

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD)

May: Hope

I consider myself incredibly lucky. The Rev. Gordon McKeeman was President of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley when I was a seminary student. He was a staunch Universalist and, with our every conversation, I gained a deeper understanding of Universalism. His advice sent me on a professional and personal trajectory deep into the heart of Universalism geographically (in upstate New York) and theologically.

Early in the morning at the seminary, students sat in his office as McKeeman shared wisdom laced with dry wit. He reminded us that Universalism supports the belief that all lives have worth. All lives have dignity. There is hope for everyone. He'd quip, "Universalism is the belief that we'll all end up together in Heaven in the end. We might as well begin to get along right now." We'd chuckle, but as we moved into our ministries we discovered how difficult this message is to live.

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, who retires at the end of this month, became the next President of Starr King. She understood McKeeman's Universalism and amplified it with her own message of hope. Our denomination has been the recipient of her remarkable influence. She often spoke of McKeeman's Universalist theology, sometimes mixing the language of her own Methodist background with Unitarian Universalism. She talked about the "everlasting arms of Universalism." That phrase usually refers to the arms of Jesus, but Parker expanded the embrace. The arms became all of us holding each other, together with a loving presence beyond human kind. Once I heard her say, "Our love will save those we have not yet met." Now, that's the kind of Universalist hope that inspires.

– Rev. Beth Banks

❖ www.uudavis.org → Events/Publications → May, Hope ❖

Photo: "Rainbow Rose" by Lucy Roberts  License http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rainbow_Rose_%283366550029%29.jpg

Worship Services



May 4, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Bread and Roses*, Caitlin Cotter. **11:15am "First" Sunday style worship:** Children & Youth in leadership roles for first 30 min. In 1912 Rose Schneiderman, a labor union organizer and women's rights activist, said in a speech "The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too." Bread and Roses was the rallying cry for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts who eventually won overtime pay and better working conditions. We'll remember the legacy of the Bread and Roses Strike, and celebrate International Worker's Day. *Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too!*



May 4 is Ride-Your-Bicycle-to-Church Sunday! Bike blessing between services.

May 6 Vespers Service, 7pm, Caitlin Cotter. We'll experiment with a Vespers Style worship service, with candle lighting, poetry, and singing. Come at 7 to practice the music and 8pm for worship.

May 11, 9:30 & 11:15am, Join our Campus Ministry students for their annual church service. We'll honor the complexity of families and our diverse relationship with our mothers and mothering, knowing that for some of us this a joyful holiday and for others a painful one.

Photo: "Roses" by Wonderferret 
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wonderferret/495937924>

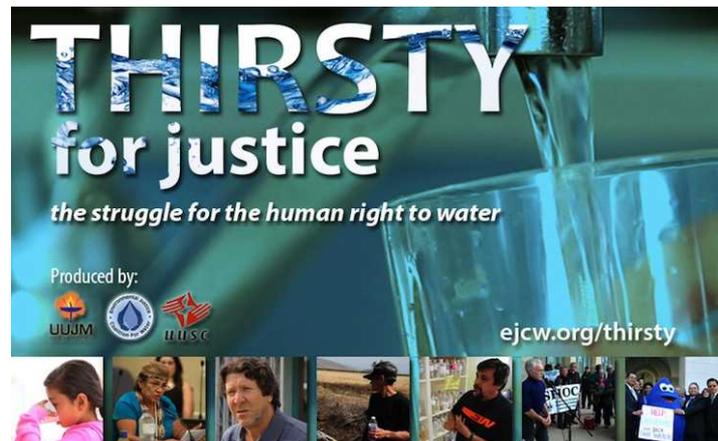
May 18, 9:30 & 11:15am, *A Hope Larger than Assurance*, Rev. Beth Banks; Jenn Richard, Worship Associate. Victor Vaclav wrote, "hope is . . . a state of mind, not a state of the world." It is easy to have hope when we can see foreshadowing of success in the future. However, in our personal lives or the state of the world, how do we keep an orientation of hope when there are no guarantees of success? ★ *You're invited to send comments to be considered for this service to RevBanks@uudavis.org* 3rd Sunday Special Collection: DavisMedia.org. Make checks out to UUCD, memo "DMA."

SUMMER SCHEDULE - ONE SERVICE ONLY
AT 10am, May 25, *Sacred Purpose and Cherished Lives: Reflections On Memorial Day*, Don Saylor; Rev. Beth Banks and Ellen Rosen, Worship Associates. On May 5th, 1866, after the Civil War, pharmacist Henry Welles of Waterloo, New York, closed his drugstore and suggested that all other shops in town close for the day to honor the soldiers killed, union and confederate. It was a gesture of healing and reconciliation in a land ripped apart by conflict. 16 years later the nation observed its first official Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember and honor the sacrifice of those who died in all our nation's wars. Today's service will reflect on the history and meaning of the national holiday. We'll also discuss the challenges faced by returning veterans and our shared commitment to them.



Read **Active Hope:** *How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy* by Joanna Macy, Chris Johnstone. When people are filled with despair because of overwhelming issues of society and the crises of our environment, I encourage them to experience Joanna Macy. She acknowledges the depth and breadth of the ills of the world, but helps those who encounter her work to find hope and courage.

Watch **"The Lunchbox"** is a heartwarming film of fantasy and hope in Mumbai: a city famous for its efficient lunchbox delivery system. A particular lunch is delivered to the wrong person and the story begins.



With hope for a better future we work for justice. **"Thirsty for Justice"** film screening at The California Museum (1020 O St., Sacramento), Weds., May 14. 5:30 reception; 6:15-7:45 screening. Film documents the fight to make water a human right in CA. UU Justice Ministry helped fund the film; Green Sanctuary is a co-sponsor; Thomas Harter is featured in the film. Reserve a free ticket at ejcw.org/thirsty. To volunteer or arrange to carpool, contact Robin Dattel.

Attend **Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction** with Anne Hoffmann. *"People rave about this class and about Anne. I feel lucky to have her offer this series on our campus and that she lets us participate at a greatly reduced cost. If you haven't yet tried MBSR, this may be what you've been waiting for."* – Kate Raymond

MBSR offers an approach to stress reduction (trouble sleeping, chronic pain, and thoughts about the future and past). 7-9pm, Fri, May 9-Jun 27 & retreat 9am-2:30pm, Sat, June 14. Meeting Room. Fee: \$200 (UU discount & sliding scale) to Anne Hoffmann. First class=free intro. Register at re@uudavis.org

Listen Missed a sermon you'd like to hear? It's available at www.uudavispodcast.org