your calling as a Unitarian Universalist congregation, as a Unitarian Universalist, in a world that cries out for our life-affirming faith. May this holy and generous love impart strength to you as you are born and re-born again into a universe whose only constant is change.

With love and a grateful heart,  
Deanna

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# UUSM's Unsung Heroes

Behind the scenes, many UUSM staff members work tirelessly to make UUSM the lovely spiritual home that it is. Let us recognize and celebrate a few of them.

## Marco Picon, Custodian

Marco Picon is UUSM's wonderful, affable custodian who keeps our facilities bright and clean. He can be seen every Sunday morning getting things ready, always ready to respond to requests. He spends long hours after hours doing his cleaning chores and setting up for upcoming activities.

Marco is a modest man who originally hails from Valparaiso, Chile. He has had a variety of professions, including fireman and deejay; he studied laboratory technology and medicine science in Chile. Since moving to the Bay Area, he has worked in San Francisco General Hospital, GN Resound, and Aesculap, before setting up his own custodial services company.

He is married to Christina, a house manager for a family in Palo Alto, and has two children: Anne Marie, 30, a nurse and biologist, and Jocelyn, 28, who is studying for her Masters in Public Administration. He loves music, photography, art, reading, socializing with friends over a bottle of wine, and establishing friendly relations with everyone around him.



## Emily Lehr-Anning, Youth Advisor

Emily Lehr-Anning was born and raised in Redwood City where she currently lives with her family and dog. She graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Community Studies and has a passion for social justice and working with youth. She joined the UU Fellowship of Redwood City in 2003 and has served as the Youth Advisor there for five years. This is her first year as Youth Advisor at UU San Mateo, where she is really enjoying getting to know the high school youth and looks forward to continuing to build with them.

Emily works full-time for Youth Leadership Institute. She is Vice-Chair of the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the North Peninsula Chapter of the ACLU. In her free time she loves reading, watching movies, making jewelry, spending time with family and friends, listening to music, practicing reiki, hiking, swimming in lakes, and being outdoors (especially in Lake Tahoe).

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## **Jamia Konrad, Office Assistant**

Jamia Konrad was born and raised on the north shore of Vancouver, British Columbia.

She and her husband have been married for 28 years. They have a son who graduated UC Berkeley and now lives in Marin.

Jamia worked for several years as an event planner coordinating and setting up conferences and retreats.

She has been a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church, San Francisco for 18 years. Jamia was co-chair of Sunday Morning Seminars, planning and coordinating adult education seminars, and then was called to serve as a Deacon.

Currently, she serves on Session as Worship Commission Chair. There are 12 team members responsible for planning and coordinating the worship services.

She volunteers for Afghans for Tomorrow (A4T), an organization dedicated to educating and supporting women and children in Afghanistan.

Jamia enjoys cooking, gardening, hiking, and quiet moments. Her favorite activity is sharing a meal with friends.



## **Caroline Chou, Childcare Coordinator**

My name is Caroline Chou and I have been married for 23 years to my husband, Augustine. I have two children, Sara, 20, and Sean, 17. I work part-time for the Hillsborough School District as an instructional aide and have been there for six years. I currently am working at the West Elementary School with special education students. Prior to working at the school district, I was a director of a large nonprofit preschool in San Bruno. I have worked with kids from age three months up to 14 years for the last 30 years.

I was introduced to the UU church in 2007 when I started working as a childcare worker to help out my friend Shelley Wandro. In 2008 I moved into the position of childcare coordinator. I currently do the scheduling for all childcare needs outside of Religious Education on Sundays.

My interest outside of working are teaching RE classes at Church of Good Shepherd in Pacifica, hanging out with friends and my family, reading, cooking, making gift baskets, and being an active member of Mizpah (a women's civic group) in Pacifica.



## **Alicia DeValliere, Foundations of Fellowship Coordinator**

I'm your "seldom seen" Foundations of Fellowship coordinator. I organize volunteers for Sunday services, greeters, etc.

I have had the great good fortune to work amongst you for the past four years.

I worship at the Unitarian Universalists of Redwood City and work at UUSM. It's wise for me to dedicate separate places for spiritual pursuits.

It's best to tell my story through food. It's who I am, I love it, and I love feeding people.

I have lived coast to coast, North and South. That was my life as an itinerant IBM kid. Those were my casserole years.

Then there were my college years. A constant supply of spaghetti with ketchup. Seriously, I totally forgot what good food was.

I have been repatriated to my native Californian since 1981. I love it here. Favorite and sustaining food? Peet's coffee.

Now, I, my husband, and 13-year-old son live in Belmont. They ask for Chicken Brittany far too often. I cook it on occasion, it's a lot of preparation. There is far too much chicken fat.

That's it in a "nutshell." If I don't yet know you, let's have coffee...and a treat, of course!



## **Tricia Grogan, Religious Education Nursery Staff**

Let's celebrate Tricia Grogan! Tricia cares for our youngest children each and every Sunday in our nursery. You will find her comforting infants who are having trouble separating from their parents, reasoning with headstrong toddlers, and leading fun and creative art projects with the two- and three-year olds. She does it all in a skilled and gentle manner. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Tricia grew up in Massachusetts. During the week, Tricia works in the toddler room at a daycare center. Fortunately for us, she can't get enough of this age group!

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# Voices

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

## Social Justice and You in 2011

by Andrea Rosenfeld, Chair UUSM Social Justice Council

The New Year brings renewed and continued opportunities for your involvement in Social Justice issues at UUSM. The first mission of the Social Justice Council this year will be to focus on strengthening the programs we currently engage in as they go through transition and require renewed commitments to leadership and volunteer participation. Specifically, we will be focusing on encouraging more involvement in Homework Central from tutors, increased training and participation in PIA and PIA-related activities, as well as leadership succession at Home and Hope and Second Harvest Food Bank. We hope you'll look for new ways you can get involved in ongoing UUSM Social Justice activities during Social Justice Sundays (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month), to be sure and sign the monthly justice letter brought to you by Peter Cross, and to consider increasing your own commitment to Social Justice ministry by joining the Social Justice Council.



*A meeting of the Social Justice Council*

## A New Year for Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA)

by Caryl Hughan

Peninsula Interfaith Action is a professional group that provides organizing skills for people of faith. On the Peninsula, we are 30 congregations that represent about 19,000 families that work together on local social justice issues.

### What's New?

A new format for a New Year: action-based meetings

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month after the second service

Where: The Cottage

How Long: About twenty minutes

Why: Tell us your concerns  
Write a short letter to local representatives  
Get the latest scoop

Contacts: Caryl Hughan, Margaret Cross, Peter Cross, Eleanor Lewis



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## Rebirth and Renewal at UUSM for Homework Central

by Caryl Hughan and Kathy Kinner

Homework Central has long been near and dear to the hearts of our congregation. Barbara Du Mond and Frank Seebode have served on the Homework Central Board, and many of our members have tutored at the UUSM site. The UUSM Social Justice Council sustains our in-house Ministries such as HWC (and Home and Hope, Samaritan House, Habitat for Humanity, Peninsula Interfaith Action, and UU Legislative Ministry CA) as lay leaders step up to shepherd social justice projects.

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This December, the Social Justice Council had an opportunity to renew our commitment to HWC through donations to the UUSM Mitten Tree. Thanks to you, it was a great success, and Richard Geimer, Executive Director of HWC, and the Site Coordinators are most appreciative. Ellie Kirkham, Marty Hoffman, and Phyllis Mitchell stepped up to categorize and count the donations, and Ellie got the donations to HWC.



*Homework Central Mitten Tree*

Vanessa and Dave Stephens's kids cut out the mittens, which were creatively decorated by our kids of many ages at the "Hanging of the Greens."

We received electric pencil sharpeners, manual pencil sharpeners, reams of printer paper, staplers, staples, scissors, rulers, erasers, folders, construction paper, mailing labels, ballpoint pens, colored marker pens, flash cards, games, 9 *Wimpy Kids* books, three boxes of other children's books, and a cash donation. Best of all, two members stepped up to tutor.

At UUSM, the parents organized a holiday party for the children, which included piñata fun. Anita Davis helped children create beautiful plates as gifts for parents and she provided Christmas trees for all the new students. Snacks, of course, are high on everyone's list. A special thank you to Margaret Cross, Anita Davis, Barbara Du Mond, Lori Fox, Caryl Hughan, Anne Peter, Sally Reed, Pam Sachs, Ami and Frank Seebode, Leah Schultz, and Joy Tomas for their ever tasty and nutritious snacks. Jill Wagner, the UUSM Coordinator, invites all to visit and see HWC in action.

Please know how much this means to the children of our community. The HWC kids are bussed from their



*Crafting mittens for the Mitten Tree*

elementary schools to the three HWC sites to receive individual help with reading, writing, and math. An ideal ratio of tutors is one per student, of course, and we are far from that goal. Please consider giving just two hours a week at UUSM, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, or Sunnybrae School on S. Delaware Street. The kids are great, and the families, teachers, and Site Coordinators are so appreciative of the extra help – and the time flies by. For more information call Caryl Hughan at 650-692-4147 or educaryl@gmail.com.

## **Woyaya – We Are Going!**

by Carol Cook

In a few short weeks, a group of 9 of us from UUSM will be embarking upon a great adventure – a visit to our partner congregation in the Philippines. Rev. Vail Weller, Barbara, Charles, and Emily Du Mond, Lori Fox, Reeba Lynn, Homer Eaton, Duane Thompson, and Susan Grieger and I will fly to Manila, and then to Dumaguete on Negros Island, where the headquarters of the UU Church of the Philippines (UUCP) is located. Dumaguete is a university town and is also known as "the motorcycle capital of the world" – motorcycles being the preferred means of transport for the many students who live there. But the highlight of our brief stay in Dumaguete will be the warm welcome we will receive from the UUCP staff. There will be singing, dancing, and delicious homemade food! Best of all, we'll get to meet the dedicated people who strive so valiantly to keep the UU faith strong in the Philippines. We'll also learn about their projects and challenges in doing this work.

Accompanied by Rev. Nihal Attanayake of the UUCP and Dr. Richard Ford, we will travel by van up the east coast of Negros. At San Carlos City we will turn inland to our accommodations near the Ulay chapel. There we will spend four nights and three days bearing witness to and, as needed, assisting with our partner congregation's first Community Capacity Building self-assessment. The process will gather input not only from the UU congregation, but members of the surrounding community, including women, men, and children of all ages and faiths.

Community Capacity Building (CCB) empowers a community to address their basic living and social needs and to build a local economy. The organizational and decision-making tools taught in these workshops were compiled and have been used in developing economies around the world by professor Richard Ford and colleagues at Clark University in the US for more than 20 years. Successful CCB projects have taken place in three other Negros UU communities: Doldol, Malingen



*Our partner church congregation*

and Nagbinlod, as well as in Transylvania, Uganda and Burundi (Africa), and in the Khasi Hills (India) – all under the guidance of Dr. Ford. We travelers are so fortunate to be able to witness this assessment in March and see Dr. Ford and the process in action.

We will be connected with the Ulay community from the beginning of the process and stay with them through the several years of the action phase. Our congregation funded the facilitation team for this initial community workshop. After the workshop, when the community has identified their action plan, we at UUSM will provide encouragement, follow-up, and, potentially down the road, some financial support for the plan.

Yes, we are going, and we are excited! And you can join us in spirit! Come to a video showing and discussion in the Hemingway Lounge on March 6 immediately after the second service to learn more about Community Capacity Building. Woyaya!

## Ulay Cabiguhan Name Change

Interesting news from Rev. Nihal Attanayake: our partner church is getting a new name – one we can all more easily pronounce! (ooh-LYE)

“Cabiguhan was the place where the Congregation’s old chapel stood. It is not in existence now, and the UUCP has proposed to change the name at the coming April annual meeting. I pointed out that as there is no chapel in Cabiguhan, that the UUCP should rename the congregation as UU Ulay Congregation. There are many clusters that make up the Barangay (village). Ulay is one of those. Prosperidad is the name of the Barangay. By the way, Ulay means *the place of spinsters.*”

## Two Poems by Robert Voss

Now...

Mellifluous

Fear of expression  
 Ego decimation  
 Do you have something  
 To decide or hide?  
 The drought is long  
 The dam with a song  
 Doesn't break  
 But spills over the top  
 Teaspoons at a time  
 Drip drop the verbal cop  
 Gives in to the mime  
 But cops will never stop  
 This word, and this one  
 In time

...and Zen

Leaf

A leaf flutters, caresses the ground,  
 Ending its journey without a sound.  
 Soft paling sun still lends a ray  
 To purple flesh, now free to decay.

I rush and thrash, crashing about,  
 Still full of life, still full of doubt.  
 For all this noise, I quickly stop,  
 Shuffling pause, my forehead to mop.

I query the leaf, do you feel left out?  
 For ending a whisper without a shout?  
 It worries me now, I return to my pace,  
 And glance back, nervous, for the lie in my race.

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# Worship Services

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



*The theme for March is  
Great Debates*

## **Sunday, March 6**

Worship Leader: Rev. Vail Weller  
Worship Associate: Lynn Ewing

We welcome new members this morning.

## **Sunday, March 13**

“Past Perfect”

Worship Leader: Rev. Lauren Smith  
Worship Associate: Kenny Preston

Today we celebrate the beauty inherent in imperfection.

## **Sunday, March 20**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Vail Weller and Deanna Vandiver, Intern Minister  
Worship Associate: Tom Newman

## **Sunday, March 27**

“Would Jesus Be Welcome?” or “Invitation to the Road Less Traveled”

Worship Leader: Rev. Lauren Smith  
Worship Associate: Joe Sandmeyer

Jesus was a poor Jew in Roman-occupied Palestine who proposed a radical spiritual path of liberation through non-violence, integrity, and love – a challenging invitation to a road less traveled. (Auction Sermon 2010)



*The theme for April is  
Rebirth*

## **Sunday, April 3**

Worship Leader: Rev. Vail Weller  
Worship Associate: Julia Wilson

## **Sunday, April 10**

Worship Leader: Deanna Vandiver, Intern Minister  
Worship Associate: David Light

We'll have a Congregational Meeting at 1:00 pm, lunch and childcare provided.

## **Sunday, April 17**

Worship Leader: Rev. Vail Weller  
Worship Associate: Tom Newman

## **Sunday, April 24 – Easter**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Vail Weller, Rev. Lauren Smith, and Deanna Vandiver, Intern Minister  
Worship Associate: Irene Boczek



*The theme for May is  
Nurture*

## **Sunday, May 1**

Worship Leader: Gini Courter, Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
Worship Associate: Rev. Vail Weller

We welcome new members this morning.

## **Sunday, May 8 – Intergenerational Services**

Worship Leader: Rev. Lauren Smith

## **Sunday, May 15**

Worship Leader: Rev. Vail Weller  
Worship Associate: Tom Newman

## **Sunday, May 22**

“Coming of Age”

Worship Leader: Rev. Lauren Smith and Deanna Vandiver, Intern Minister  
Worship Associate: Kenny Preston

This morning we celebrate the eight youth that have completed Coming of Age, our year-long Unitarian Universalist rite of passage program for youth in 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Grades. Come hear them share their wisdom!

## **Sunday, May 29**

Worship Leader: Rev. Vail Weller  
Worship Associate: David Light

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

# Announcements and Events

## Religious Education

### It Gets Better Children's Chapel

Sunday, March 27, 10:15-11:00 am  
Sanctuary

This is the third in a series of Building a New Way anti-oppression Children's Chapels. Mary Melnick, Kathy van Leuwen and Shawn Reifschneider, will lead kids in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and up in understanding homophobia and exploring why we as Unitarian Universalists stand on the side of love. Religious Education classes for Pre-K and Kindergarten classes take place at 10:00 am at Petite Sorbonne as usual.

### Spring Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 24, 10:15-11:00 am  
Patio, Petite Sorbonne

On Easter and Flower Communion Sunday, there will be a Spring Egg Hunt in between the two intergenerational worship services. Children 6 years and younger should meet at Petite Sorbonne; kids 7 years of age and older should meet in the UUSM courtyard by 10:15 am. Happy Hunting! There will be no Religious Education this Sunday.

### Mystery Friends Reveal and Sundae Sunday

Sunday, May 1, 10:00-11:00 am  
Beck Hall

Mystery Friends will get to meet that special person they have been corresponding with over the past two months and get acquainted over an ice cream sundae of their own creation. (Don't worry; there will be ice cream for non-

Mystery Friends and non-dairy treats.) There will be no Religious Education this Sunday.

### Social Justice: What's a UU to Do?

Sundays, May 15, May 22, and May 29,  
10:00-11:15 am  
Patio

Kathy van Leuwen will lead the kids in Grade 3 and up in exploring the relationship between our Unitarian Universalist Faith and social justice with stories from our heritage and hands-on projects.

### Religious Education Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, May 22, 12:30-2:00 pm  
Patio

We will honor our talented and dedicated religious educators with a catered luncheon and enjoy one another's laughter and conversation.

## Adult Enrichment

### In Her Name Circle

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

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

March 11 Demeter and Persephone,  
Death and Rebirth

April 8 Lakshmi, Hindu Goddess of  
Wealth and Prosperity

May 13 Mary Magdalene, Fallen  
Woman, Disciple, or Jesus'  
Beloved?

For more info, contact Joy at 415-819-8769 or jreich14@sbcglobal.net.

### Meditation Group

Led by Rev. Lauren Smith and lay  
leaders  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday,  
10:30-11:00 am  
(next dates: March 13 and 27, April 10  
and 24, May 8 and 22)  
Cottage Living Room

We open with a reading from Buddhist or other contemplative traditions, followed by a brief meditation instruction and 20 minutes of seated meditation. This group is open to long-time practitioners and those who want to try it out in a safe setting.

### Newcomer's Circle

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 10:15-11:00 am  
(next dates: March 27, April 24, and  
May 22)  
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.

### Getting to Know UU

Social Gathering and Dessert Reception  
Sunday, April 17, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Hemingway Lounge

Visitors interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and UUSM or considering membership are invited! Please RSVP to 650-342-5946 x 11 or office@uusanmateo.org by April 10. Childcare available if requested.

## Community Events

### Philippines Adventure Party!

Wednesday, March 16, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Hemingway Lounge, Ann Benner Room

If you are one of the pilgrims headed to our partner church in Ulay, Philippines, you are invited to come have a time of pre-voyage bonding with the group. If you'd like to learn a bit more about our partner church and see the film of our last visit, you are invited to come, too!



## 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.

*continued next page*

Bring a nibble to share. We will hear a bit about the development of Universalism in the Philippines, sing together, and share travel tips.

### Shakespeare Camp at UUSM

Full scholarships available  
March 28-April 8

Kids ages 7-13 get in the act at The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's Spring Intersession Shakespeare Camp here at UUSM! As part of our arrangement with the group, we have three scholarships available for UUSM kids. If you are interested, contact Glenn at the office at 650-342-5946 x 11 or office@uusanmateo.org.

### Welcome Home Pilgrims Party!

Wednesday, April 6, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Hemingway Lounge, Ann Benner Room

Come welcome home our UUSM travelers who recently visited our partner church in the Philippines! Bring a snack to share and hear about the journey.

### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 10, 1:00-2:00 pm  
Beck Hall

Join the next Congregational Meeting! Lunch will be provided prior to the meeting, and childcare will be available.

## Social Action

### No Homework Tonight

Friday, March 4, 6:00 pm  
Congregational Church  
San Mateo Drive and Tilton Ave

A large contingent from UUSM is needed to attend this annual Home-

work Central celebration. Excellent food and wine are offered during the silent auction preceding the program. For info, contact Frank Seebode at 650-347-1785 or fseebode@sbcglobal.net.

### Social Justice Letter Signing

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 10:15-11:00 am  
(next dates: March 20, April 17, and May 15)  
Ann Benner Room or Beck Hall

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

### Social Justice Council Meetings

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm  
(next dates: March 20, April 17, and May 15)  
Hemingway Lounge

Find out the many ways to put your faith in action. For info, contact Andrea Rosenfeld at 415-370-2154 or andrea.rosenfeld88@gmail.com.

### UUSM PIA Group

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12:30-1:00 pm  
(next dates: March 27, April 24, and May 22)  
Cottage Living Room

Help acting out our faith by organizing for just communities. For info, contact Margaret Cross at 650-591-3642 or marcross33@yahoo.com.

### Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Saturday April 30, 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Offsite

Help build low-income housing for deserving families. There are jobs available for all skill levels – no prior construction knowledge is needed. For info, contact John Berdoulay at 650-343-5042 or johnberdoulay@sbcglobal.net.

## Ongoing

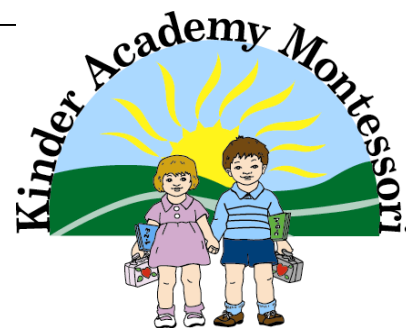
### Knitters and Needlecraft Group

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.

### UUSM Book Group

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12:30-2:00 pm  
(next dates: March 27, April 24, and May 22)  
Hemingway Lounge



**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

For info on the books to be discussed, contact Anne Silver at 650-740-7221 or annehsilver@yahoo.com.

### Walkie Talkies

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday,  
9:00-10:00 am  
(next dates: March 7 and 21, April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16)  
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 and Book Swap

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm  
(next dates: March 7, April 4, and May 2)  
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: March 1, 15, and 29, April 12 and 26, May 10 and 24)  
Hemingway Lounge

Seniors group meets to prove the adage that with age comes wisdom.

## Invitation to a Wedding



Francesca Guido and Ray "Bear" Dillinger invite all their UUSM friends to celebrate their marriage on Sunday, May 1, 2011, 3:00 pm, at UUSM. The ceremony will be followed by a reception of light refreshments. Please RSVP by April 1 to fguido@sonic.net.

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

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday,  
7:00-8:30 pm  
(next dates: March 8 and 22, April 12  
and 26, May 10 and 24)  
Hemingway Lounge

An Age-ing to Sage-ing group just for  
women.

### Choir Practice

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

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

### Women's Chalice Oval

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday,  
7:00-8:30 pm  
(next dates: March 9 and 23, April 13  
and 27, May 11 and 25)  
Hemingway Lounge

This women's Chalice "Circle" contin-  
ues! For info, contact Debby Leschyn at  
650-591-6616 or debby@belmateo.net.

### Men's BBQ Night

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:15-8:00 pm  
(next dates: March 17, April 21, and  
May 19)  
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.

### Spirit Drumming Circle

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 7:00-8:30 pm  
(next dates: March 25, April 22, and  
May 27)  
Beck Hall

We join together to make a magical  
space of rhythm and energy. For info,  
contact Jeanne DeFelice at 650-349-  
4136 or defelice\_jeanne@hotmail.com.

## In the Wider Community

### Women and Religion Retreat: Building the World We Dream About

March 4-6, 2011  
Enchanted Hills, Napa

Join a caring circle in a time away from  
the everyday world. Weekend includes  
2 nights lodging, 6 delicious meals,  
Friday spa, workshops for the mind,  
body, and spirit. Cost: \$230 (\$190 for  
first timers). For info or to register,  
contact Ginger Frederick at 209-943-  
6428 or docginger@comcast.com.

### Wine Country Holiday

Presented by the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of North Bay  
April-October, 2011  
Napa

The UU's of Napa, California proudly  
announce the 6<sup>th</sup> season of their Wine  
Country Excursions. For details, contact  
Tom Wilson at 707-254-7443 or  
2wilsons1dog@comcast.net.

### Balázs Transylvanian Tea

Saturday, April 2, 3:30 pm  
Starr King School for the Ministry  
2441 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

The Balázs Scholars Program at Starr  
King invites you and your friends to  
their fundraiser Spring Transylvanian  
Tea. The suggested donation is \$25.  
RSVP to Arliss Ungar at 925-283-3288  
or balazs@ungar.us.

### WhaleCoast Alaska 2011

See Alaska with local UU's in Anchor-  
age, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with  
friendly home stays and unique tour  
activities. For info, contact 907-322-  
4966 or info@whalecoastak.org, or  
visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org).

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

## Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo

### Ministers

Rev. Vail Weller, *Lead Minister*  
650-342-5946 x 12  
minister@uusanmateo.org

Rev. Lauren Smith, *Assistant Minister*  
510-463-7869  
lauren@uusanmateo.org

Deanna Vandiver, *Intern Minister*  
504-821-9284  
intern@uusanmateo.org

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

### Staff

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650-558-8192  
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Alicia DeValliere, *Foundations of  
Fellowship Coordinator*  
510-847-2295  
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### Board of Trustees

David Light, *President*  
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### Coordinating Team

Rev. Vail Weller, *Chair*  
Pam Gehrke  
Fred Kelley  
Francis Prévot

300 East Santa Inez Ave.,  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
650-342-5946 ■ fax 650-342-1777  
office@uusanmateo.org  
[www.uusanmateo.org](http://www.uusanmateo.org)

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

If you wish to meet with the  
ministers, please contact them  
for an appointment.

**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. Keep a UUSM card in your wallet so you can call us when you need us. 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.

**Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo**

300 East Santa Inez  
San Mateo, CA 94401

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