



A bi-monthly publication of the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists

# SFUU CONNECTIONS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

## CO-MINISTERS COLLOQUY

As we say good-bye to one year and begin anew, we ask ourselves and we ask you: what is being asked of us as we face 2017—what is being asked of all of us as Unitarian Universalists who affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people, use the democratic process, respect many of the world's religions as well as science and our own experiences, encourage a responsible search for truth and meaning, and sense that the incoming administration abhors all that we cherish?

As your ministers and as ministers in our wider denomination, we sense a growing urgency for each and every one of us to become comfortable with discomfort, that is, to become well-practiced in interrupting racism/sexism/heterosexism/ageism/classism/ableism, etc. But in order to do that, you have to be willing to recognize it and then to practice re-prioritizing connection and ethics over politeness. We will need to build our capacity to see the language of the oppressor EVERYWHERE—in the media, in politics, in everyday speech, in the classroom, in congregations, in our workplaces, in the mall, in the mall—and to practice noticing when the words being spoken mean nothing, or, worse, mean something else.

A good example of this is the media's and law enforcement's insistence on calling the Standing Rock Sioux and others "protestors" and "activists" rather than the name they use for themselves: Protectors. This is not just semantics. This is waking up to the reality around us—a reality that is eerily similar to Germany as Hitler began his political journey. Those of us who occupy a dominant identity—male, white, able-bodied, adult, heterosexual, middle or upper class, Christian—or only some of those identities, have privilege based on that identity. Many of us also experience discrimination because of other identities we have. This isn't a competition to see who has more or who has less privilege.

This is an opportunity to get REALLY conscious of the moments when a part of our identity can be leveraged on behalf of someone else. This is an opportunity to harness the experiences of feeling marginalized and use them to build resistance muscles. Sharing our stories and how we have experienced the world—like Ta-Nehisi Coates, Joy Harjo, Malcolm X, Dorothy Day, Rebecca Parker ... like YOU—means we can grow more empathetic to the experiences of those who would otherwise be harmed by the dominant powers. Using words that join in solidarity with the oppressed is one of the most important ways of affirming someone or a group of people. African American. Queer. Feminist. Water Protectors. Working Class Parent. Unitarian Universalist. We are gonna have to lean in more courageously than we have ever done before. Paul Rogat Loeb tells us why, "...part of us dies when we know that something is wrong, yet do nothing. We could call this radical dignity. We don't have to tackle every issue, but if we remain silent in the face of cruelty, injustice, and oppression, we sacrifice part of our soul."

Let's get ready. Together. Courage and Respect are calling us. How will you respond?  
In revolutionary love, Rev. Wendy and Rev. Lynn



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### MONTHLY THEMES

**JANUARY:**

COURAGE

**FEBRUARY:**

RESPECT

**SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS WELCOME YOU!**



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Our Office Administrator is in the office on most Wednesdays 11am-3pm.

If you wish to meet with one of the co-ministers, please contact them for an appointment. Their day off is usually Thursday. Their reading/research/writing day is Friday.

Submissions for our publications are as follows:

**Weekly e-Beacons & Order of Service Announcements – Due Tues, 5pm**

This info is usually generated through Calendar Requests made through the website. Please submit any additional information or clarifications to our Office Administrator Ronda Pate at sfuadmin@mysfuu.org

To submit a calendar request, please visit www.mysfuu.org, sign in on the Members tab, and follow the instructions for calendar requests. Contact our administrator Ronda or Amy Evans if you have forgotten the member password.

**Bi-monthly Newsletter – Due the 10th of (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec), 5pm** to Ronda at sfuadmin@mysfuu.org

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*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson*



www.UUA.org

SFUU is part of the Pacific Western Region of the UUA - [www.uua.org/pacific-western](http://www.uua.org/pacific-western) and the Pacific Central District of the UUA - [www.pcd-uua.org](http://www.pcd-uua.org)

*To Learn More about Unitarian Universalism*



## *REflecting and Learning: Children and Youth*

As a faith community that values humanism, the capacity in human beings for good, we can understand the necessity for courage, the ability, literally, ‘to take heart.’ Each of us can act for truth, justice, peace, or any other value we hold dear. To act meaningfully, fulfilling our values, we need to courageously lean in to our feelings and act with them. Acknowledging shock, tearfulness, incapacitating fear are all likely steps on the path to courageousness. When we feel what our heart has to tell us and then act, we have ‘taken heart,’ and we are courageous.



We can develop courage as we act from the heart in our daily lives. Each small vulnerability, each big risk requires courage. When we “en-courage” others, we offer them opportunity and guidance to act with full integrity and authenticity, to face fear, to be completely themselves. This is what we hope for all our children and youth.

Right now our society is deeply in need of courageous people. Our families, communities, nation, and world need love, respect, truth, justice, and peace. Perhaps our act of courage will bring confidence to a friend, calm to a child, laughter to a bereaved. Therefore, let us be courageous!

-Adrean Dills, Director of Children/Youth Religious Education



SFUU C/YRE families enjoying last year's retreat!

### **C/YRE Retreat to Montara Lighthouse**

All C/YRE families are invited to join a weekend getaway to Montara Lighthouse Hostel, near Half Moon Bay, Fri, Feb 24 thru Sun, Feb 26. There's room for 50 people and the cost is only \$68 each which includes shared meals. Financial assistance is available. Please RSVP and have your money turned in no later than Jan 15. Make checks payable to SFUU with Montara written in the memo. To RSVP or for more information contact Tricia Caspers at 530-305-5299 or [caspers.ross@gmail.com](mailto:caspers.ross@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.norcalhostels.org/montara>

### *What Does Courage Mean?*

In November, several parents, kids, and the reverends gathered to watch Zootopia. After the film, this is what kids and parents had to say about what courage meant to them:

**Courage is:** “knowing when to take a break from intense situations” ~ Ian D.

“believing in yourself” ~ Becca

“a really strong feeling, when facing a scary moment and doing it anyways.” ~ Aiden

“not erasing fear. It’s what helps you face it.” ~ Abby

“when Fox helped bunny and Bunny helped the world.” ~ Seamus

“doing what you think is right even when your voice shakes or when its hard.” ~ Joan H.

“facing your fear by inviting it into your home and coming face-to-face with it.” ~ Jason LJ

#### **Interested in getting involved?**

**Adult RE-**coordinates, recruits, supports classes, forums, and programs for Adult faith development. We would love to invite you to join us if you are interested in being part of this wonderful group! Contact Ann Heron at [abheron@yahoo.com](mailto:abheron@yahoo.com)

**Children/Youth RE-**supports volunteers and staff as well as our children and youth in our religious education program. Contact Adrean Dills, DRE

**Adult R.E.**

Ann Heron

**Building & Grounds**

Bob Niblack

**Children/Youth RE**

Tricia Caspers

**Communications**

Laurie Soper

**Finance**

Maureen Bauman

**Membership**

Marylee Drake

**Social Justice**

Lisa Boch, Janie Evans

**Worship**

Amy Evans

**Committee on  
Ministry**

(appointed)

Ken Evans, Heidi  
Knost, Nancy Polli,  
Cleo Postle

**TEAMS & TASK FORCES**

**Bylaws**

Stevie Rea

**Stewardship**

Gary Koerner

*SFUU Committees and What They Do*

**Building & Grounds:** takes care of maintenance of the building & grounds.

**Committee on Ministry:** supports and assesses the shared ministries of the entire congregation

**Communications:** creates guidelines for various communication methods, updates and maintains the website, Facebook page, press releases, newsletter, OOS announcements, e-Beacon

**Finance:** manages the pledges, gifts, Sunday collections, etc, creates a draft budget, and ensures bills and employees are paid in conjunction with the Bookkeeper

**Membership:** supports the Path to Membership activities—Saturday Supper, SFUU 101, New Member Signing, New Member recognition, and Member activities to strengthen community in fun ways

**Nominating:** recruits potential Board members; elected for 2-year staggered terms

**Social Justice:** support social justice activities, projects, and letter writing based on our focus area (water)

**Worship:** recruits/schedules worship leaders and associates for Sundays when our ministers are not in the pulpit

*(See Adult RE and C/YRE on page 2)*

*Volunteers: Spotlight on Javier Rivera*



Javier was motivated to serve SFUU in gratitude for the acceptance he felt when he first came here. He serves on the Building and Grounds Committee because he saw things that needed to be fixed to make the building safe, especially for the children, and on the Board of Trustees because he wanted to understand all that went into keeping the church operating. Javier was surprised to learn how many people have to do so much work beyond the Sunday service. When asked how the themes of courage and respect relate to his service at SFUU, he said that the congregation and the ministers show courage by standing up for justice and he wants to support that however he can. ~Joan Lactis

*Courage Means...* (continued from page 3)

The night of the Zootopia movie, Rick R. shared a moving story of watching his son and other kids muster up their courage to break boards in a martial arts class. “Watching kids, with determination, face their fears and hit the board, even when they know it is gonna hurt some, they hit it. and if it doesn’t break, they somehow find courage to hit it again and they break it and everyone is excited and moved.”

“One isn’t necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.”  
Maya Angelou



## *President's Message*

Some Musings on Respect:

“R-E-S-P-E-C-T... find out what it means to me.”

--Aretha Franklin

“I don't get no respect.”

--Rodney Dangerfield

“Respect my authoritah!!!”

---Eric Cartman



Is respect something you earn, or is it part of the inherent worth and dignity of every person? (See UU principal *numero uno*.) ‘Retha doesn’t really answer the question of what R-E-S-P-E-C-T means to her; she just makes it clear that she E-X-P-E-C-T-S it. It reminds me of the maxim, “You have to teach people how to treat you.” Good advice. On the other hand, if you go around acting like a goofball (or worse), you may find that you “Don’t get no respect.” And, if you find yourself in a position of power (a cartoon police job, a U.S. presidency), your underlying behavior and principles had better deserve respect. Otherwise, demanding that people “Respect your authoritah” ... will just be a joke.

~Jenny Ferris, Board President

## *Money Matters: Stewardship Update*

SFUU’s income comes primarily from your fulfilled pledges, aided by an auction event in the fall, a fundraiser in the spring, and contributions made during our Sunday services. Due to your ongoing generosity through pledges, Sunday mornings, and a strong auction event in November, we have completed 2016 in a strong financial position. Halfway through the financial year (July 2016 through June 2017), our income and our expenses are running about equal, as we planned. Your generosity and the shared stewardship of our staff and committees’ finances allow us to be optimistic about the congregations’ financial health! Thank you! It really makes a difference.

The Stewardship team has been meeting for several months to plan the stewardship campaign for 2017/2018. Please mark your calendars for Saturday evening, **March 18**, for a Congregation-wide celebration with food and fun that will highlight the impact that SFUU has on our lives and in the larger community. We hope you can attend. Your presence matters now more than ever! ~Andy Cramer

## *Stronger Together: Denominational Opportunities*

Visit the Pacific Western Region website to find webinars that can help us get more skilled, better connected, and more equipped to be a congregation serving the larger world. [www.uua.org/pacific-western](http://www.uua.org/pacific-western)

Pacific Central District Assembly, May 6, UUA Presidential Candidates Forum, Mt. Diablo UU Church. Come meet the Presidential candidates for the UUA!

UUA General Assembly—Join thousands of UUs from all over in New Orleans, LA, June 21-25, 2017. Housing opens Mar 1 and sells out fast. [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

*Faith in Action*



**Sometimes It Takes a Blizzard**

As seven inches of snow blew into Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, North Dakota on 45 mph winds from the west in below freezing temperatures, the nearby camps of courageous Water Protectors and their allies bravely stood their ground #NODAPL We cheered as our Revs. Lynn and Wendy, and our Social Justice Co-Chair Lisa Joseph Boch along with Debra Barbarick, came back with reflections from heartfull solidarity visits to the camps.

Then amid the postelection blizzards of fake news and unthinkable cabinet appointments, many of us felt knocked off balance by acts of hatred and violence, seeing our most vulnerable peoples and our Earth more exposed to the uncertainty of political winds.

Now, as the blizzard refuses to abate, we realize we may be on our own to create the sanctuaries we seek, get off fossil fuels, block pipelines, replant forests, avoid shopping malls, eat locally, and stand with vulnerable communities. As with Standing Rock, the call is out, this uniting of tribes, our intersectionality weaving and binding us in new ways. –Janie Evans

Photo: By permission, Rev Megan Lynes Facebook Page

*Honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**Join us Jan 16, 10am-10:45 Celebration followed by March and then Training**

Our congregation has a long-standing tradition of honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, in worship and in some kind of community event. It has had many different forms over the years. This year, it will include a community celebration and a call to more respectfully and courageously strive towards King’s dream. In a letter from the Birmingham Jail, King wrote, “The Negro’s great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice.” We will gather to honor King and to rededicate ourselves to a deeper justice and a positive peace. See more details in the OOS announcements, e-beacon, and website. –Rev. Wendy and Rev. Lynn



**Inauguration Fri, Jan 20, 9am      AND      SFUU Gathering Fri, Jan 20, 4-5pm**

With the coming inauguration of an Administration that seems to flout everything Dr. King and his colleagues worked so hard for, stands against nearly everything that Unitarian Universalism teaches, and has already breached a great deal of protocol in governance, we have much to concern us if we are ever to bring King’s dream into reality. It can be scary and overwhelming to consider what the future looks like after the inauguration AND it is important that we stay informed. We encourage folks to gather with friends and/or in your neighborhood groups to watch this historic event. And then later in the day, gather with SFUU peeps for a contemplative, restorative time of prayer, meditation, singing, and shared feelings. Watch the e-Beacon and OOS announcements for details!

~Rev. Lynn and Rev. Wendy

**UPCOMING WORSHIP****Jan 1 Endings and Beginnings**

10am Only Joan Lacktis

Worship Services on Sundays at 9 and 11am beginning January 8.

**Jan 8 The Heart of the Matter**

Rev. Lynn Gardner and George Lowry

**Jan 15 Because It Is Right**

Rev. Wendy Bartel and Suzanne Borth

**Jan 22 Decades of Courage**

Rev. Wendy, Rev. Lynn, &amp; Company

**Jan 29 The Courage to Reflect**

Rev. Lynn and Rev. Wendy

*Our co-ministers are on Study Leave Feb 1-8 and a mini-Sabbatical Feb 10-Mar 13*

**Feb 5 Leaning into Discomfort**

Amy Evans

**Feb 12 Elderfire: Beyond Maturity**

Rev. Kurt Kuhwald, Sabbatical Coverage Minister

**Feb 19 From the Pedestals to the Earth**

Lauren Way, seminarian

**Feb 26 Intention and Respect at the Cineplex**

Suzanne Borth and Jeff Chamberlain

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”  
Winston Churchill

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)****Children/Youth**

**Family Retreat** at the Montara Lighthouse Hostel, Feb 24-26.  
Tricia Caspers 530-305-5299,  
caspers.ross@gmail.com or  
www.norcalhostels.org/montara

**Adult RE**

See e-beacon for Feb Forum info.

**Men's Group** meets 2nd & 4th Wed of each month, 6pm-7:30pm, SFUU Social Hall. –Jim Robison,  
jimrobison66@gmail.com

**Compassionate Communication Circle** on the 2nd Thur of the month from 6:30-8pm at SFUU beginning Thur, Jan 12. Val Bowman,  
valeriebowman2@gmail.com

**Craft-Making Together** meets at SFUU, 9-11am on the 2nd & 4th Fri, beginning Jan 13. Val Bowman,  
valeriebowman2@gmail.com

**Deepening Conversations**

Brewed Awakenings 10-11:30am  
Flour Garden, Auburn  
Tues, Jan 3: Courage  
Tues, Feb 7: Respect  
Host: Rev. Lynn,  
revlynn@mysfuu.org

The(\*)logies on Tap

Wed, Jan 18: Courage  
Location TBD  
Wed, Feb 15: Respect  
Little Belgium Deli, Auburn

Hosts: Bill Boyce & Andy Cramer  
Andrew\_cramer@sbcglobal.net

**PATH TO MEMBERSHIP**Feb 11 **Saturday Supper**Mar 26 **SFUU 101** after both the 9 & 11 services**CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS:**

**How are We Called: Community Conversation on Resistance and Resilience** Jan 8, 12:30pm SFUU Sanctuary

**MLK Community Event** Jan 16, 10am-3pm, General Gomez Center & SFUU

**Congregational Meeting** Feb 19, 10:15-10:45am

Please see the e-Beacon, announcements, and website for more in-depth information.

Visit our website to view calendar for when committees meet.

SOMETIMES THINGS CHANGE.  
FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE  
INFO, DOUBLE-CHECK THE  
WEBSITE CALENDAR.



**SFUU**  
**190 FINLEY ST.**  
**AUBURN, CA 95603**

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**AN LGBTQ**  
**WELCOMING**  
**CONGREGATION**



**THE MISSION OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS 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.



Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

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