



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

OCTOBER 2015 • Volume 59 • Issue 10

## OCTOBER 2015 SERVICES Theme: TRANSFORMATION

Sunday Services 9:15 am and 11:00 am

October 4  
9:15 am

### CHANGING MINDS

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

If we are to make a difference in our society, or in our own lives, we have to learn how to change our thinking and the thinking of other people. But before we can change a mind, we have to open it. This is so much easier said than done. Yet in the case of issues such as climate change, our very survival depends upon it. Today we'll learn some spiritual techniques for liberating ourselves from the grip of opinion, and techniques for inviting such openness from others.

10:30 am

### FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our democratic principles in action— part of what we covenant when we become members. Please attend!  
Childcare available in RE Wing

October 11

### TRANSFORMING LIVES THE AMAZING GRACE OF UU JOURNEYS

**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:** COA

UU saves!!! We don't claim to know if it saves other than in this life, but it certainly can and does save in the here-and-now. This Sunday's service discusses the transformations available in discovering UU and finding one's ongoing spiritual path within this beloved community we call home.

November 1

### DAY OF THE DEAD

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell  
**Special Music by:** Eric Skagerberg and some UUsual Suspects

Many traditions recognize this time of year, with its falling leaves, as one when the boundary between life and death grows thin. This service will give us a chance to honor our ancestors and departed loved ones, and make friends with the reality of death. An altar will be built. Please bring an image or object that represents a person (or more) who has passed away.

October 18

### WORKING WITH INTENSE EMOTIONS

**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty, John Ray  
**Special Music by:** The UUsual Suspects  
**Basket shared with:** CASA

Emotional reactions are important clues from our inner wisdom and complement our reason as we try to chart our course through life. Yet when intense emotions consume us, all rationality and good intention can fly out the window. Many of us have never learned how to cope with really intense emotions. Today we will build on the writing of Pema Chodron to help learn how to transform our relationship to these states of mind.

October 25

### BLESSED ARE THE HUMBLE

**Service Leaders:** Balazs Scholar Rev. László Major, David Hope  
**Special Music by:** The Choir  
**Basket Shared with:** Breakfast For Our Neighbors

Humility matters. At the core of our experience of life, a central quality of being. Humility may be for a Unitarian, what enlightenment is for a Buddhist, realization is for a Hindu, sincerity is for a Confucian, righteousness is for a Jew, surrender is for a Muslim, and annihilation is for a Sufi. Humility is what others see of our purity of heart.

Since graduating in 2011 from the Protestant Theological Institute in Kolozsvár, Romania, Rev. Major has served as minister in the predominantly Unitarian village of Datk. In four years, he initiated a church choir, a women's association, summer camp for children, cultural events, and social gatherings. They are renovating their community house to make more room! This year he wants to study pastoral care for families and the relationship between illness/health and faith with the hope of putting this into practice in congregational life.

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



### Why Religion?

By REV CHRIS BELL

**In our Getting to Know UU class**, I often line up the participants along a spectrum and ask, "Has organized religion been a force for evil or a force for good?" Nearly every time the vast majority of people line up on the evil side, a few stand in the middle, and I find myself alone down on the side of

good. When I point out the irony that a bunch of people who are about to join an organized religious institution think religion is bad, there is nervous laughter, and someone will say something like, "Well, this is different." Or, quite painfully to me, "Well, this isn't a religion."

**Fact is: Unitarian Universalism is a religion.** Our history, practices and purposes confirm it. Our Principles and Sources are full of spiritual and religious language. The problem, of course, is that religion has hundreds of different expressions, and its purposes are manifold. Not all of them have been entirely noble. Some have been awful.

Jake Frackman writes, "Religion has been presented to explain unknown intellectual problems (Comte, Tylor), to explain strong and abstract emotional feelings (Marett, Malinowski, Freud), to oppress social groups (Marx), to connect society (Durkheim), to explain arbitrary suffering (Weber), etc." It has done all those things. Our former District Executive Rev. Robert Latham argues very convincingly that the fundamental function of religion is to provide meaning and purpose to existence. As a mystic and (something of) a social activist, I think an additional, if not the primary, purpose of religion is the transformation of self and society.

Martin Luther King believed this as well. **"A religion true to its nature must also be concerned about man's social conditions.** Religion deals with both earth and heaven, both time and eternity. Religion operates not only on the vertical plane but also on the horizontal. It seeks not only to integrate men with God but to integrate men with men and each man with himself." (I'm sure he meant men and women.)

The rituals, disciplines and contemplative practices we pursue are all designed to free us from bondage to the ego, and to connect us more deeply with the sacred and interconnected web. The faith that emerges, or is strengthened through such practices, enables us to move

into the world and work to make things better. The reverse direction can also transform us; by being active in the world we may discover untapped resources within ourselves.

**Religion calls us to transform ourselves into the most ethical, just and compassionate beings we can be** and at the same time build the kind of society that supports such beings. For me the purpose of religion is the same as the meaning of life itself: To become as fully loving of self, others and the world as possible.

**In spite of its abuses, I think religion has helped** countless people become more loving, peaceful and hopeful. It has inspired many of the greatest heroes in the cause of justice. It builds community. It shapes and gives meaning to the events of our lives. It transforms far more people toward the good than toward the evil. Think how many religious people got up today and simply tried to live the decent life to which their faith calls them. The vast majority, day after day.

Are we not among them? Do we not let language such as "celebrate life, empower people, care for one another and help to build a better world" shape and change us?

**Are we not willing to be transformed into a more loving, gentle, connected people?** I think we are. Our Third Principle calls us to "acceptance of one another, and encouragement to spiritual growth" and our Fourth Principle calls us to "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Each of these speaks to the process of individual transformation at the heart of the religious enterprise, to a lifetime of learning, growth and the expression of our best nature.

We'll be looking at transformation in our worship in October, and it is the perfect theme for this time in our congregation's life. For not only are we, as individuals, constantly striving to grow and better ourselves; so, too, is our collective congregational body. It is an ongoing delight for me to see how new ministries and service projects keep emerging from your imagination, and to see how the commitment to racial justice, affordable housing, fair treatment of the homeless, and other causes continues to take shape among us.

Some of the transformations in our community will be highly visible. For example, our Glaser Center home is undergoing a number of them. Sun shades will soon grace the entire courtyard, allowing us to move outside more on Sunday mornings to ease the noise and crowding of the social hall. Additional patio furniture will also help make the

*[continued on page 3]*

*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...

### ***Hello Beloved Community,***

Walker Creek Ranch, set in a lovely and tranquil west Marin valley, was the site of our annual August Board of Trustees retreat. I find that "getting away from it all" really is conducive to enhanced productivity! We worked hard to prepare for the new church year.

Your newly formed Board of Trustees used the eight-point vision statement from the congregation's visioning process as a guide to establish our goals for the year. As is the custom of previous BOT's, we formed goal groups to address and put the UUCSR vision statements into action. These will be presented at the next Congregational Meeting on Oct 4th.

The August 27 Board meeting was our first for the new church year. We spent time clarifying and prioritizing our goals. As well, the BOT reestablished our Group Liaison Project. Find out who your group's Special Board Liaison is and feel free to ask questions and discuss and report your group's doings.

Thanks again to Terry Graham for filling in as recording secretary this month for Sharon Smith who took over those duties starting in September.

Our September BOT meeting brought a decision to purchase and install the remaining shade cloths and a durable metal table and chairs for the social hall/courtyard improvement project.

*"Don't forget the upcoming Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 4 at 10:30 am!"*

We voted to bring the kitchen improvement proposal to the congregation for a vote. Facilities/Ops presented their proposal and bids for the Security Improvement project. The BOT voted to continue examining bids that don't exceed the expenditure of \$15,570, the favored vendor's estimate. Many thanks to the hard work of the Facilities/Ops committee for their time and hard work on these projects.

Many thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and energy to keep this congregation thriving!

Don't forget the upcoming Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 4 at 10:30 am, after our one 9:15 am service!

Blessings,  
*Susan Bartholome*  
*President, UUCSR Board of Trustees*

### **Why Religion?** [Rev Chris Bell's column, continued from page 2]

courtyard more hospitable. Our kitchen is likely to see some major improvements and renovations in the near future, and our building's security system is also looking at a major upgrade.

Our new photo directory will arrive sometime in the next month or two and demonstrate just how much we have grown over the last couple of years. Although some beloved old faces are gone, many new ones have arrived. I celebrate the ever-changing nature of our community.

The Together in Exploration program has undergone a major transformation, with more than double the number of groups being offered, and all of them now full. Who knows

what growth and change will blossom in those sacred circles?

Our experiment for an ongoing practice of sustaining pledges instead of an Annual Pledge Drive is well and underway, and will, I am certain, continue to transform our congregation's ability to meet its goals with sufficient financial resources on hand.

The many of pages of this newsletter demonstrate what good religion looks like. I hope you will join me over on this side of the spectrum, and let this faith, and this community, transform you for the good.

See you Sunday!

***Peace, Rev. Chris***

### ***Meet The Minister***

On the 3rd Sunday of every month after the 11:00 am service, visitors & guests are invited to meet informally with Minister Rev. Chris Bell and a few lay leaders. Bring your tea and join us in the Green Room at the end of the hall! Questions welcomed & encouraged!

**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.*

## Treasurer's Report

### 2014-2015 Financial Summary

*We had a great year fueled by our growth and your generosity!* After the struggles of the previous pledge drive and budget process, we ended up ahead of expectations in just about every area. Here are the details:

- ◆ Pledge, donation and Sunday basket revenue were all over budget, about \$25,000 combined.
- ◆ Meanwhile, operating expenses were under budget by about \$10,000.
- ◆ The Glaser Center net income was about \$3,000 over budget.
- ◆ We ended the year with approximately \$44,000 in total net income.

*There were also some notable changes that took place during the year* that make this result so much more satisfying. First, we paid our full fair share dues to the UUA and Pacific Central District although our budget had reflected an amount over \$3,000 less. Our financial results were so strong throughout the year we paid our fair share each quarter during the year.

*Then in January we began sharing the Sunday basket every week* rather than twice a month. At the end of December the Sunday basket collections

were about \$2,600 over budget.

At the end of June, they were \$2,500 over budget. This means we are able to maintain our Sunday basket budgeted revenue while significantly increasing our generosity to the other organizations in our community that are meaningful to our members.

*Finally, a fundraiser in June* organized and produced by Jan Ogren (with significant help from Mary Louise Jaffray) was originally intended to benefit UUCSR but because of the positive financial picture that had emerged, was diverted to the benefit of our Saturday Breakfast, yielding \$1,642 in much needed funding.

*I am so grateful for this generous community.* The net income from last year will allow us to move forward on some of the priorities we identified in last year's survey. As we consider and implement the vision for the next decade, it is exciting to think about the new ideas and programs that may spring from our hearts.

*Linda Balabanian, Treasurer*

*"My bounty is as boundless as the sea,  
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,  
The more I have, for both are infinite."*

— William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet

### UUCSR 2015 Auction



**November 7th, 5 to 9 p.m.**

UUCSR's biggest and most fun fundraiser!

Join us for the festivities and bid on cool events or services!

New to the Congregation? A great way to get to know us.

**Need ideas?** Contact Dee Ray for idea list. **Need forms?**

Stop by Auction table on Sunday morning, see

insert in newsletter, or print from [UUCSR website](#).

**Need motivation?** Only YOU can prevent budget shortfall!

### Checklist for October

Harvest rest of garden ..... ✓

Get pumpkins ..... ✓

Fix Halloween costumes ..... ✓

**Donation form for UUCSR Auction ...**

**Wait, did I do that last one?**

**November 1 Deadline for Donations !**

**NEW TIME**  
1st Thursdays  
6:30–8:30 pm

**ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (A4SJ)**  
Come find out what we do - we meet on 1st Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30 pm!  
Next meeting OCTOBER 1, at 6:30 pm in Room 1

**A4SJ**

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.

**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.

**October 11: Council on Aging (COA)** offers Meals on Wheels and many other services to aid seniors in Sonoma County.

**October 18: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** recruits and trains volunteers who help to humanize the complex child welfare system for abused and neglected children by acting as consistent role models, advocates, and potential life connections.

**October 25: 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.

**November 1: Restorative Resources** - A Sonoma County program to provide restorative justice circles, and school programs, to establish restorative practices. Restorative Justice is an effective, community-based approach to dealing with crime, the effects of crime and the prevention of crime. Restorative practices school programs aim to provide a framework of respect and trust between students, teachers, parents, administrators and staff, foster an inclusive school culture, develop positive discipline practices, and create a safe learning environment.

## Hot Topic Hot Topic Hot Topic

### October Hot Topic - "Santa Rosa City Schools "

On Sunday, October 18th, Socorro Shiels, the dynamic Superintendent of Santa Rosa City Schools, will meet with us in the Board Room from 12:30 to 2 pm.

She will tell us how our schools are doing, explain the Common Core Curriculum, report on how the Restorative Justice

program is working out, and tell us what we can do to help our schools.

And of course, plenty of time for your questions, and a light lunch for a donation. We hope to see you there!

*Linda Harlow*

*Chair, Advocates for Social Justice*

### Social Justice Film Project!

*Coming to a Theater (Board Room) Near You...*

The Advocates for Social Justice will present the second of a series of films on the topic of Racism on October 30 and November 1. This film, a 45 minute gem, "#Blackmendment" by Shikeith Cathey, features 9 black men answering basic but piercing questions that reveal their humanness and their experiences as black men. The film maker's intent was to create dialogue within the community of black men and along the way he has given all of us an opportunity to leave our assumptions behind and really see these 9 individuals. This is a revealing, moving film.

### "#Blackmendment" Screening Times

Friday, September 18.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 7PM

doors open at 6:45

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 12:45

Our theater will be our very own board room. There will be discussion following each showing of the film.

**Our theater will be the Board Room.**

*Stay tuned to the Focus List & the Order of Service!*

*Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project Group*

# Religious Education for Children & Youth

**The Sr. High Youth Group has decided to take another service trip this coming summer.** The Habitat for Humanity service trip to Taos, NM in 2014 was such a success that they have decided to devote this congregational year to making a trip happen again. By unanimous vote, the group decided to work in New Orleans. Plans are in the very beginning stages, and we hope to venture to New Orleans to work on building a home sometime in July 2016.

**Ten years after hurricane Katrina New Orleans is a changed city** in many ways. While many neighborhoods have been rebuilt, the poorest neighborhoods, like the ninth ward, remain in dire need of repair and renewal. New Orleans remains one of the poorest cities in the nation, with the child poverty rate about 40% and the overall poverty rate close to 30%.

**According to an article in the New York Times, 10 years after Katrina:** "the ability of many residents to afford housing is more compromised than before because of escalating rents and low wages. In a ranking of 300 American Cities by income inequality based on census data,

New Orleans came in second, a gap that falls starkly along racial lines."

**Clearly the efforts of volunteers are still needed to rebuild this great city.**

**Youth Group Service trips serve many functions.** The main one is providing volunteer work for a good cause, but there are others. This trip will allow our youth learn and grow from many new experiences. They will be immersed in different cultures in a major city, they will see firsthand what poverty and racism looks like, they will see how they fit into this interconnected web of life with new eyes, and they will learn that justice work sometimes takes sweat and sore muscles.

*Our youth are very excited about this trip.* You will be hearing much more about it from them in the months to come. I hope you will support them on this journey.

In faith,

Deborah

Deborah Mason, Director Religious Education

## What's Happening In RE Classes this Month?

The Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Ben Ford, Millie Phillips and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisers. Contact Deborah Mason 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

recitation of 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 will be provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie during both the 9:15 and the 11:00 services.

	GRADES K-1	GRADES 2-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8 (MUUGS)
10/4/15	Congregational Meeting Games & Crafts for kids	Congregational Meeting Games & Crafts for kids	Congregational Meeting Games & Crafts for kids	Congregational Meeting Games & Crafts for kids
10/11/15	Wisdom Stories <i>The Big Orange Splot</i> by Daniel Manus Pinkwater	In Our Hands Fair & Unfair Experiences	In Our Hands Affirmation of Self	In Our Hands Prejudice
10/18/15	Wisdom Stories <i>The Invisible Boy</i> by Trudy Ludwig	In Our Hands Peaceful & Hurtful Experiences	In Our Hands Affirmation of Others	In Our Hands Hunger & Poverty
10/25/15	Wisdom Stories <i>What Does It Mean To Be Present?</i> by Rana DiOrio	In Our Hands Caring & Uncaring for Others	In Our Hands Deciding for Peace and Justice	In Our Hands War & Peace

# Adult Religious Education

## SPIRIT OF LIFE WORKSHOPS

presented by Reverend Chris Bell

9 Tuesdays at 7:00 pm September 22 - December 1  
(no meetings on Oct 20 and Nov 10)

*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.

### WORKSHOPS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1: <b>Spirit of Life:</b> Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists | 6: <b>Giving Life the Shape of Justice:</b> The Spirituality of Working for Change |
| 2: <b>Sing in My Heart:</b> Celebrations and Rituals                         | 7: <b>Roots Hold Me Close:</b> Tradition, Teachers, and Spiritual Formation        |
| 3: <b>The Stirrings of Compassion:</b> Caring for One Another                | 8: <b>Wings Set Me Free:</b> Hopes, Dreams, and Expanding Visions                  |
| 4: <b>Blow in the Wind, Rise in the Sea:</b> Nature and Spirit               | 9: <b>Come To Us:</b> Closing and Continuing On                                    |
| 5: <b>Move in the Hand:</b> Living our Spirituality in Our Day-to-Day Lives  |  |

**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."*

### ***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.

*New, Coming In October...*

### **LGBTIQQA2S Discussion & Support Group**

Help to shape the focus and purposes of this new group as it grows to become a community-building resource in our congregation.

**The first meeting will be on October 18 at 12:45 pm,** in the Youth Room, after the second service.  
Please come join us—Allies are welcome.

~ Monthly meetings planned ~

### ***Wanted: a Few Great Members or Friends ...***

*... to assist in the New Member Ceremonies.*

I organize the reception for the new members prior to the actual ceremony. We provide coffee and bagels. I need help with setup and handing out gifts, and being friendly, at which we excel. If this interests you, please contact Mary Wolfe!

### ***Thursday Meditation Group presents:***

#### ***Special Speaker Angel Stork***

**October 22, 5– 6:30 pm in Green Room**

The UUCSR Thursday evening meditation group has invited speaker Angel Stork to lead a discussion on *Habits. What are habits? Are they good or bad? Do you want to change your habits? How can we improve our lives through habits such as meditating?* Questions? Contact Mary Wolfe.

**An Idea for Helping our Homeless Members and Neighbors...**

By Marie Stubblebine

**In the wake of the Nomadic Shelter no longer being in our lovely congregation,** I would like to increase help to the 600 Morgan Street Homeless Services Center. This center's staff helps homeless people get the clean clothes and bodies necessary to get jobs and housing. The center is in constant need of supplies: soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors, combs, hairbrushes, feminine hygiene products, socks, men's clothes and shoes, sleeping bags, backpacks, coffee and disposable coffee cups.

*I've seen people turned away from the shower line because of a lack of soap.*

**My plan, backed by the A4SJ, is to collect donations every Sunday** and deliver them to 600 Morgan Street every Monday. We will be trying this out for a few months, with my hope that we evolve to doing this year-round. Most of us go shopping for food, and most grocery stores have much of the items listed, so it shouldn't be hard to help the homeless by getting at least some of these things, right?

**I did a stint in homeless shelters and I can attest to the fact that 600 Morgan Street is a godsend to homeless people.** The center REALLY, REALLY needs supplies. I've seen people turned away from the shower line because of lack of soap. I've overheard frequently "I'm sorry, but you'll have to wash your hair with bar soap because we're out of shampoo," as well as, "I'm sorry, we're out of razors, today." I've seen looks of horror on women's faces who were told hygiene products were unavailable, as well as looks of relief when they were handed a much-needed tampon or pad by another woman who had one to spare.

**I will create handy shopping lists for you to take with you** as you shop. This list will be available at the Advocates table and may be inserted into an Order of Service. Beginning on Sunday, October 25 you will find a container for your purchases at the entry to UUCSR. I will arrange delivery of these items.

**Homeless Services at 600 Morgan Street NEEDS SUPPLIES, and we can give them. Can we all help provide the assistance they need?**

Thank you,  
Marie Stubblebine

**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



**UUCSR Board of Trustees  
Approved SEPTEMBER  
Minutes**

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

**NBOP Big Public Meeting on October 25**

**Please plan on coming to the North Bay Organizing Project's big annual Public Meeting, right here at the UUCSR,** Sunday, October 25, 3-5 PM. The sanctuary will be packed to overflowing as the year of NBOP activity is celebrated and public officials will be asked to commit to supporting specific goals. There will also be music, refreshments, and childcare! It's a great opportunity to find out more about the many things that we are supporting through our partnership in North Bay Organizing Project and to meet people from the other organizations that belong to NBOP. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, please contact Sibyl Day or Carol Kraemer.

*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.*

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



## Spring Circle Dinners!

**Welcome to our Spring Circle Dinner Groups!** If your name is in **bold at the top of a dinner group**, please contact the others in your "circle" to arrange for your first gathering.

**You get to decide on the time and place with your group.** Also you get to decide who brings what (ie: appetizer, salad, main dish, dessert, beverages/bread)! Please try to contact everyone within two weeks so no one feels forgotten!! As part of your after dessert conversation, don't forget to decide where and when you all will meet for the next month's gathering.

**If you are not contacted by the folks at the top of your "circle" group by the middle of February please call them.** If they don't respond or another problem arises, please contact Lynn Riepenhoff or Kitty Wells. We'll do our best!

*\*\*If you cannot make a dinner, have to cancel, or (as the host) need or want to fill in an empty seat or two, **please consider calling someone from the "Substitute List".** They will be glad to hear from you. Enjoy your time together in food, fellowship, and fun!*

*Email [newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:newsletter@uusantarosa.org) for a flyer with group members phone numbers emails, or pick up paper copy in church office.*

### **Kitty Bownass**

Carol Weisker & Mary Lil Lee  
Joan Thatcher & Lois Gilbert  
Carol Daeley

### **Sharon and Joe McCarty**

Jo & Jim Katon  
Wayne & Sharon Smith  
Gail Alford  
Anne Bandy

### **Kathy Schwartz**

Cathie Wiese and Robert Lunceford  
Glen & Lorrie Colwell  
Lisa Rice  
Roslyn Ball

### **Patty Somlo and Richard Fung**

Marilyn Holmes  
Betty and Sid Gordon  
Kitty & Brian Wells  
Phyllis Metalis

### **Linda Balabanian and Tim Kennedy**

Drew & Mark Lichtenberger  
Katherine Latour  
Jacquie Robb  
Rachael Balyeat  
Sandy Moore

### **Bruce & Judy Taylor**

Paul Poling & Veronica Jordan  
Lisa Thompson  
Chris Wildlake  
Roger DeBeers  
Sara Jones

### **Janice & Olga Lee Mayberry**

Phyllis Fitzgerald  
Beth Wettergreen  
Deborah Wiig  
Shirley Williams  
Mary Wolfe  
Nancy Fitzpatrick

### **Richard Gauthier & Debbie Hight**

Lynn & Leonard Riepenhoff  
Jere & Jenine Giblin  
Morgan & Linda Lambert

### **Gretchen & Gene Vap**

Susan Thalloug & Mike Trulson  
Carolyn Mcleese & Charles Rettke  
Clement Boylan  
Maggie Morley

### **David & Deborah Hope**

Matt McLuskey  
Natalie Brundred  
Margaret Bregger Coston  
Jenny Sebastian

## 600 MORGAN STREET

### Homeless Services

### Donation Shopping List

*(see article on prior page)*

Soap

Shampoo

Conditioner

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Disposable Razors

Combs

Hairbrushes

Feminine Hygiene Products

Coffee

Travel Coffee Cups

Socks

Men's Clothes

Men's Shoes

Sleeping Bags

Daypacks / Backpacks

### **Sue & Sherman Green**

Jen and Ralph Murray  
Judy Elliot  
Katie Trieller  
Lee Lipinsky

### **Nyla Larsen**

Nancy Steinbock  
Betsy Thagard  
Penny Slater  
AnnaLisa Wiley  
Donna Judah

### **Elizabeth & Robin Marrs**

Randy & Sally Jones  
Micheline Justman  
Claudia Mayfield  
Maggi Koren  
Amy Chestnut

## Come Celebrate Samhain\* with CUUPS!

October 30, 5 – 7 pm

(please arrive by 5)

Join the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) group on Friday, October 30th, 2015. We will have a short ceremony; beginning with honoring the directions, communicating with our ancestors and departed loved ones while the veil between our worlds are thin, and then sharing a potluck meal while we share stories and remembrances of those gone from our daily sight.

Afterwards we join the Drumming Circle. Arrive at 5pm to help set up the food, ceremony starts by 5:30, potluck starts at 6pm and drumming at 7pm. Weather permitting, we will be in the Courtyard for ceremony and drumming.

Bring a remembrance item of your loved one, a jacket for drumming, and please indicate your potluck dish ingredients for those with allergies or food preferences. This is a family friendly event and we have extra drums. Contact Lucia Kasulis for more information. Blessed be!

*\*Samhain, pronounced (SAH-win), is a traditional celtic festival*

## UUCSR Men's Retreat

October 9,10 & 11

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 Table in the Social Hall

Questions ? Contact Andy Levine

## Faith and Fitness

Next hike: October 10

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, 2605 Adobe Canyon Road, 2.5 mile loop with short climbs, shade and sun, stream side picnic area at end of hike, fall color.

Carpool from Santa Rosa, Safeway 4th and Farmers parking lot near the Redwood Credit Union at 9:30, or meet at 10:00 at the main parking area in the park, fee \$8, \$7 for seniors. No dogs allowed on trails; Sign up at [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org) or call Gretchen Paradis.

## Evening Book Group

Second Thursdays, 7-9 pm

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 8th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The October selection is *River of Doubt* by Candice Millard. In November we read

*Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

Questions? 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 Hutchinson for info.

## Share the Basket - AUGUST 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.

### AUGUST Recipients:

Redwood Empire Food Bank	\$307.26	Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$353.61
Rebuild the Churches	\$427.55	North Bay Jobs w/Justice	\$551.12
Friends Outside	\$322.82		

*¡Thank you for your very generous support!*

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.



## Music Notes

On Sunday, October 4, Special Music, "Higher Than the World" by Van Morrison, will be provided by Robin Rogers, Cathy Read, and Ruth Ahlers. Here are some of the lyrics: "Well, I'm higher than the world, and I'm livin' in my dreams. I'll make it better than it seems, today. And I'm higher than a cloud, and I'm living in the sound. I'll make it better than it seems, today."

The women in the Choir will then be singing "Promised Land" by Natalie Sleeth, for both services on October 11, and our pianist Tyler Johnson hopes to return! The reason that the men in the Choir will not be singing this Sunday is because most of them will be at the Men's Retreat that weekend. Here are some of the lyrics:

*"Brother, sister, lend an ear. I'm headin' for the promised land! Troubles soon will disappear. I'm headin' for the promised land! When I reach it there will be love and happiness awaitin' for me. Come along and you will see! I'm headin' for the promised land!"*

Finally, on October 25 the entire choir will sing "Ubi Caritas" by Maurice Duruflé. This is a Gregorian melody composed sometime between the 4th and 10th centuries. Here is the translation:

*"Where there is charity and love, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us as one. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us honor and love the living God, and from a sincere heart let us love one another."*

*Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair*

## From Millie Phillips, Our Intern Minister

**First, let me say I am so happy to be here.** I love the energy in this congregation: the thoughtfulness, camaraderie, warmth, humility, and enthusiasm.

**I am looking forward to a well-rounded learning experience.** Among other tasks, I will be helping plan and lead worship, serving as one of the youth advisers, teaching adult religious education classes, providing pastoral care for members, supporting our work with the North Bay Organizing Project, and learning just how a congregation gets things done in the practical, administrative sense.

**In all of this, I will be reflecting on my own spiritual growth** and developing myself as a more confident representative of our faith. Well, that's pretty much the definition of what an internship is supposed to look like, so I believe we are off to a very good start.

My regular office hours are 10:00-6:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will be participating in the majority of Sunday services. I would love to get to know members of the congregation personally, so feel free to call, text, or email me if you'd like to get together for a conversation, or just drop by my desk in the front office and we can set something up.

I would appreciate your feedback on how I am progressing on my journey toward ordained UU ministry, throughout my 2-year internship.

Thank you in advance!!!

*Millie Phillips, your Intern Minister*

## 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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<p><b>Board of Trustees</b>  <b>President</b> Susan Bartholome, <i>President@uusantarosa.org</i>  <b>Vice President</b> Bill Haigwood, <i>Vice President@uusantarosa.org</i>  <b>Treasurer</b> Linda Balabanian, <i>Treasurer@uusantarosa.org</i>  <b>Secretary</b> Gretchen Vap</p> <p><b>Board Members:</b>  Marilyn Beckerbauer      Linda Stabler  Tom Bond      Pam Tennant  John Jaffray      Marge Wright  Sam Miller</p> <p><b>Recording Secretary</b> tba</p>	<p><b>Order-of-Service Announcements:</b>  Send submissions to <a href="mailto:Announcements@uusantarosa.org">Announcements@uusantarosa.org</a>  <b>Editor:</b> Janis Brewster  <b>Deadline:</b> Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service</p> <p><b>UU Update Newsletter:</b>  Send submissions to <a href="mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org">Newsletter@uusantarosa.org</a>  <b>Editor:</b> Susan Williamson</p> <p><b>Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.</b> Please place hard copy submissions in Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Newsletter by E-mail is available! To sign up, send your name &amp; e-mail address to <a href="mailto:Administrator@uusantarosa.org">Administrator@uusantarosa.org</a></i></p>			
<p><b>Minister Reverend Chris Bell, <a href="mailto:minister@uusantarosa.org">minister@uusantarosa.org</a>, ext 108</b>  <b>Intern Minister Millie Phillips, <a href="mailto:internminister@uusantarosa.org">internminister@uusantarosa.org</a>, ext 103</b>  <b>Director Religious Education</b> Deborah Mason, <i>DLRE@uusantarosa.org</i>, Ext. 131  <b>Administrator</b> Janis Brewster, <i>Administrator@uusantarosa.org</i>, Ext. 106  <b>Choir Director</b> Sadie Sonntag, <i>Choir@uusantarosa.org</i>  <b>Pianist</b> Tyler Johnson  <b>Sexton:</b> Peter Wilson, <i>Sexton@uusantarosa.org</i></p>			<p><b>Sunday Religious Education Staff</b>  Deborah Mason, Director  Shawna Hoxsie  Fiona Mackenzie</p>	

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