

Chalice Theater: Twenty Years of Community-Building

By John Bohman

Chalice Theater is celebrating its twentieth year with Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical play, *South Pacific*. The entire UUCA community is invited to engage in this story about military life, prejudice, and romance during World War II on a temporary military base in exotic Melanesia. Tickets for the performances will sell quickly, so get yours early.

Every winter since 1996, groups of UUCAers have freely pooled their skills and talents and put on a musical. Chalice Theater has become a mainstay of the UUCA community, as an important outlet for creative expression and artistic growth, as well as a living lab for learning how to participate in an artistic community that is steeped in Unitarian Universalist values.

About one hundred people become involved in each Chalice show at some level, as producers, directors, actors, singers, dancers, tech crew, set designers, costumers, carpenters, artists, researchers, marketers, child sitters, ticket sellers, bookkeepers, concessioners, and more. Almost everyone is a volunteer. They coalesce every year into a strong and dedicated collective.

Chalice draws from all ages. The result is a unique and magical interaction between the generations. Ties of friendship and understanding develop between participants that last for many years. That family like closeness is infectious, and the rapport and the inclusive spirit of the company find their way into every show.

The Chalice family thanks the entire UUCA community for its support over the past twenty years. Chalice is deeply grateful for the opportunity the Church has given its members and friends to explore theatrical performance by and through a religious community.

Here are some photos of a few recent rehearsals – these pictures say it all!



The South Pacific nurses' favorite number:
"I'm Gonna Was That Man Right Outta My Hair!"



"There is Absolutely Nothing Like a Dame"