

Sierra Foothills

unitarian universalists

MARCH 2016

Sunday Services at 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Religious Education, Grades K-8 at 9 AM, Sr. Youth Group at 10:00 AM, Jr. Youth Group, at 11 AM
Forums at 12:30 PM

March 6 SEEKING THE SACRED (AND WHAT YOU MIGHT DO IF IT FINDS YOU)

In her book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*, Barbara Brown Taylor writes, "Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars." However you experience connection with something larger than yourself, how might we feel it more often? What might we do when we find ourselves tripping over the sacred?

Worship Leader: Rev. Lynn Gardner

March 13 SUPPORTING THE TREE OF LIFE: LET LOVE GROW

This year's Stewardship Team set some important goals and have been transparent with the needs of the congregation. As this year's stewardship drive winds down, we'll celebrate what our shared commitments have yielded, dream about what could be possible, and consider some of what we've learned from one another along the way!

Worship Leaders: Stewardship Team—Gary Koerner, Mary Piette, Stevie Rea, Marsha von Dessonneck, Andy Cramer, Rev. Wendy Bartel, & Rev. Lynn Gardner

Daylight Savings Time begins—don't forget to set your clocks ahead Saturday night!

March 20 HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN SHAPE OUR SPIRITUAL PATH

Technology is viewed negatively – shut down the computer – put away the phone – but technology can also be a source of spiritual search and growth. It helps us share our stories, change our minds and expand our connections across the globe.

Worship Leaders: Amy Evans and Joan Lacktis

March 27 LO, THE EARTH AWAKES AGAIN!

This Easter Sunday we honor a saving love that is available to all! We will celebrate with a story shared by a multigenerational cast, woven through the service and conclude with a Flower Communion. All are invited to bring a flower or several from their home or the market to share in this annual ritual.

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

There will be an Egg Hunt at 10:15 in the Placer High Quad for all interested kids.

For information about

- the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalist (SFUU) congregation, please visit the SFUU website (www.mysfuu.org)
- Unitarian Universalism, visit the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website (www.uua.org)
- district resources and events, visit the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA (www.pcd-uua.org)
- regional resources and events, visit the Pacific Western Region of the UUA (<http://pwruiu.org>)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS & VIEWS

Staff Changes in R.E.

DRE retirement: It is with very mixed emotions that I have announced my retirement as the Director of Religious Education, effective June 12. After being in this position for almost 7 years, it is time to honor a commitment I made to myself that I would retire before my 75th birthday ... which will be this July. I have enjoyed serving the children, parents, and SFUU congregation during my tenure here. While I retired once before from 40 years of working with children and families and then starting up and running a business for another 17 years, I still wasn't quite ready to retire completely. When the part-time DRE position became available, it interested me because it wasn't easy finding work with such a caring organization in our little town of Auburn and one whose values were akin to mine. It turned out to be a good fit. As the years went almost too quickly by, it was the parents, children, and youth who were already here and the new families who came to SFUU each year seeking a progressive faith experience grounded in humanistic values that compelled me to stay.

The Board is organizing a hiring team to begin recruitment for a new DRE. While still here, I look forward to continued opportunities for learning together, culminating in a Children/Youth R.E.-Led Service on June 5.

Child care staff: Hannah Gibson, who has worked in SFUU's childcare for 4 years, had her last day with us on February 6. Hannah provided a level of consistency and kindness for our preschool children which has been so appreciated. We will surely miss Hannah but wish her well as she returns to school and work and, most importantly, parenting her son, Bentley. Emily Sommers, our childcare substitute, agreed to accept the regular position starting February 14.

March Activities

OWL Class for 8th-10th Grades, Second Session: March 18-19.

Please refrain from entering the building while OWL (Our Whole Lives) is in session, starting Friday, March 18, at 6 PM until Saturday, March 19 at 1 PM, as their curriculum requires confidentiality for the safety for the participants.



Spring/Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for March 27

In between the two services, from 10:15 to 10:45, the children from childcare through 5th grade will be treated to an egg hunt at the high school quad across the street. Non-candy goodies have been hidden in the eggs. R.E. Youth are invited to come at 10:00 to help hide the eggs. RSVP to Leslye if your family plans to be here that day.

With peace,

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

R.E. Calendar of Special Events - March through June, 2016

Please mark your calendars with the following activities scheduled in the coming months

March 27 – Easter Sunday & Spring Egg Hunt at the high school quad, 10:15-10:45 AM

April 24 – Creek Clean-Up at School Park Preserve 9-10 AM

May 8 – Muffins for Mother's Day in the Social Hall at 10:15 AM

May 22 – Making Gifts for Volunteers

May 29 – Preparations and rehearsals for R.E. Worship Service during class time

June 4 – 3:00-5:00 PM – rehearsal for all worship participants

June 5 – SAVE THE DATE FOR "Peace, Justice and the Environment Worship Service," 10 AM. All children and youth invited to participate; all are encouraged to attend!

CO-MINISTERS' COLLOQUY

Just as we encourage each of you to find a practice (or two, or three, or ...) that helps you feel connected, grounded, and that can serve to sustain you in difficult times, we, also, continue to shape our spiritual practices. We each have some that are individual, and we also have a day when we consciously have a shared practice. Recently we have been reading a poem together, and then choosing a phrase or line that serves as inspiration for our own creative writing.

This is one of those poems, inspired by the phrase, "Holiest of Gifts" from a poem by Hafiz.

They are small and unassuming,
the small band of angels who stand with the
creators,
those who continually breathe
being into being.

They are witness to so much
that is constantly becoming,
deep diving whales
singing their songs into
the blue-black water
to find one another, to connect.

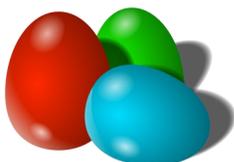
Daffodils turning toward the
rays of light,
ever faithful – patient in the dark.
Hummers, with their incredible
tongues, sipping what they need
as they bless the flowers.

They hear ideas before they
are born,
sense anger simmering
even before the injustice occurs,
and know the place where
tears arrive, like a
forest spring, or dew drops.

Their job is endless.
As each new being is breathed
Into becoming
they whisper, "know you come from
great love. Let it move through you, always."

Blessings,

Rev. Lynn & Rev. Wendy




Happy Easter




ADULT PROGRAMS/ADULT R.E.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets at SFUU on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6:00-7:30 PM. This group is open to anyone who identifies as male and wishes 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**.

Second Sunday Forum

Sunday, March 13, 12:30 to 1:30 PM, SFUU Sanctuary, "Poems for the Earth"
Join SFUU poets John Bowman and Tricia Caspers-Ross, and create and enjoy poetry in honor of the Earth. Beginners and seasoned poets welcome! Contact john.bowman58@gmail.com for more information.

Sacred Song Circle – Nurturing Women Through Song

Meets second and fourth Thursdays of each month at SFUU from 6:15-7:45 PM. Come join us as we sing world chants, rounds, and songs to uplift our spirits and honor ourselves and the planet we live on. Contact Marsha von Dessonneck at mvondess@hotmail.com or Val Bowman at valeriebowman2@gmail.com for more information.

In a Time of Extinction: A Call to Life

A special event on Wednesday, March 2, 7:00-9:00 PM, State Theatre in Auburn. Come join us for a moving performance as author/philosopher Kathleen Dean Moore and concert pianist Rachelle McCabe combine to present a very powerful program on the theme of extinction. Moore says, "This performance is art that allows us to tell the truth about global warming and mass extinction in a way that enters into peoples' hearts rather than breaks them." Tickets are available on Sunday, Feb. 28, at SFUU, or at <http://www.mysfuu.org/upcoming-events-1>.

Deepening Conversations

- *The()logies* on Tap*: Third Wednesdays, August through April, 7-9 PM. Let us gather with different views and different brews. Over a pint, we'll explore perspectives on life, spirituality, and other things that matter. All are welcome. Hosted by Bill Boyce, Rev. Wendy Bartel, and Rev. Lynn Gardner.
 - ◇ March 16: A Life of Integrity—Infusion TapRoom, Lincoln
 - ◇ April 20: Beauty and Brokenness—Little Belgium Deli, Auburn
- *Brewed Awakenings*: Last Tuesdays, August through April 10-11:30 AM. Ponder the()logical* views while you enjoy a hot beverage. Support a local business. Meet new people. Over a mug, we'll explore spirituality and other things that matter. All are welcome. Hosted by Rev. Lynn Gardner and Rev. Wendy Bartel.
 - ◇ March 29: A Life of Integrity—due to low turnout "down the hill," we'll meet at Flour Garden, SaveMart Plaza, Auburn
 - ◇ April 26: Beauty and Brokenness—Flour Garden, Save-Mart Plaza, Auburn



Are you interested in serving SFUU on the Board of Trustees? Are you a member of the congregation who is intrigued with questions of vision, mission, policy and finances? If yes, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee by March 10: John Bowman, Tricia Caspers, Ian Duncan, Harriet Stephens, or Chair, Javier Rivera javier-rivera77@yahoo.com



SOCIAL JUSTICE



Caring for the Earth—Water Justice*: Announcement of Project Team Signups

Here are the exciting projects currently underway, with folks to contact who signed up to lead or be on the team:

- Film/documentary on Water—Team Leaders: Carol Arvay and Marsha VonDessonneck; Planning Team: Bill Jensen, Suzanne Borth; film and date yet to be chosen
- Book Discussion**—Team Leaders: Carol Arvay, Bonnie Dahl, and Mary Lou Bailey; book(s) to be chosen
- Resource List Development**—Carol Arvay; resources continue to be developed, could use more help on this
- Drought Response Research of PWCA, NID**—Team Leader: Lisa Boch; could use more help on the planning team
- Letter Writing Campaign**—Millee Livingston; could use more help on the planning team
- Green Sanctuary—Ronda Pate, Joan Lactis, Lisa Boch
- Earth Day activities—Robert Archer, Shannon Dooley-Miller, Kara Kreutz, Val Bowman
- Youth Group “Do One Thing”—Theresa Coté

We will be sending out group e-mails to these folks, and to those who signed on as “participants,” so they can be in touch with each other. Other projects envisioned at the third Discernment and Engagement workshop last November can be found in the “Caring for the Earth” Plan posted on the SFUU website’s Social Justice pages. AND...more projects may emerge as our knowledge and awareness increases. The SJC Project Proposal Form can be found on our website as well.

**Our SFUU congregation-based Social Justice focus issue may also include food justice as it relates to water—for example, the impact of agricultural practices on water quality and availability.*

Current Water Related Happenings Locally: Centennial Dam Proposal—Public Comment Period Closing Soon

Nevada Irrigation District issued a Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for the Centennial Reservoir Project on the Bear River. The project would include a dam and involve six miles of streambed and surrounding area between Combie and Rollins reservoirs. The project’s primary purpose would be to obtain additional water supply. The proposed EIR should identify the project’s impacts and evaluate the project along with alternative projects. Comments on the project are due to NID by March 17, 2016. Proponent web site: <http://www.centennialreservoir.org/>; Opponent web site: <http://www.noparkerdam.com>.

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet News

Patty Campbell, Tom and Mary Piette, Stevie Rea, Laurie Soper, and Bonnie Dahl were on hand for SFUU’s 2-hour shift at the Stuff-A-Bus “food-raising” event at Grocery Outlet on Saturday, February 20. The event brought in 1065 items of food and \$315 in cash donations to help those who are hungry in the greater Auburn area. A letter to the editor in Sunday’s Auburn Journal thanking those at the AIFC and Salvation Army who helped the letter-writer during a recent difficult time is typical of what we frequently hear from our “guests” and underlines how important such services are to the community. Those thanks extend to all of you at SFUU who have always been so generous with your donations of time, food, and money.

Living Into our Commitments—Climate Justice Month March 22 to April 22

Climate Justice Month 2016 is scheduled from World Water Day, March 22, through Earth Day, April 22. This year the focus will be on living into our commitments. You can find more information on the UU Ministry For Earth website, with access to Commit2Respond daily readings/meditations. Read more at www.commit2respond.org



Next Social Justice Committee Meeting: Monday, March 14, 4:30-6:30, SFUU Social Hall

Children/Youth R.E. continued from page 2

From the Loft up the Street

The DO ONE THING project promoted by the Youth Group is progressing and picking up momentum, thanks in part to the help and guidance of Laurie Soper, one of the regular volunteers to our classes. Laurie, with help donated by her daughter-in-law, Erica Roper, will work with the youth to make reusable tote bags. Samples of these bags will be displayed at the spring fundraiser, where the Youth Group will take orders. There will be two choices in size and several color and accessory options, some with minor increases in the basic price (still to be determined).

Please see the youths' DO ONE THING recommendations for March, which is emphasizing our use, conservation, and care of water.

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



DO ONE THING

Caring for the Earth—Suggested Actions for March

by Jewlea Huff & Isaac Koerner

To help protect the environment, in accordance with our new SFUU initiative, the Senior Youth group is advertising a "do one thing" initiative in which supporters change one thing in their lives. This month's suggestions are:

- When waiting for water to heat up in your shower or sink, collect the water in a watering can or bucket. You can then use this water for plants or whatever you need it for.
- Reduce your consumption of meat because, from farm to delivery, meat uses much more water than fruits, veggies, and grains: the average commercial U.S. water use from production to delivery for 8 oz. of various foods are: rice—130 gallons; potatoes—24 gallons; raspberries—34 gallons; pork—330 gallons; beef—850 gallons; chicken—133 gallons (source: Los Angeles Times).

SFUU MEMBERSHIP

Membership is an important step in deepening a relationship with the SFUU community. If you have been attending services or other programs and feel that this congregation might be a good fit for you, we invite you to come to a Saturday Supper and SFUU 101 orientation events to get familiar with Unitarian Universalism and the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists.

SFUU 101 Orientation: Sunday, March 6, 10:15 & 12:30. SFUU 101 includes an informational video and conversation with current members. Get some snacks at the social hour and join us.

Saturday Supper: April 9, 5:30-7 PM. This is an informal gathering of newcomers and long-timers to SFUU to gather over a meal for conversation. This month's dinner will be hosted by Marsha VonDessonneck. RSVP to Marsha at marshvondess@hotmail.com. Childcare will be provided if requested by Wednesday, April 5.

A New Member Signing Event will be held on Sunday, April 10, at 10:15 AM in the ministers' office. If you have attended an SFUU 101 and are ready to formally consider signing the membership book, please attend this gathering to learn more specifically of the benefits, rights, and responsibilities of membership. If you don't want to wait that long or would rather have a private conversation, you are welcome to make an appointment to meet with one of the co-ministers.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Mary & Tom Piette — 1989
Kelly Chandler — 2000
Tom & Colleen Sykes — 2001
Linda Cramer — 2003
Charles Miles — 2006

Golda Clendenin — 2008
Gayleen Haynes-Gibson — 2011
Laurel Brzyszc — 2012
Morlee Griswold — 2012

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN WRAPS UP

Join us at the March 13 services for Celebration Sunday as we wind up the Stewardship Campaign for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. With this budget, SFUU aims to begin replenishing its reserve funds and to rely less on fundraisers to meet operating expenses. See the Stewardship link under "Members" at <http://www.mysfuu.org/stewardship-2016/> for more information. Please turn in your financial commitment form by Sunday, March 6, at one of the neighborhood gatherings, at the Stewardship table before/after services, or to Andy Cramer.

Thank you in advance for your gift that will help us continue to care for our religious home, grow our congregation, encourage spiritual growth through worship and programs, invest in social justice, educate our children and youth, and provide fair compensation to our professional ministry and staff. We cannot do it without your generous support.

~ The Stewardship Team: Gary Koerner, Chair; Andy Cramer, Mary Piette, Stevie Rea, Marsha von Dessonneck, Rev. Wendy Bartel, and Rev. Lynn Gardner

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Spring Auction — Bringin' Back the 80's *SFUUs Just Wanna Have Fun(ds)*

Like, totally! SFUU's gnarly Spring Auction will be happenin' on April 30, 2016, at the UCC. It's gonna be the bomb! Music, food, drink and, of course, a wicked auction. So dust off those chucks and jelly shoes, throw on the spandex and leg warmers, and get ready to party, fer shur. But to bring this all together, it's going to take our whole posse, so get in touch with Amy Evans (amyevans@wavecable.com) or Jeff Chamberlain (chmbrln@gmail.com) to find out how you can help make this the baddest auction evah! Go to mysfuu.org/spring-auction for ticket sales and more details.



CALL FOR DELEGATES!

The Pacific Coast District Assembly will be held on April 22–24 at the Newark Freemont Doubletree Inn by Hilton. SFUU is requesting that interested members send an application to Joan Lacktis at president@mysfuu.org no later than April 8.

BEYOND SFUU

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

District Assembly 2016

Congregational Excellence: Doing Together What We Cannot Do Alone!
Unitarian Universalists from the Pacific Central District will gather at the Newark Fremont Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, April 22–24, 2016.

Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life for the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be the keynote speaker. He will be speak on "radical interdependence" and share his ideas of ways to work together in covenantal partnerships. Please go to <http://www.pcduua.org/events/district-assembly/> to learn more and reserve your hotel room. The deadline to make your reservations is March 28, 2016.

BOARD MEMBERS July '15— June '16

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president@mysfuu.org

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vicepresident@mysfuu.org

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Co-Ministers
Rev. Lynn Gardner
Rev. Wendy Bartel

Music Director
Patricia Leftridge

Youth Leader
Theresa Coté

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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES: 9 & 11 AM
SUMMER: 10 AM only
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:

- Weekly “E-Beacon” and/or the Sunday Order of Service: contact the Church Administrator at **530-823-0953** or sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org by **6 PM each Wednesday**.
- Calendar: sign in to the website at www.mysfuu.org, click the link to the calendar, and follow instructions.
- Website: submit to Joan Lacktis at joansac@pacbell.net AND to the Church Administrator at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org
- Monthly newsletter: submit by MS Word attachment by end of day **Friday, March 18**, to Laurie Soper at 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: 1-3PM*
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: 8:15 AM -2:15 PM
Tues. and Wed.: Off

Contact Ronda at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org