



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

SEPTEMBER 2015 • Volume 59 • Issue 9

Sunday Services 9:15 am and 11:00 am

## SEPTEMBER 2015 SERVICES

Theme: **BELOVED COMMUNITY**

*RETURN to Regular Schedule,  
Two Services at 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM,  
on September 13*

### September 6

#### THE SPIRIT OF WORK

10:00 am

**Service Leaders:** Millie Phillips (preaching), Andrew Hidas, Eric Skagerberg **Special Music by** Eric Skagerberg and Robin Rogers **Basket shared with:** Living Room  
Work: We spend more time on it than any activity except sleeping. It's one of the first things we ask about when we meet someone. We may love it or hate it---or just wish we had it! At a time when the U.S. labor movement is in severe decline and so many people lack secure employment and living wages, can work still be a source of spiritual and political strength, as it was for many of our ancestors? UUCSR Ministerial Intern Millie Phillips explores these questions and more in observance of Labor Day.

### September 20

#### THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF CONVERSATION

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine, The T.I.E. Steering Committee **Special Music by:** Robin Rogers and some UUsual Suspects **Basket shared with:** Sonoma County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)  
Any number of jokes refer to Unitarian Universalist love of conversation. It is said that given the choice between going to heaven or going to a discussion group about heaven, the UU will always choose the latter. Hardy-har-har. Actually the right kind of discussion group, marked by safety, adaptability and deep listening can be quite heavenly. Our Together in Exploration (T.I.E.) groups represent a spiritual practice as potentially transformative as any other, and are a powerful tool for building community. We hope you will sign up for one after the service today!

### September 13

#### INGATHERING / WATER COMMUNION

ALL-AGES SERVICES at 9:15 and 11:00

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason, Scott Miller, David Kittlestrom **Music by:** The Choir **Basket shared with:** Becoming Independent

We will celebrate the beginning of the new school and congregational year, and reconstitute our UUCSR community after the summer with our annual Ingathering Services. We'll hear an original story from Fabelia and share in the Water Communion, so please bring a small container of water from your home, your summer travels or your special sacred spot, if you are able. NOTE: WE RETURN TO TWO SERVICES TODAY!

### September 27

#### READING THE QURAN

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Jen Collins **Special Music by:** The Choir **Basket Shared with:** Breakfast For Our Neighbors

A WINNING SERMON FROM THE SERVICE AUCTION. Two years ago a number of UUCSR members joined Rev. Chris in an extended reading of the Quran, the Holy Book of the Islamic Faith. The teachings of this strange and remarkable book created a global community of Muslims in less than a century, and continues to unite and inspire many millions of believers today. In the light of recent history and current events, Rev. Chris will share his reflections on what was found within its pages, and what we might learn about building faithful community from it.

### October 4

#### HOW TO CHANGE MINDS (yours and others!)

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Jen Collins **Special Music by:** Robin Rogers and some UUsual Suspects **Basket Shared with:** Worth Our Weight (WOW)

## Welcome to The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa!



### THE NEXT DECADE

By REV CHRIS BELL

This past June, after a year of surveys, house-meetings and deep thinking led by Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler and Marilyn Beckerbauer, with assistance from yours truly, the UUCSR Board unanimously affirmed a vision statement for our next decade as a congregation. The words (in italics below) do not replace our current

Vision for the congregation ("To live as fully as possible our Unitarian Universalist Principles, and to nurture a liberal religious community in Sonoma County"), but they do give more concrete shape to what living out that Vision might look like. These words will help to guide the decisions and directions of the ministers, the staff, the Board and our many lay leaders over the next ten years. I think of the Next Decade vision statement as a skeleton supporting a whole host of aspirations, a few of which I've fleshed out below.

#### **In 2025, the UU Congregation, Santa Rosa**

***Will actively and joyfully pursue our Mission.*** Maybe this one could have gone without saying, but I'm glad we said it! Celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another and helping to build a better world are the very essence of what we are trying to do here together in our worship, religious education, fellowship, direct service and our justice-making (or at least justice-seeking!) work of advocacy and community organization. As a general rule, I think that if a ministry or activity isn't described by one of the clauses in our Mission, we really shouldn't be bothering with it.

#### ***We will offer rich opportunities for spiritual growth, personal development, and increasing happiness.***

Personal growth was the most cited reason that people attend UUCSR. Therefore, this year we will see a major "re-launch" of our Together in Exploration (T.I.E.) groups and continuing to expand our Adult Religious Education offerings to better accommodate parents and working people. I am also shelving Scripture Study for the time being to offer more distinctly UU classes.

***We will deeply engage the monthly worship themes and sermon topics in small groups.*** It was a pleasant surprise to me how frequently this goal was proposed. So, to begin with, each month one of the T.I.E. group topics will directly relate to one of the worship themes or topics. We also hope leaders will begin step forward to facilitate discussion groups after the services. I am committed to better utilizing social media platforms for this goal, with

sermons/services to be posted online and space for comments and conversation about them.

***We will offer frequent and enjoyable opportunities for intergenerational connection and & community participation.*** Bringing younger and older people together more frequently was another top priority for you, as was reaching out to the homebound, offering more family-friendly social activities, and enjoying more neighborhood-based social gatherings. We will also continue to pour attention and resources into our Children's R.E. program.

***We will skillfully and eagerly welcome newcomers into a caring and hospitable covenanted fellowship.*** I take great pride already in how friendly you are to new folks, but we can always improve our embrace and integration of visitors, friends and new members. To truly achieve this goal, every member must consider themselves a part of the welcoming team. Phone calls, invitations to dinner or coffee, and handshakes/smiles on Sunday morning should flow from each and every one of us. Furthermore, we want to see our men's and women's groups and retreats grow, and become even more open.

***We will tithe 10% of our budget to outside charitable organizations and programs.*** This one was easy to affirm because we are already doing it! I am so personally proud of you for this achievement. There is no clearer demonstration of the generous heart beating within the Glaser Center.

***We will sustain a state of financial health and power from a 5-10% tithe from our membership.*** That same generous heart is going to keep this community strong and growing. Our new Philanthropy Team will guide us through a year-long effort to maintain our financial security, in contrast to the once-a-year push of past canvasses. A system of "sustaining pledges" along with periodic campaigns for specific goals should enable us to be creative, and continue to develop new ministries and forms of service internally, and externally to the wider community of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.

***We will adequately care for and expand our physical plant to accommodate our growth and change.*** In this area we heard calls to ensure adequate hours for the Sexton position, and calls to upgrade the kitchen, the social hall and the courtyard to improve the coffee hour experience. Several of these improvements are already underway. Look for new outdoor furniture and a shade in the Courtyard to help fight the sun and take more advantage of that space.

***As great as all these ideas are, none of them can become reality without committed leaders and volunteers.*** Each one depends on someone to take the

[continued on page 11]

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

**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.*

## Greetings from Our Board President...

As of this writing, the Board is looking forward to our Annual Retreat, and our first meeting of the fiscal/church year. I look forward to meeting and welcoming our new ministerial intern, Millie Phillips, who will be joining the Board at our retreat. Her first Sunday service is scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Every August Andy and I enjoy attending the UUCSR Summer Camp. This year the camp returned to Enchanted Hills, which is as lovely as it sounds. It was a great event as always, if a tad toasty temperature-wise. We kept cool at the pool and under the trees. What a perfect opportunity this was to get away for the weekend and mingle and play with other UUCSR congregants and their guests. I especially enjoyed meeting the kids and getting to know their parents. (By the way, the beds are

comfortable and the food is great!)

**Huge thanks and appreciation to the Summer Camp committee** who put so much of their time and energy into creating such a special time for us.

**Do mark your calendars for the Fall Congregational Meeting scheduled for October 4, 2015** after our one Sunday Service at 9:15 AM. Here is one last reminder for committee chairs and other group leaders to get your contributions to the Annual Report in to Janis before September 7<sup>th</sup>. This due date will allow Janis time to compile the reports for distribution at the Fall Congregational Meeting. Thank you for all you do!

*Blessings,*

**Susan Bartholome, Board of Trustees President**

# 2015 UUCSR Annual Auction November 7

*It's September and the Annual Auction is only two months away.  
Mark your calendar if you haven't!*

Do you know yet what you might want to donate?

Everyone has something to give-- an item, a service, a class, a meal, a party, or an outing.

Some suggestions to get you thinking:

**Items:** A special item you can no longer use, such as high quality arts, crafts, collectibles, or wearables that show little or no use? Bring it in! (But remember, this is not a rummage sale.)

**Services:** Special skills? Give a few hours of your time. Anything you can do that someone else would pay for is a good donation—detail someone's car, donate child care, frame a picture, clean a house, give computer support, financial counseling, a family portrait session.

**Classes:** What is your area of expertise? Give a class in dance, bread-making, felting, meditation, decorating Easter eggs, playing an instrument, gift-wrapping, drought-tolerant plants.

**Food and fellowship:** Anything from fine dining, ethnic feasts, or food and wine pairings to a traditional high tea, chili and beer, or pizza and a movie.

**Parties:** The possibilities are endless. Board games, charades, women's clothing swap, book swap, an Amazing Race, Children's Museum with other UU families, poker, beer tasting, Oscar Night party, Superbowl party, pottery...

**Outings:** Star-gazing at the Observatory, a bicycle ride followed by brunch, a guided tour of a favorite place.



*Donation forms will be available after services starting September 13 or in the office anytime.*

## Treasurer's Report

The books are closed on our 2014-2015 fiscal year!  
And it was a good one...

Remember a year ago? **We started last year with a budget that included some pretty difficult cuts in expenses from the previous year.** We had to accept that we may not be able to pay our full dues to the UUA and PCD. The Board had several tough meetings, trying to figure out how to balance our budget without negatively impacting our programs and priorities.

And now, here we are, after completing a fiscal year that started with much gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands, in a very positive position. We were able to pay our full dues to UUA and PCD and provide assistance to several members to attend General Assembly to boot. And we ended with cash left over with which we will be able to fund some of our most pressing priorities.

This month this column is more personal than factual. Next month I'll provide a full report of our 2014-2015 financial results.

**Having worked on the pledge drives and budgeting for a few years now, I note a real difference in mood taking hold in the past few months.** This congregation has always been forward-looking and optimistic, in my experience, with a strong drive to get things done. But on the financial side, it has felt as if we haven't paid as much attention in the past, as if money were a necessary evil that few wanted to talk about. It felt like an uphill battle, trudging through molasses to get to a point where we could fund at least some of our wish list. It feels like some of that is abating and I sense

*I am grateful to you all for your continued generosity and openness.*

more of an openness to discuss financial aspects. Maybe that's related in some ways to our growth.

Last year's budget process was a real low for me in my UUCSR financial experience and it resulted from a pledge drive that failed to reach its goals. I've had my share of failures in my life and that one was tough. But like most painful failures, it had some great lessons.

**I credit last year's painful process with giving me the incentive to look for another way.** The annual pledge drive is so ingrained in church life that I might not have questioned it had it not been for the

discouraging result of that pledge drive. Many people had worked very hard and still we had come up short. I wasn't sure I could go through that again. And then the little book, *Making the Annual Pledge Drive*

*Obsolete*, fell onto my path. It made sense to me, then also to Chris, and the Board and the Financial Stewardship Team.

**I would be lying if I told you that I am not a little nervous about how we will fare without an annual pledge drive** to remind everyone to make their pledge. But I am really excited by the plans of our Philanthropy Team whose year round activities will take the place of annual pledge drives. And I am grateful to all of you for your continued generosity and openness. I am optimistic that the change in mood that I am sensing and the improvement to our financial position is really the start to a greater prosperity for us that will enable us to move forward in pursuit of our mission and vision in more and more tangible ways within our inner and outer communities.

*Linda Balabanian, Treasurer*

### Remember E-Scrip, Oh Loyal E-Scrip Users, and Novice E-Scrip Newbies!

Bad News:

Safeway has discontinued its participation in E-Scrip, and Food Maxx has yet to sign-up...

Good News:

Fircrest Market, Glen Ellen Village Market, Molsberry Markets, Oliver's Markets, Petaluma Market, and Sonoma Market, continue theirs...

#### Share the Basket - JULY 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.*

**JULY Recipients:**

Catholic Charities Immigration Services	\$370.65	Veterans for Peace	\$315.14
Verity	\$424.39	Saturday Breakfast	\$537.55

*~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 SEP 8th, 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**

*The Congregation shares our Sunday Offering weekly with a local non-profit that serves our greater Sonoma County, including our Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors. The schedule of giving is arranged by A4SJ several months in advance, from suggestions by members of the Congregation. Please request a future-recipient form at the A4SJ table on Sundays.*

**September 6: The Living Room**—the only day center in Sonoma County specifically serving homeless and at-risk women and children. Their mission is to ease adversity, promote stability, dignity, and self-reliance for these women & children.

**September 13: Becoming Independent**- a 40 yr old community-based service organization to help people with disabilities live meaningful and productive lives in Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties. Their mission is to afford men and women the opportunity to be productive, engaged community members through individualized support plans.

**September 20: The Sonoma County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program**—committed to serving abused and neglected children coming before the Juvenile Court for protection and rehabilitation services. The purpose of the CASA program is to humanize the complex child-welfare

system for children who've suffered abuse by providing a trained volunteer to act as a consistent role model, advocate, and potential life connection. In Sonoma County there are currently 171 children served by 133 CASA's and 35 children who need an advocate assigned to them.

**September 27: Breakfast For Our Neighbors**— our own Saturday breakfast program to feed homeless and needy folks every Saturday in our Social Hall. We have many volunteers from our Congregation, and continue to rely on the generous financial support of the Congregation.

**October 4: Worth Our Weight (WOW)** offers apprenticeships to young people from 16 to 24 who have faced major challenges in their lives: foster care, difficulties with the law, homelessness, and significant family disruption. They provide tuition-free culinary and food service training.

**HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC HOT TOPIC****September Hot Topic - "CASA "****Sunday, September 13, 12:45 am in the Board Room**

**CASA is a National organization that came into existence in Sonoma County 19 years ago** when a Juvenile Judge determined some children needed additional support. When a judge determines a child's situation to be volatile enough (from abuse, neglect or abandonment), to remove the child from his or her home, many times the judge will use a CASA as an advocate when no one else in the family can act in this role.

**The CASA volunteer has three essential roles as an advocate:** To be the child's voice in Court, to complement the Juvenile Court/Child Welfare system by researching and assessing the circumstances of each case and reporting their recommendations and findings; to continue to support the child and the

progress of the case as it moves through the system.

Because of the growing number of cases filed in Juvenile Court and dwindling resources to adequately monitor the cases, judges find the CASA volunteers to be positive complements to providing the information necessary to make better informed decisions.

**The speaker will be Heidi Alvarez, who had been a CASA volunteer for 6 years and is now a member of the CASA staff.** She will talk about CASA's history, her background and role with CASA, what CASA's do and how to become a CASA. She will also be showing a program DVD with short interviews of CASA's and their youth. Please come learn more about this organization. There are currently 35 children waiting for a CASA to be assigned to them. *Sponsored by A4SJ*

**Social Justice Film Project!*****Coming to a Theater (Board Room) Near You...***

A4SJ is delighted to announce the launching of a new project this month. We will show films each month dealing with social justice issues.

There will be 2 showings of each film. The first will be on a Friday evening, the second will be the following Sunday after the second service. We hope this scheduling helps to make it possible for all to attend. Following each showing there will be a discussion period.

Our first social justice issue focus will be RACISM. We have chosen "Good Hair", a quite amazing documentary with Chris Rock, as our first film.

**"Good Hair" Screening Times**

Friday, September 18.

Film begins at 7 PM, doors open at 6:45 PM

Sunday, September 20, film begins at 12:45 PM

**Our theater will be the Board Room.***Stay tuned to the Focus List & the Order of Service!*

# Religious Education for Children & Youth

**Among the top reasons we are drawn to the Unitarian Universalist faith are openness of thought and spirit, the sense of community we create, and our commitment to social justice.**

These same ideals are at the center of religious education programming for children and youth. Parents bring children to RE not to have their children stamped with imperatives of dogma, but for exploration of what faith means, and for growth and learning in values that promote lives lived with dignity, respect and responsibility.

This an amazing gift we offer children but it doesn't implore parents to bring children to RE with as much consistency as if they were brought to Sunday school for their "salvation."

We don't offer salvation in the sense of the guarantee of eternal life in heaven. But we do offer our children hope and trust in the lasting love that surrounds them in this life on earth.

The message of RE is a beautiful antidote for the social pressures children face in the larger culture. The more secular definition of salvation is "deliverance from harm." When children and youth are taught how to live in peace, when they learn about the ways other have fought for justice, they learn how they can make a difference too. When children and youth are affirmed for the way they are, not what they look like, or whether they adhere to the current cause of cool, they are saved from the harm of

judgment and cynicism. They are opened up, and they are held in light.

It takes a strong sense of community for the depth of this teaching to be felt. It takes the establishment of trust in the community of the classroom. This can't happen when children only come occasionally.

We will be teaching peace and justice all year, at all class levels in R.E. We will be teaching the inner peace of meditation to everyone from our youngest kindergarteners to our oldest teens. Children and youth will learn peaceful conflict resolution. They will explore issues of justice through age appropriate lessons. They will do community service and service for the congregation.

This year is devoted to the fifth principle of Unitarian Universalism: the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. At all grade levels this will require listening, learning and participating.

I am asking parents to make a conscious decision to make UU RE a priority this year. To make a commitment to the children and to the RE program so that we can develop a true sense of community in our classrooms. I am asking that, unless something really important prevents it, you will bring your child to RE every Sunday. Many adults from the congregation have made the commitment to teach RE classes throughout the year. They are ready and eager to share a special time with your children every week.

In faith, Deborah

## What's Happening In RE Classes this Month

The Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah for more information. 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 children's affirmation. First Sunday of the month is Children's Chapel with all ages together. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays children meet in grade groups, as described below. Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie during both services.

	Grades K-1	Grades 2-3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-8 (MUUGs)
9/6/15 10:00am	<b>Wisdom Stories</b> <i>Peaceful Piggy</i> <i>Meditation</i> by Kerry Maclean	<b>In Our Hands</b> Valuing the Group and the Individual	<b>In Our Hands</b> Defining Peace	<b>In Our Hands</b> Building a Better World
9/13/15 11:00am	<b>Intergenerational</b>	<b>Worship Service.</b>	<b>No R.E. Classes today.</b>	<b>Kids K-8 worship with adults</b>
9/20/15 11:00am	<b>Wisdom Stories</b> <i>Those Shoes</i> by Maribeth Boelts	<b>In Our Hands</b> From Being Affirmed to Self-Affirmation	<b>In Our Hands</b> Defining Justice	<b>In Our Hands</b> Thinking Locally
9/27/15 11:00am	<b>Wisdom Stories</b> <i>Tacky the Penguin</i> by Helen Lester	<b>In Our Hands</b> Listening, Talking, Sharing	<b>In Our Hands</b> A Framework for Peace & Justice	<b>In Our Hands</b> The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

## 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 Brené 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

**CANCELLED**

*I am sad to announce that Reverend Jacquie Robb will not be able to present her Making Friends With Death Class.*

*The ARE Committee is looking into an alternate class dealing with the same subject and hope to be able to offer that soon.*

***Thank you for your patience and understanding.***

### *The Long Strange Trip Video Series*

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

## SPIRIT OF LIFE WORKSHOPS

PRESENTED BY REV. CHRIS

**Nine Tuesdays at 7:00 pm: Sept. 22 and 29; October 6, 13, 27; November 3, 17, 24; December 1.**

*Don't need to sign up .... just show up!*

*Spirit of Life* workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life." Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop.

Barbara Hamilton-Holway's *Spirit of Life* program seeks to be like the song from which it derives its name and bring meaning, beauty, inclusivity, and growth to Unitarian Universalist adults as they deepen their spiritual awareness and connections. The *Spirit of Life* program taps into one of the central functions of religion, eloquently described by minister Kendyl Gibbons: "... how we—each of us, in our uniquely constituted beings—recognize and understand and make sense of that unbidden, overwhelming awe at the wonder, magnificence, danger, demand, and delight of being alive."

Workshop 1: **Spirit of Life:** Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists

Workshop 2: **Sing in My Heart:** Celebrations and Rituals

Workshop 3: **The Stirrings of Compassion:** Caring for One Another

Workshop 4: **Blow in the Wind, Rise in the Sea:** Nature and Spirit

Workshop 5: **Move in the Hand:** Living our Spirituality in Our Day-to-Day Lives

Workshop 6: **Giving Life the Shape of Justice:** The Spirituality of Working for Change

Workshop 7: **Roots Hold Me Close:** Tradition, Teachers, and Spiritual Formation

Workshop 8: **Wings Set Me Free:** Hopes, Dreams, and Expanding Visions

Workshop 9: **Come To Us:** Closing and Continuing on

**Q:** Why did Jesus Christ turn out so good?    **A:** His parents treated him like he was a child of god.

### **The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting**

*An exploration group for parents who want to bring UU values and principles into everyday life at home  
September 8 — December 8, 2015 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6 – 8 pm*

**FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED**

*A simple supper will be served at 6pm and the class will begin at 6:30  
in the UUCSR Religious Education Wing*

**Cost: \$5.00 per adult for each supper. Kids eat free.**

**NO FAMILY TURNED AWAY**

*This group meets twice monthly to explore ways to bring Unitarian Universalism into family life.  
Sessions led by Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason, who draws from many sources,  
including the experience of group members, for discussion.*

*The class is open to members, friends, newcomers, and any parent who has an interest  
in exploring ways of teaching their values and beliefs to their children.*

**Advanced registration a Must  
Contact Deborah Mason**

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**Women Together presents**

### **Elder Tales**

**Saturday, September 26, 2-4 pm**

**Here's an opportunity to learn about the life, adventures, and accomplishments of Judy Meyer,** one of our quiet, unassuming elders! She will tell us her story on Saturday, September 26th from 2 to 4 pm.

Those of us who have attended these sessions before know what delightful, surprising, and interesting women we have among us! Please bring finger food to share.

**In the Youth Room at UUCSR**

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**CUUPS presents**

### **Full Moon Celebration**

**Friday the 25th of September, 7 pm—9pm**

**Covenant of UU Pagans and our guests meet to celebrate the full moon**

You are cordially invited to join us, as an observer or participant. You may bring a small offering for the altar - a stone - a flower - even write out a wish on a small piece of paper; we will gather in a circle; chant; close the circle; howl at the moon and drum until 9 pm.

**in UUCSR Sanctuary**

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## **Help make our community stronger!!**

Get your photo taken in September for the

### **UUCSR Picture Directory**

Having your picture taken is a gift to the congregation.

**We all feel more connected when we know each other's names and new people get to know us more easily.**



**WE NEED YOU**  
to make our new family directory complete

**Please sign up on-line right now. It's easy.**

Find the Portrait Sign Up box on the UUCSR website home page by scrolling down just a little and look to the left of the box about Rev. Chris. Click on it and follow the simple instructions. Call Sara Jones or AnnaLisa Wiley for assistance.





## Philanthropy Team

*"PHILANTHROPY - the practice of giving money and time to help make life better for other people."* Merriam-Webster

Sounds simple, but it embodies so much – and it also embodies so much of our Principles and our Covenant. As for many of us, life is usually not easy, and the constant pull is to pay attention to me, myself, my life, my needs. But our practice of philanthropy gives frequent opportunities to reach out beyond myself and contribute to something that I can count on to help make life better for others. Sometimes it's my money. Sometimes it's my time, or my talent.

Every time I give, I'm moved. My heart opens and I deeply experience being connected and helping others. I know that I love and am loved, and that I have had some part in making a difference in our world.

I so appreciate being given opportunities to be a bigger, better person – the person our Principles call me to be, and who I most want to be.

*Natalie Brundred, for the Philanthropy Team*

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

## NBOP Update (NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT) Partners for Social Justice

*The North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) is the interfaith/non-partisan political power organization that UUCSR is helping to build in Sonoma County. UUCAN is the UU Conversation and Action Network. We are the group within the congregation that interfaces with NBOP.*

**The NBOP highlight in August was the Power Analysis Workshop** held at UUCSR on Aug. 15. We began the afternoon with a very funny video: *A message from the Republican Party: DON'T Vote!* It was a humorous introduction to power, what creates it and who has it. The I.V.E. Team of NBOP (Integrated Voter Engagement) sponsored the day. They presented a massive amount of research they had done about donations to the campaigns of our Board of Supervisors and the Santa Rosa City Council.

**Two task forces, Transit and Housing, broke into separate groups to analyze** that financial data along with officials' voting records on the issues we have been trying to exert influence at their meetings. We located where each elected official belongs on a scatter plot with two axes: 1) how supportive s/he is of the issues we are working on and 2) how much power s/he has. Then we translated all that into practical plans about which officials are most important for us to sway, how to appeal to them given how they are influenced by their donors and very importantly what other groups would be our best allies. It was a lively and very interesting 2 hours.

**If you would like to see where our elected officials got money for their last campaign, please contact Sara Jones, who will share the data with you.**

NBOP will continue to attend key City Council and Board of Supervisor meetings in September. For the Housing Task Force, Sept 1 and Sept 15 are important dates when rent stabilization and housing voucher discrimination, respectively, will be discussed by the City Council.

***Please contact Sara Jones to find out when UUCAN will meet in September.***

## Saturday Breakfast needs volunteers and funds !

- ◆ 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

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

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

To Volunteer:  
Contact John Ray

[Donate Now](#)

## UUCSR Board of Trustees Approved AUGUST Minutes

Available Now in the Congregational Office or online at [uusantarosa.org](http://uusantarosa.org)

**UUCSR MISSION** *Celebrate Life, Empower People, Care For Each Other, Help Build a Better World*

## **CIRCLE DINNERS - Re-Form for the Fall!**

*Don't forget...*

**Sign-ups August 23rd — September 13th!**

Details at the Social Hall sign-up table, and in August newsletter.

## **TIE GROUPS - Sign-Up in September!**

**(Together in Exploration)**

*Have you been spending too much time in the virtual world? Feel like you're skimming along on the surface of your life? Are you curious to explore bigger, deeper questions? We have a solution!*

**Together in Exploration is our small group ministry** program that starts again in October. You may sign up after Sunday services September 20 & 27. The TIE program gives members of the congregation, pledging friends, and "and people who are looking into UUCSR as a potential spiritual home, an opportunity to join a small group that explores in a structured manner what is truthful and meaningful and shares approaches to spiritual growth. This year we will be drawing on topics from Sunday services and delving into other intriguing themes. All TIE groups are led by trained facilitators who are UUCSR members. The Vision Statement of the TIE program is:

Our vision is realized with our TIE (Together In Exploration) groups that provide a place for spiritual exploration and search for meaning, to develop deeper relationships with others, where members may speak of their concerns with the expectation that their views will be heard and respected, where there can be consideration of issues.

Your TIE group will meet twice monthly from October through May. On September 20 and 27 look for the table with the TIE signs in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Get your questions answered and join us!

*By Erin Howseman and the TIE Steering Committee*

## **UUCSR Men's Retreat**

*October 9, 10 & 11*

**Coming Up Soon—Sign Up in September**

We will gather at Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker for a weekend of rest, fun, inspiring male fellowship, and sharing how we live our values as UU men in our families, communities, and larger world.

*Look for Sign-Up Table in September in the Social Hall*

*Questions? Contact Andy Levine*

**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](mailto: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](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.

## **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!

**Sept 20 & Oct 18**

## **Faith and Fitness Strolling at the River**

On Saturday September 12, our hike follows the Kortum trail starting from Shell Beach. We will carpool from Safeway parking lot at 9:30am and/or meet at the Shell Beach parking lot on Highway One at 10:30 am. The walk, mostly level, is about 3 miles. Bring lunch and water, layers for wind, fog or sun. Sign up to [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org) or call Gretchen Paradis. Happy trails.

## **Evening Book Group Second Thursdays, 7-9 pm**

Next meeting is Thursday, September 10th, 7 - 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The September selection is All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. In October we are reading River of Doubt by Candice Millard.

*We welcome new members & visitors! Please join us if any of the selections are of interest to you. If you have questions, please contact Linda Lampson.*

## **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. Call Judy at 545-7808 for info.

 **Music Notes**

Special Music for the first service this month on September 6 will be sung by Eric Skagerberg and Robin Rogers, "The Greatest Story Never Told," by John McCutcheon. Here are some of the lyrics: "Once again we gather here as the night grows long deep in the year. It is a season of light of prayer and fasting, and the endless longing for love everlasting."

On Sunday, September 13, at our Ingathering services, the choir will be back to begin singing for both services a piece, "Love Reign O'er Me," written by Pete Townshend. This is a classical version of the original piece performed by "The Who," which was later performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Oriana Choir. Here are some of the lyrics: "Only love can make it rain the way the beach is kissed by the sea. Only love can make it rain like the sweat of lovers layin' in the fields. Love, reign o'er me. Love, reign o'er me. Rain on me, rain on me."

The services on September 20 will have much music provided by a group of our excellent musicians: Roger Corman (Piano), Robin Rogers (Guitar), Ruth Ahlers (Saxophone), Cathy Read (Soprano), Dan Reynolds (Bass), and Al Liner (Drummer). They will provide the following well known pieces of music: Prelude, "It's a Good Day" by Peggy Lee; Special Music, "Nature Boy" by Nat King Cole; and Postlude, "Accentuate the Positive" by Harold Arlen.

Tyler Johnson will finally be back to play piano for the Offertory and Hymns. For the last services on September 27 the choir will be singing again.

*Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair*

*[Rev Chris Bell's column, continued from page 2]*

**THE NEXT DECADE**

reins, talk to people and recruit them, find funds, lead meetings, and put the shoulder to the wheel. If that sounds like work, you're right – but done in the right spirit it might just be some of the most satisfying and fun work you might ever do. Please talk to me or a Board member and we'll set you on the right track. Together we can make our vision a reality!

\* \* \* \* \*

FINALLY, just a friendly reminder that if there is anything important you would like to discuss with me, I VERY MUCH PREFER a phone call to an email. You can reach me at the office, or on my cell phone throughout the day and evening. Whether you have a pastoral care situation or emergency, want to discuss congregational business, desire a spiritual conversation, are seeking advice, or are just offering a dinner invitation or spare tickets to the orchestra (nudge, nudge, wink, wink) the phone is always the best way to get me. You can text me, too. I'm here for you at 707-849-8770. Thanks!

*Peace, Rev. Chris*

**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.

*Cut along the dotted line above to make a UU Principles bookmark for your family and friends!*

**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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**SEPTEMBER 2015**

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