



UU Update

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

DECEMBER 2015 • Volume 59 • Issue 12
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

Sunday Services 9:15 am and 11:00 am

December Service Theme: PEACE

December 6 PEACE IN YOUR HEART

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Veronica Jordan, Deborah Mason **Music by:** Robin Rogers and some UUsual Suspects
Share the Basket: VOICES

There is a "peace which passeth all understanding," a serenity and ease that can be achieved even in the midst of great suffering and turmoil. A great children's story, some concrete meditation techniques, and the teachings of Thich Naht Hanh will help us learn how to generate an attitude of non-violence, compassion and ease in our own hearts, so we can bring that spirit into a broken and hurting world.

December 13 PEACE IN THE HOME

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman, Millie Phillips **Music by:** Sadie Sonntag and The Choir **Share the Basket:** The Living Room

Our families, whatever their shape or size, offer infinite possibilities for growth and fulfillment. They can also be the context for terrible suffering and struggle. We'll look at the social and cultural pressures that challenge families today, and consider how we can live in peace with the people who are closest to us, and raise our children to be makers and lovers of peace.

December 20 PEACE IN THE WORLD MUSIC AND POETRY SERVICE

Service Leaders: Nancy Hargis, Jen Collins **Music by:** Robert Howseman and some UUsual Suspects **Share the Basket:** SHARE Sonoma County

"Join us for poetry and song to celebrate winter time. This will be a calm, musical and meditative service to bring some peace during this crazy season. This deepest time of winter brings us within where renewal begins. If you wish, you may bring something of your journey here on the altar."

December 27th MILESTONES OF 2015 ONE SERVICE ONLY! 10:00am!

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Panttaja, Andy Levine **Music by:** Roger Corman and some UUsual Suspects
Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors

A chance to reflect on the events of 2015 and to share the lessons, insights and changes we've experienced over the last 12 months. How have you grown in wisdom over the year? Who are you now? Be generous with your story, and come and share with us today.

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller **Music by:** Sadie Sonntag and THE CHOIR **Share the Basket:** The Minister's Discretionary Fund

A joyful celebration of the great healer and teacher Jesus, and the true spirit of the Holiday season, replete with carols and candles. In the midst of the madness, come savor a moment of true stillness, and fill your soul with hope. All are warmly welcome – invite a friend! The collection is taken completely for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which is available throughout the year to our members in need.

January 3 ROOTS HOLD US CLOSE

Service Leaders: Amy Kelly, Susan Panttaja **Music by:** The UUsual Suspects **Share the Basket:** Family Support Center. An engaging look at our Universalist history.

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Peace Takes Courage: *Je Suis Paris*

I was sitting at the gate on Friday, waiting to head to Phoenix for a gathering of the UUA Appointments Committee, when I learned of the terrorist attacks in Paris. The TVs were filled with a confused jumble of flashing police lights, ambulances, bleeding

people and body bags. I've only been to Paris once, when my sister Barbra lived there for a few years. Though I didn't know the specific locations of the killing, my memories of that ancient, magical city came flooding back to me. So often the violence and horror of the world feels like it's happening on another planet, but when it happens in a place you've been and love, the reality of just how confused and lost people can be, and how monstrous we can be to one another comes crashing in like a sleeper wave.

Over the weekend, between meetings, I checked the Internet to learn the details and see how the world was responding. I also learned of the attacks in Beirut, which were mostly lost in the outpouring about France, and was reminded of the terrorist attack on a college in Kenya back in April that left 147 dead. Though it was largely ignored by the news, and already forgotten by me, it was "trending" again as people observed the difference in the way we treat news of Europe and white people, and the way we treat news from the browner and blacker parts of the world.

Wherever the carnage, it's almost impossible for me to imagine the situation: sitting in a café or on the campus of your school, drinking tea and talking politics with your friend, watching the people go by, and – BOOM. Some folks are forced to live with this possibility every single day of their lives, while still trying to go about the normal business of raising families and making a living. How do they do it?

And what is a lazy, peaceful, optimistic, Sonoma County UU to make of all this? How do I reconcile my conviction that each person has inherent worth and dignity with these crimes? What do I do with people – like those leading ISIS – who are certain that the future must be crafted with violence and drenched in the blood of the "infidels." These folks are actively reinstituting slavery and crucifixion, and, worst of all, doing it in the name of "God." Not the beautiful, natural, universal God the Worship Associates described in these pages last month, of course, but a false, ancient, tribal, outdated and ultimately unnecessary "God." And many of them are serious about it, in a really scary way, as this article shows: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>

There is more to the story than bad religion, though. Lydia Wilson, writing in The Nation, observed that many of the fighters who are joining ISIS are impoverished, disempowered, desperate young men whose primary interest is finding work to support their families. These are men who

live in conditions that are outside their control, and who are filled with rage at the West for putting them there. You can read more here: <http://www.thenation.com/article/what-i-discovered-from-interviewing-isis-prisoners/>.

In spite of the sick uses to which religion is being put in these horrifying situations, I choose to see such a moment as a test of faith, not a condemnation of faith. I will not let the demented acts of a relatively few people destroy my faith in humanity and the Great Big Verb.

I have faith that if God did speak aloud once in awhile she would condemn these evil deeds and remind us that one of her favorite children told us to turn the other cheek, love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us.

I have faith that the vast majority of people use their religion to better themselves, to become gentler, more peaceful, and more tolerant. Mr. Rogers once said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many caring people in this world."

I even have faith that even the warriors of ISIS are not fundamentally evil. They do evil things. They are sick and twisted. They are deluded about how to pursue their aims and confused about the purposes of religion. And, yes, they must be stopped, even by force of arms if necessary, but they need not be turned into demons. I firmly believe that true peace on earth will only be achieved when all of us wake up to the capacity for rage and harm that lurks within each of us when we are pushed beyond our limits, and then work to change the conditions of human existence. We must create a just world where no one lacks for the basic necessities and all can pursue their fulfillment, thus eliminating the primary conditions that perpetuate violence and war. This must be the collective project of all people, all political systems, and all religions.

We can only achieve the world-to-come with faith that we CAN. But such faith takes real courage. Deeds of kindness, forgiveness and care, and the active pursuit of justice for all takes real courage. It takes more courage than killing concert-goers and diners in the hopes of instant heavenly reward, because this project is not likely to come to fruition for some time. We need centuries, even millennia, of courage, patience, and determination. My prayer is that we, and the people of Paris and Lebanon and Syria and the whole Earth will find that courage. Our Universalism declares that love is the most powerful force in the Universe. Let's prove it to be so. Let's prove Mr. Rogers right, and ISIS wrong.

May peace be in your heart and your home this season, and may there someday truly be peace on Earth.

Rev Chris

From the Philanthropy Team

'Tis the Season! Warm your Heart with a Gift to Your Congregation

December arrives at the crest of winter. During this cold, dark passage we sense a need to attach ourselves to things that warm us, and to grasp at treasures that enhance our comfort. A Black Friday purchase may dazzle us momentarily with an elusive possibility of fulfillment, even if by March it sits abandoned on a garage shelf. The motives of generosity have been co-opted by a market economy, to produce from this narrow juncture a season of frenzied buying.

Buddhist writer Joseph Epstein writes, "we can give ourselves up to a spirit of generosity that weakens our urge to grasp and consume." Generosity is expressed eloquently through deep awareness of the act of giving, an awareness we reach for every Sunday at UUCSR.

Since its beginning, our congregation has been devoted to giving voice and place to hope and justice. Our work and worship comprise a critical mass of progressive strength in our community, and a resource of diverse and creative perspectives on the profound challenges of our times. We gather together to grasp and consider the larger mysteries of experience, and to share as a spiritual family a



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.*

Greetings from Our Board President...

At the time of this writing I am looking forward to spending the Thanksgiving holiday with my friends and loved ones. For this I know I am extremely fortunate. I'm glad that we have a special day that reminds us to appreciate what we have and to celebrate it. Today's gratitude stream of consciousness brings to my mind: my loving, funny husband; my chickens Lucy and Helen; Augie the dog; a warm and comfy bed at night and a roof over my head; motherhood; a job that I enjoy and trees.

As well, I am grateful for an active and involved religious community. Huge gratitude to Dee Ray, the Service Auction Committee and all the volunteers and contributors whose talent and hard work made the Service Auction such a great success of fun, food, conviviality and fundraising.

Thanks, also, for the dedication of Cathy Wiese and Art Rosenblum who are organizing the UUCSR Thanksgiving dinner this year (as, I believe, they have for a number of years.)

The sunshades are up! They are beautiful! There's been a bit of a glitch, though, but I hear that repair is in

uniquely rich tradition of numinous exploration. And we extend this vision of tolerant, embracing inquiry to all who walk through our doors.

By ending the annual pledge drive, we agreed as a congregation to sustain our mission and ministry through an ongoing expression of mutual generosity and good will. December gives us all a perfect opportunity to continue this. We can put UUCSR on our holiday giving list. We can increase the amount of our congregational pledge. We can calculate what we will spend on gifts and write a check for an equal amount to UUCSR.

Historian Lewis Hyde framed the ancient meaning of the charitable gift as "the food we cannot eat." It was that thing given "that leaves all boundary and then circles into mystery." The satisfaction of such a gift derived "not merely from being filled but from being filled with the current that will not cease."

The year's darkest season calls for such deep giving. The murk and chill bring us closer. What we now give to our congregation warms us, and sustains our community's current: a current of hope, faith and justice we want never to cease.

Bill Haigwood
UUCSR Philanthropy Team



progress. Many thanks to Facilities/Operations Team for their time and hard work on that project. The first week of January we should be seeing the new kitchen floors put in. Then on to the rest of the kitchen improvements!

Currently, the Board is working hard on improving communications and cooperation between its committees and the Board. The Human Relations Committee will be reforming, so, we are on the lookout for congregants with HR or similar experience who might help advise us on HR matters.

As we go from a special time of thankfulness to "the season of giving" I strive to avoid the cynical habit I have of viewing the coming holiday season as a celebration of materialism. I am learning more than ever to focus on what inspires me to want to celebrate with good deeds and generosity the miracles of a persistent flame in a besieged temple, the birth of a prophet of great wisdom, and the promise of light to follow the dark.

May we all be blessed with peace and light.

Susan Bartholome, President UUCSR Board of Trustees

LGBTIQQIAA2S

*(Queers and allies of all stripes)
3rd Sundays, 12:45-2:15 pm (Yth Rm)
The UU queer discussion & support group
is now meeting regularly. All welcome!*

**LGBT Seniors of Santa Rosa
Discussion Group**

*Meets monthly on 4th Tuesdays, 1-3 pm,
offering a place to share friendship, ideas,
information. Join Us in the Board Room!
A warm welcome to everyone interested.*

Evening Book Group

Second Thursdays, 7-9 pm

The Evening Book Group meets on Thurs., Dec 10th 7 - 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The December selection is *Euphoria* by Lily King. In January we read *The Age of Miracles* by Kathleen Thompson Walker. Visitors and newcomers welcome. Questions? Contact Linda Lampson.

Drawing Wednesdays!

Open drawing 1-3 pm 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 for info.

Faith and Fitness

Next hike: Saturday December 19

Sonoma Valley Regional Park. Carpool from Santa Rosa 9:30. Meet at park 10:15. Bring lunch and water. Dogs ok. Easy to moderate 2 to 3 miles. Questions and sign ups to Gretchen P.. Pls let us know if you plan to hike so we won't miss you!

UU Update is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, California. Electronic submissions preferred. Send to newsletter@uusantarosa.org Due by the Monday after 3rd Sundays of the month: Paper submissions 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 20-150 words. 707-568-5381, ext. 106, for info. Non-congregational announcements only as furthers the congregation's mission and as space allows.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES ...are expected by Christmas!

Including an insert with email & phone numbers, printed on Dec. 11th.
Unsure of your current information? Need to make changes?

**Mark Your
Calendars!**

**General Assembly &
District Assembly are Coming!**

The UUCSR nominating committee is charged with finding and encouraging UUCSR members to attend and represent UUCSR as voting delegates at Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) conferences:

**Pacific Central District's Regional
District Assembly (DA)**

*April 22 - 24, 2016
Newark, CA*

**General Assembly (GA) 2016
"Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect"**

*June 22 to 26, 2016
Columbus Ohio*

General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of the UUA, where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, & make policy for through democratic process.

You may have heard or attended several UUCSR sessions where delegates brought their heartfelt experiences back to us to share. An experience not to be forgotten! ***YOU can be an attendee this year! YES, you can!***

It is a FIRST for our Congregation to provide a small amount of support to encourage members who might not otherwise be able to attend. The UUCSR Board of Trustees has allocated a small amount of money this year to help pay for registration fees for up to 2 delegates to GA, and to DA, so they can experience these wonderful and enriching events and represent our congregation as voting delegates. The Board of Trustees feels it is important to support our members so they included this amount in our budgeted funds for this year. Plan your vacations and travel now - and add these enriching events to your calendar.

If you are considering attending either of these events (with or without the monetary support) please contact any of your nominating committee members: Linda Harlow, Eric Fischer, Joe Como, Barrie Noe, and Kirsten Olney. Member requests for funds to be used for GA and DA registration fees considered by the Board of Trustees on an individual basis.

***COSM—Yearly Evaluation of Rev. Chris
The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) is responsible for the
yearly evaluation of our minister.***

Last year we interviewed every 10th member of the congregation, chosen randomly. The year before, we used a computerized survey. This year everyone has an opportunity to give feedback, via old-fashioned paper form. On both Dec. 13 and 20 this form will be included in the Order of Service, and also may be downloaded from the website after Dec. 13.

We seek the broadest possible response. Forms will be collected after the services in the social hall, or you may return them to the COSM mailbox in the work room. We also will be interviewing key leaders from the Board, committees, and paid staff about less visible aspects of the job. We on COSM are your advocates. We take our jobs seriously.

We are here to support the best possible communication between members, and between members and minister. We are available for conflict resolution as needed. We strive to address issues in a safe and respectful manner and in strict confidence. If you have any concerns, we encourage you to contact members of the committee: Alan Bell, Mary Lill Lee, Kitty Wells, Bob Anderson, Bill Foshee and Lucia Milburn (chair). Recognize us by our lavender name tags! A suggestion box which is mounted on the wall near the work room door.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education Deborah Mason

Thanks to Our Teachers!

The first quarter in our RE year has ended. I want to give a huge thanks to the teachers who gave their time and talent over the nine Sundays of the quarter. Lois Nagle and Jenine Giblin teamed up to teach Wisdom Stories to the K-1 group. Janet Barrow and Susan Miller taught the 2nd and 3rd graders. Emily Heinzelman and her sister Carly Rieber taught the 4th and 5th grade class. Danny Millspaugh teamed up with me to lead the Middle School Group. We wouldn't have an RE program without these wonderful volunteers, so please thank them next time you see them.

Second Quarter begins on December 6th. I am so pleased that Jeanie Bates, Jen Collins, Janet Barrows, Carol Kraemer, Dawn Caccavale, Larisa Ashley, Danny Millspaugh and Diane Koehler will be working with the kids in RE this quarter. If you ever wonder how it is to teach in RE, I invite you to ask these fine folks, they can give you the inside scoop. I have it on good authority that they will tell you good things about the experience!

A couple special events for the holidays this month:

Parent's Night Out!

Saturday, December 19 at 5:30. Take a break from the season's craziness and have a dinner date with other parents. Bring your kids to the RE wing for childcare. We will feed them and provide a crafts project that will be a wonderful holiday gift for parents. All of the parents will choose a local restaurant and have dinner together. Cost: \$5.00 per family. Be sure to RSVP to DRE Deborah Mason by December 12, so food and crafts supplies can be in good supply.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20 at 1:30pm. This is an extended family event for RE families, some of our fine musicians and any UUCSR folks who want to join in. We will meet at UUCSR at 1:30 and take our voices to a local senior living home. Lets bring some holiday cheer to some folks who might not be with family for the holidays.

Wishing everyone a warm & peaceful holiday season.

In faith, Deborah

	GRADES K-1	GRADES 2-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8 (MUUGS)
Dec. 6	Arts Sunday—"Peace" Theme			Theme: Finding Peace When Peace Is Hard To Find.
Dec. 13	Wisdom Stories: <i>Latke the Lucky Dog</i> by Ellen Fischer A Hanukkah Story	Hanukkah Celebration in story, ritual and song	Hanukkah Celebration in story, ritual and song	Theme: A Path to Peace: Meditation
Dec. 20	Music Sunday: Singing holiday songs. Christmas Caroling at a local senior living home after RE today.	Music Sunday: Singing holiday songs. Christmas Caroling at a local senior living home after RE today.	Music Sunday: Singing holiday songs. Christmas Caroling at a local senior living home after RE today.	Music Sunday: Singing holiday songs. Christmas Caroling at a local senior living home after RE today.
Dec. 27	All ages Together Ringing in the New Year	All ages Together Ringing in the New Year	All ages Together Ringing in the New Year	All ages Together Ringing in the New Year

What's Happening In RE Classes this Month?

The Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thurs. 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 Arts Sunday with all elementary grade children together. On the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays children meet in grade groups, as described below.

Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Caitlin Fiore during both services.

Adult Religious Education

JANUARY

"A Sampling of Unitarian Universalist Scientists"

Presented by Phil Harriman

January, dates tba

Joseph Priestly - Mar 24, 1733 – Feb 6, 1804. Dissenting clergyman, natural philosopher, chemist. Credited with discovering oxygen. One of the 1st Unitarian ministers in the colonies.

Ada Lovelace – Dec 10, 1815—Nov 27, 1852. Mathematician, considered to be 1st computer programmer. The only (legitimate) child of poet Lord Byron.

Linus Pauling - Feb 28, 1901 – Aug 19, 1994. Chemist, biochemist, peace activist. The only person to win two Nobel prizes in two different areas: chemistry and peace.

PAIX

"Spirit of Practice"

Presented by Rev Chris Bell

Tuesdays, starting January 19

Reverend Chris Bell offers another series of Tuesday evening talks under the theme Spirit of Practice. Topics will include: : personal spiritual practices, communal worship practices, spiritual partnerships, mind practices, body practices, soul practices, life practices and justice practices. The series will begin on Tuesday, January 19.

FEBRUARY

"Adult Sexuality Course"

Presented by William R. Stanton

Wednesdays, February 3—24

William R. Stanton presents a series of four classes in his Adult Sexuality Course. The classes will be held Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Feb 3, 10, 17, and 24. No fee, but contributions would be welcomed.

ONGOING

The Long Strange Trip Video Series

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

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.



Interning at UUCSR...

A blessing to participate in this vibrant community; to observe the juxtaposition of joys and sorrows; to contribute, as I learn how, to the power of love that is here.

I am grateful I got to spend time with John Durr learning about the history of this congregation. Such a modest man; quickly finding a way to change the subject back to UUCSR whenever I asked him more personal questions about his own life. He was kind enough to offer supportive advice on my internship. It is sad that anyone has to have a last Sunday, but I'm glad he got to spend it at a service that spoke about death, but absolutely rocked (and jazzed) with life!

Singing along to When the Saints Go Marching In was the most joyous moment in my internship thus far. My late father loved this song and played it often, so it had an appropriately touching element of memorial for me, too. I appreciated the Sawhain service and dinner on a day when I was struggling with doubts about my ministry. The words from *Bone by Bone*: "I lay you down for all the struggles you've been through" were a needed reminder to let go of some of my own past, as well as honoring those I've lost. Music is such an integral part of worship and healing.

The service auction was amazing. I've never seen people so happy to part with their money! And not just for the annual fundraiser: you are so generous every Sunday – to the congregation and to the community. I'm learning from you that the secret to generosity is making it *fun*. **You embody that service is not a burden, but a joy.**

Thanks! Enjoy your holidays!!!!

Millie Phillips, Your Intern Minister

#Rights365 ~

~ Every Day is Human Rights Day

"I call on States to honour their obligation to protect human rights every day of the year. I call on people to hold their governments to account."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 10 December as Human Rights Day in 1950, to bring to the attention 'of the peoples of the world' the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. This year's slogan, [Human Rights 365](#), encompasses the idea that every day is Human Rights Day. It celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal Declaration that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to the full range of human rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and values. [\[Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN\]](#)

Advocates for Social Justice

Come find out what we do!

We meet 1st Thursdays, 6:30 — 8:30 pm, Room 1

Share the Offering

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 Congregation members. Please request a future-recipient form at A4SJ table.

December 6: VOICES is a gathering place and resource center for youth ages 16 to 24 who have no family support. Counseling and referrals to services are made available to youth who are struggling to succeed without the benefit of helping parents.

December 13: THE LIVING ROOM is a place for homeless and at-risk women and their children to find respite during the daytime. Caring staff and volunteers offer a lifeline during a time of crisis. They are moving to a larger facility soon, and need funds to renovate to provide for showers and a commercial kitchen.

December 20: SHARE SONOMA COUNTY, in partnership with Petaluma People Services Center, is offering a Home-Sharing Program for those 60 years and older. SHARE helps facilitate safe home-shares for homeowners and renters who

are currently stressed financially, experiencing life transitions, looking for companionship, or needing basic assistance (service in exchange) in order to remain housed and ease financial burdens, providing companionship, security for anyone afraid to be home alone, remain home and age-in-place for those who need basic assistance.

December 27: BREAKFAST FOR OUR NEIGHBORS is our own Saturday Breakfast program for our needy neighbors, supported primarily by the generosity and volunteer efforts of our congregation. 100% of offering goes to this program.

January 3: FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER, operated by Catholic Charities, is a 138 bed family shelter which provides a warm, stable home for families coming to them from cars, tents, and crowded motel rooms. Geared toward every family member, with a special focus on services for children.

Hot Topic Hot Topic Hot Topic

December's Topic:

"SHARE Sonoma County"

Sunday, December, at 12:45 PM

Amy Appleton from SHARE SONOMA COUNTY tells us about her exciting home share program that matches Seniors who need financial or personal assistance with folks who need an affordable place to live.

Know anyone in either of those positions? You might find this very helpful. There will be plenty of time for questions. See article "*Home-Sharing Seniors in Sonoma County: December Hot Topic: Exciting Program May Help Elders in our Congregation.*" on p9.

We meet in the Board Room 12:45 - 2 with our usual light lunch for a donation. We hope to see you there!

*To be hungry in L.A., is just like starving in Bombay.
Homeless in Morocco, is a shelter in Chicago.
Right around the corner, Just down the road.
Right before your eyes, Right under your nose...*

by India Arie
From song *Ghetto*
<http://www.soulbird.com>

Social Justice Film Project

December's Film:

The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975

Screening Times and Locations:

Friday, December 18, 7:00 pm, in the Board Rm
Sunday, December 20, 12:45 pm, in RE Common Rm

The Advocates for Social Justice presents the 4th of a series of films on the topic of **Racism**, on December 18 and December 20. Our December film, "**The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975**," a documentary, offers a riveting review of the racial history of this era.

We hear from Stokely Carmichael, Angela Davis, Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver and others. The film, the work of Swedish Television journalists, documents the unfolding cultural revolution for their audience back home. As always, discussion will follow each showing.

Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project

Buy **Delicious Peace Coffee**, grown by co-ops of Muslim, Jewish, & Christian farmers in Uganda and Mexico!
Sundays at A4SJ table.

EXCITING NEWS!

THE KITCHEN REMODEL BEGINS ON JANUARY 4TH, 2016.

WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON OUR PROGRESS DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!

ALERT: January 4-11, the kitchen floors will be re-done. There will be chemical odors. The kitchen & coffee area will be inaccessible. There will be fans, but **if you are sensitive to chemicals, avoid the building at least until Jan. 8th.** Appliances moved Jan. 3. **Anything in the refrigerator? Claim or move it by then, or it will be tossed!** (Can use staff or Sat. Bkfst. fridges). Jan 11-15 will still have some construction in the kitchen, but some access will be possible. **We hope the results will be worth the inconvenience!**



AUCTION NEWS: "The Show Went ON!"

By all accounts, everyone had a good time at our 2015 Annual Auction. The night was full of laughter, singing, and fellowship. Our budgetary goal was reached, all who participated have events and outings to look forward to for the coming year. You may not realize how many people it takes to pull off such an affair, so I'm going to tell you. Our sincere thanks go to:

Sunday morning setup (for 6 weeks prior to auction night):

Peter Wilson and Mac Freeman

Data entry crew: Nancy Freeman, Lynn Riepenhoff; and John Chenoweth for data support

Setup Crew Assisting Lead, Judy Withee: Brian Wells, Steve Sweaney, Richard Fung, and David Hope

Sound: Daniel Reid

MC and entertainers: Rev. Chris, John Ray, Paul Gilger, Roger Corman, Cathy Read

Table centerpieces: Sara Jones, Robin Trimble, Pam Tennant

Kitchen Crew assisting Lead, Kirsten Olney: Alex Billings, Joel Billings, Claire Olney, Jennifer Collins, Regina Collins, and friend Xochilt.

Shopping for appetizers, desserts & incidentals: Elizabeth and Robin Marrs.

Catering the Main Course: Mary's Pizza Shack—stay tuned for next year.

Door ticket sellers: Sara Jones, Jan Hess, Deborah Wiig, Susan Bartholome

Raffle ticket sellers assisting Raffle Lead, Diana Breslich: Nancy

Fitzpatrick, Noline Leseigneur, Ellen Skagerberg, Marianne Sonntag

In-house raffle baskets created by: Nadene Carroll

Wine bar tenders assisting Leads, Robert Howseman and Michele Murphy: Laura Jean Hageman, Sibyl Day, John Farison, Patty Somlo, Bill Haigwood, Andy Levine

Bid checkers, assisting Leads, Susan Dickey and Linda Balabanian: Mindy Graham, Marge Wright, Carol Kraemer, Jeanie Bates, Helga Lemke, Sarita Hazen

Money Handlers assisting Lead, Linda Balabanian: Mary Louise Jaffray, Linda Stabler

Checkout cashiers assisting Lead, Linda Balabanian: Ted Miller, Barrie Noe, Terry Graham

Cleanup crew assisting Lead, Brian Wells: included many who stayed afterwards to help, but especially Kathy Schwartz, Dan Reid, Lillian Reid, Kitty Wells, John Jaffray, John Ray, and others

Soliciting donations of all the serving wine: Reid Stinnett

And all of our business friends in the community who donated so many lovely goods and services.

~Dee Ray, Auction Chair

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

[Donate Now](#)

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

Meet The Minister

After the second service on the 3rd Sunday of each month, 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.

All questions welcomed and encouraged!

Editor's Note: And the congregation gives it up to Dee Ray, Auction Chair, for the weeks (months) of love and sweat put in by her !

Calling All UUCSR Women:**Annual Holiday Party at Helga Lemke's
Saturday, December 5th**

The Women Together Annual Holiday Party has been rescheduled to Dec 5th so the many who want to attend John Durr's Memorial Service on Dec 12th will be able to do so. Thanks for your flexibility.

YOU ARE INVITED TO :
A FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
Friday, December 11, 6:30 PM

The members of the Friday Family Fun Night team invite you to an evening of holiday celebration. We begin with a production of "A Christmas Carol" presented by the Finley Senior Center Reader's Theater. This grand troupe includes our own Becky and Bill Montgomery.

Following the performance we will enjoy treats and singing with the assist of some of our beloved musicians. We have extended an invitation to the families and staff of the Family Support Center and look forward to sharing this celebration with them.

We hope you will want to put this on your calendar of holiday enjoyments. You may contact Becky Montgomery or Jeanie Bates for more information.

Wishing you joyful holidays,
Becky, Debbie, Jen, Jeanie, and the many folks who make Friday Family Fun Night happen

"The Intentional Community"

An experimental community building class
You are invited to attend an experimental community building class, The Intentional Community.

In this class you will:

- 1) Identify the all communities that you are part of.
- 2) Discover powerful ways that will enable you and your community to connect on deeper levels.
- 3) Learn the deeper science of organizing community

Where: First UU Society of San Francisco, 1187 Franklin st, San Francisco, CA, 94109

When: Saturday, January 16th, 10am to 5:30pm

Info or Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/YE3mCD8uwl>

PCUUYA Winter Conference 2016

- A fantastic chance to connect with fellow UU young adults from around Northern California. Opportunities throughout the weekend to build community, deepen faith, engage in social justice and more.

Where: UU Congregation, Santa Rosa

For: UU Young Adults ages 18 to 35

Cost: Sliding Scale \$25-\$45

Registration: pcuuya.tumblr.com

UUCSR MISSION

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

Home-Sharing Seniors in Sonoma County

December 13 Hot Topic's Exciting Program
May Help Elders in our Congregation

Amy Appleton is the December Hot Topic speaker, telling about her program, SHARE Sonoma County, which provides affordable housing and also helps Seniors keep their homes and safely "age in place."

SHARE facilitates secure home shares for homeowners or renters over 60 who are currently stressed financially, experiencing life transitions, looking for companionship and/or needing basic assistance to help them thrive and remain safely at home.

The person seeking an affordable place to live, known as the Seeker, can pay rent, provide services or do some of both to compensate the Provider a fair amount for the room s/he is offering. Since SHARE began a little over a year ago, they have made over 50 matches. The average ratio of Seekers to Providers is 4 to1; clearly there is a great need for Seniors to participate in this wonderful program.

SHARE screens both the Seeker and the Home Provider with criminal and financial background checks to be sure the Seeker can sustain rent payments, the home situation will be stable and both people will feel safe. Much care is taken (through extensive questions on the application, interviews and a meeting between interested parties) to be sure the two are compatible. Boundaries and expectations are stated explicitly so that neither party feels mistreated. There is a trial period and at any time during the cohabitation, if there are problems, SHARE will help resolve them. Amy said that there has been no need for legal evictions.

UU's Homeless Services Action Group members, who heard Amy speak in October, are very impressed with all that goes into making the home share a good experience for both people. Staff members can help someone fill out an application and Amy said that she is always only a phone call away. She also routinely checks in with both parties of each match every three months. There is one possible problem you may encounter, a delay in hearing back from Amy originally. They are trying to increase staff hours so that they can more quickly process applicants.

If you are 60 or older and could benefit from having someone share your home, would like to help with the affordable housing crisis in a very personal way, or are in need for an affordable place to live, check out this program. Join us for the December Hot Topic presentation on Dec 13. If you are unable to attend talk to Sara Jones.

Treasurer's Report **Our Service Auction Was So Much Fun...**

AND A Huge Success!! Thanks to all who contributed to the Service Auction success this year! To everyone who attended, everyone who contributed to the remarkable array of goods, services and events, everyone who generously bid and bid again, everyone who volunteered at the event and most of all, Dee Ray and the tireless members of the committee who worked for months to make it so much fun for the rest of us **THANK YOU!** This year's auction grossed over \$25,000! A 5% increase over last year!

Shopping On-Line? Please make sure to sign up for eScrip!

You can help our congregation to receive donations from the merchants at which you shop at no additional cost to you by registering for eScrip. Please visit our website and Click on the "Give" menu to access the eScrip page and learn all about it through easy to follow instructions! Once you are registered you can download the "Forget-Me-Not" app so anytime you go to an eScrip vendor's site to shop, UUCSR will receive the donation automatically without having to access the eScrip site (doesn't work for Amazon, unfortunately). What a painless way to earn extra donations for UUCSR!

Act Now to Reduce your Tax Bite Come April 15th!

Remember to get all your pledge payments and other donations to UUCSR (and any other non-profits to which you contribute) paid during December if you want to include them as a deduction on your tax return. Some of you with investments may want to consider donating appreciated stock in order to avoid paying tax on the increase in value. You can take the deduction for the full value of the stock but will not have to pay tax on the difference between the full value and the original cost of the stock. Please discuss with your financial advisor if you are interested. If you would like to donate stock as a donation or your pledge payment, please let Janis Brewster know.

Generosity in our Consumer Culture...

At this time of year it's hard to avoid the evidence that we live in a consumer culture as we are constantly cajoled and harassed to spend our money to acquire the latest gadget, car or unhealthy meal. Our super-charged consumer culture creates intense pressure to spend, entertain, and give gifts, sometimes heightening our expectations to idealized proportions. This can add stress to our lives and begin to seem out of control and overwhelming for many of us. But, if we can pause for a moment to reflect, we have the opportunity to experience moments of true generosity and the spirit of the season.

The level of our financial support as a proportion of our resources is a direct manifestation of our commitment to our mission and each other. When we give to our congregation and our mission it is an investment. We are a community of faith on a shared journey through which we strive to embody our mission to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another and build a better world. It is an endeavor truly limitless in potential when we generously invest our time, talent and treasure to further our mission.

*Happiness is not made by what we own.
It is what we share.*

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

The Bodhisattva Vow

May I be a guard for those who are protectorless
A guide for those who journey on the road.
For those who wish to go across the water
May I be a boat, a raft, a bridge.

May I be an isle for those who yearn for landfall
May I be a lamp for those who long for light
For those who need a resting place, a bed
For those who live in sorrow
May I heed their cries.

May I be a wishing jewel,
the Vase of Plenty, a Word of Power
And the supreme remedy,
may I be the Tree of Miracles
And for every being, the Abundant Heart.

Like the great earth and the other elements
Enduring as the sky itself endures
For the boundless multitude of living beings
May I be the ground and vessel of their life.

For every single thing that lives in numbers
Like the boundless regions of the sky
May I be their sustenance, their nourishment
Until they pass beyond, until they pass beyond
The bounds of all suffering...

*By Lior Tsarfaty
Lior Tsarfaty and the Prayer Song Project
<http://www.liortsarfaty.com>*

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

Legacy Circle Members! (and potential members)

Made a donation to, or named the UUCSR Endowment Fund, as a beneficiary of your estate or will? You qualify to be recognized in the UUCSR Legacy Circle. To ensure our list is up-to-date, please contact me if you've made that commitment, if you have any questions about how the Endowment Fund has been used to benefit the congregation, or to contribute to the fund. Thanks to all of you –

*Phil Harriman,
Chair of the Endowment Committee*

Share the Basket OCTOBER Recipients

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

Thank you for your very generous support!

Worth our Weight	\$ 229.40
Council on Aging	\$ 302.48
CASA	\$ 616.64
Breakfast 4 Our Neighbors	\$ 551.17



NEW UUCSR T-Shirts *are HERE!*
 Be sure to get your new UUCSR T-shirt on sale for \$25 (incl. sales tax) in the social hall after services during the month of December.

These beautiful new T-shirts come in white and black and are designed by our own Hilary Sowers. Get your t-shirt today. They make great gifts!

UUCSR Board of Trustees
 Approved **OCTOBER Minutes**
 Available in the Office
 or online at uusantarosa.org

 **Music Notes**

For the services on Sunday, December 6, special music will be a piece by Van Morrison, "By His Grace," provided by Robin Rogers, Ruth Ahlers, Cathy Read, John Christian, Ted Dutcher, and Chris Gouvea. Here are some of lyrics:

"You've got to try for the kingdom on high. You've got to try by His grace. You've got to live your religion deep inside, when you try for the kingdom on high by His grace. Open your mind to the wisdom when you try for the kingdom on high by His grace."

The choir will be singing for both services on Sunday, December 13. Robert Howseman will provide music for the services on December 20, along with other musicians.

There will be much special music provided by the choir for the service on Christmas Eve, beginning with Christmas carols sung in the Social Hall before the service. Finally, for the services on December 27, music will be provided by Roger Corman and other musicians.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair



got nog?
Occidental Community Choir
 Winter Concerts 2015 *Andrew DeMonte, Director*

Sat, Dec 5	7:30 pm
Occidental Center for the Arts "COMMUNITY FIRST NIGHT" HALF PRICE TICKETS! \$7 FAMILY SING-ALONG!	
Sun, Dec 6	3 pm
Sebastopol Center for the Arts	
Fri, Dec 11	8 pm
Occidental Center for the Arts	
Sat, Dec 12	8 pm
Occidental Center for the Arts	
Sun, Dec 13	3 pm
Glaser Center, Santa Rosa "Season Wrap Party"	

Artist in Residence
TERESA TUDURY
 joins us for ALL our concerts!

OccidentalChoir.org
 Adults \$15 • Kids 12 and under FREE
 Advance tickets recommended

SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS
 OCCIDENTAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

DIRECTOR: Jim Humphreys *ACCOMPANIST: Susan Nelson*

Healdsburg Chorus

present

A Christmas Collage

2015

<i>Sun, Dec 6th, 4:00pm</i> Glaser Center 547 Mendocino, Santa Rosa	<i>Sun, Dec 13th, 3:00pm</i> <i>Mon, Dec 14th 7:00pm</i> Community Church 1100 University, Healdsburg
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Tickets: \$15.00 - Children 4 & under are free
 Tickets available online at www.healdsburgchorus.com & at Copperfield's in Healdsburg

We are a Welcoming Congregation:

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

*YOU ARE INVITED
TO
SCROOGE'S HOLIDAY PARTY*

WHEN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:30 PM

*WHERE: UUCSR, BEGINS IN THE SANCTUARY, MOVES
TO THE SOCIAL HALL*

WHAT: 7PM "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

*PERFORMED BY FINLEY SENIOR
CENTER READERS THEATER*

*FOLLOWED BY TREATS, CAROLING AND A
VISIT FROM SANTA*

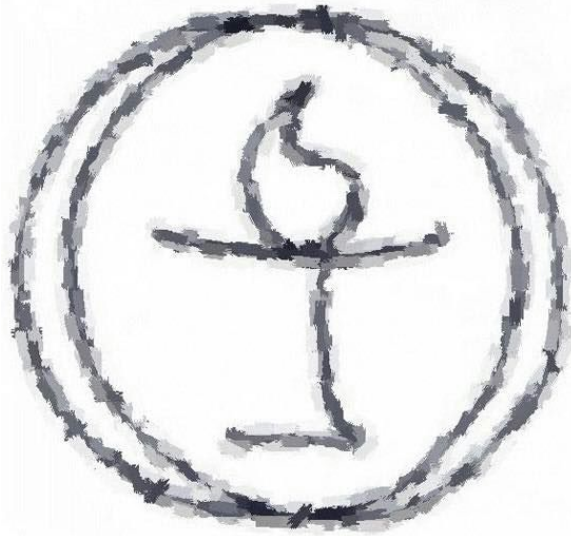
*WHO: YOU AND OUR FRIENDS FROM THE FAMILY
SUPPORT CENTER*

*WE WOULD WELCOME LABELED
FINGER FOODS TO SHARE*

INFORMATION: BECKY MONTGOMERY

Pacific Central UU Young Adults Winter Conference 2016

Friday, January 1st, at 7:00p to Sunday, January 3rd at 10:00a



The PCUUYA Winter Conference 2016 is a fantastic chance to connect with fellow UU young adults from around Northern California. Throughout the weekend there opportunities to build community, deepen faith, engage in social justice and more.

Where: UU Congregation, Santa Rosa

For: UU Young Adults ages 18 to 35

Cost: Sliding Scale \$25-\$45

For registration info: go to pcuuya.tumblr.com



The Intentional Community

An experimental class in building community

You are invited to attend an experimental class on creating more engaging UU church communities. In this class you will:

- Identify the all communities that you are part of.
- Discover powerful ways that will enable you and your community to connect on deeper levels.
- Learn the deeper science of organizing community

**Where: First UU Society of San Francisco
1187 Franklin st, San Francisco, CA, 94109**

When: Saturday, January 16th, 10am to 5:30pm

For more information or to register:

email joechapot@gmail.com or call 415 244 7253