



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

JUNE 2015 • Volume 59 • Issue 6

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

## JUNE 2015 SERVICES

### THEME: EXEMPLARS & PIONEERS

**June 7**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: 9:15 am**

Our spiritual democratic principles manifested

**WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 am  
CAROLYN WOLFE**

**Service Leaders:** Calvin Simons, Jennifer Collins, Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Skagerberg **Music by:** *Some UUsual Suspects*  
**Basket shared with:** *The Living Room.*

On the same day as our congregational meeting, we honor one of our congregation's founders, Carolyn Wolfe. Her vision, financial contribution and political savvy helped establish the Unitarian Fellowship of Sonoma County in 1955. Only one of her many accomplishments, come hear about Carolyn's life and how she helped lead our congregation to where it is today.

**June 21**

**ROBIN WILLIAMS  
10:00 am**

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Fischer, Robin Rogers  
**Special Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects* **Basket shared with:** *Food for Thought*

This winning Service Auction service examines "the wound as the source of creativity." What can we learn from the life and death of Robin Williams? Why do so many artists carry such pain and sorrow and yet bring forth such beauty and laughter? How might creativity help us heal our own wounds and the wounds of those around us? And what of the choice to end one's own life?

***Summer schedule begins: one service only at 10:00am.***

**June 14**

**SOPHIA FAHS  
10:00 am**

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Simons, Sharon McCarty, Sadie Sonntag **Music by:** *The Choir*  
**Basket shared with:** *Comite VIDA (Formerly the Committee for Immigrant's Rights)*

Sophia Fahs was a progressive writer, teacher, theologian and ultimately minister who led "a revolution in Unitarian religious education." She departed from traditional methods of rote memorization and catechism, and expanded the content to include religious wisdom from all traditions. As her follower Rev. Barry Andrews notes, "Instead of telling children what they ought to believe, Fahs encouraged them to ponder for themselves the mysteries of the universe and human destiny."

***Summer schedule begins: one service only at 10:00am.***

**June 28**

**PETE SEEGER  
10:00 am**

**Service Leaders:** Rolland Carlson (preaching), Roger Corman, Claire Beery **Special Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects & you.* **Basket Given to:** *The Saturday Breakfast*

We will celebrate the legacy of the late folksinger, activist and songwriter, with a service filled with stories, music and group singing. The guest speaker, Rolland Carlson, is a Worship Associate at the UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada. Many of our congregation musicians will be playing and leading the singing — a special service you won't want to miss.

**July 5 A HISTORY LESSON  
10:00 am**

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Jay Atkinson (preaching), Andy Levine, Cathy Read, John Ray **Special Music by:** *The UUsual Suspects*  
Rev. Jay Atkinson is a preeminent scholar of UU History and a personal friend of Rev. Chris.

## Welcome to The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa



### STONES AND ROCKS

As we discovered in our recent service on proselytizing, there are very many ways to express the heart of Unitarian Universalism – perhaps as many ways as there are Unitarian Universalists! Our creedless tradition places a lot of trust in each of us to find our unique voice and expression

of this open, evolving, growing tradition. Some of us express the essence of UU through the Principles and Sources, others through our Mission and Covenant. Some might sing out our Seven Principles Song, and others lift up our affirmation that we are people of the “open mind, the loving hearts, and the helping hands.”

Here’s still another way, from James Luther Adams, one of the last great UU theologians and social ethicists. He called his distillation the “five smooth stones of liberal theology.” These five stones come from the biblical book of Samuel, wherein the future kind David is said to have slain the enemy giant Goliath with a sling, armed only with five smooth stones.

In Adams’ conception these stones are the weapons (“tools” might be a less martial option) liberal religion has for facing the giants that threaten human wellbeing and progress. And, friends, the giants before us are real: multinational corporations, global trade agreements, oil companies, PACs and SUPERPACs, mass media, an enormous military with stockpiles of weapons to last decades, the NSA, the threat of climate change. All of these behemoths stand in the way of building the beloved community we seek, where all humanity lives peacefully, sustainably, and prosperously in harmonious relationship with the Earth, each other and all life. We stand with no armor, and only five stones in hand, and yet Adams assures us that victory can be ours if we own these truths, abide in them, work for them and share them. They are (with my commentary):

Revelation is continuous, and new truth is constantly revealed and expanded upon. No theory is ever fully complete, or exempt from criticism. And yet, a “sustaining meaning is discernible in the here and now,” uncovered in our ethical living and our search for truth and meaning, and Adams names it God. He says “God (or that in which we have faith) is the inescapable, commanding reality that sustains and transforms all meaningful existence.”

All relations between persons ought ideally to rest on mutual, free consent and not coercion. There must be free

inquiry, open discussion, debate, negotiation and persuasion instead of violence and control. This is the essence of a covenantal faith such as ours.

Religious people have a moral obligation to establish a just and loving community. For Adams, Love “is not only a principle by which life may be guided; it is also a power that transforms life. It is a power we may trust to heal the wounds of life and to create the job of sharing and of community.” Of course, we can ignore this obligation because we have free will. And so many of us do...

Liberalism “denies the immaculate conception of virtue and affirms the necessity of social incarnation.” Virtue and good must be consciously given form and power within history. As UU writer Janelle Gray restates it, “Good things don’t just happen, people have to make them happen.” Goodness requires individual and institutional form. The creation of form requires power – of thought and organization. True faith tries to shape history. We cannot hide away in private spirituality.

The resources (divine and human) that are available for achievement of meaningful change justify an attitude of ultimate (but not necessarily immediate) optimism, although progress is not inherited: it must be continually re-won and remembered. In Adams’ theology-lingo: “The optative [referring to wish or choice] mood must be augmented by the penitential and the imperative. This is the message of all true prophets.” We have to own the reality of the past and embrace what is actually demanded from us right now, without sitting around and wishing things were different, or expecting God to do anything for us.

Rev. Nancy Bowen, who is the UUA’s Regional Lead in the Pacific Western Region, simplified Adams’ smooth stones as the “Five Jagged Rocks.” (I don’t know why they are jagged, exactly. Perhaps she was inspired by the Rocky Mountains she calls home.)

They are:  
 Truth continues to be revealed.  
 All souls are sacred and worthy.  
 Salvation is in this lifetime.  
 Courageous love will transform the world.  
 There is a unity that holds us all.

If you are looking to share the heart and hope of our faith, you can’t get much better than that. So, take these stones and rocks and put them in your pocket and see how they treat you, won’t you?

\* \* \* \* \*

Finally, I just want share my appreciation for our

*(continued next page, bottom left)*

*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

**I want to highlight our upcoming Congregational Meeting, June 7 at 9:15.** This meeting will be an opportunity to hear a summary of much of the work your board has accomplished this last very full year. I am sure you will want to hear our reports. We will be approving a budget at this meeting which I think will leave you smiling. The board is certainly smiling. Fresh in our memory is last year's process of needing to whittle away at items in order to get to black. We will report from your delegates to DA. Deborah Mason will report on RE. We will consider an Endowment Fund Distribution request, vote on a bylaw change, approve the slate of officers and steering committee of Advocates for Social Justice. As always we will appreciate folks who have gone above and beyond. It will be full and an opportunity for us to come together for joyful work.

### My Lasts

I am down to my "lasts" in my term as President of the Board of Trustees: The last newsletter article, the last Congregational Meeting, the last Board Meeting (June 18.) Time for some reflection.:

*We have to continue to learn. We have to be open. And we have to be ready to release our knowledge in order to come to a higher understanding of reality.* Thich Nhat Hanh

No kidding! Such is the story for me as I complete my 4 year term on the board. When I was first asked to consider becoming a member of the board, I couldn't imagine that I could be useful since I have no business sense to speak of. Apparently that was not a surprise to the folks who invited me, as they assured me that I was being invited for what I did bring, not in spite of what I didn't bring to the table. It took me a number of months to even grasp the nature of the issues/tasks that

faced our board. Governance at this level was new to me. I had the most wonderfully kind teachers as fellow board members. Soon I felt comfortable being a learner. I have continued in that stance, a constant learner, through my move into the Vice President position and then, for the past 2 years, as President.

There is no question that I have learned much and can now write an agenda, create supporting material and lead a meeting with greater ease and confidence than when I began.

The richest learnings however, have been the relational learnings: individual relationships and the relationships among the groups that do the work of our remarkable congregation. I have now seen how the sausage is made and it is a beautiful process of shared intelligence, respect and truth telling. We are blessed with dedicated, thoughtful, generous, loving leaders. Differences of opinion abound and are valued. The end result is always richer for having been made up of the work of many minds.

I am so glad I said yes to the invitation to this dance. It has been challenging, difficult at times, just fun, joyful, full of love and growthful beyond words. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve on the board and offer my version of leadership to our endeavor. A special thanks to Chris and my fellow board members for their support and partnership. They made it safe to show up, do what I could, make mistakes and move on.

***In fellowship and with appreciation to all,  
Jeanie Bates, President, UUCSR Board of Trustees***

**Congregational  
Meeting  
June 7  
9:15 a.m.**

### ***(Stones and Rocks, continued from prior page)***

departing president Jeanie Bates. I have been blessed with remarkable presidents during my tenure here: Millie Tripp, Linda Proulx, Andrew Hidas and Laura Jean Hageman each brought their unique gifts and moved our congregation forward, and Jeanie was no exception to the rule. She held things together during my sabbatical, saw us through major Glaser Center changes, and built on Laura Jean's great work to take our institutional organization to the next level, and all with tenderness and a sense of humor. Please join me in thanking her, and all those who are leaving the Board. We are deeply in their debt.

Have a beautiful month of June - I'll see you around the Glaser Center!

*Peace – Rev. Chris Bell*

*Mark Your Calendars...*

**UUCSR Annual Auction**

*November 7, 2015*

## Treasurer's Report

### Budget Time at the Congregational Meeting

It's that time of year when we finalize the budget for the year to come. The Budget Task Force, led with distinction by Terry Graham (with major assistance from Kirsten Olney), has worked tirelessly for the past five months on the process and the congregation will vote on the final budget at the Congregational Meeting on June 7.

The preliminary budget was presented at the February Congregational Meeting and was based on our pledge drive goal of \$436,000. Although not all the pledges are in, it appears that we will achieve our goal! Hooray!! And thank you for your generosity! Much of the budgeting process is driven by the results of our pledge drive since pledges from our members and friends account for over 77% of our revenue.

*But wait a minute! We just completed our "Last Pledge Drive!"* So how will the budget be prepared in future years without a pledge drive??

Since we have moved to sustaining pledges we will have a pretty good idea of our pledge total in coming years. New members will join and make pledges during the year and some members will move away and no longer make their pledge. And some of us may experience changed financial conditions during the year and change our pledge accordingly. As we all strive to attain a pledge between 5% and 10% of our incomes and then maintain it over the coming years, total pledges may ac-

tually keep up with our pledge goals.

As Ellen Skagerberg suggested in these pages 3 months ago, "Let's take the time and energy of the old pledge drive and channel it into new ways of connecting with each other and fulfilling our future goals." Judging from the after-service potluck (yet to take place as I write this) and recent after-service small group discussion, it seems we are already well on our way to connecting through new avenues and that is a big step toward increasing our desire to invest in our community. I am proud to be a member of this congregation where we care for one another as part of our mission.

### eScrip Reminder

If you haven't already signed up for eScrip, please take a look at our website for detailed instructions. There are hundreds of on-line merchants that will share a percentage of the price of your purchases with UUCSR and there are several local merchants as well. Using eScrip provides funds for UUCSR at no additional cost to you.

Please visit <https://web.uusantarosa.org/giving/escrip/>!

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer



## Share the Basket - April Report

*Our weekly 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.*

### April Recipients:

California Youth Outreach	\$ 515.74
Chrysalis Counseling Services	\$ 365.73
Farmers Guild	\$ 412.83
Saturday Breakfast	\$2559.69

*~Thank you for your very generous support~*

## 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 welcomed and encouraged!

Next Meetings:                      **June 21**                      **July 19**

## 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 **June 10!** Stop by our table Sundays to buy Delicious Peace Coffee, grown by cooperatives of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish farmers in Uganda and Mexico (regular, decaf, whole beans or ground) or to borrow Social-Justice themed CDs.

### Share the Collection

*Each week we share our collection with one other organization, usually a local non-profit, as a way of supporting our greater community. These organizations are suggested by congregation members; Advocates for Social Justice looks over the suggestions and provides a giving schedule. At present we are emphasizing gifts to our own Saturday Breakfast each month, and to The Living Room, (we are a member of their Circle of Support) four times a year.*

**June 7 – The Living Room.** This is the only day care center in Sonoma County specifically serving homeless and at-risk women and their children. These families are welcomed into a warm, safe and comfortable environment during the day when overnight shelters are closed. Caring staff and volunteers offer a lifeline during a time of crisis. We value The Living Room and support it regularly.

**June 14 – Comite VIDA.** (formerly Committee for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County). This organization, suggested by Linda Harlow, has been established to create immigration reform through activism. Open to anyone interested in promoting immigration issues & social justice.

**June 21 – Food for Thought.** Suggested by Cassandra Lista, is dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of persons living with or affected by AIDS in Sonoma County. Food for Thought currently provides free weekly grocery bags of canned and boxed food, fresh produce, nutritional supplements, and whatever goodies are on hand, along with frozen meals, to more than 675 people including men, women and dependent children of parents with HIV/AIDS.

**June 28 – Saturday Breakfast.** You all know what a great breakfast we serve each Saturday morning and how many of our members volunteer to prepare and serve it! Buying the ingredients is another part of what we do. Your gift to our collection will help us to continue this important work.

### HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC

#### IMMIGRATION - WHERE DOES IT STAND?

JUNE 14, 12:45-1:15 in the Board Room

*A light lunch will be available for a donation*

Each week it seems there's a new tragedy or disaster demanding our attention so it's not hard to forget the big problem of last week or last month!

Sunday, June 14th, Rick Coshnear, a dedicated and effective immigration lawyer, will tell us what has become of the hundreds of unaccompanied children from Central America

who took the dangerous, long trip first to Mexico and then across our border last summer.

He will explain what DACA and DAPA are, catch us up on where comprehensive immigration reform stands in this new Congress, and tell us what's happening in our community and how we can help.

Questions are always welcome! We will meet in the Board Room from 11:45 to 1:15.

*Advocates for Social Justice/Linda Harlow*

### Support the North Bay Organizing Project's Good Works !

**; Apoya a Los Buenos Trabajos del Proyecto Organizativo del Norte del La Bahia, y Distfrútense al la vez !**

Community Church of Sebastopol, 1000 Gravenstein Hwy. North (Hwy. 116), Sebastopol

Individual Tickets: \$30 – \$70 (sliding scale) \$500 for a Table of 10

To Sponsor, or for more information, call Pablo Lopez: 707-494-8451



## Religious Education for Children and Youth

Two striking things happened in the last few days. First, as I was sitting in Sunday worship absorbed in quiet bliss, listening to the choir sing another amazing piece, and hearing Rev. Chris' message of hope and praise, I said to myself "I wish I could worship like this every day."

Then, two days later I heard a report on the nightly news that the number of people affiliating with Christian churches is declining and the number of "nones," Americans who are unaffiliated with a religion, has risen to 28%, and spans all generations. According to the findings of a Pew Research study the bulk of those "nones" (39 %) do not even self identify as atheists or agnostics, they reported having absolutely no interest in religion at all.

The "cup-half-full" part of me sees opportunity in the fact that 30% of "nones" report that religion is still somewhat important to them. The "cup-half-empty" part of me fears that we, the devoted UUs, are a dying breed.

Unitarian Universalism is not widely known as an alternative religious community. I would venture to predict that our good news that *'we need not think alike to love alike'* is not known by the most of that 30% of the 28%.

There are large numbers of people out there who don't know that there is a place of spiritual freedom where people are learning what it means to create beloved community, and to be as one even as we have many

differences on belief and outlook. So many don't know we exist.

I write this article prior to Rev. Chris' May 24<sup>th</sup> sermon on the topic of proselytizing, so by the time you read this you will have heard his view on the subject. Traditionally UUs abhor the very idea of "selling" our religion to others.

I see it differently—we have something unique and beautiful here which should be shared freely.

We offer parents a community within which they can raise their children, supported by a people who share their values. We offer a community of love to adolescents who navigate the difficulty of growing up in today's complex society. We walk our talk, emboldened by our principles, working for a more just and loving world.

If I talk about Unitarian Universalism and the listener is not interested, that's perfectly okay. (No "selling" involved.)

On the other hand I may be offering an opportunity to them that they otherwise would never have known about.

We are lucky at UUCSR because we've had consistent growth over the past 10 years. And there's always room for more. Tell your friends what you and your children have found here. Invite them to a service and to RE. See what happens, you may just change their lives.

*In faith, Deborah Mason*

### SUMMER MONTHLY HAPPENINGS IN RE

The Sr. High Youth Group will be on hiatus from mid June until August 16. However, there may be some meetings of the youth group over the summer for community service. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for more information. Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisers.

**DURING THE SUMMER Sunday Morning RE classes meet at 10:00 am.** 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.

**Childcare for babies, toddlers & preschoolers WILL be provided at the 10:00 AM SUMMER SERVICES,** by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie.

	<u>Grades K-2</u>	<u>Grades 3-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8 (MUUGs)</u>
6/7/15 (11:00 am)	Wisdom Stories taught by Janet Barrows and Carol Kramer	Theme tba taught by Deborah Mason	Church Year Wrap Up w/ Caroline Rogers and Danny Millsbaugh
6/14/15	Summer Program for Grades K-5 at 10:00am Summer Program goes from June 14 to August 16		Summer Hiatus for MUUGS June 14 to August 16  There is a Pacific Central District Middle School Summer Camp July 6-11 at the Mendocino Woodlands.  Camp Details are at the MUUGs website <a href="http://www.pcdmuugs.org">http://www.pcdmuugs.org</a> or from Deborah at (debmasonuu@gmail.com)
6/21/15	This summer we are keeping it simple and fun. Each Sunday children grades K-5 will begin in the worship service for a Story for All Ages, and after leading the Children's Affirmation, they will go to the RE wing for a brief children's worship.		
6/28/15	Then will be games, art and song. Each week we will offer organized outdoor games and either a music session led by some of the congregation's great musicians, or an arts & crafts project led by a couple of the fantastic artists in our midst.		

## Getting To Know RE

Sunday, June 14

11:30 to 12:45 (after the 10:00 worship service)

*Light refreshment will be served. Childcare will be available.*

*"Getting to Know RE" is designed for parents and non-parents of RE kids to learn more about the Religious Education program. People may hesitate to volunteer to teach in RE because they don't know what is expected.*

*"Getting to Know RE" takes you through a typical RE session and gives you lots of information about the RE program.*

*Considering volunteering or just want to know more about what we do with the kids every Sunday? Join the RE Committee for Getting To Know RE.*

**Change of  
Date & Time!**

## Multi-Generational Work Day

Saturday, June 6, 2014

9am—noon

*Please come help at the next congregational workday*

***and bring the kids!***

**Jobs for kids and adults of most ages**

including replenishing the play yard mulch cleaning & organizing toys in classrooms, gardening, odd jobs around the building.

***Pizza Served at Noon!***

We need your help— let's work together!  
*Childcare available for kids too young to work*

### ¿ UUA GA ?

*"General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).*

*Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates."*

[www.UUA.org](http://www.UUA.org)



### UUA GA 2015 here at UUCSR? an alternative to driving to Portland?!

#### **JUNE 25—28 GA Streams Live to Glaser Center**

Thanks to Live-Streaming, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is now available to all of us!

For 2-3 years, parts of GA have been live-streamed so that individuals could watch on our computers, and be part of what was happening. UUCSR now has a wonderful new projector in the sanctuary which has the capacity to stream from the internet and project on our back wall. Please consider joining us for highlights of GA 2015.

Now we can be involved together with friends and members from UUCSR, rather than sitting alone at home in front of our computers.

The proposed schedule of events for UUCSR / GA is:

- ◆ **Wednesday, June 24** Opening Celebration/Banner Parade 8:00 to 9:30 p.m;
- ◆ **Thursday, June 25** Service of the Living Tradition. Possibly including our own Bryan Plude 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Saturday, June 27** Ware Lecture: Dr. Cornell West 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Sunday, June 28** tba

We are still firming up this schedule, so please watch the Order of Service Announcements, focus and open lists, or our web site. Contact Mary Louise Jaffray.

## All-Congregation UU Summer Camp! ~ Aug 14-16, 2015 at the Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa

What has real mattresses, indoor plumbing (WOW!), a play structure and a foosball table? Why, Enchanted Hills in Napa! Finally, we've found a new home for our All UU Summer Camp! Mark your calendar because this year it's scheduled for August 14-16. Everyone, from the oldest person in our congregation to the newest born infant and everyone in between is welcome! Singles, families – EVERYONE! The food is good and the staff is fabulous! There will be workshops, a talent show, swimming, campfire songs, softball and so much more! You don't want to miss it!

We are offering two types of pricing for Enchanted Hills: Upper Camp, which has indoor plumbing, real mattresses and is very comfortable: Adults \$175; Teens, \$145; Students 6-11, \$100; Children 3-5, \$30; Toddlers \$0. Lower camp, which is very rustic – much more Gualala-like, might appeal to those who want a more outdoor-like experience or perhaps to save on cost: Adults \$135; Teen \$125; Student 6-11, \$80; Child 3-5, \$10; Toddler \$0. 50% scholarships are available.

**Sign-ups will start in July!** \*Please note last month's flyer showed last year's prices: **The new flyer shows correct prices.**

**A LIVING WAGE = a roof over your head and food inside!**

**Tue, June 9, 8:30am – 2:00pm** — The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will consider the proposed living wage ordinance at either 8:30 a.m. or 2 p.m. on June 9th. Come support a living wage in Sonoma County at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100A, Santa Rosa, CA.

Last Fall UUCSR voted to support the County Living Wage Ordinance. Advocates for Social Justice has a petition advocating the Living Wage Proposal for employees and contractors of Sonoma County Government that you can sign Sundays at their table, right next to the sanctuary.

*Implementations of similar proposals have been shown to boost the economy, and save on social programs.*

No one who works full time should live below the poverty line! Sonoma County Government should not pay poverty wages to its employees or the home health care workers who work under contract for us through our County Government. This is a health care issue—we need home health care workers, and they should be paid a wage that allows them to live in the county.

County Government is moving toward adopting a 15% reserve / rainy day fund. The state average is 10%. The thinking is that because 5% more must be set aside, there is no money for a living wage for county employees and contractors. Let's balance the amount of reserve with the County's responsibility to pay a living wage and stay with a 10% reserve, using the other 5% to finance the living wage!

Contact your County Supervisor. Urge her/him to vote for the Living Wage Ordinance when it comes to the Board before June 9th. For more info, go to <http://northbayjobswithjustice.org/>

**Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)**

COSM (Committee on Shared Ministry) is the group charged with overseeing the general health of the congregation, with supporting the minister in his various roles, and with providing conflict resolution when needed between members of the community.

For four years COSM chair Cathy Read has skillfully, gently, diplomatically led the committee. However, she now has served as a member of COSM for a total of six years, the maximum length allowed, so she is stepping down. As she leaves COSM, we thank her enthusiastically for her service, and wish her well in her next role at UUCSR, whatever that may be.

At the recent Congregational Meeting, Mary Lill Lee gave an excellent description of COSM's role:

*"When we provide conflict resolution, we strive to mediate concerns from a neutral position and help people come to a meeting of the minds. We are also available for any concern with or about the minister. Should anyone have an issue with Rev. Chris, there may be some concern that, as the support group for the minister, we may be biased in his direction.*

*Let me remind you that part of being a support group means holding his feet to the fire, nudging him back on the path if we feel he is drifting astray, and doing an annual evaluation of him and sharing it all with him, good, bad and otherwise. In short, we provide constructive criticism. We are there for both the minister and the Congregation. All of our dealings are held in the utmost confidence. We work quietly and discretely, and often with a good measure of success."*

Beautifully said! Current members of COSM are Alan Bell (not related to Rev. Chris), Judy Hutchinson, Mary Lill Lee, Bill Foshee, Bob Anderson and Lucia Milburn (chair) and Rev. Chris Bell.

*"Hungry people cannot be good at learning or producing anything, except perhaps violence." - Pearl Bailey*

**Saturday Breakfast needs funds!**

- ◆ Feeds 200-250 people each Saturday
- ◆ Food donations cover only a portion of the food costs.
- ◆ Grocery costs range from \$800 to \$1100 a month.
- ◆ Many Dedicated volunteers.
- ◆ Each month Share the Basket provides only some of the funding.
- ◆ Majority of the funding for the Saturday Breakfast comes from individual donations.

**Please make an ear-marked donation of any amount.**

Write a check to UUCSR with Saturday Breakfast in the memo line, or go online at [uusantarosa.org/giving/](http://uusantarosa.org/giving/)

**Know someone you think would want to donate to Saturday Breakfast?**

Pass the good word along!

**Know someone who is hungry?**

Tell them they are welcome.





# Adult Religious Education

## Looking Ahead

### CULTIVATING A PATH TO JOY IN YOUR LIFE

#### Times and Dates TBA

A six-week course intended to awaken joy through introducing a curriculum of principles and practices designed to foster well-being, happiness and ease. Every week themes such as mindfulness, gratitude and intention are explored in a format that includes lecture, small group discussion and short inspiring videos.

*More information to follow*

## On-Going

### *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.

## Winding Up

### ADULT SEXUALITY

**May 7-June 4 Thursdays, 7 pm**  
**Presented by Professor Bill Stayton, M.Div., ThD, PhD.**

Begun in May, this four-session holistic view of sexuality helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of adult sexuality.

The final class will be on Thursday, June 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The session will deal with how has religion, scriptures and deeply held beliefs influenced me regarding my sexuality and decisions?

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

*We will request a donation from those attending.*

## Cancelled

*We are Sorry to Announce that  
 The Write and Connect Group  
 has been cancelled.*

*Thanks to Patty Somlo and all the participants.*



### Automate your Pledge Payment!

Free yourself from check-writing!

Intimidated by the sign-up process?  
 Confidential volunteers available to help—call the UUCSR office.

## 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*

**Saturday June 6th 8pm**  
**AN EVENING OF HEALING MUSIC**  
*with Sheridan Gold and Friends*

**Special Fundraiser Concert for UUCSR in the Sanctuary**

*Sheridan Gold is an exceptionally talented musician. When she plays her flutes and drums it's magical, especially in a place with great acoustics like our sanctuary. If you heard her play on April 26 for the Sunday services you will know. A friend of Jan Ogren, she has graciously agreed to do a fundraiser for UUCSR on June 6th and has asked other performers to join her.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Invite your friends! Bring the family!**

Come for inspiration, for healing, for joy. A magical evening with Sheridan playing Native American flutes, Moyo drum and African drums, and Jan Ogren telling the story of "The First Medicine Circle" with Sheridan playing different instruments representing each animal!

*Plus other wonderful musicians, dancers and performers.*

A fundraiser for UUCSR, and a must-attend event. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Buy tickets before or after services or contact Jan Ogren. Contact Jan to help sell tickets. Also available through the Last Record Store and Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1434170>

***We need help selling tickets on Sundays, putting up flyers, and selling tickets to the larger community. Call Jan Ogren to get involved...***

**Gay Pride Parade in Guerneville**  
**Sunday June 7, 11– 12 pm**

*March in the Sonoma County Gay Pride Parade with UUCSR!*

We have a '79 VW convertible available for those who find the 8-blockwalk too strenuous. Float riders are encouraged to dress in regal attire (party crowns).

Walkers are encouraged to go Hawaiian.

*Details on where & when we will form up will be posted on both Open and Focus Lists.*

*Email me at [montyb@sonic.net](mailto:montyb@sonic.net) and I will send you updates.*

*Or call me ~ Becky Montgomery*

**7th Annual**

**UUCSR Men's Retreat**

**October 9,10 & 11**

Mark your calendars!

We will gather again at Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker.

*More information to follow. Questions? Contact Andy Levine.*

**UUCSR Board of Trustees:** *Approved April Minutes*  
Available Now in the Congregational Office  
or online at [uusantarosa.org](http://uusantarosa.org)

**Faith and Fitness**  
**Two June Events!**

**Saturday June 6:** Riverfront Regional Park. 9:30 am carpool from Santa Rosa at 4th & Farmers Lane, near Redwood Credit Union, or 10:00 am meeting at the park (day use fee/ pass required) Trail is a flat 2- mile loop with easy footing, and a view of the Russian River.

**Thursday June 18:** an easy evening walk at Spring Lake starting at the boat rental area at 5:30 pm with optional pizza following at Rizzo's at 6:45. Questions or sign up? Mail [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org) or call Richard's cell at 503-680-7707. We need to know you're coming for pizza by Mon. June 15 so we can make reservations.  
**Join us for annual potluck picnic July 11th!**

**Evening Book Group**

**Thursday, June 11th from 6:30 - 9 pm**  
547 Mendocino, in the RE Wing

The June meeting features a finger-food potluck, and members bring recommendations for books to be read in the coming year.

Note: the June meeting begins early at 6:30 to allow time to eat before the discussion.

**Drawing Wednesdays!**

**Every Wednesday an open drawing group 1-3 in the Green Room.**

All are welcome from beginners to experienced artists. We learn from each other and encourage each other. Bring your paper and pencils for some meaningful fun. Instructional books, Masters' drawings, ideas all available.  
Call Judy Hutchinson for info

**Wanted: Bridge Players**

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

Our bridge group has 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.

Contact Marilyn Beckerbauer for info.



## Music Notes

For the service on June 7, following the Congregational meeting, the UU-Usual Suspects will sing "This Land Is Your Land" by Woodie Guthrie.

Our summer service schedule begins on June 14, when we will change to only one service at 10 am. The choir sings that day a very beautiful piece by Brahms, "O SchöneNacht."

A translation of the lyrics: "O lovely night! In the sky, magically, the moon shines in all its splendor; around it, the pleasant company of little stars. The dew glistens brightly on the green stem; in the lilac bush, the nightingale sings lustily; the youth steals away quietly to his love. O lovely night!"

That will be the last time the choir will sing for this season. Fortunately, we have many excellent musicians who will continue to provide music for the summer, and then the choir will start singing again in September.

At the June 21 service, Robin Rogers will perform a piece called "Avalon."

On June 28, Claire Beery, the Music Associate for that service, is scheduling a group of musicians to do songs by Pete Seeger, including "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill" as a vocal solo, and several more to be sung also by the Congregation: "This Land is Your Land," "If I Had a Hammer," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and "We Shall Overcome."

*Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair*

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### **UUCSR Diversity Working Group** June 19, 4 pm at UUCSR

Our Diversity Working Group formed five years ago with the mission of educating ourselves and the congregation about how racism and classism impact our lives, and how to look for ways to be aware of how we treat others, and how that might change for the better.

At our next meeting, June 19, 4 PM at the UUCSR, we invite all people of color, white people, and those who feel colorless, to join us in brainstorming new directions for our group.

Do you know of films or workshops that you would love to see our congregation offer? Do you have concerns from your own experience at church, home, or workplace that you would like to discuss? Have you wondered how the Black Lives Matters movement affects our congregation and Sonoma County? Please bring yourself, your sense of identity, and your good will to this meeting, and join us in finding ways to act on our deepest values as UU's.

Interested, but can't meet at that time? Don't hesitate to call a group member, Carol Kraemer, Mary Louise Jaffray, Jan Prater, or Dorris Lee.

## **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.*




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### **We are a Welcoming Congregation:**

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

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

**Electronic submissions are due by 3rd Monday of month.** Send to [newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto: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 should have Topic and Month in email subject line.** Articles 200-600 words. Ads and Announcements 20-90 words. Email [newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto: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.

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5241

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

**Mailing Address: 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381**

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**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**UU Update Newsletter:** Send submissions to *newsletter@uusantarosa.org*

**Editor:** Susan Williamson **Proofreader:** Andrew Laird

**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.

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