



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

APRIL 2015 • Volume 59 • Issue 4

Sunday Services 9:15 am and 11:00 am

APRIL 2015 SERVICES

THEME: "LOADED WORDS"

April 2
MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30pm – 8:30pm

We will mark the night of Jesus' Last Supper with a modern celebration of the ancient rituals of communion and foot washing. Jesus was a great Jewish prophet. Don't let what others have said about him keep you away. All are welcome!

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty, Natalie Brundred, Cathie Wiese*

April 5
EASTER / FLOWER COMMUNION

Intergenerational Service at 11:00

Let us celebrate the reality of Life in its gorgeous, ever-resurrecting splendor. Please bring a single flower or many flowers to share, as together we will create a huge beautiful bouquet for our annual Flower Communion ritual. At 11:00 our children will be in the whole service, and join in the making of music. This is an Easter service for everyone!

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Jen Collins, Sadie Sonntag* **Music by:** *The Choir, some UUsual Suspects, and special guests!*

April 19
"LOADED WORDS" – SIN/SALVATION

"You gotta sin to be saved," the old blues song goes. Good thing, since all of us occasionally do things that deliberately hurt others or ourselves, or we stray from our best intentions. Sin is one word that ably describes this condition. Unfortunately sin too often refers to permanently offending the divine being (which can't be done), or having an inherently corrupt nature (an abominable notion). What is the UU use of this word? Can it help us on our path? Just what does it mean to be "saved" anyway!?

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Nancy Hargis, Susan Panttaja* **Special Music by:** *LUNA*

April 3
GOOD FRIDAY

Service 12:00 – 12:45pm **Vigil 12:45 – 2:15pm**

First, a service for facing sorrow and struggle, centered in the life and passion of Jesus of Nazareth. Then, a vigil with inspirational readings and periods of extended silence provides space to discover the presence of the Spirit of Life even in times of death and despair. You are welcome to come and go at any time during the vigil as you are able. Come and be healed.

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty, Ben Ford, Robin Rogers*

April 12
"LOADED WORDS" – RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

"I'm spiritual but I'm not religious," says many a new member of UUCSR. A few old-timers say, "I'm religious but I'm not spiritual." If you are a member of this congregation, Rev. Chris says you are both, whether you know it or not. Today we'll look at what these words mean and how they can serve us, whatever our beliefs or lack thereof.

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas, Natalie Brundred.* **Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects*

APRIL 26
"LOADED WORDS" – WORSHIP/PRAISE

We tell ourselves stories that create our personal realities, just as our cultural and religious stories create the world we live in. We explore how our personal stories affect our creativity and joy. We also imagine how the world might be different today if our Unitarian/Universalist ancestors' stories about Jesus had been chosen as orthodoxy 1700 years ago.

Service Leaders: *Jan Ogren (preaching), Eric Fischer, Veronica Jordan, Sadie Sonntag* **Special Music by:** *The Choir, Sheridan is guest musician on Native American Flute and African drums.*

May 3 **"LOADED WORDS" – SATAN/THE DEVIL** ... Um, is it getting hot in here?
Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine, John Ray* **Special Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects*

Welcome to The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, CA

Our Vision : To live as fully as possible our Unitarian Universalist Principles, and to nurture a liberal religious community in Sonoma County.

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles

- ◆ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ◆ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- ◆ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;
- ◆ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ◆ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation 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.



**Nurture Your Spirit.
Help Heal Our World.**

Quote of the Month

"Come return to your place in the pews,
And hear our heretical views:
You were not born in sin
So lift up your chin,
You have only your dogmas to lose."

Leonard Mason
Unitarian Universalist Minister

UUCSR's Mission

*Celebrate Life,
Empower People
Care For One Another
Help Build a Better World*

UUCSR Members abide by this Covenant

We pledge to seek unity in our diversity, to welcome and respect divergent opinions and beliefs, to listen to one another with open hearts and minds, to acknowledge our shortcomings and be quick to forgive them in others, and to keep our focus on our Mission. Our Mission is celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another, and helping to build a better world.

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

We are committed to being a diverse congregation, fully inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

UU Update is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, California.

Electronic submissions are due by 3rd Monday of month at newsletter@uusantarosa.org. Paper submission must be received by **Noon on Sunday prior to 3rd Monday** in the Newsletter mail slot in the office workroom at UUCSR 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

All submissions have **month and topic** in email subject line. Articles 200-400 words. Ads and Announcements 20-90 words. For more information call 707-568-5381, ext. 106.

Announcements for non-congregation events only as furthers the mission of the congregation and as space allows .

Volunteer Newsletter Assembly: 10 a.m. – 4th Wednesdays.



YES, AND...

My years in Massachusetts at Harvard Divinity School were among the happiest of my life. Our family had found a fine apartment in Watertown, right on a bus line that could take me down to Harvard Square in no time. Daughter Caitlin was emerging from her nightmare years as a middle-schooler, my son Aaron was starting kindergarten, and their mother had a

good job at a local research institution. Although I had to work part-time in the wine business to help make ends meet, I could mostly throw myself into my classes with gusto.

And, oh, the classes! HDS was a treasure trove of intellectual riches. Theology, church history, biblical criticism, world religions, ethics, social change, liturgy, homiletics. My mind and soul has never stretched so far, so fast, thanks to all the amazing professors, guest lecturers and presenters. Pretend I have inserted a long list of famous names to impress you at this point.

However, I would also have to say that here on the ground as a minister I have actually used what I learned in very many of those classes almost zero times since.

Somehow the Cappadocian fathers, or the medieval polemical trials of the Jews in Bavaria, or the "engaged Buddhism" of the Dalit community in India doesn't come up around here much.

Heck, even our own Unitarian Universalist history and theology doesn't come up very much on a day-to-day basis around here.

(To help rectify that, there is now a cart filled with my UU books which will be available every Sunday morning through our library. It contains lots of histories, some theological and philosophical books, a few meditation manuals, and plenty of biographies. Acquaint thyself firsthand with Emerson, Channing and the rest of the old three-namers, won't you?)

I learned far more about daily ministry from my internship and field education than I did in any class. The classes shaped my mind, but the field work shaped my heart and soul.

So much of ministry – and now mine and yours – comes down to just being a certain way with the people around you. This way does not require elaborate theories or scriptural justification, and it can actually be captured in just a few compact phrases. These are the ideas I bring to my mind far more than, say, the differences and similarities between the gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. (See me for the details thereof, if you care!) See what you think.

REV. CHRIS'S TOP TEN ADAGES FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS:

10. Keep calm and carry on. (Cliché, but dead on.)
9. Keep your mouth closed and your ears open as long as possible.
8. Face conflict squarely.
7. Pray.
6. Be real.
5. Take the "God's eye view."
4. Don't take it personally.

AND MY TOP THREE

3. Grow power by empowering others.

I lead this community upon this adage. There is more than enough love and power and wisdom for everybody. And the more of it is flowing, the better. Equipping and empowering others for leadership is the very purpose of my own leadership and power. People notice how much YOU do in this congregation, not how much I do. And that's the idea.

2. "The art is in playing with what IS."

Rev. James Ford told me this just as we were about to begin a ritual in a service at the First Unitarian Society of Newton. We were going to be blessing a child with a flower dipped in water. I thought James would grab the flower. He thought I would grab the flower. No flower. We made it work without a flower.

Countless times, when circumstances have stymied a lofty goal, or when things aren't happening as fast as I want, or the "right" person isn't in the job, I have whispered this phrase to myself. It really helps when your car runs out of gas, or you are stuck in an airport for 9 hours.

AND THE WINNER IS:

1. "Yes, AND...."

This champion phrase, the one I remember and use most, refers to the little trick of replacing every "but" with an "and." Ministers are repeatedly trained to say, "Yes, and..." in the face of conflict instead of "yes, but..."

It seems a little thing. But consider the differences in feeling, and in possibilities, that arise in these mundane scenarios:

HER: I want to go out for dinner tonight.

HIM: But I want to stay in.

Immediately it seems that there is only one solution, and that our dear couple's goals are in inherent conflict. Either they will stay in or go out.

HER: I want to go out for dinner tonight.

HIM: And I want to stay in.

Now both possibilities are equally on the table. There is an acceptance of the validity of the other point of view when you say "and," instead of "but." Perhaps this couple doesn't need to dine together tonight. Perhaps they can compromise and keep it simple. Perhaps they'll stay in tonight and go out tomorrow. Even in a heated argument, "and" can keep the channels of communication and possibility open.

I took a story-telling workshop once where we had to hear one person begin a story, and then, at the facilitator's cue, we had to take over the story with "Yes, and..." This was not always easy, but we kept on truckin', and soon realized that every story, and certainly the Great Story, can contain multitudes. Indeed, the whole Great Big Verb is a "Yes, and..."

Over and over again, life reveals its mysterious paradoxical nature, and the truth of our lives is always somewhere in the middle of whatever categories we might want to impose upon it. There is no hot without cold, no up without down, no in without out. Every "and" is an embrace of our non-dual reality, every "but" a barrier to it.

At least it's worth a try in your next disagreement, right?

Yes, and now I run out of space. Happy Spring and Happy Opening Day! See you soon.

Greetings from Our Board President

OUR VISIONING PROCESS

I write this on March 15, in the evening following the board's forum to report the results of our house meetings and hear from you all. This process....from the survey, to house meetings, to today's forum, has been so helpful for our planning, both for program and for concrete improvements. Most of you offered input into one or more of the modalities. Thank you all for caring enough to give serious thought to the questions we asked and for offering general and specific ideas to help us as we live our mission going forward. The next phase is the board's work to prioritize and plan....we will begin that this week at our board meeting March 19. If this isn't a healthy, democratically grounded institution I don't know what is!

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY, MARCH 8

We have so many opportunities to show who we are in our community. I seem to have many occasions to receive your generosity. This New Member Ceremony was one of those and I want to appreciate you all. I had the honor of serving as guide in Chris's absence and had a remarkable experience with you. We welcomed 16 new folks, we think this is a record #. We had a bit of a glitch with the handout for the actual ceremony. Somehow these did not get printed ahead of time and everything that could go wrong in the morning, did. I think I will never forget seeing Jami Kerr scooting in just in the nick of time to hand out the words we were going to need. I

realized, after the fact, that I never doubted that it would all work out, together we would get the job done with joy. I have spoken from the pulpit/chancel a number of times over the years and those moments have given me a view of our community that is so gratifying. I love looking at your faces and seeing your engagement in the dialogue, no matter the subject....you just show up.

Thank you for all you do to create this community.

ACTIVITY FAIR, APRIL 19

You will want to give yourself time to take in the Activity Fair on Sunday, April 19, between the services and following the 11 AM service. We will be sprawled out in the courtyard, probably in the narthex, social hall, maybe even in the breezeway. The Activity Fair is an event during which all of the groups/entities within the congregation are invited to do a bit of show and tell by way of space on a table to share information about their particular group's work. This is a great way to find out about the sorts of opportunities for participation that exist within this very busy community. Plus I am told that there will be treats at each table!

One last idea from Thich Nhat Hanh:

All the elements for your happiness are already here.

Wishing you a joyful early spring,

Jeanie Bates, President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

Meet The Minister

Brief informal meetings held once a month following the 11 A.M. Sunday Service.—an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and a few lay leaders.

Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room, at the opposite end of the hall from the social area. Questions not only welcomed but encouraged!

Next Meeting: April 19

Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

Treasurer's Report

Sustaining Our Vision

We're wrapping up our pledge drive! If you haven't yet submitted your pledge card, do as soon as you can so we can get a clear picture of where we are in relation to the draft budget presented at the February congregational meeting. Budget elves are anxiously waiting to put the finishing touches on the budget so that it can be presented to the Board, and then to you at the next congregational meeting.

Misplaced your pledge card or would like to become a new pledging friend? We will still be collecting pledge cards after the services on April 5th and you can fill out a blank pledge card then. There are also blank pledge cards at the Visitor's Table on Sundays.

Remember—this time your pledge is a sustaining or continuing pledge. This means your pledge will continue in the same amount year after year until you change that amount.

You can now submit your pledge card on-line at our website. Just go to the Give menu, click on the Financial Commitment submenu and you will see a selection for Pledge Form. When you fill out the on-line form and click the Submit button, your pledge card will be magically transported to our administrator, Janis Brewster. You will also receive an email confirmation of the information you submitted.

Submitting an on-line pledge card and setting up automatic payments are two separate things. If you haven't already, please take the time to hit the green Donate Now button and set up automatic payments from

your bank account or credit card. It will save you time, save the time of our staff and provide us with more even cash flow.

On the same webpage you can also make a donation to UUCSR's Operating Fund, the Minister's Discretionary Fund, Saturday Breakfast, and our Endowment Fund or make a donation in someone's honor or memory. Give early and often!

Want to Contribute to the Sunday Basket Electronically? Now you can! Don't have checks or cash with you? Now you can contribute to our Sunday Share the Basket using your smart phone. If you have an app on your phone that recognizes and reads QR codes (see picture below) you can make a contribution electronically that will be applied to the Share the Basket that Sunday.

In order to take advantage of this method, you should have an account set up on our website ahead of time since it would be cumbersome to set it up on your phone. Those who have already set up automatic pledge payments using this webpage have an account and can access it with their password. If you don't have an account set up please go to our website and use the Donate Now button to access the on-line donation page where you can set up your account.

The QR code will be included in the Order of Service Announcements every Sunday. Donations to Share the Basket can only be accepted on Sundays (any time of day as long as it's Sunday). A donation so directed that comes in on any other day will be considered a donation to the Operating Fund.



Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Donate Now

— Automate Your Sustaining Pledge Payment!

◆ **An Easy And Greener Way To Implement Your Pledge**

Set up an automatic transfer from your bank! Janis and our volunteers will save time, and our cash flow will keep steady.

◆ **Don't want to write that monthly pledge check?**

Click the green "Donate Now" button on our website, <https://web.uusantarosa.org>, fill in the blanks, and you're all set up.

◆ **Overcome with gratitude for the great things our congregation does? Want to make an extra donation?**

Click on the "Donate Now" button! Questions? Please ask Joe McCarty, Linda Balabanian or Janis Brewster.

*Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community;
who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered unto.*

ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (A4SJ)

A4SJ Meets on the **2nd Wednesday, at 12 noon.**

Interested in what we do? Visit us in the teen room on **April 8!**

Stop by our table Sundays to buy Delicious Peace Coffee, grown by a cooperative of Muslim, Christian and Jewish farmers in Uganda (Caf, decaf, whole beans or ground) or to borrow Social-Justice themed CDs.



SHARING THE COLLECTION

Our covenant includes "caring for one another and helping to build a better world." We share our collection each week with a local non-profit selected by Advocates for Social Justice with suggestions from congregants. Thank-you notes received are posted in the outer office.

April 5 – California Youth Outreach – an organization dedicated to reaching out to gang-impacted youth, families and their communities with educational services, intervention programs and resource opportunities that support a positive and healthy lifestyle. We learned about this organization at our February Hot Topic.

April 12 – Farm Guild/Ag. Innovations Network –To learn about the visionary organization of farmers and ranchers who are working toward a healthier food system you can attend the HOT TOPIC today at 12:30. In the meantime, please help support the Farmer’s Guild by giving generously as we share our collection with them.

April 19 – Chrysalis Counseling Services for Women provides high-quality affordable counseling to women, men, couples, children and families in Sonoma County. Chrysalis charges on a sliding scale. All the money we donate goes to providing services for those otherwise unable to afford counseling.

April 26 – Saturday Breakfast – We have been supporting Saturday Breakfast for years. We started it, we work on cooking and serving the meals, it is held in our lobby. The breakfasts are good, the lobby is warm, and some folks are really hungry. We serve 150 to 200 meals most Saturdays. Please join us in providing this hospitality.

James Baldwin Film and Lecture Series

The Santa Rosa Junior College English department invites the public to the spring 2015 Solkov Work of Literary Merit (WOLM) event series from March 30 through April 16, focusing on the life and work of bestselling author and civil rights activist James Baldwin. Events include: a documentary film screening of *The Price of the Ticket*, panel discussions on civil rights, and lectures. WOLM events are free and open to the public.

Each WOLM event will take place in the Newman Auditorium on SRJC’s Santa Rosa campus, located at 1501 Mendocino Avenue.

On April 1st, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., a panel discussion entitled “How Are James Baldwin’s Ideas Relevant Today?” will take place as part of the WOLM series. Panelists will include SRJC English instructors Abby Bogomolny, Michael Hale and Lauren Servais, as well as Black Student Union/NAACP co-presidents Elias Hinit and Damion Square.

Driven by what would have been Baldwin’s 90th birthday (August 2, 2015), recent current events and an urgent need for social change, “many universities, colleges and communities across the country are looking to Baldwin at a crucial time,” said Bogomolny.

HOT TOPICS

THE FARMERS GUILD

April 12, 12:45–2:15 pm

Learn about this visionary organization of farmers, and the role of community (that’s us!) in our food system, at this Hot Topic, brought to you by the Advocates for Social Justice. Meets in the Board Room.

Our speaker will be Evan Wiig, Executive Director of the Farmers Guild, and son of UUCSR member Deborah Wiig.

The Farmers Guild began in 2011 with a small group of young farmers and ranchers who organized themselves around a vision for a healthier food system. This group grew and is now present, as local Farmers Guilds, throughout Northern California.

Read more about the Farmers Guild at their website, www.farmersguild.org.

Evan will focus on the role of community within our food system. He offers this preview:

“Our organization has proven the value of food producers coming together and accomplishing things that individual farmers can’t do by themselves. Likewise, there’s a role for community among those who consume that food. A tendency toward individualism within our consumer society has led to a food system with many challenges, most of which generally disempower small-scale, family farms.”

Evan suggests that there is a way to engage the community to “find, purchase and eat their meals in a way that contributes to a stronger food system--one which replaces commodities with food, returns our notion of 'market supply' back into relationships with agricultural entrepreneurs, and re-conceives 'consumer demand' as made up of people like you and me: families, neighbors, fellow citizens of a growing world that desperately needs a more equitable, healthier and more resilient way of feeding itself.”

This promises to be a very hopeful, rich presentation and discussion. As always, a light lunch will be available for a donation.

We will be also Sharing the Offering this Sunday with the Farmers Guild (a project of Ag Innovations, 501c3).

- Jeanie Bates

*Blessed are those who bring their children;
who invite their friends to come along, to join in fellowship, service, learning, and growth.*

Memorial Celebrating Dolores Miller's Life
Saturday 1:30 pm, April 11

On Saturday, April 11, a Memorial Service celebrating Dolores Miller's life will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reverend Chris Bell will preside. After the Memorial Service, Dolores' ashes will be interred next to her mother in the congregation's Memorial Garden. If your circumstances permit, your presence at the Memorial Service and ash interment will be deeply appreciated. If you desire, a memorial contribution may be made in Dolores' name to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, or your favorite charity.

North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP)

The North Bay Organizing Project is the interfaith/non-partisan political power organization that UUCSR is helping to build here in Sonoma County with the many other member groups you see listed below.

On March 8th the North Bay Organizing Project held an Issues Assembly to help focus our activism for the coming year. It was an upbeat and exciting affair.

A "threshing" process, based on the interest and energy among the leadership of NBOP, had distilled the possible issue areas to four, from which the gathered body was to pick three. The issues that emerged were housing, education, transportation and income disparity. On the day of the Issues Assembly March 8th the income disparity group withdrew their request to be a formal task force of NBOP. Because NBOP addresses only three areas of focus at a time, this did take away the meaning of the vote we conducted that day, since the remaining three automatically won. Nevertheless, there was great enthusiasm around pursuing winnable issues in the arenas of housing, education and transportation in the county, and many new volunteer leaders stepped forward.

Task forces have already begun to gather, to do research, and to determine how to effectively tackle the challenges in these areas. If you are ready to make your voice heard, to engage with public officials, and to shape local policies and practices, NBOP is ready for you. You can find times of task force meetings and learn more at <http://northbayop.org>, or talk to the a member of UUCAN.

UUCAN is the UU Conversation and Action Network. We are the group within the congregation that interfaces with the North Bay Organizing Project, and facilitates internal organizing efforts such as house meetings. We are always eager for more members. We meet once a month, or more as needed, on Tuesday afternoons. Talk to Deborah Mason, Carol Kraemer, Sibyl Day or Rev. Chris Bell to learn more.

NBOP Members & Affiliates

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa
 Community Church of Sebastopol
 Congregation Shomrei Torah
 St. Vincent's Catholic Church of Petaluma
 First Congregational Church UCC of Santa Rosa
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petaluma
 Christ Church United Methodist
 Centro Laboral de Graton
 Landpaths' Bayer Farm
 Sonoma County Conservation Action
 Living Wage Coalition
 Unitehere 2850
 SEIU 1021
 MEChA – SSU and SRJC
 Community Baptist Church of Santa Rosa
 Redwood Forest Friends Meeting
 North Bay Labor Council
 Emmaus Congregation
 Comite VIDA

New Saturday Breakfast Chair Steps Up To the Table!

With great pleasure, we announce the new chair for our wonderful Saturday Breakfast for our Neighbors Program.

John Ray has accepted the position. John comes to us from the UU in Golden, Colorado, where he was very active in many areas.

You've seen him in the choir, performing with our friend Vinny, and stepping up to give testimony regarding pledging.

He moves into the Chairperson position this month, and can be contacted regarding any Saturday Breakfast interest or concerns -707-339-1255.

Gretchen Vap will also share some responsibility during the transition—707-568-3290 .

*Blessed are those who support the church and its work by their regular, sustained, and generous giving;
 and who give of themselves no less than their money.*

Women Together Retreat

Spring Weekend Retreat - "Sisters"

May 1-3, 2015 at St Dorothy's Rest, Camp Meeker

It's time to sign up for this year's Women together Spring Weekend Retreat! We will gather and stay at the beautiful Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker, about 30 miles west of Santa Rosa.

Our theme is "Sisters" (biological or not). We will have our popular small group discussions on the theme and a variety of great workshops to choose among, plus our Silent Auction and the great food!

Please fill out the registration form (enclosed in this Newsletter) and bring it on Sunday, April 5th. Those with mobility issues should contact Kathy Norman, kcmster@yahoo.com or 523-2787 before March 31.

Sign-ups will be accepted after each service on April 5th, not before. We cannot hold your place without your payment. If you're not able to be there in person, fill out the form, give it and your check to a friend or roommate, if you've already decided on that, and ask her to sign up for you. The cost is \$160 for a double room and \$140 for a bed in the dorms. Scholarships are available at half price; just put 'Request scholarship' on your registration form. Please make your check payable to UUCSR and put Women's Retreat on the memo line.

This year Saint Dorothy's is providing bedding and towels.

We're looking forward to a wonderful week-end!

All-Congregation UU Summer Camp!

August 14-16, 2015 at Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa

Our second year at this location, everyone last year agreed it was the best camp site ever!

It's time to start preparing for the 2015 All UU Summer Camp, scheduled for August 14, 15, and 16th. It's the one Retreat of the year designed for everyone in the Congregation – parents, kids, teens, adults, singles and grandparents. There'll be loads of fun, with campfire songs, swimming in the Enchanted Hills pool, workshops, relaxation, and dazzling entertainment with the annual UU talent show.

The majority of the cabins and the lodge are very comfortable with real mattresses and indoor bathrooms. However, the camp does offer very rustic (Gualala-like) cabins for a lower price.

If you are interested in receiving a discount, we are looking for helpers for the preschool kids on Saturday morning for a couple of hours. Just email Carol Kraemer at uucamp@santarosa.org. Also, we are setting up some terrific workshops – but have room for a couple more. If you have an interesting talent that you'd like to share with others, email Carol Kraemer at uucamp@santarosa.org about putting on a workshop. (This would also give you a discount).

Be sure and mark your calendar! It'll be a peaceful, serene weekend amidst the redwoods, but filled with rousing excitement, games and entertainment for the whole family.

We hope to see you there !

Blessed are those who know that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to attention of the church leaders.

SPRING! ADULT RELIGIOUS ED. AT UUCSR

ADULT SEXUALITY **Thursdays, time tba** **May 7-June 4**

(no class May 21)

Professor Bill Stayton, M.Div., ThD, PhD presents a four-session holistic view of sexuality which helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of adult sexuality.

Professor Stayton, who served on the human sexuality faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for 28 years, has over 70 publications and has received numerous awards. He is both a licensed psychologist, and an ordained clergyman.

Sign up on Sundays at Adult RE table

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Mondays, 3-4:30 pm
April 6—May 11

Melinda Napier, "history nerd" and lecturer at Finley Center, will be offering six sessions on influential women in history.

The 1st week's topic is African American Women, and features a variety of women, from Sojourner Truth to Oprah Winfrey. The 2nd week deals with Political Leaders including Cleopatra and Indira Gandhi. The 3rd week covers Scientists, Elizabeth Blackwell to Astronauts, while the 4th week looks at literary Figures from George Eliot to Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Join us to learn more about these interesting women!

\$2 suggested per lecture

Sign up on Sundays at Adult RE table

UUCSR Board Room

READ THE HEBREW BIBLE with Rev. Chris Bell **Tuesdays, 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

Oct 7— Apr 21

This round of scripture studies, we are exploring and discuss The Hebrew Bible, aka The Old Testament. Historical context and critical scholarship are examined, but the main goal is to consider how, or if, these texts might inspire, frustrate, illuminate, confuse, provoke, annoy, amuse, and ultimately deepen our spiritual lives.

Free, Drop in

UUCSR Board Room

WRITE AND CONNECT **Mondays, 10 a.m.** **On-going**

Develop a deep writing practice and tap into your inner voice with Write and Connect. Led by with Patty Somlo. New writers are welcome. Come and check it out!

\$10 donation requested per week

UUCSR Board Room

THE LONG STRANGE TRIP **Thursdays, 12:00 noon—1 p.m.** **through April 9**

This 6 week video series on the history of Unitarian Universalism continues —bring your bag lunch and join us!

Can't make these screenings? They will be shown again next Fall—or rent the discs to view at home. Contact Kathy Norman at 523-2787 for disc pick-up (\$15 refundable deposit).

UUCSR Board Room

*Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do it gladly;
who realize that change is brought about through human meeting, who do the work of committees, and stay till the end.*

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Spring is here and it is magnificent! Though we don't suffer the perils of winter blizzards, nor delight in the glistening beauty of the sun upon new fallen snow, still we know the changes in the seasons. Subtle? Not really, though that's what many would say about California seasons.

As a native Californian I am sensitive to changes of weather, light and temperature that might seem imperceptible to a native of Maine. The miraculous beauty of flowers is all around. As we have longed for the return of rain, we have also longed for this sensory extravaganza of trees of pink and white, poppies, mustard, daffodils and all colors and scents that surprise and delight us every year.

Last Sunday Rev. Chris and I had the rare opportunity to teach the preschool class together. It was so much fun! As part of the morning ritual we read a story and one of the children asked me to read "the one with the kitties" on the cover.

What Chris chose was an illustrated adaptation of Walt Whitman's *Nothing but Miracles*. It begins, "I know

of nothing else but miracles." The children learned, through Whitman's elegant and simple observations that miracles happen all around us, all of the time. "Whether I walk the streets of Manhattan, Or dart my sight over the roofs of houses toward the sky, Or wade with naked feet along the beach just in the edge of the water.....These and all the rest, one and all, are miracles." Children, and good old Walt, know this is true.

There are six sources upon which we draw inspiration for our UU faith, the first is: *Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.*

This is what Whitman and the children call us to affirm. There are miracles, there is transcending mystery and wonder all around us, every day. In this season of miracles, open your heart to your unique, direct experience of the beauty that abounds. Take it in and give thanks for the miracle of spring.

In faith, Deborah

Monthly Happenings in RE

The Senior High Youth Group meets every Thursday, 4-6 pm. Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisers. For info contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com)

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 11:00 service. Children grades K-8 begin in the sanctuary and are

excused to their classes after a story and the recitation of the children's affirmation.

First Sunday of the month is Children's Chapel with all ages together. On the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays children meet in grade groups, as described below.

Childcare for babies, toddlers & preschoolers provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie.

	<u>Grades K-2</u>	<u>Grades 3-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8 (MUUGs)</u>
4/5/15	Multi generational Worship - Children Worship With Adults - Flower Communion		
4/12/15	Wisdom Stories: <i>The Empty Lot</i> by Jim Arnosky	Bibleodeon: <i>Jesus the Teacher</i> Theme: <i>Jesus as a teacher</i>	Neighboring Faiths To be Announced
4/19/15	Wisdom Stories: <i>My Diary From Here to There</i> by Amada Perez	Bibleodeon: <i>Jesus' New Ideas</i> Theme: <i>Jesus the revolutionary</i>	Neighboring Faiths To be announced
4/26/15	Wisdom Stories: <i>Horton Hatches the Egg</i> by Dr. Seuss	Bibleodeon: <i>Jesus' Miracles</i> Theme: <i>Jesus as a miracle worker</i>	Neighboring Faiths: To be Announced

*Blessed are those who speak their minds in meetings, who take and give criticism;
who keep alive their sense of humor.*

Boy Scout Food Drive Barrel - Thank You

(For 9 years, Andy Laird has pursued his passion for feeding people with this Food Drive Barrel project of gathering food for the Redwood Food Bank.)

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the orange barrel for the Boy Scout Food Drive. With your help and that of a few scouts and their neighbors we were able to take more than 5,400 pounds of food to the Redwood Empire Food Bank today.

We still have a little to pick up so we are very grateful. It does my heart good to feel part of this community that realizes even with record setting grape crops and soaring Dow Jones numbers there are still people hungry in Sonoma County. So for your compassion I thank you very much and hope you will join me next year too.

Andy Laird

! Activity Fair - April 19 !

Mark your calendar for April 19th for our annual Activity Fair!

Must you be Mt. Everest-ready to walk with the Faith and Fitness hiking group?

Can you help the Caring Committee if you only have two hours a week?

Have you ever wondered what T.I.E. groups talk about?

What kinds of books the book groups read?

Our UUCSR committees and fun groups will have tables set up in the courtyard after each service on April 19th to answer all your questions.

There's probably a lot more going on than you know.

Come and learn how to get involved!

Model Release Forms

The Communications Team thanks the 160 189 people who have filled out our "Model Release" form. This explicit permission allows the Web developers to publish photographs of UUCSR events, including these folks' shining faces!

We are still accepting these release forms, which can be found at the bottom of <https://web.uusantarosa.org/?p=699>, and inserted in this newsletter. Download, Print, and Fill out, and Deliver to our Data Support box in the workroom on Sunday!

Volunteers Videographers Needed

Volunteers will use their creative gifts to capture many facets of UUCSR life including events, services, interesting people, the church facilities, and more!

Do you have an interest or talent in videography? Are you interested in learning more about it?

Consider serving with us! Patrick Gabriel or Eric Skagerberg.



Evening Book Group

Thursday, April 9th from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Evening Book Group meets on Thursday, April 9th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

April's selection:

The Swerve by Stephen Greenblatt

May's selection:

The Bone People by Keri Hulme

Visitors & newcomers are very welcome! Questions? Ask Linda Lampson.

Faith and Fitness

Saturday April 11

Return to Hood Mountain Park, Los Alamos Road entrance. By mid April, we should be able to cross Santa Rosa creek easily and be able to head up to the Azalea Creek picnic area and enjoy blooming wild azalea, plus lots of wild flowers. About 4 miles total. There are picnic tables, and primitive restrooms.

Dogs are allowed on the trail. Car pool strongly suggested due to narrow steep road to the parking area (fee or pass required).

We meet 9:30 at Safeway on 4th and Farmers near the Redwood Credit Union. We'll arrive at the trail head by 10:15. Back to Santa Rosa by mid-afternoon. Snacks and/or lunch, water and good walking shoes and clothing layers suggested. Questions? Planning to come? Contact Gretchen P. at 889-3007 or fitness@uusantarosa.org.

Wanted: Bridge Players

1st Thursday, 3rd Saturday and 4th Tuesday, 7 - 10 p.m.

Our bridge group is comprised of friendly people at varied skill levels but basic knowledge of the bidding system and some experience is needed.

You can play once, twice or all three times. Players take turns serving as host for the evening. The host telephones the players in advance to ascertain availability and provides light refreshments on the evening of play.

For info contact coordinator Marilyn Beckerbauer 542-1779.

Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of society; who have a vision of Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change.

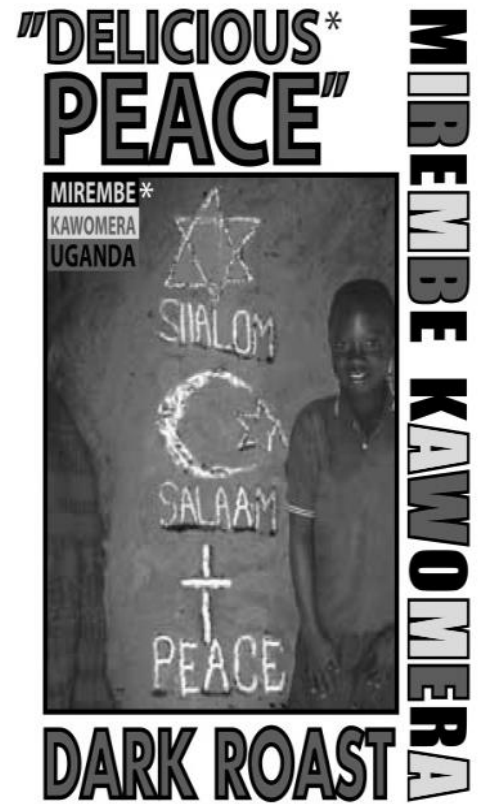
Music Notes

On March 1, the choir sang 2 pieces for a service at Spring Lake Village – “Ubi Caritas” and “Let Evening Come.” Our Choir Director, Sadie Sonntag, had arranged for us to do that. We all very much enjoyed both singing for the service and attending it, especially because they have a UU Minister who leads the interdenominational services. There are several of our UUCSR members who live there, and some of them did come to the service. Many other attendants were also very happy to hear us.

This month, our first services will be on Easter, April 5, and you will hear a lot of very special music. Claire Beery has scheduled several Guest Musicians to play for that service. Claire Beery (recorder), Joanna Young (recorder), Peggy Nance (harpsichord), and Cory Antipa (cello) are members of a Baroque Ensemble who will play a Trio Sonata by Johann Quantz. This group will also accompany the choir, who will sing “A Gentle Alleluia” by J.S. Bach. Cathy Read and Sadie Sonntag will sing a duet, “Laudamus te,” by Vivaldi.

There will also be special music for the last services on April 25, which will be led by Jan Ogren. Robin Rogers will do a song for the Prelude. Jan has scheduled a Guest Musician to play a Native American Flute for the Offering and Postlude. The choir will sing a Swahili Folk Song, “Dansi Na Kuimba,” and the Guest Musician, who is also a drummer, will be playing with us. Here is the translation of the lyrics: “Sun will come, day will bring the song of life to everything. Long time ago when the world was still young all was.”

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair



A4SJ is selling DELICIOUS PEACE in the social hall on Sunday mornings.

Music Lovers:

Healdsburg Chorus performs at the Glaser Center—Sunday, April 12th at 3 pm

The Healdsburg Chorus, under the direction of Jim Humphreys of Santa Rosa, and accompanied by Susan Nelson. This April, the Chorus performs “Songs from the Stage and Screen,” a collection of popular melodies reaching across the years, from Broadway to Hollywood, familiar to audiences of all ages!

Advance purchase tickets will be available March 1st for \$15/adult and \$10/child. Tickets can be purchased from chorus members, from Copperfield’s on the Healdsburg Plaza, from www.eventbrite.com; or at the door for \$20. For more info. please visit www.healdsburgchorus.com or call Margaret at 838-4557.

UUCSR Annual Auction November 7, 2015

Mark Your Calendars!

Too soon to buy Fireworks for July? Too soon to make Pies for Thanksgiving?
Not too soon to mark your calendar for the UUCSR Annual Auction!

Blessed are they indeed.

UUCSR Covenant For Ministry 2014 - 2015

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa, hereafter UUCSR, and the Rev. Christopher Bell, hereafter the Minister, jointly enter into this Covenant for Ministry, effective January 15, 2015.

This Covenant is subject to the laws of the State of California and the Mission, Vision, Covenant and Bylaws of UUCSR. It has been drawn up in the spirit of the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and in accordance with the Code of Professional Practice of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

The intention of this Covenant is to set forth the current responsibilities, authority and obligations of the Minister in relationship with the congregation. The terms of this Covenant may be changed at any time with the mutual consent of the Minister and the Board to reflect changes in policies, goals, and actual practice.

UUCSR looks to its Minister for a) spiritual leadership and initiative, b) assistance in setting and articulating its vision, c) professional and inspired performance of the many duties of ministry, and d) oversight of UUCSR's programs in collaboration with UUCSR's Board of Trustees, staff, and committees.

The minister's role in the life of a congregation is primarily that of spiritual leader. As such, the minister is expected to nurture an intentional spiritual life for himself. The congregation should respect the minister's need for daily devotion and prayer and/or reflection and periods of study. To the extent the minister is well-grounded in his faith and religious life, he will more effectively lead others.

The Minister and UUCSR share responsibility for the leadership and ministry of UUCSR. We recognize that the relationship between UUCSR and the Minister must be grounded in open communication, mutual trust and respect, good faith, and open and fair process.

Although the Board of Trustees is responsible for the establishment of goals and policies on behalf of UUCSR, it strives to establish these goals and policies in a partnership with the Minister. A respectful and harmonious relationship between the Board and the Minister is essential to the well being of the congregation.

The Minister will attend and participate in the meetings of the Board, of which he is an ex-officio non-voting member. He will have a regular place on the agenda for reporting on ministerial activities, thoughts and concerns, and will submit a written monthly report to the Board.

The Minister and the Board will share the responsibilities for administration. Therefore, the Board and the Minister will organize and delegate these responsibilities in accordance with UUCSR's Bylaws, and the skills and interests of the Minister and Board members.

The Minister will supervise the Administrator, the Choir Director and the Pianist, according to the guidelines of the Human Resources Committee.

The Minister will supervise, and collaborate with, the Director of Religious Education in fostering the growth and quality of the religious education program for children and youth.

The Minister will attend all Congregational meetings, and will submit an annual written report to the Congregation.

The Minister will be a member of the Committee on Shared Ministry.

The Minister may participate at any time as an ex-officio, non-voting member of all committees and task forces created by the Board. The Minister will determine the proper level of involvement in such groups to insure that programs are consistent with UUCSR's mission and goals.

The Minister will preside at the Sunday Services, taking one Sunday off per month unless on vacation or study leave. Planning for these services shall be done in coordination with the Worship Associates. On some Sundays, the minister may elect to exchange pulpits with another UU minister. The Minister will strive to honor UUCSR's desire for a diversity of worship service programming.

The Minister shall have complete freedom of the pulpit. The Minister is expected to freely express his/her values, views, and commitments. The Minister may join any organization, advocate any cause, and participate in any activity as an individual subject to the strictures of the Code of Professional Practice of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. The

[Covenant for Ministry, cont. from p 13]

Minister may speak for the congregation as a whole when authorized to do so by UUCSR, or when such statements are in accord with past decisions and current commitments of the congregation.

The Minister will serve members in their needs for pastoral care, including crisis intervention and visitation of the homebound, sick, dying, and bereaved, both directly and in conjunction with UUCSR's own Caring Connections program. The Minister will maintain awareness of his/her own limitations, and will refer members for professional counseling and other specialized services as appropriate.

The Minister will provide ceremonial services, rites of passage and counsel to members of UUCSR without fee or honorarium. When such services are provided to non-members, such fee or honorarium may be set by and is the property of the Minister.

The Minister will lead Scripture Study, and, if time allows, other adult education classes in collaboration with the Adult Religious Education Committee.

The Minister will co-lead the Youth Group.

The Minister will participate in orientation sessions with new or prospective members as able, and meet with them individually as part of the Path to Membership.

The Minister will contribute regularly to the Newsletter.

The Minister will participate actively with UUCSR during all major fund-raising activities.

The Minister will serve on the Pacific Central District Board and the Appointments Committee of the Board of Trustees of the UUA.

The Minister is encouraged to act in the community beyond UUCSR on behalf of liberal religious values, particularly with the North Bay Organizing Project.

The Minister will maintain regular office hours, flexible enough to meet the needs of the congregation.

The Minister will maintain one entire day per week, including the evening, free of all congregational responsibilities (usually Friday) and one additional day devoted to study and writing (usually Wednesday) wherein the Minister will be available only for emergencies. We recognize and encourage the Minister to set aside a sufficient number of hours for personal needs and self-care. The Committee on Ministry is particularly charged with ensuring this.

The Minister is encouraged to attend General Assembly, District Assembly, UUMA Chapter meetings, and other professional gatherings, continuing education events, support groups and study groups as necessary to strengthen and support his Ministry.

Specific Ministerial Covenant Goals for 2014 – 2015

Support the "Next Decade" Visioning Process.

Support the "Making the Annual Pledge Drive Obsolete" Process.

Explore ways to encourage more people to attend the 9:15 service.

Support bringing the D.R.E. position up to full-time.

Secure an intern for the following two years.

Begin work on my Open Source theology project.

Write out more of my sermons, and get those writings posted.

Explore and expand the possibilities of multi-media in worship.

Actually write those monthly reports.

Promote the eventual (but not too eventual) hiring of additional ministerial staff at UUCSR.

Attend the UUMA Continuing Education Institute, with an emphasis on staff supervision and management.

Address and try to resolve the YRUU/PCD and MUUGS/PCD crises.

Share more in the making of music in services whenever possible.

Realize supreme, complete, perfect enlightenment – at least a little.

And to our Newest Members ...

Anne Bandy	Linda Lambert	Kirstie May	John O'Hare
Paul Brockman	Morgan Lambert	Emily McDonald	Lola Ruzzo
Amy Chestnut	Drew Lichtenberger	Linda Noel	Sharon Smith
Ali David	Mark Lichtenberger	Ellen O'Hare	Wayne Smith

... We Bid You Welcome

We bid you welcome, who come with weary spirit seeking rest.

Who come with troubles that are too much with you, Who come hurt and afraid.

We bid you welcome, who come with hope in your heart.

Who come with anticipation in your step. Who come proud and joyous.

We bid you welcome, who are seekers of a new faith.

Who come to probe and explore. Who come to learn.

We bid you welcome, who enter this hall as a homecoming,

Who have found here room for your spirit. Who find in this people a family.

Whoever you are, whatever you are,

Wherever you are on your journey,

We bid you welcome.

“We Bid You Welcome” by UU Rev. Richard S. Gilbert. (Reading 442, *Singing The Living Tradition*.)

Where are other UU's? Here are a smattering of local, regional, and global UU Organizations

Unitarian Universalist
Justice Ministry of CA
Sacramento, CA
<https://uujmca.org>

Pacific Central District of the
Unitarian Universalist Association
Oakland, CA
www.pcd-uaa.org

Unitarian Universalists
of the Bay Area
www.uuba.org

UUs of Petaluma
Petaluma CA
uupetaluma.org

Napa Valley UUs
Napa CA
nvuu.org

UU Congregation of Marin
San Rafael CA
uumarin.org

UU Church of Berkeley
Kensington CA
uucb.org

Berkeley Fellowship of UUs
Berkeley CA
bfuu.org

First Unitarian Church of Oakland
Oakland CA
uuoakland.org

First UU Society of San Francisco
San Francisco CA
uusf.org

Mt. Diablo UU Church
Walnut Creek CA
mduuc.org

Live Oak UU Fellowship
Alameda CA
uuliveoak.org

UU Church of Davis
Davis CA
uudavis.org

Starr King UU Church
Hayward CA
starrking.org

Unitarian Universalist Association
Boston, MA
www.uua.org

International Council
of Unitarians and Universalists
<http://www.icuu.net/>



“Blessed Are Those” along bottom of prior pages by UU Rev. John Buehrens. (Reading 728, *Singing The Living Tradition*.)



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Vice President Susan Bartholome, *Vice President@uusantarosa.org*

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Pam Tennant

Joe Como

Marge Wright

Alan Proulx

Linda Stabler

Recording Secretary Terry Graham

Order-of-Service Announcements:

Send submissions to Announcements@uusantarosa.org

Editor: Janis Brewster

Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

UU Update Newsletter:

Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

Editor: Susan Williamson

Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday. Please place hard copy submissions in Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

Newsletter by E-mail is available! To sign up, send your name & e-mail address to Administrator@uusantarosa.org

Minister Reverend Chris Bell, minister@uusantarosa.org

Staff

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Administrator Janis Brewster, *Administrator@uusantarosa.org, Ext. 106*

Choir Director Sadie Sonntag, *Choir@uusantarosa.org*

Pianist Richard Riccardi

Glaser Center Business, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org

Sunday Religious Education Staff

Deborah Mason, Director

Shawna Hoxsie

Fiona Mackenzie