**JULY 3rd**
**THE STATE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Carol Kraemer *Music by:* The Choir & The UUsual Suspects!
*Share the Basket:* Canine Companions for Independence

Fresh on the heels of the UUA General Assembly, Rev. Chris will offer the highlights, review the theological conversations, leadership elections and social justice decisions that transpired there, and discuss the top issues that our denominational leaders are directing us towards now. Delegate Carol Kraemer will also offer a reflection.

**JULY 10**
**THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman, Joe Gabaeff *Music by:* Roger Corman & The UUsual Suspects *Share the Basket:* Redwood Emp. Food Bank

The metaphor of the spiritual life as "journey" is both common and deeply provocative. Are we really going from one place to another? What does it mean to be transformed, again and again? If the path is the goal and the means is the end, how do we find our own right direction? The ancient story of two sisters, Mary and Martha, provides some clues as we find our way down the road of love.

**11:30 AM After Service—Informational Congregational Meeting on Preschool Rental**

**JULY 17**
**THE SACRED PATTERN OF THE LABYRINTH**
*Service Leaders:* Erin Howseman, Cathy Read *Music by:* Jenny Harriman, Robert Howseman, & Tom Rough *Basket Shared with:* Fence at the Top

In 1991, Lauren Atress, then Canon Pastor of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, went on a pilgrimage to Chartres Cathedral in France to experience the medieval labyrinth inlaid in its 13th-century stone floor. So began a renaissance of labyrinth use throughout the world. With reflections, music and poetry, we explore how modern spiritual practice of the labyrinth can aid us in our search for healing and transformation. All will have the opportunity to walk our canvass labyrinth on the chancel floor. Wheel chairs and walkers welcome.

**JULY 24**
**SELF, SELVES, NO-SELF**
*What's Inside This Bag Of Bones?*
*Service Leaders:* Andrew Hidas, Eric Fischer, Mary Chapot *Music: UUCSR vocalists* *Share the Basket:* Saturday Breakfast for Our Neighbors

Depth and pop psychology both focus on the notion of a “Self.” Is that Self one or many? Of what is it made? Christianity exalts an immortal Self that will someday be reunited with its Creator, while Asian spiritual traditions regard Self as the ultimate delusion. Sociology alludes to many selves, filling various roles. Where do we come down on this matter as UUs? What, in the end, is inside this bag of bones?

**JULY 31**
**LOVE SONGS II: WHEN IT ALL GOES BAD**
*Service Leader:* Scott Miller *Music by* Paul Gilger and UUsual Suspects *Share the Basket:* Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS)

What breaks when a heart breaks? What do we learn when we part from former partners? Join the musical ministers of UUCSR in a meditation-through-song exploration of the endings of love stories. Loss of love yields no loss of rich material for artistic expression. This artistic expression of loss gives further opens our hearts and invites us again to attend to what really matters.

**ENDURING JOURNEYS**

**SUMMER SERVICES! ONE SERVICE ONLY! 10:00 am!**
From the Minister

Good, Bad or Indifferent?

[Reprinted from the September 2006 UU Update]

One of the critiques that has been leveled over the last two centuries at American liberal religion is that it doesn’t take evil seriously enough.

Thomas Starr King is said to have joked, “the Universalists believe God is too good to damn them, and the Unitarians believe they’re too good to be damned.” William Ellery Channing and the early Unitarians claimed that humans bore “a likeness to God.” Oh sure, we had some animal passions that needed tempering, but if we consciously developed our reason, our piety, our openness to beauty and, well, our manners, then it would be “upward and onward forever” for humankind. We would structure society’s institutions to educate minds and cultivate character and everything would turn out right.

We were given a chance to put it to the test, too.
For awhile there in the post-Civil War period, much of the national agenda was shaped by Unitarians, Universalists and other liberals. Reforms of schools and prisons and mental institutions took place. Inter-religious dialogue was initiated. Women were given the vote. Encouraged by these advances, good liberals dreamed of a world where our divinely-inspired plans would put an end to all war and poverty.

Then came the Twentieth Century. Bluntly speaking, it kicked liberalisms’s behind. The pointlessness of World War One demonstrated that the hunger for war was at least as deep in our souls as the hunger for peace. The Nazis and the Holocaust revealed the dark side of having a master plan to rid humankind of its so-called less desirable elements. A hundred other wars, the massive failures of Communism and the Bomb drove the point home. If human nature was related to the Deepest Nature, what did that say? Is the Universe good, bad or indifferent?

I offer this history because the problem of evil has been on my mind a lot lately. As most of you know, our moving company turned out to have more likeness to Tony Soprano than to God. We were lied to, manipulated, and extorted out of nearly $1000 in extra charges. Not only did I have to deal with the problem of the mover’s evil, I had to deal with it in myself. I haven’t felt that kind of gut-burning anger in a long, long time.

Fortunately, I attended the Tuesday morning meditation at UUCSR last week and heard the words of the Tibetan teacher Pema Chödrön: “Remember that the one who harms you does not need to be provoked further and neither do you. You can connect with your heart and recognize that, in this very moment, millions are burning with the fire of aggression just as you two are. Sit still with the restlessness and pain of the anger, neither acting it out nor repressing it, and let the searing quality of the energy tame you and strengthen you and make you kinder.”

That wasn’t exactly what I’d been up to; my revenge fantasies had gone beyond litigation into the realm of explosives. I had once again separated the world into dualistic categories, into right and wrong, into ‘me’ as good and ‘them’ as bad. I was so hot with anger I didn’t even have room for kindness to myself.

Over the years I have struggled into the awareness that the Deepest Nature of the Universe, like ourselves, contains all possibilities. I don’t think It’s indifferent, exactly, but everything we might call good and evil is contained within. It is pure energy, open and boundless, and it carries no guarantees. There will never be human life without some confusion, some selfishness, some suffering. Our forebears were right about this: if we want more of the good energy — the love, the compassion, the patience — we have to cultivate it ourselves. This comes not from denying the evil in us, but by accepting it. Real love, real enlightenment has room for EVERYTHING. But, oh man, is that place hard to get to!

So for me it’s back to the cushion, back to trying to accept the good and the bad in myself and in others (even the Mafia Moving Co.), back to trying to accept the good and the bad in the Universe, back to trying to embrace the whole beautiful horrible mess of life just as it is. Perhaps you’ll join me in that effort?

In faith,
Rev. Chris
Greetings from Our (NEW) President

(Let’s Welcome Bill Haigwood, Our New UUCSR board of Trustees President)

Summer brings us its lazy days. But for your newly elected UUCSR board it’s also the start of a new year of dreaming, planning and decision-making. It’s certainly looking like it will be a year of growth in many dimensions. Actually, a lot does happen at the UU during the summer and this year is particularly active. Your elected board and its officers take over on July 1 to begin another year of administrating an especially strong and growing congregation.

As your new board president, I’m looking forward to the challenge and opportunity of advancing the goals of UUCSR. I served last year as the board’s vice-president and learned a lot from my able predecessor, Susan Bartholome.

A few things about me. I’ve been a Unitarian since the age of 13 when my parents joined the Berkeley Unitarian Church. During that time I was an active member of the Unitarian teen group, Liberal Religious Youth (LRY). I’ve been attending UUCSR since 1996 and have been a member since 2005. I’m nearing retirement from a professional life that has included college teaching, journalism, newspaper publishing and, for the past 20 years, working as an educator and coordinator at a Santa Rosa family service agency dedicated to preventing child abuse and supporting children and families. I’m married to UUCSR music associate Claire Beery. We were married by Rev. Chris in September, 2013, and between us have six grown children and two grandchildren.

Looking back. UUCSR now employs a part-time bookkeeper, the result of the board’s attention to our steady congregational growth. This position adds enormously to our staff capacity, frees our administrator Janis Brewster to focus her attention on new projects and increases our ability to better manage the congregation’s finances. This new position has been made possible by your support of our congregation through your annual pledges.

And speaking of pledges, the new UUCSR Philanthropy Team, on which I also serve, had a good first year restructuring the way you support your congregation, migrating from an annual pledge drive to a process supported by ongoing sustained pledges. Since the congregation no longer holds an annual pledge drive, we will seek to expand our pledge appeals next year in a way that will make giving to UUCSR convenient, reliable and rewarding for all of us.

The year ahead. The new board’s annual retreat in August will bring us together to develop goals for 2016-17. These will be presented at the next UUCSR congregational meeting in October.

Right now, we are in the final stages of negotiating to rent our religious education rooms and courtyard to a newly opening preschool. It will operate Monday-Friday during daytime hours and will be a source of significant income from a space not otherwise in use. A presentation about these plans will be given at a special Congregational Meeting July 10 following the 10 am service.

And recently you had the opportunity to complete a survey on pastoral care. The board will review the nearly 100 surveys we received for direction on how best to expand and strengthen our congregation’s pastoral care outreach and to support our dedicated core of volunteers on the Caring Committee.

Your thoughts, interests and ideas matter to us. If you have a thought about the work of our board or congregation, have a concern about our policies or a special interest in a particular mission; please feel free to contact me or another board member. You’ll see us at services, of course, and I’m generally available by e-mail or phone. On most Sundays you’ll also find a board member at the "Talk to a Board Member" table just outside the sanctuary before and after services. Do stop by and speak with us. Give us your two cents worth. We’ll pay you five cents for it!

Bill Haigwood, Board of Trustees President
bchaig@pacbell.net  707-322-9829
Treasurer’s Report

Ten Month Financial Update
– Congregational Meeting Recap

*If you attended the congregational meeting last month you heard that we are doing fairly well financially and that our pledge revenue is under budget.*

This is true – the pledges received this fiscal year are less than hoped. However, the primary reason is that we haven’t received advance pledges – pledges from next year - this year and that is a good thing. We’ll likely attain budgeted pledges next year if they are not paid in advance. Here is the rest of the good news:

- Sunday Basket Revenue over budget
- Donation Revenue over budget
- Fundraising revenue over budget
- Glaser Center Net Income on budget
- Total expenses are under budget

**Other News on the Financial Front:**

- We have paid off $122K in Member Notes since we paid off the bank mortgage in February 2013.
- $38K has been paid off this fiscal year.
- 22 members currently hold Member Notes.
- There is a balance of $336,000 in Member Notes outstanding.
- At our projected rate, all notes should be paid off in about 8 years.

**Budget - No Pledge Drive**

- New pledges from new members and friends and increase pledges continue.
- Pledges are “sustaining” – they will renew each year until changed
- Pledge cards are available: on Sundays, in the office and on-line
- If you haven’t already, please set up automatic payment from your checking account or credit card on our website. It’s quick and easy and allows you to control your giving while helping maintain an even cash flow for UUCSR. Go to http://uusantarosa.org/. Just click on the green “Donate Now” button and fill in the blanks

**Final Budget for 2016-2017 Highlights**

- Pledge revenue $457K - $34K or 8% more than 2015-2016 fiscal year.
- Other revenue, donations, Sunday basket, rentals, fundraising increased $16K from last year.
- Long term rental reduced $15 (545 Mendocino).
- Increased staff expenses $35K, additional hours, raises and new bookkeeper.
- Other miscellaneous expenses increased by $10K.
- Reduced PCD dues $10K to balance budget.
- Because of uncertainty regarding potential new long term rentals, we will present a revised final budget in the October congregational meeting for approval.

*Remember:*

“Giving is an act of generosity.
Giving is sowing a seed.
The seed will produce a great harvest of fruits.”

– Lailah Gifty Akita

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

**UUCSR has Wonderful Ways to Set Your Community Life Ablaze!**

Take a visual tour through the Sunday Visitors Table’s current Group brochures!

see all the lovely opportunities to connect with “fellow travelers.”
Share the Offering

UUCSR shares our Sunday offerings with local non-profits which serve greater Sonoma Co., incl. our Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors. Giving is arranged by A4SJ from congregant’s

**July 3:** Canine Companions For Independence, a national organization founded in Santa Rosa, trains service dogs for adults in wheelchairs; skilled companion dogs for children with disabilities; facility dogs in classroom or health care setting; and hearing dogs who alert partners to key sounds.

**July 10:** Redwood Empire Food Bank with a wide range of programs, provides food for needy children and seniors, supplies hundreds of local agencies, including our own Saturday Breakfast.

**July 17:** Fence At The Top is a mentoring program for at-risk youth in Sonoma County, providing tutoring and opportunities to learn basic life skills such as team work, responsibility, self-control, perseverance, financial literacy and job search techniques.

**July 24:** Saturday Breakfast is our own program to provide a nutritious breakfast and welcoming atmosphere every Saturday for our needy neighbors. It is supported by the volunteer efforts of our members and others, and the financial generosity of members and pledging friends.

**July 31:** Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS) is a local organization which serves, empowers, and educates immigrants by providing quality low-cost immigration legal services and promoting community action.

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**Hot Topic:**

**JULY HOT TOPIC BONUS:**

**Our Library’s Future?**

**Sunday July 17, 2016 11:45 am**

The Sonoma County Public Library recently launched a new five-year strategic plan, opened a new community branch in Roseland, and has begun to reach out in new ways to our population at large, including the implementation of new forms of media delivery, such as streaming movies, books, and music.

David Dodd, Librarian and Collections Manager for the Sonoma County Library (and fellow UU, active in the Unitarian Universalists of Petaluma), will speak about the Sonoma County Library’s current initiatives in planning for future services in Sonoma County.

The Library faces numerous challenges, not least of which is a limited budget, which has forced the closure of all branches on Mondays and most evenings. Come learn what you can do to assure a vital, healthy library in the 21st century for Sonoma County.
**North Bay Organizing Project**

NBOP, UUCSR’s community-organizing partner, offers abundant opportunities to make real differences in our communities, in ways that support UU values.

**News**

NBOP was honored by the statewide organization Tenants Together “for the amazing work done by North Bay Organizing Project in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.”

NBOP and its allies continue to work to secure rent stabilization and just cause eviction policies. Rent stabilization will protect 10,000 families in Santa Rosa! With the retirement of the current Santa Rosa City Attorney, the preparation of the rent stabilization ordinance has been delayed, somewhat. The Affordable Housing Task Force is working to move this process along by meeting regularly with allies, elected officials and city staff.

Even with the victory of rent stabilization and just cause eviction policies for Santa Rosa, there is much that needs to be done. When the ordinance is in place, those in opposition may put a measure on the ballot to defeat it. Please check in with Sibyl Day at 707-695-6665 to receive information about upcoming City Council meetings dealing with this issue.

**Upcoming Events**

**Noche Sabrosa!** Save the date for **Noche Sabrosa, July 16th from 5 -10 p.m. at Community Church of Sebastopol.** Noche Sabrosa is the annual party, dance, dinner, and fundraiser for NBOP. It is so much fun! There is wonderful, live music. A dance lesson (even for those who don’t dance) — and then later a dance contest, with trophies. Terrific food and drink. And, best of all, amazing, incredible people — just like you!

*Please see the flyer in this newsletter for further details.*

**Drawing Wednesdays!**

Open drawing 1-3 pm Green Room Judy Hutchinson facilitates a group from beginners to experienced artists. Bring your paper & pencils for some meaningful fun! Instructional books, masters’ drawings, ideas, encouragement — all available.

Call Judy at 545-7808 for info.

**UU Update**

**UU Update is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, California. E-submissions preferred. Send to newsletter@uusantarosa.org.** Due by the Mon. after 3rd Sundays of the month: Paper submissions must be received 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.

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**UUUCSR’s Evening Book Group’s 2016-2017 Monthly Book Choices / Schedule**

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Angle of Repose</td>
<td>Wallace Stegner</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>The Invention of Wings</td>
<td>Sue Monk Kidd</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Stonewalled</td>
<td>Cheryl Atkison</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>A Christmas Carol</td>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
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<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Missoula</td>
<td>John Krakauer</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>A Man Called Ove</td>
<td>Frederic Backman</td>
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<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>The Wright Brothers</td>
<td>David McCullough</td>
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<td>Apr. 13</td>
<td>H is for Hawk</td>
<td>Helen McDonald</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Lab Girl</td>
<td>Hope Jahren</td>
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<td>Jun. 8</td>
<td>Potluck to select books for next year</td>
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At the heart of religion is story. Parable, myth, allegory, or wisdom tale: stories transform experience into lessons of deep meaning and pathways to action.

Through story we learn to deal with challenges, mindful of the past and conscious of alternatives for the future. Stories help us develop both individual and collective identities. In a certain way our identities can be understood as a story we weave from a lifetime of stories in which we have been story both tellers and listeners, learning about right action in the world.

Sharing family stories helps maintain emotional bonds within a family. Telling creates a narrative that transmits values and identity from past generations to the future ones. According to research from the Family Narratives Lab at Emory University, families that tell more family history stories have adolescent children that have higher levels of self-understanding and emotional well-being.

My family were not story-tellers. I feel a sense of loss because there is so much about my history that I know nothing about. My grandparents were immigrants, and I know nothing of their immigration story. My father fought in WWII, he shared precious little about that experience, yet I know it colored his whole existence. There are many rich stories in my heritage, but a tight-lipped, stoic lot most likely thought such self-disclosure was too prideful, I have been left in the dark.

Not having much family history to recount to my kids, I made sure to tell them stories of my own, about my childhood and adolescence, about friendships and adventures. I told them how I found Unitarian Universalism.

Each year on their birthdays I tell them their birth stories (my 30 year-old daughter still asks for the story every year.) Over the years we’ve developed a shared narrative of our lives. The stories tell to one another keep us together even when we are so far apart.

As you spend more time with your children and your grandchildren this summer, tell them stories about your life. Be demonstrative. Bring the past alive. Let your children experience what it was like in the old days. Let them know both the joys and struggles of your fully lived life. Tell them stories that reflect how you came to believe what you believe, how you came to be who you are. Let your children into your life by telling them your story, then maybe they will tell you theirs.

In Faith, Deborah

KEEPING IT “SIMPLE AND FUN” THIS SUMMER!

Summer Program for K-5
June 5 - Sept 11, Sundays 10:00 am

Grades K-5 each Summer Sunday—children begin in the worship service for a Story for All Ages, lead the Children’s Affirmation, then go to the RE wing for a brief children’s worship. Games, art and song follow! We offer organized outdoor games, and a music session or arts & crafts project led by some of the congregation's great musicians, or fantastic artists.

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

Middle School Youth (MUUGs) are on summer hiatus until August 16. There is a Pacific Central District Middle School Summer Camp July 6-11 at the Mendocino Woodlands.

Details about the camp: MUUGs website http://www.pcdmuugs.org or from Deborah at debmasonuu@gmail.com or 707-568-5381.

The Sr. High Youth Group is also on hiatus from mid June until August 16. However, there may be some meetings of the youth group over the summer for community service. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for info.

Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisers.
**Adult Religious Education**

*Submitted by Marilyn Beckerbauer*

**Looking Ahead ...**

Poet Robert McNally Presents
The Gospel According to Mary Oliver
August 27
9:30 am—3:30 pm

Acclaimed poet Robert McNally will present an all day workshop - The Gospel According to Mary Oliver - on one of UU's favorite poets. McNally gave a similar, very popular class a few years ago at UUCSR. This one will take place on Saturday, August 27, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Fee is $30. McNally will provide a syllabus ahead of time suggesting several Mary Oliver poems to be read in advance. His teaching style is interactive, combining discussion, lecture, and reading aloud Mary Oliver's poems.

Class limited to 30, with a minimum of 12 people. McNally's previous presentation was very well attended and we expect this one will be the same.

**Coming in September:**

*4-Part daytime series*
*by Phil Harriman entitled*
*Scientific Roots*

The four separate presentations are:

- DNA Time Travel
- The Varieties of Scientific Experience
- Astrobiology, and finally, a Field Trip to the Petrified Forest.

More information to follow

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**UUCSR “Yellow Pages”**

Many of our members have their own businesses—Let’s showcase them all in a directory supplement!

**We Need a Volunteer**
to coordinate this project

**No Experience Required**
Just a desire to connect people and help them present themselves to best advantage.

**Technical support for the actual production will be available.**

Interested? Contact Annalisa at datasupport@uusantarosa.org

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**Art at Glaser**

**Art Show**
June 22 to September 19

**SARITA HAZEN**

**ART SHOW**
by Sarita Hazen
June 22 — Sept 19

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**Work-Saturday Volunteers**

**Wanted**

No July Work Day

Once a month we gather to maintain, improve, and beautify our grounds and building.

**Next Work Day:**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
9 AM to 12 Noon
Please Come Help With a Task!
ALL-UU SUMMER CAMP — Sept 2–4, 2016!
Save September 2, 3 & 4 for the 2016 All UU Summer Camp

This year’s All UU Summer Camp, located at the Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa, is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2–4, 2016, making it extra easy to attend camp. Our camp is designed to include everyone in our congregational family—parents and kids, teens and elders, singles and couples of all persuasions.

Erica Mikesh reports on her family’s experience at camp last year:

*We had a blast. As first timers to UU Summer Retreat we were ambitious in bringing our 2-year old son and his 3-year old best friend without knowing what we were getting ourselves into.*

*Deborah from RE was there to make us and the little ones feel comfortable. We were able to participate in a couple different classes while Deborah watched over the boys and the other kids that were there. Swimming was a huge hit. There were fun arts and crafts and the food was delicious. We enjoyed all the music that was happening and the talent show.*

*The boys will enjoy it even more this summer. We can’t wait to go back and hope that more families join us in making it an annual tradition.*

Check out our flyer in this newsletter for pricing. Enchanted Hills is on the border of Sonoma and Napa Counties, about a 45 minute drive from the Safeway on the corner of Calistoga Road and Hwy 12.

Get it on your calendar because we want to see you there! Sign ups start on July 31st in the social hall!

Key Fob Access

~ Update ~

Distribution of key fobs to people who need access from outside when no staff are in the building is continuing. Our administrator, Janis Brewster, is contacting heads of committees and others who are known to need access from outside after hours, to have them fill out a security agreement and receive a key fob, which will allow access from 5 AM until 11 PM, seven days a week.

After that is completed, people who have not been contacted and who need after-hours access may apply for a key fob.

Until the distribution of key fobs is complete, people with exterior keys will continue to have access with those keys.

After completion of key fob distribution, probably some time in August, the exterior locks will be changed, so that only staff and a few others will have exterior keys, to be used in case of a power outage.

Interior keys will not be affected by these changes.

*Thank you—John Jaffray for The Operations Team*

Share The Basket

**MAY RECIPIENTS**

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

Council on Aging $423.58
Youth Service Trip $401.66
NAACP $389.83
Sonoma County Vet Connect $337.21
Breakfast for Our Neighbors $497.68

*Thanks for your generous support!*

WEST COUNTY UU WOMEN

Come meet your UU neighbors!

We meet casually for breakfast monthly at 8 am in Sebastopol or Graton

Come regularly, or once in awhile!

Sometimes we are four, sometimes a dozen or more.

We’ll make you smile, we always have fun.

Meet other members, one by one.

Call Phyllis Clement if you want to join our crew - we welcome you!
Philanthropy Team

As I write this, KQED is wrapping up another one of its seemingly endless pledge drives. I’m a big fan of public TV (and a former employee of several stations), but I’m certainly not the only one to think, “There has GOT to be a better way to fund non-commercial broadcasting!”

Many local public TV stations over the years have tried something called “silent” pledge drives. They did not interrupt programs, but rather only used the natural breaks between shows to gently remind folks that, hey, we need some money here to keep functioning. How about sending us some?

It didn’t work. Annoying as they are, pledge drives do get the job done.

I bring this up, obviously, because UUCSR is trying out something like the “silent” pledge drive. We’re hoping that it works better for us than it has for public TV. Now of course, a congregation is not the same as a television network, as much as we might like the programs. Religious community offers something deeper and richer than the finest programs.

But both have to be funded. And funded continually. Our pledge drives of the past did work, just like pledge drives for public broadcasting. And many UUCSR people actually did appreciate the social aspects of meeting new people in one-on-one pledging discussions. But frankly, there are lots of other social activities available—TIE groups, circle dinners, committee work, music, and so on—that don’t also require stressing over money.

This kind of “self-directed” pledging, if you will, requires members to be more conscious of their own giving and keeping up with increasing congregation expenses. So, is it working? Well, it’s early and the jury is still out. But recently we’ve noticed that pledged donations are somewhat under budget, though other income sources are currently making up for the shortfall.

But it’s the pledged donations that provide the basic foundation for congregational expenses. And, as you probably know by now, there are quick and easy ways to painlessly set up a monthly automatic gift that will supply your church home with a steady stream of support.

“Silent” pledge drives may not have worked for public broadcasting, but there’s every reason to believe it will work for UUCSR!

By Alan Bell, for the Philanthropy Team

Join a UUCSR Women’s Group!

Six to eight women meet in a confidential setting to share.
Topics vary widely, what is said there stays there.

Interested? Questions?
Contact facilitator Mary Wolfe
marywolfe2323a@gmail.com
or (707)544-3134.

We are a “Welcoming Congregation:” We are committed to being a diverse congregation, fully inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender people.
Musical Notes

On Sunday, July 3, the Choir will be singing for the first time in Summer.

Since we will be singing Hymn #300, “With Heart and Mind,” we have asked everyone who would like to sing with us to come to one easy rehearsal, so we are hoping to have some new singers for that service. Paul Gilger will be playing the piano for that service.

Roger Corman plays the piano for us on the July 10 service. Jenny Harriman and Pat Russell will be playing piano duets for the service on July 17. Nancy Hayashibara will be playing the piano for the service on July 24.

Paul Gilger will be playing for the service on July 31, both as a piano soloist but also as an accompanist for many songs with other musicians:  "People" (from the musical "Funny Girl"), by Paul Gilger on the piano for the Prelude. "Simple Man" (by Graham Nash), sung by Scott Miller, with Scott on guitar and Eric Skagerberg doing back-up vocals. "Yesterday" (by the Beatles), sung by Natalie Brundred, with Scott Miller on guitar. "Someone Like You" (by Adele), sung by Sadie Sonntag, with Paul Gilger on the piano. "Who Can I Turn To" (by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse), sung by Jack Raineault, with Ruth Ahlers on flute, and Paul Gilger on the piano. "How Do You Keep the Music Playing?" (by Michel Legrand and Alan & Marilyn Bergman), sung by John Ray, with Ruth Ahlers on back-up vocal and sax, and Paul Gilger on the piano for the Postlude.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlights of Rev Chris’s Summer Schedule</th>
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<td>(for those of you who missed the focus list)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUN 28-JUL 15</td>
<td>Rev Chris AROUND for three weeks, and PREACHING the first two Sundays in July.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUL 16-AUG 7</td>
<td>Rev Chris on VACATION.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 8</td>
<td>Rev Chris back to work! Preaching twice in August. (And CELEBRATING 10 YEARS of ministry together!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 19-21</td>
<td>UUCSR BOARD RETREAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT 2-4</td>
<td>UUCSR FAMILY CAMP</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT 11</td>
<td>INGATHERING with a return to two services, and the annual kickoff of the Children’s Religious Education program year.</td>
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"Unitarian” 1673”

The word Unitarian had been circulating in private letters in England, in reference to imported copies of such publications as the Library of the Polish Brethren who are called Unitarians (1665), Henry Hedworth was the first to use the word "Unitarian" in print in English (1673), and the word first appears in a title in Stephen Nye’s A brief history of the Unitarians, called also Socinians (1687). It was construed in a broad sense to cover all who, with whatever differences, held to the unipersonality of the Divine Being. Firmin later had a project of Unitarian societies "within the Church".

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Pianist: TBA
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