



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

AUGUST 2015 • Volume 59 • Issue 8

**Summer Service Schedule June 14—Sept. 6
ONE-SERVICE SUNDAYS at 10:00 am**

AUGUST 2015 SERVICES

August 2
10:00 am

BRING IN THE HARVEST

Service Leaders: *Satya Tabachnick, Starr King Seminarian; Sharon McCarty, John Ray* **Music by:** *UU Suspects* **Basket shared with:** *Redwood Empire Food Bank*

How do we reconcile the abundance of some with extreme scarcity faced by many? How do we deal with spiritual drought and abundant harvest? The feast of Lammas, a pagan harvest holiday, prompts consideration of this abundance and scarcity in our lives and world.

We invite those with surplus summer produce to cover our table with bounty. We will share our bounty with families at the Family Support Center.

August 16
10:00 am

CALL TO BELOVED COMMUNITY

Service Leaders: *Evan Junker, E.D. of UU Justice Ministry of Cal. (preaching), Roger Corman, Robert Howseman* **Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects* **Basket Shared with:** *Friends Outside*

What is the difference between politics and social justice? Why do we engage in social justice work as UUs? Social Justice is part of our heritage and calling. We explore our history and grounding in this, and learn about efforts UUs engage in as part of our desire to build Beloved Community.

August 30
10:00 am
THE SUFI PATH

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Fischer, Ben Ford* **Music by:** *Jenny Harriman, Pat Russell, The UUsual Suspects* **Basket shared with:** *North Bay Jobs With Justice*

The poetry of Rumi and Hafiz is as popular today as ever thanks to the collections of Coleman Barks, Daniel Ladinsky and others. For most, this is all the Sufism we know. Today we'll dig a little deeper into this old and beautiful tradition, and uncover how it might inform and shape our lives for today.

August 9
10:00 am

THE SACRED PATTERN OF THE LABYRINTH

Service Leaders: *Erin Howseman, Frances Corman, Robert Howseman* **Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects* **Basket Shared with:** *Rebuild The Churches Fund*

In 1991, Lauren Atress, Canon Pastor of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, went on a pilgrimage to Chartres Cathedral in France to experience the medieval labyrinth inlaid in its stone floor early in the 13th century. That began a renaissance of labyrinth creation and use throughout the world. This Sunday, with reflections, music and poetry, we explore how the modern spiritual practice of the labyrinth can aid us in our searches for healing and transformation. Our canvass labyrinth will be on the chancel floor, and all will have the opportunity to walk. Wheel chairs & walkers welcome.

August 23
10:00 am

TRANSLATIONS OF CHEER

Service Leaders: *Jessica Clay, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Robin Rogers* **Music by:** *TBA* **Basket shared with:** *Saturday Breakfast*

Faith sometimes feels like the telephone game, conveying our own experience to another, it getting lost in translation. Stories of elders finding and translating their truth fills our history. Let's explore the past, and let it guide us on our spiritual journey.

Jessica Clay, in her 3rd year at Starr King school Seminary, is a Candidate for Fellowship with the UUA. She comes to the Ministry as a second career.

September 6
10:00 am
LABOR DAY

Service Leaders: *Millie Phillips, Andrew Hidas* **Music by:** *Ben Ford* **Basket shared with:** *The Living Room*
Plan to attend this special Labor Day service featuring our new Intern Minister, Millie Phillips!

Welcome to The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa



REV CHRIS BELL'S COLUMN

The sun, blasting down from the sky, makes shadows so sharp they could cut paper. The plants give me angry thirsty looks. The cat has turned into a gelatinous blob and is slowly oozing down the windowsill. It's a July afternoon on the second floor of a California house without air conditioning. In Boston on such a day

we would say, "It's a scorchaah." I love the bright light, warm air, and slower pace of summer in Sonoma County. I always feel this as the time to slow down, look around, reboot, and maybe even have a little more fun.

Hot or not, I am so grateful for this house I'm in. Most of you know I live in Yulupa CoHousing. It is an intentional form of community, more than your average condo association, with shared values and shared meals. I know my neighbors (including pillars Linda and Alan Proulx) better than I ever have in any living situation before. We've been through a lot together, and the respect and fondness we feel for one another is strong. After 8 years here (and 9 at UUCSR!), it finally and actually feels like home. Aaron is less certain about that; he feels like Yulupa brought him 21 aunts and uncles who nag and scowl, but that's natural at his age.

I feel especially grateful for my home this morning because the work the North Bay Organizing Project has been doing on the affordable housing crisis in our county and city. Every time we take on a new issue with NBOP I learn so much, and my heart is further opened to those who are suffering because of unfairness or inequality or injustice. The Press Democrat featured several stories about folks who got evicted or are facing huge rent increases. I believe most landlords are decent people who try to do right, and not every tenant is a keeper, but we need to try to keep Santa Rosa a place where everyone who calls it home is able to stay. A minimum requirement of "home" seems to be not fearing you are going to be thrown out for the sake of profit. Such is the modern world, I suppose.

I want for everybody what most of us already enjoy: stability to base the necessities of life upon, a grounding point, a moderately predictable and controllable environment with as much love within as can be generated. A place that's good for you, and grows you and trains you, and where you and your stuff are safe, and where you are welcome back and forgiven even if you screwed up a bit. That's what I try to give Aaron here in the hot box. So I

hope it is with your home, if you are fortunate enough to have one. So I hope it is, too, with our congregational home. I more than hope, actually; I work for it, and I see how much you work for it, too.

August is still summer, but the lay leaders, staff and volunteers of the congregation (I hope you are in that number!) are putting in an astonishing amount of time and energy to prepare us for the start of the new "church year," as I short-hand the period of September – June when we go back to two services and a full host of programs. Some things I hope you pay attention to as the summer unfolds:

Firstly, the greatest challenge that we face in our Religious Education programming is teacher recruitment. The average person's reluctant - the kids have (and take) tons of energy, teaching them requires some real work and reflection. But this isn't a congregation of average people, so that excuse isn't going to fly. If you have served in leadership roles on the Board, the Committee on Shared Ministry, as a Worship Associate, pastoral care provider, hospitality team member, TIE facilitator, or other committee, you are now invited to engage with the greatest and most joyful leadership responsibility of the congregation: the faith formation of our children.

Deborah makes it easy, the commitment's short-term, and you will meet amazing kids and parents. Parents – we need you, too. Sign up for a round of teaching today. Please.

A whole team of new talent joined the Together in Exploration (TIE) Steering Committee and the program for this year looks better than ever. We will integrate monthly worship themes into TIE group topics to provide additional opportunities for reflection and conversation on the issues and possibilities raised on Sundays. We will have additional groups, at more times. I hope everyone will consider participating.

Keep your eyes peeled for more activities promoting diversity and equality in light of our recent, wonderful, congregational meeting deciding to display the Black Lives Matter banner, and our recent LGBT service. Deep bows to those of you who so bravely stood for justice on that Sunday morning. I truly thank you.

REMEMBER! If you find yourself sitting on the shore of a body of water over the next month (which is so good for you) **remember to gather water for our Ingathering Services on September 13**, when we partake of the **Water Communion** together again.

Last, but by no means least, in August **we welcome our new intern minister Millie Phillips** to our

[continued on next page]

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

Greetings from Our Board President...

Happy August!

As usual, the summer is flying by and I still find myself thinking that I should be going down to the park to play or running through the sprinklers. Ah, well.

Your Board of Trustees got off to a running start in July with the call for the Special Congregational Meeting on July 12.

In adherence to our by-laws, a congregational vote was required to decide if UUCSR would display a "Black Lives Matter" banner in our front window, thus making it a public statement.

I was so impressed with and proud of this congregation. We put our democratic tradition to work and came to a respectful resolution of what appeared to be a potentially "hot topic". We proved that our UUCSR congregational covenant is not just so many words on paper!

We hope that the use of paper ballots allowed members to more freely vote their beliefs on the Black Lives Matter banner. Yes, we will be examining our paper ballot process with the intent of improving efficiency while maintaining its integrity. As well, the Board will take another look at the protocol involving the display of expressions of UUCSR values to the public, e.g., banners in the front window.

The congregation's decision to display the Black Lives Matter banner in our front window is an expression for me of who we are and what we support, not who we are against. UUCSR is in unity with the long standing and continuing struggle for racial equality.

Peace and Love,

Susan Bartholome

President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

WANTED: RECORDING SECRETARY

Must be a UUCSR Member, Enjoy being Privy to Machinations of the Board, be Reliable and Available 3rd Thursday evenings, Able to focus on Proceedings without Participating in them
Able to Jump Tall Buildings in a Single Bound

COMPENSATION:

Gratitude and Appreciation of the BOT
Bragging Rights to Say "The Board can't do without me!"

Contact Sheriff Reverend Chris Bell or Marshall Susan Bartholome to Report for Duty
minister@uusantarosa.org

[Rev Chris Bell's Column, *continued from previous page*]

congregational home! Her letter of introduction is found inside the back page of this issue. Please read to learn more about her. Millie will be worshipping and serving with us from August 30th onward. The Intern Committee and I are very confident that everyone is going to like and appreciate her. I feel so grateful to be trusted, both individually and collectively, with the training of future ministers for our UU movement. Millie will provide additional ministry to the congregation, pastorally, prophetically and programmatically, but we must remember that our primary obligation is to help her blossom into the very best minister she can be, by

showing and teaching her what a healthy, growing congregation with trusted leadership looks like, and by supporting and encouraging her as she experiments and learns.

OK, dear ones, I'm off for vacation, including a long-awaited trip to North Carolina to see granddaughter Rose again. (So much for beating the heat!) I'll be home August 9th and I look forward to taking up our blessed work again in the fall. Enjoy these long dry days, and, please, just keep praying, "El Niño, El Niño, El Niño!"

Peace, Rev. Chris

Treasurer's Report

One very significant part of our financial activity does not show up in our budget – the amount we collect and give away to others. These amounts are accounted for as “restricted donations”. Amounts are donated, through “share the basket” or by individual donation and then paid to the intended recipient or used for the intended program outside of our budget or operating financial statements. We are now listing the recipients in the newsletter and order of service on an ongoing basis. Let’s shine a light on the high level of generosity practiced by our congregation this past fiscal year.

Rev. Chris has suggested that we strive toward the goal of tithing to the community - giving away the equivalent of 10% of our operating budget each year. This past January we took another step toward becoming more deliberate in the level of our financial generosity by committing to share the Sunday Basket every week rather than twice a month. As we move forward, we should also consider donating more of the proceeds of our fundraisers. One thing that is becoming clear is that the more we give, the more we have.

Generosity is a core value of this congregation. Many of us give generously of our time, talents and treasures in order to maintain, nurture and grow our congregation and to improve and sustain the community of which we are a part.

To the right is a list of the recipients of our financial generosity during the last fiscal year – the organizations and causes to which we donated a portion of our financial treasures.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Homeless Breakfast	18,536
Minister's Discretionary Fund	8,825
Women Together Scholarships	920
All Fellowship Retreat Scholarships	655
Men's Retreat Scholarships	2750
Adrienne Swenson Award	1,000
Memorial Garden	200
UUSC Nepal Relief	514
UUSC Guests at your Table	387
Alzheimers Respite	485
California Youth Outreach	516
Canine Companions	296
Ceres Project	385
Children's Village	442
Chrysalis	366
Comite Vida	326
Crossing the Jordan	419
Face to Face	485
Farmers Guild	413
Food For Thought	481
Habitat for Humanity	442
Jewish Free Clinic	444
Martin Luther King	533
Positive Images	446
Santa Rosa Community Health	484
SAY	687
Task Force for Homeless	760
The Living Room	1,920
UU Justice	540
Youth Group	2,700
<u>YWCA Safe House</u>	<u>403</u>
TOTAL	47,758

UUCSR 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.

UUCSR MISSION

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

Share the Basket - JUNE Report

Each week our practice is to split our offering basket contributions. Our social action committee, Advocates for Social Justice, selects a program to receive this special donation from our Congregation.

JUNE Recipients:

Comite Vida	\$325.90
Food for Thought	\$480.59
The Living Room	\$370.66
Saturday Breakfast	\$522.53

~Thank you for your very generous support~

A4SJ

ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (A4SJ)*Come find out what we do - we meet on 2nd Mondays 7—9 pm!*Next meeting AUG 10, at 7 pm in the Green Room2nd
Mondays
7—9 pm

Stop by our table Sundays to buy Delicious Peace Coffee

Grown by a co-op of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian farmers in Uganda - the decaf coffee is from Mexican co-op.

*You can also borrow social justice themed CD's.***Share the Collection**

Each week the Congregation shares our Sunday Offering with a local non-profit that serves our greater community in Sonoma County, including our Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors. The schedule of giving is arranged by A4SJ several months in advance, after receiving suggestions from members of the Congregation. Please leave your request for a future recipient on a form at the A4SJ table on Sundays. are a member of their Circle of Support) four times a year.

August 2 Redwood Empire Food Bank - The Redwood Empire Food Bank provides food to low income people throughout the county.

August 9 Rebuild The Churches Fund - This fund is to rebuild black churches which have burned since the massacre in Charleston. Many of them have been identified as arson fires. The fund is being managed and funds will be disbursed by Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in St. Louis.

August 16 Friends Outside - Friends Outside in Sonoma County provides services and programs for Sonoma County jail inmates and their family members in order to improve their circumstances and

strengthen their family relationships. Research has shown that this kind of support makes it less likely that offenders will commit new crimes after release.

August 23 Saturday Breakfast - This is our own Saturday Breakfast program for our needy neighbors.

August 30 North Bay Jobs With Justice - This organization campaigns for living wages and to protect worker's rights.

September 6 The Living Room - This is the only day center in Sonoma County specifically serving homeless and at-risk women and their children. We are a member of their circle of support.

HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC**August Hot Topic - "FRIENDS OUTSIDE"****Sunday, August 9, 11:45 am**

Our speaker **Kate Jenkins, M.A., Executive Director of Friends Outside In Sonoma County** tells us about this innovative non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of crime, violence and delinquency.

She tells us specifics of various programs at Friends Outside, how they work, and ways we can help with their good work.

FRIENDS OUTSIDE embraces an underlying belief that every human being has value and the potential to add value to his or her family and community. A portion of their mission reads: *"To reduce cycles of violence, crime and incarceration by empowering and assisting offenders to make choices for*

successful re-entry into their families' lives and the community..."

FRIENDS OUTSIDE provides services and programs for Sonoma County jail inmates and their family members in order to improve their circumstances and strengthen their family relationships. Research has shown that this kind of support makes it less likely that offenders will commit new crimes after release.

Since their founding in 1982 by Virginia Heck, the Sonoma County FRIENDS OUTSIDE organization has supported men and women, impacted by their or someone else's incarceration, to make choices for responsible living.

"No matter how much we may think we are, none of us is perfect. We all make mistakes and we all have to be willing to give each other a second chance." - Virginia Heck

FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT NEWS...

I sometimes suffer from the condition, "wishing to make a big difference." As I age, I have come to honor the many small ways in which I can make a difference. Being part of the Friday Family Fun Night project of the Advocates for Social Justice, at the Family Support Center, is one way that I hope I make a small difference, bringing an hour of fun to folks who are dealing with homelessness.

The Family Support Center, a program of Catholic Charities, is the only shelter for homeless families in Santa Rosa. From 6:15 to 7:30 each Friday evening a team of us show up to play. We each work one Friday evening a

month, with a list of substitutes for those weeks that life happens to change plans.

Playing bingo with kiddos and their parents, laughing together at silly stuff, loving their delight at the "prizes" that we offer, talking about life in general, just connecting, is a joy for me and, it seems, for the folks I get to play bingo with. Last time I was a new audience for a 14 year old magician. He had many card tricks up his sleeve and all enjoyed watching me be completely fooled by his trickery.

What fun to spend an hour playing with the children in their playroom. The conversations at the playdough table are fascinating as children tell about themselves and create

[continued on bottom of page 10]

Religious Education for Children & Youth

The end of summer and the beginning of a new year in R.E. is fast approaching! Most of the children and youth go back to school in mid-August. Lots of planning is taking place to make it an awesome year for kids and families in RE.

Religious Ed classes begin this year on August 30.

We don't go back to two services until September 13, but I wanted to keep the RE schedule as close to the academic schedule as I could. So, the first two weeks of classes, Aug 30 & Sept 6, are at 10:00 am. On Sept 13, RE will start again at 11:00 am continuing through the school year. There is an exception, however, just to make things more complicated!! *Middle School Youth will have a MUUGs Retreat the weekend of August 28, so their classes begin on Sept 6 at 10am.*

This year sees an added class! Teachers have found that the developmental needs and skills of Kindergarteners and second graders are different enough that we are restructuring the classes. Our Sunday morning classroom groups will be K-1; 2-3; 4-5 and 6-8. Senior High grades 9-12 will continue to meet on Thursdays at 4pm. All four classes will be learning

about peace and social justice through a program called *In Our Hands*. We have used these curricula in the past and the children learn a lot through a variety of activities and stories. The program is very meaningful and fun at the same time.

One more class means we need more teachers. If you have an interest in teaching in RE please contact me as soon as possible. Teacher training will be held on Sunday, August 23rd after the 10:00 service. If this date doesn't work I will be available to meet with new teachers individually for training.

Remember, you don't need teaching experience to be an RE teacher! What you need is a love of children and the desire to spend some quality time with them. If you're interested in sharing important values and life lessons, and you have the ability to connect with children, you will be well qualified. *See Insert in this newsletter for Teaching in RE FAQs.*

With the help of many hands we will make it a wonderful year of exploration, learning, connecting and having fun.

In faith, Deborah Mason

R.E. SUMMER PROGRAM

June 14—August 16

Grades K-5 AT 10:00 am

(Summer programming will continue through August 16)

This summer we keep it simple and fun. Sundays children grades K-5 begin in the worship service for a Story for All Ages, lead the Children's Affirmation, then go to the RE wing for a brief children's worship. Then it's time for games, art and song! Each week we have outdoor games and either a music session led by some of the congregation's great musicians, or an arts & crafts project led by fantastic artists in our midst.

Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers on Sunday mornings during summer at 10:00am, provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie.

Middle School Youth (MUUGs) is on hiatus for the summer from June 14 - August 16. However, there is a Pacific Central District Middle School Summer Camp July 6-11 in the Mendocino Woodlands! Details at the MUUGs website <http://www.pcdmuugs.org>, or from Deborah (see contact info below).

The Sr. High Youth Group also is on hiatus mid-June - August 16. However, there may be some youth group meetings over the summer for community service. Contact Deborah at 707-568-5381 or (debmasonuu@gmail.com) Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors.

- ♦ **R.E. Special Events for Youth & Kids!**
 - ♦ **Teaching in RE FAQs!**
- ~ see inserts ~

R.E. CLASSES FOR FALL QUARTER

August 30-Sept 6 at 10:00am

Sept 13-ongoing at 11:00 am

Grades K-1

Stories of Peace

What Does Peace Feel Like

by Vladimir Radunski

Grades 2-3

In Our Hands: A Peace & Justice Program

Session 1: Valuing the Group and the Individual

Grades 4-5

In Our Hands: A Peace & Justice Program

Session 1: Defining Peace

Grades 6-8

In Our Hands: A Peace & Justice Program

Session 1: Creating Covenant, Establishing a Culture of Consent, Group Building.

Adult Religious Education

CULTIVATING A PATH TO JOY IN YOUR LIFE

October 15—November 19
Thursdays 7:00—8:30 pm

Presented by experienced meditation teachers and counselors, this 6-week course intends to awaken joy through a curriculum of principles and practices designed to foster well-being, happiness & ease.

Themes such as mindfulness, gratitude and intention are explored in a format that includes lecture, small group discussion and short inspiring videos.

Purchase of a book required—*The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brene Brown - about \$8.50, as the class includes some homework. The fee for the series is \$150 (discounted scholarships available - see Rev. Chris).

Sign up at the ARE Sunday Table!

MAKING FRIENDS WITH DEATH

October 7 through November 11
Wednesdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Death is inevitable; all of us will die sooner or later. Our natural reaction to this fact is often denial, defiance or fear. How can we enter into a more open relationship with death? We will practice approaches both ancient and modern to deepen our relationship with death.

Facilitator Rev. Jacquie Robb, an interfaith minister, chaplain at Spring Lake Village, and meditator for over 30 years, accompanies those at the end of life and facilitates emotional support for those caring and grieving for them.

Enroll on Sunday at the Adult RE Table
or contact Kathy Norman

The Long Strange Trip Video Series

on the history of Unitarian Universalism is available to rent.
Take home and view at your leisure.
Contact Kathy Norman to arrange disc pick-up.

Drawing Wednesdays!

Open drawing group 1-3 in the Green Room

Judy Hutchinson facilitates a group from beginners to experienced artists. Bring your paper and pencils for some meaningful fun. Instructional books, masters' drawings, ideas and encouragement all available. Contact Judy for info.

Evening Book Group

(on vacation for July and August)

Meetings re-begin September 10th
2nd Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.

Please join us if any of the following selections are of interest to you. We welcome new members & visitors!

Selected books for the 2015-2016 year:

- September:** *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr
- October:** *River of Doubt*, by Candice Millard
- November:** *Euphoria*, by Lily King
- December:** *Finding Nourf*, by Zoe Ferraris
- January:** *The Age of Miracles*, by Kathleen Thompson Walker
- February:** *Water Ghosts*, by Shawna Yang Ryan
- March:** *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*, by Erik Larson
- April:** *A Guide for the Perplexed*, by Dara Horn
- May:** *The Care & Management of Lies*, by Jacqueline Winspear

LGBT Arts & Literature Course

**Eng 36: Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender
Arts & Literature, Section #2935**

The first-ever SRJC LGBT class starts this Fall 2015 semester! Support the class and learn, by taking this fascinating and informative journey on queer history & culture through literature, both pre- and post- stonewall.

Instructor Abby L. Bogomolny has planned many compelling readings and fun activities.

There will be texts from James Baldwin, Tennessee Williams, Sappho, Walt Whitman, Gloria Anzaldua, Audrey Lorde, Allen Ginsberg and more, as well as classic films like *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *She Was a Boy I Knew*, and *La Mission*. There will be a visit & reading with legendary poet Judy Grahn, and a visit to The GLBT History Museum in SF.

Class begins 8/17 and meets Mon. and Weds. from 11-12:30.
Open to members of the community—reg. with Santa Rosa Junior College. Email abogomolny@santarosa.edu for info.
Link to class at <http://online.santarosa.edu/section/?20691>.

GO P-TEAM!

Current P-Team members: Linda Balabanian, Joe McCarty, Bill Haigwood, Natalie Brundred, Alan Bell and Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman, chair, and Claire Beery, committee secretary.

UUCSR's new Philanthropy Team had its inaugural planning session!

This team was formed after the congregation's most recent (and last) pledge drive, to focus on encouraging year-round financial generosity so we can deepen our mission and grow our congregation.

Thanks to the success of our last pledge drive, UUCSR has been able to expand its religious education offerings to serve the families of a growing membership. We are growing as a congregation – in love, in service to the community, and in numbers. During the past decade, the congregation has added over a 100 new members! There are so many exciting possibilities ahead.

P-Team members are brainstorming creative ways to serve. We are preparing an annual calendar of activities, notifications, and development opportunities that will help UUCSR continue to thrive as a dynamic, liberal religious community in Sonoma County.

Want more information about the P-Team? Contact Erin Howseman or talk with one of the team's members. **We want your ideas!**

Bill Haigwood

The P-Team currently meets bi-monthly.

NBOP (NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT)

Partners for Social Justice

UUCSR participation in NBOP is an opportunity to amplify the UU Social Justice agenda by partnering with other congregations and community groups. We have successfully influenced, or are successfully influencing, local government in the areas of immigrant justice, living wage, public transportation, public education, rent stabilization and affordable housing.

Come to a meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m at UUCSR and join ongoing conversations and actions!

NBOP's next meeting: Tuesday, August 3 at 2:00 pm

HSAG (Homeless Services Action Group)

We in HSAG are discussing ways we can help homeless people in Sonoma County, such as by organizing churches to:

- 1) serve hot meals to the homeless at the Sam Jones Shelter
- 2) encourage participation in **SHARE**, Sonoma County's Home Sharing Program, a service that connects seniors for shared housing.

HSAG's next meeting: Sunday, August 16 at 11:45 am

Why An Aesthetics Committee?

John Dumbrell's lovely paintings now beautify our foyer and fellowship halls because of the labors of the artist and the Aesthetics Committee!*

The Aesthetics Committee was formed shortly after we moved into 547 Mendocino Avenue. Several people then donated items to enhance the new building, but unfortunately some did not fit either the space or the spirit. To make the decisions about what would best enhance the large areas, the Aesthetics Committee was formed.

Over the years this Committee has given advice on repainting the chancel, painting pillars in the Board Room, and with Marge Ottman, creating an entry table in the Sanctuary. They changed the back room into a library, shelves donated by member Ann Chambers. They commissioned banners on the side walls of the sanctuary, financed as a memorial to Marjorie Ogren, and caused to be created the memorial tree on the back wall of the sanctuary.

We have been revitalized with several new members, and are excited about the future!

Joan Thatcher

**The current show was curated by the Aesthetics Committee co-chairs, Shirley Williams & Elizabeth Marrs, and members Laura Jean Hageman and Louise Ostlund; and hung by John Jaffray, Jim Wolfe, Joe McCarty and Richard Fung—thank you!*

UUCSR Board of Trustees

Approved JULY Minutes

Available Now in the Congregational Office or online at usantarosa.org

Saturday Breakfast needs funds and volunteers!

- ◆ Feeds 200 people each Saturday morning, especially in the colder months
- ◆ Food donations cover only a portion of the food costs.
- ◆ Grocery and dry goods costs range from \$800 to \$1100 a month
- ◆ Substitute volunteers (cooks, servers, shoppers) are needed in August and September
- ◆ Monthly Share-the-Basket provides only some of the funding
- ◆ Majority of the funding comes from individual donors

[Donate Now](#)

Please make an ear-marked donation of any amount

Write a check to *UUCSR* with *Saturday Breakfast* in the memo line.

Contact John Ray to volunteer:

MAKE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY APPOINTMENT TODAY!

*** Shooting starts the FIRST WEEK in
SEPTEMBER ***



Tues 9/1- Fri 9/4 1:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday 9/5 9:00am to 5:00pm
Friday 9/ 25 1:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday 9/26 9:00am to 5:00pm

***Don't wait until all the
good spots are filled!***

There are 3 CONVIENIENT WAYS to sign-up:

Come to the sign-up table on Sunday morning,

Call AnnaLisa at 836-0758,

Look for the button on the home page of our website: <http://uusantarosa.org/>

WOMEN TOGETHER

End-Of-Summer Pot-Luck Lunch & Fun

Saturday, August 29th, noon—3 pm

Calling all UU women and their friends for our fun, relaxed End-of-Summer Garden Party at Linda Balabanian's lovely home. We kick off the new church year with a bang—learn what we've got planned! Your thoughts about activities always welcome!

Linda Balabanian

Please bring a lunch dish to share. Hope to see you there!

UUCSR Men's Retreat

October 9,10 & 11

Mark your calendars!

We will gather at Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker for a weekend of restful, fun, and inspiring male fellowship.

Questions ? *Contact Andy Levine .*

2015 UUCSR Annual Auction November 7

Plan now to join your friends at UUCSR's biggest fundraiser and biggest party of the year. We'll be giving our regards to Old Broadway as well as banqueting, bidding, and a little imbibing for those so inclined.

Everyone has something to give whether it be a talent, a treasure, or a gathering of some sort. If you value UUCSR as your spiritual home, help us to realize our modest, as well as our loftiest, goals by donating and bidding to the best of your ability.

The auction committee is busy planning - look for more information during the coming months! Soon we'll have an online donation form. **Contact Dee Ray**



THE T.I.E. THAT BINDS...

Groan at my little pun, but it's true. Together in Exploration, our small group ministry program, connects us in a special way, and allows us to actively engage in our Third and Fourth Principles: *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; and A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

UUCSR members and friends soon have the opportunity to explore what is true and meaningful and to share approaches to spiritual growth, by joining a small TIE group which meets twice monthly for 6-9 months. This year we draw on Sunday service topics, and delve into other intriguing themes. All TIE groups are led by trained facilitators who are UUCSR members.

Count on a respectful, friendly, and encouraging atmosphere. If you haven't tried TIE, or if it's been awhile, this is a great way to get to know other people (maybe new people) in the congregation and to feel a part of things.

Sign-Ups are during the last two Sundays in September! Groups start in October. Look for the table with the T.I.E. signs in the hallway outside the Sanctuary then, and watch for more information in the September newsletter.

UUCSR CIRCLE DINNERS RE-FORM FOR THE FALL!

Sign ups are August 23rd and 30th, September 6th and 13th!

What are CIRCLE DINNERS? Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a pot-luck meal. ** Meet new people! * Share good food! * Enjoy good conversation and opportunities to get to know folks better!*

How do Circle Dinners work? Members and Friends of UUCSR let the Circle Dinner organizers know they want to be on the list. We then take all the names and shuffle them into groups of 7 or 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a "Circle Dinner Group" for the 4 months of the Circle Dinner period. In the October Newsletter we will post the Fall Circle Dinner Lists. The groups then contact each other, decide on a date, time and place to gather and who will bring what. The rest takes care of itself!

- *Dinner service for 8? NO!**
- *Formal dining table with linens? NO!**
- *Enjoy meeting new folks, connect with old friends? YES!**
- *Love of conversation and a good meal? YES!**

Interested? We are taking sign ups in August and September. Details in the Social Hall and on a sign up table. We'll need your name & number to post on the list so that your Circle can connect! Participants already in the Circle Dinner program will continue unless they let us know otherwise.

Circle Dinner Organizers:
Lynn Reipenhoff and Kitty Wells

Meet The Minister

Once a month after the 11 A.M. Sunday Service, visitors and guests are invited to a brief informal meeting with 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 are not welcomed but encouraged!

(Contact office for August Date)

**Faith and Fitness
Strolling at the River
Saturday, August 8, 10:30 am
Steelhead Beach Park in Forestville**

Approx. 1 mile total loop through tall trees along the Russian River, special beaches and views. We can swim or just put our feet in the water, watch birds and relax by the water. To carpool from Santa Rosa, meet 10:00 am at 4th & Farmers Lane parking lot by Redwood Credit Union. Bring lunch, snacks, water, suits, and towels if you plan to swim.

Hope you'll join us! Sign-up to fitness@uusantarosa.org or contact Gretchen

Mid-week evening hike later in August? Ideas welcome, as always!

Bridge Players Wanted!

1st Thur, 3rd Sat, & 4th Tue, 7 - 10 p.m

Our bridge group has friendly people at varied skill levels. Basic knowledge of the bidding system and some experience is needed. You can play once, twice or all three times. Players take turns hosting. The host telephones players in advance to ascertain availability and provides light refreshments.

Contact Marilyn Beckerbauer for info.

[Family Fun Night News continued from page 5]

wonderful worlds out of playdough. I am always honored and touched to watch children get lost in the world of creative expression. Whatever art experience is offered becomes a medium for that expression. Dramatic play, games, blocks are available and an adult is always nearby to

participate and support.

If this sounds like your cup of tea we welcome you into our Friday Family Fun Night project. Contact, Jeanie Bates, or Becky Montgomery, for more information, or to arrange to come by and visit us in action.

In appreciation of all you do, *Jeanie Bates*

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

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

All submissions should have Topic and Month in email subject line. Articles 200-400 words. Ads and Announcements 20-70 words. Email newsletter@uusantarosa.org or call 707-568-5381, ext. 106, for more information.

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

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

And from our New Ministerial Intern...

Hi. I'm Millie Phillips, your new ministerial intern. I start toward the end of August and I really looking forward to working and worshipping with you.

My home congregation is the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco (FUUSSF), which I joined in 2002 along with my late husband. At FUUSSF, I sang in the choir, was a Small Group Ministry facilitator for 6 years, and served a term on the board. In 2011, I retired after 28 years working both blue-collar and white-collar jobs at PG&E to attend Starr King School for the Ministry. I received my M.Div. degree in May. A few years ago, I met my partner, Richard, a professional jazz musician, and we live together in Oakland. (Yes – I'll be commuting from Oakland, but that's OK with me!!!) I have two adult sons, one grandson, and another grandchild on the way.

My social justice background is mostly in organized labor. I credit union jobs for getting me on my feet economically as a young adult. For many years, I was an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1245, serving as shop steward, labor council delegate, and unit officer; I also served two terms as the president of the SF chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Economic justice is my passion, be it rebuilding the labor movement, working for affordable housing and living wages, or fighting for the quality (preferably free) education, childcare, and healthcare necessary for enjoying a modest, but decent standard of living. I am a new member of the California UU Justice Ministry's Economic Justice team. Feel free to change the subject if I go on and on about this in conversation with you! I'm training to be a minister, not a union organizer, and I do care about many other issues!

I hope to serve congregations in smaller cities or towns outside of the immediate Bay Area, so Santa Rosa is an ideal setting for performing my internship. As an intern, I am here to learn. I hope to gain more experience in pastoral care, religious education, liturgy development, and interfaith community work. Thank you so much for hiring me as your intern – I can't wait to meet all of you very soon!!!

- Millie Phillips

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.



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.*

Music Notes

Our new pianist Tyler Johnson, was asked to be Music Director for a cruise line July 23—September 6, and will be gone until September 13. We will miss him! Fortunately, we have several pianists who can fill in in a lovely manner: Roger Corman, Paul Gilger, Pat Russel, and myself.

Music that is scheduled for Sunday, August 2, is a piece written by our former Choir Director, Doug Bowes, "Grace," which will be sung by Susan Panttaja.

On Sunday, August 9, Robert Howseman will be playing a lot of music, starting with a Labyrinth song for the congregation to sing, which will be led by both Robert on guitar and Eric Skagerberg singing. Then Robert will play a Labyrinth song for the children. For Special Music, Eric will sing a piece by Don McLean, "Crossroads."

Here are some of the lyrics: "I've got nothing on my mind, nothing to remember, nothing to forget, and I've got nothing to regret, but I'm all tied up on the inside..."

He will be accompanied by Paul Gilger. There will be labyrinth walking during the Offertory and Meditation, while both Robert and Paul will play music. Robert and Paul will also be providing Special Music for Sunday, August 16.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

We are a Welcoming Congregation:

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



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

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<p>Minister Reverend Chris Bell, minister@uusantarosa.org, ext 108</p>		
<p>Staff Director Religious Education Deborah Mason, <i>DLRE@uusantarosa.org</i>, Ext. 131 Administrator Janis Brewster, <i>Administrator@uusantarosa.org</i>, Ext. 106 Choir Director Sadie Sonntag, <i>Choir@uusantarosa.org</i> Pianist Tyler Johnson Sexton: Peter Wilson, <i>Sexton@uusantarosa.org</i></p>	<p>Sunday Religious Education Staff Deborah Mason, Director Shawna Hoxsie Fiona Mackenzie</p>	

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