

Sierra Foothills

unitarian universalists

JULY 2015

SERVICES

Summer Sunday Services at 10:00 AM
Summer Religious Education for all ages at 10:00 AM
Summer Forums at 11:30 AM

July 5 OF THEE I SING

Winston Churchill said, "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing — after they've tried everything else." Yet, for all its challenges and shortcomings, America is a beacon of hope to people all over the world. On this Fourth-of-July weekend we will reflect on what we love about America and Americans.

Worship Leaders: Joan Lacktis and John Bowman

July 12 FALLING WITH OPEN ARMS: STORIES OF FAITH

Faith is about embracing the heart of life's transforming possibilities, writes theologian Thandeka. How does faith show up in your life? What might allow us to live whole-heartedly, with more faith and less fear?

Worship Leaders: Rev. Lynn Gardner & Rev. Wendy Bartel

July 19 THE EVOLUTION OF A WHITE GIRL

The last 50 years have seen a sea change in the way we view race. Amy explores how views and attitudes on race and unity have changed, including how white people see themselves in the world.

Worship Leader: Amy Evans
Worship Associate: Jake Evans

July 26 DUALISM: THE BIG DECEPTION

In every day of our lives, we operate as if our separation from others is obvious. We take for granted that mind or spirit vs. body, God vs. Creation, physical vs. spiritual, life vs. death, good vs. evil, win vs. lose, heaven vs. hell, self vs. other, old vs. young, right vs. wrong or real vs. unreal are all truly distinct. These dualisms, learned from our religions and philosophies, separate us from the rest of everything ... and they may all be illusions. We welcome Rev. Bob Drake, member of the UU Congregation of Marin and interfaith hospice chaplain.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bob Drake
Worship Associate: Jenny Ferris

For information about

- the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalist (SFUU) congregation, please visit the SFUU website (www.mysfuu.org)
- Unitarian Universalism, please visit the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website (www.uua.org)
- district resources and events, please visit the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA (www.pcd-uua.org)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS & VIEWS

R.E. Service Brings Smiles to People's Faces

The R.E. service was quite wonderful, as the children and youth shared some of what they studied this past year about world religions and moral tales. I heard from many people how much they enjoyed the service this year, and it was uplifting to see so many SFUU youth and young adults supporting **Olivia** and **Mitchell** during the Bridging Ceremony, as they made their way from the youth group to the young adults. We wish the two of them the very best as they start on their new ventures as college students. We'll look forward to their visits to SFUU when they come home on break.

The R.E. End-of-the-Year Service is always a group effort, with lots of moving parts. We couldn't have done it without the help of many people, some of whom, like **Elise** and **Seamus**, even volunteered at the last minute to help where needed. I want to thank each and every one of you, including **Reverend Lynn** and **Reverend Wendy** for their graceful help and support. **Kathleen Ports** deserves a special note of thanks for volunteering to assist with rehearsals and props again this year. She has been helping with R.E. special services for the past several years.

SFUU Youth to attend General Assembly in Portland

Five SFUU youth—**Katie**, **Jewelea**, **Olivia**, **Elise**, and **Alex** went to G.A. in Portland at the end of June. They had opportunities to meet youth from all over the country and participate in the Youth Caucus. Katie was selected to be part of the opening ceremonies. We look forward to hearing about their experiences when they meet with SFUU youth during the summer classes.

K-5th Grade Summer Activities for July

This summer, June 28 - August 30, the K-5th-grade children will be celebrating the rainforests. Members of our congregation have signed up to provide enrichment activities with the children using the rainforest as the overarching theme of their presentations: on July 5, **Harriet Stephens** will share her travels to the Galapagos Islands and the rainforests in Ecuador; on July 12, **Fred Waters** and **Stevie Rea** will talk about how we can help preserve the rainforests; on July 18, **Val and John Bowman** will share their experience in the Peace Corps and their visit to the rainforest in Suriname. We need a volunteer for July 26. It would be fun to have someone lead a writing or poetry class with a rainforest theme. Please see Leslye if you would like to lead such a class. We have most of our classes filled with teachers through the end of August, but we still need assistant teachers for most of the Sunday sessions. Contact Leslye at sfuudreslye@gmail.com if you are able to help out. Please remember you must go through a background screening before you are able to teach and/or assist. Leslye has the authorization forms for you to complete.

"Growing Peace Camp" Receives support from SFUU

Growing Peace Camp has always received support from members of the SFUU congregation, and this year is no exception. **Marylee Drake** quilted another beautiful Growing Peace Camp banner with handprints the children made last year. This is the second banner Marylee has quilted for us. We are so thankful for her time and talent she puts into doing this for the camp. The banners are displayed at camp and at promotional events leading up to the first day of camp. We also received two \$85 scholarships again this year to help those with financial need be able to attend camp this summer. Thank you, **R.E. Committee** and **Social Justice Committee**, for your generous donations.

The theme for camp this year is "Peace with Our Planet." We'll focus on the environment and ways we can be peaceful stewards of our planet. If you plan to send your child or middle-school youth this year, be sure to send in your enrollment as soon as possible to ensure a spot. The registration fee is \$85, with a 10% discount for additional children from the same family. Middle-school youth will be part of a media project again this year and will make a video of interviews conducted with environmental leaders in the community. High school youth are encouraged to apply to be assistant counselors. For more information and to obtain an enrollment form, contact Leslye at sfuudreslye@gmail.com or Natalie Pohley at nataliepohley@gmail.com.



Leslye Janusz
Director of Religious Education (DRE)
(530) 889-9433 or sfuudreslye@gmail.com

CO-MINISTERS' COLLOQUY

We know some folks who get religious in July, without even knowing it. They head to the beach with friends or family, and while they are there, they take a stroll along the shore. They pick up a few stones that have been worn smooth by years tumbling in the water and sand, and one or two small, beautiful shells. Later that evening, when they return home, they place the shells and stones on a shelf, just in front of Grandma's picture, because Grandma always loved the ocean. Maybe they go out to where the roses are blooming, and bring one in, to set on the shelf, too. Or maybe they write out a favorite quote and lean it on the shelf as well.

"Just imagine becoming the way you used to be as a very young child, before you understood the meaning of any word, before opinions took over your mind. The real you is loving, joyful, and free. The real you is just like a flower, just like the wind, just like the ocean, just like the sun." ~ Miguel Angel Ruiz

And there, on that warm July evening, still feeling the sun, the salt, and the sand, they've created an altar, a visual reminder of things that are precious, of who and how they'd like to be.

We know that "altar" is in the category of words like worship, God, faith, or prayer. These words are complicated and can get some of us feeling very uncomfortable. In fact, right now, we can bet that some of you are thinking, "I don't make altars, I just collect stuff. I just put things that are significant together. I decorate." And others may wonder, "Do I make *altars*? Is that little arrangement of my children's photos and handprints in clay from when they were in kindergarten an altar?" Maybe. Up to you what you want to call it.

The important thing is to acknowledge a human impulse to mark events, places, and people who are significant in our lives by creating a visual reminder of feelings, memories, and intentions. There are public altars that are created out of ecstatic joy for love or shared sorrow when tragedy and loss strikes a community. There are altars created on our chancel at SFUU for worship that are part of each service, adding beauty, curiosity, or layers on a theme. There are private altars, in homes, gardens, car dashboards, and even offices. There are devotional altars, such as the incredible creations of flowers that are offered each day outside of homes and temples in Bali, that will wilt by the end of the day, but are created and shared as acts of love.

This summer we encourage you to notice your own impulse toward beauty, toward remembering, toward intention. When you notice it—when you are about to walk past an altar that you, or someone else has created, intentionally or otherwise—pause for one breath, in and out. Allow it to resonate within your being.

And, if you would like to be part of creating altars at SFUU, whether it be by contributing a flower arrangement from your garden, or honoring someone's memory, or sculpting the chancel art for a particular service, we'd love to hear from you.

May beauty, memories, and intentions bless your summer. May you create spaces of devotion, remembering, and gratitude.

In faith,

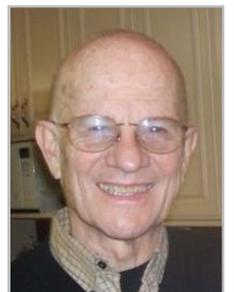
Rev. Wendy & Rev. Lynn



The 2015 PILLAR(S) of the CHURCH

Valerie & John Bowman

CONGRATULATIONS and MANY THANKS
for all your work on behalf of SFUU.



ADULT PROGRAMS

SFUU Crafters

The Crafters group is taking a hiatus for the summer.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets at SFUU on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. This group is open to any men wishing to join us for personal sharing and conversation. For more information simply come to one of our meetings or contact Jim Robison at jimrobison66@gmail.com or 209-277-6201.

Upcoming NEW events!!

We are a congregation of people spread out all over the place: Colfax to Meadow Vista to Penryn, Foresthill to Georgetown to Cool to Placerville, Auburn to Newcastle to Folsom to Fair Oaks, Rocklin to Roseville, Loomis to Lincoln, to Mt. Shasta, Sheridan to Orangevale to Sacramento—all over! This fall, we plan to offer two rotating events that will visit different locations for the ()logical* discussion, connection, religious education, and reflection on things that matter.

One option is **Brewed Awakening**. Support a local business. Meet new people. Ponder the ()logical views while you enjoy a local hot beverage. Join us in a local coffee shop, café, or tea room. Dates and locations will be in the August newsletter.

Another option is **The ()logy on Tap**. Support a local business. Meet new people. Ponder the ()logical views while you enjoy a local beverage. Join us in a local brewery, pub, or tavern. Dates and locations will be in the August newsletter.

With both new programs, we'll welcome all who wish to participate in the conversation. More soon!

**The ()logy allows for a gender non-specific entity, a non-gendered or gender-fluid expression of the divine.*

MEMBERSHIP

Visitors take different steps to get to the point of considering membership in a UU congregation. At SFUU, we offer a Saturday Supper event that is an informal meal and conversation about this community. We also have a "SFUU 101" orientation in which participants get to learn a bit more about Unitarian Universalism and this specific congregation.

When we meet with prospective new members after they've attended the orientation, we ask a little bit about how they found their way, religiously, to SFUU. We let folks know there are five expectations of Membership:

1. Attend worship services as regularly as possible. This community covers a lot of ground each week. If you miss it, you can listen to sermons online.
2. Commit to developing or continuing a spiritual practice (meditation, hiking, writing poetry, singing, prayer, etc.)
3. Learn about U, U, and UU history. Our Universalist, Unitarian, and Unitarian Universalist history is fascinating, rich, heart-breaking, and powerful.
4. Serve. At some point during the year, commit to serve the SFUU community and serve the wider community in some way that matters to you.
5. Give a contribution of record and/or pledge (our dues to the PCD and UUA are \$87 per person)

Then we ask if they are ready to sign the Membership Book. The culture of church life has been changing in the larger culture. Religion, in the wider Western culture, occupies a different place for many of us than for our parents' or our grandparents' generations. It is important for us to be able to talk about what it means to be a member of this congregation.

Our Path to Membership activities will resume soon.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Holley Vallieres and Ronda Pate 2010



SOCIAL JUSTICE



ALERT: Last Month's (June) Social Justice Newsletter Page

Last month's SFUU newsletter had so much content that an additional 2 pages were needed, which is a lot more difficult to manage, so when it was initially posted, the SJC page was inadvertently skipped. That was quickly corrected, but if you missed it, you can find the SFUU web page under the tab labeled "Faith in Action" ... and please check out the website page — the new design is awesome, and much more material will be coming under the "Faith in Action" page!

Summer Reading for Justice Book: "What if All the Kids Are White?"

This summer, the Justice Reading Group will be facilitated by Reverend Lynn Gardner (the date to be announced). This book addresses ways to provide multicultural education for young children and families in a homogeneous, non-diverse setting.

The group will meet Wednesday August 12th from 7-9 PM at SFUU. Please contact **Reverend Gardner** at

revlynn@mysfuu.org for more info.

Growing Peace Camp 2015 Still Open for Enrollment!

"Peace with our Planet" is the theme of this year's Growing Peace Camp for children ages 5-14, which will be held at Alta Vista School in Auburn August 3-7. Activities will support respect, protection, and conservation of our natural world and will include nature hikes, music, and friendship-building. Children ages 5-10 will participate in hands-on artistic and educational curriculum designed to promote peace in our world and include environmental and social concepts. Children ages 11-14 will create a video project. Special needs children will be welcomed. Supplemental staff and daily guest specialists will make this year's Growing Peace Camp the best one ever! Fees will be \$85 per child, but no child will be turned away due to lack of funds. For more information, contact **Millee Livingston** at milleelivingston@gmail.com or **530-887-1775**.

Update: SFUU Social Justice Congregational Discernment and Engagement Program

After much work and discussion, the Social Justice Committee has established dates for our three-part self study that will guide SFUU in assessing the quality of our social justice program, developing a vision for the future based on UU values, and designing a plan to achieve the vision. The SJC seeks to identify, with congregational help, no more than two social justice issues on which to focus our time, commitment, and resources. This work will be done during 3 workshops, spaced one month apart: September 20, October 25, and November 15, 2015. Each workshop will be held after the Sunday service of that date and will last from 1.5 - 2 hours.

To help us prepare for this process, SJC will be hosting an August forum on the Six Circles of Social Justice work: Charity, Service, Education, Witness, Community Collaboration and Leadership Training. Examination of these components of social justice work will help to build our understanding of what successful and meaningful social justice work looks like.

The hope of our Committee is that we engage a high proportion of our congregants in this important endeavor—this is your chance to help transform and focus our social justice programs going forward, so mark your calendars!

SFUUs join others at Yuba County Jail "Chant Down The Walls" Immigration Detention Rally

It was a hot afternoon on June 11 across the street from the Yuba County Jail, where a rally was held to call for the release of Rosa Maria Martinez, mother of four from Patterson, California, as well as for all immigrants in detention. A Latino musical group called Los Jornaleros del Norte from the Southern California National Day Laborers Organizing Network played rousing songs in Spanish loudly enough for the detainees inside the jail to hear to let them know they are not forgotten. **Joan Lacktis**, our new SFUU Board President, was there with the Standing on the Side of Love banner. Joan also volunteers with Faithful Friends, a group that visits people being held in detention in local jails. Other participants included **Robert Archer** and **Janie Evans** from SFUU; Placer People of Faith's Immigration Community Organizer, Flora Csontos, who helped organize the event; and several congregants from the Grass Valley UU congregation. Despite the heat, the music and speeches were inspiring, and the event was



covered by Univision and a member of the local press.

General Assembly Portland 2015—"Building a New Way"

Big kudos to our congregation— at last count, we have 18 attendees! We will have events coming up to get feedback from our participants about what they have learned, and be sure to watch your weekly e-Beacons!

R.E. continued from page 2 — Youth Groups

From the Loft up the Street

This summer the Jr. and Sr. youth groups will meet together from 10:15 to 11:00 AM starting on June 28, to explore four of the UUA's seven areas of social justice: economic justice, environmental justice, immigrant justice, and racial justice. We are counting on many members of the congregation to sign up and join the youth in "the loft" to talk about what you've done, or are doing, in the areas of economic, environmental, immigrant, or racial justice. Assistance is also needed to help Theresa in planning some type of social justice actions that the youth may want to participate in this summer. To sign up, please contact **Theresa Cote** as soon as possible.

OWL Classes for Youth.

Specific dates and times for the 8th-10th grade OWL class will be announced in July after our facilitators return from OWL training in Palo Alto. We hope to have Grass Valley and Sacramento UU youth joining ours for the class and plan to start the program mid-September. Stay tuned.

Theresa Cote, Youth Leader
(530) 368-2115 or sfuuyouth@mysfuu.org



R.E. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS –June 28 - September 5, 2015

- June 28 – First day of Summer Program
- June 29 – R.E. Committee Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at SFUU
- August 3-7 – Growing Peace Camp
- August 23 – R.E. Volunteer Training, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM; lunch and child care provided
- August 23 – Gathering of the Waters Intergenerational Service; no R.E., childcare only

New events and R.E. meetings will be listed in upcoming newsletters as they are scheduled. For SFUU-sponsored activities go to www.mysfuu.org and click on the calendar.

REMINDER — SCHEDULING of EVENTS & FACILITIES

If you are organizing events, meetings, or other gatherings at SFUU or for SFUU, please read this article!

Increases in church activities increase the likelihood of meeting-room and/or date conflicts. If you are planning a meeting or an event, it is very important to check for conflicts, then schedule the meeting and reserve a room, then wait for confirmation before promoting your event.

Check for Conflicts

- If you are planning a large event that will require parking, please check the Placer High School home page for any activities that may conflict with your event. The full page is hard to navigate, but at least check for athletic events.
- If everything looks clear, go to the SFUU website (mysfuu.org) click on Calendar and Newsletter at the bottom of the home page, then click on Calendar, then click on the icon.

Schedule your Event

- If your day/room choice are clear, exit the calendar and click on Administrative at the bottom of the page, then click on Forms for Members. You can also get there through the Members tab at the top of the page (Member Resources & Administrative Forms).
- At this point you will need to log in. When you get the form, provide as many details as possible. The form will be automatically submitted to Ronda.

Wait for Confirmation from Ronda

- Every effort will be made to respond in 72 hours, but please be patient. Remember that Ronda only works part time.
- DO NOT promote your event until you have the confirmation.

Please contact Ronda for questions on scheduling. For questions on how to log in to mysfuu.org, contact Amy Evans or Joan Lacktis.

MEMBERS' AND FRIENDS' CORNER
Caring for Our Community

Please reach out to one another when you need and/or can offer support.

Caring thoughts and comfort to:

- Heidi Knost and her family. While they were on a trip to Boston, their little dog, Evie, got out and was hit by a car. Evie is recovering, but it is hard to be away when she is injured.

With joy and celebration:

- Marilyn Winters' son Richard will be appearing in a one-man show he wrote about divorce, called *Sleeping in the Middle of the Bed*. Hooray for creativity!
- Nick Ladas is grateful for the marriage of his granddaughter last weekend. She and her husband will live in Germany for the immediate future.
- Wendy, Ashland, and Piper McKinnon are celebrating the arrival of Molly Rouge McKinnon on June 8. She is healthy, delightful, and very loved.
- Ryan and Melinda O'Connell share news from their new home in Portland that their son, Paxton, who had been diagnosed with leukemia several years ago, has been declared cancer-free!
- Cleo Postle is happy to be another year wiser. This birthday makes 77.
- Joan Harris turned 50 this month and also celebrated a 20th wedding anniversary with Greg.
- Rev. Lynn celebrated turning 50 while in Oregon.
- Valerie Bowman celebrates the birth of their 10th great-grandchild, Emmons Lucio, to granddaughter Vanessa and her wife Natalie. Val also had a birthday and put a birthday check in the plate to celebrate.
- Happy, happy birthday and happy anniversary to all those who celebrated in June!

Items for the Members' & Friends' Corner usually come from the Memory Book but may also be submitted directly to the newsletter editor, Laurie Soper, at lasoper@att.net.

BEYOND SFUU

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLASSIFIED ADS

Rental Home Needed in the Auburn Area:

My name is Anne Lyon. I am a member of UUCM, currently living in Grass Valley. I am looking for a house to rent in the Auburn area. I am a retired, 68-year-old teacher, with an elderly, deaf dog.

If you have information that could help me, please call **619-933-1618**.



BOARD MEMBERS
 July '15— June '16

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 Joan Lacktis
 president@mysfuu.org
- Vice President**
 Jenny Ferris
 vicepresident@mysfuu.org
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 Meg Dorsey
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- Trustees-at-Large**
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 Jeff Chamberlain, Javier Rivera
- Treasurer**
 (appointed)
 Jim Robison

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- Administrator**
 Ronda Pate
 sfuadmin@mysfuu.org
 (Office hours on back page)
- Music Director**
 Patricia Leftridge
- R.E. Director**
 Leslye Janusz
 (Contact information on R.E. page)
- Youth Leader**
 Theresa Cote

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Adult Programs/Adult R.E.**
 John Bohland
- Building & Grounds**
 Bob Niblack
- Caring Ministry**
 Beryl Mayne
- Communications**
 Laurie Soper
- Finance**
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- Membership**
 Rev. Wendy Bartel
- Religious Education**
 Laurel Brzyszc
- Social Action**
 Lisa Boch, Janie Evans
- Worship**
 Amy Evans

CO-MINISTERS

- Rev. Lynn Gardner
 Rev. Wendy Bartel
 (Contact information on back page)

Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists

190 Finley Street
Auburn, California 95603

Mail Return Service Requested

A LIBERAL FAITH IN
PLACER COUNTY



Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists
A Welcoming Congregation

Our mission
*is to build beloved community
that respects diversities,
as we nourish the spirit,
care for the Earth,
and inspire faithful acts of peace
and justice.*

SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 AM
190 Finley St
Auburn, CA 95603
Phone: **(530) 823-0953**
Our e-mail address:
sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org
Our website: www.mysfuu.org

We welcome ALL who attend our Sunday services and activities. Child care is available during the service, and your children are welcome in our Religious Education program. Please join us for conversation after the service. If you would like information about SFUU, please take literature on display in the foyer or speak with the greeters, our ministers, or any member of the congregation.

If you have **announcements** or **calendar items** to share with the congregation, you are encouraged to submit them, as follows:

- For announcements to share by weekly “E-Beacon”, contact the Church Administrator at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org by **6 PM each Thursday**.
- Submit items for the Sunday Order of Service by **6 PM each Wednesday** to the Church Administrator, sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org or **530-823-0953**.
- Submit items for the website to the Church Administrator at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org AND to Joan Lacktis at joansac@pacbell.net
- Submit items for the monthly newsletter by MS Word attachment to an e-mail on or before **Friday, July 17**, to Laurie Soper, lasoper43@gmail.com

SFUU Office Hours & Contact Information

Rev. Wendy Bartel & Rev. Lynn Gardner

Our co-ministers work from their home office most days of the week. General office hours at SFUU are:

Tues: 3 - 5 PM*
Thurs: Off
Fri: 11 AM - 2 PM*

** Please call or e-mail before coming in; they are sometimes in a meeting or off site. They are happy to make an appointment with you outside of office hours as needed.*

revlynn@mysfuu.org
revwendyb@mysfuu.org
Church: 530-823-0953, *2 at the prompt
Home office: 530-887-1375

Our co-ministers are on Facebook. If you would like to connect that way, search for RevWendy Bartel and RevLynn Gardner (no space between Rev and their first names).

Church Administrator, Ronda Pate

In-office hours are:
Fri: 11 AM - 3 PM
Sun: 9:15 AM - 2:15 PM
Tues. and Wed.: Off

Contact Ronda at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org