May 1
THE PRACTICE OF JUSTICE
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, David Hope  Music by: Eric Skagerberg and some of the UUsual Suspects  Share the Basket: Sonoma County Vet Connect
We kick off May looking at spiritual practices by considering one very close to many UUs: working for justice. Lord knows, there are plenty of opportunities to do so these days, with anti-LGBT statutes in North Carolina, global terrorism, hate-speech and demagoguery in our politics, climate change, and attacks on women’s rights. The good news— the practice of working for social change also changes us, opening our hearts and minds.

May 8
THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
BRIDGING CEREMONY at 11:00
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason  Music by: Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Tyler Johnson  Share the Basket: Youth Group trip to New Orleans
The Fourth UU Principle calls us to engage in a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” We greatly honor the process of life-long learning. Being religious does not mean giving up our minds or critical thinking! Today we consider education – both providing and receiving forms – as a spiritual practice. At the center of the 11:00 service is the Bridging Ceremony for our graduating senior high school youth, with their reflections on their journeys.

May 15
YOUR BODY IS YOUR TEACHER
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine  Music by: Special Guest Bobby Jo Valentine, Tyler Johnson  Share the Basket: Council on Aging / Meals on Wheels
“Embodied spirituality views all human dimensions—body, vital, heart, mind, and consciousness—as equal partners in bringing self, community, and world into a fuller alignment with the Mystery out of which everything arises. Far from being an obstacle, this approach sees the engagement of the body and its vital/primary energies as crucial for not only a thorough spiritual transformation, but also the creative exploration of expanded forms of spiritual freedom.”
Jorge N. Ferrer

May 22
JAZZ AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
Service Leaders: Millie Phillips, John Ray  Music by: The Choir AND The UUsual Suspects!  Share the Basket: The Saturday Breakfast for our Neighbors
Jazz is often misconstrued as "every person for him/herself," riffing like mad with the hope it all coheres in the end. Rather like "UU's can believe anything, making it up as they go along and then talking about it on Sunday." But underneath jazz's reverence for free-form improvisation lies a deep structure and tradition of individual creativity lending itself to group cooperation. Hmmm...Join us, including a swingin' group of UUsual Suspects players and singers and our Choir, for this musically rich and thought-provoking journey through a home-grown American art form and its interweave with liberal religion.

May 29
THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty  Music by: Ben Ford & the UUsual Suspects, Tyler Johnson  Share the Basket: NAACP Sonoma County Chapter
“There are times when a human soul cries out in mourning, and ... when a human soul sings forth in gratitude for the sheer joy of life,” writes Rev. Patrick O’Neil. Spontaneous expressions of our soul’s deep longing are the most familiar form of prayer (for theists and non-theists alike!), but what might come of making a daily practice of this form of mindful and intentional speech?
Collaborating with the Spirit of Life
By Rev Chris Bell, UUCSR Minister

The annual UU Pacific Central District Assembly was this last weekend in Fremont. About 180 UUs from across Northern California and Nevada came for inspiring worship and informative workshops (including two that UUCSR offered on T.I.E. groups, and our Worship/Music Associates program), and to have fun. I think also of the Saturday night disco party, featuring lots of Prince. Farewell, sweet Prince!

The theme of D.A. was “Doing Together What We Cannot Do Alone!” The centerpiece was a speech and seminar offered by Rev. Scott Taylor, Director of Congregational Life Staff at the UUA. He presented an intriguing variety of ways in which congregations might directly aid one another. Beyond Revivals, we have not really partnered with our UU neighbors in Petaluma, Marin, Napa or Lake County. I left D.A. with a strong resolve to find ways for us to work together for our mutual benefit, and to collectively grow Unitarian Universalism in the North Bay.

Rev. Taylor used an amusing analogy, describing congregations that increase their collaboration as akin to a couple growing ever more serious in their relationship. At the first stage, a Network of Learning, congregations simply exchange information and wisdom. Their leaders might share ideas and experiences, or help with a discernment process, but like a couple who is dating, they still keep a safe distance and lots of time for themselves. (They probably also exaggerate their positive qualities in their online profiles!)

The second stage, a Network of Doing, is like going steady. Here congregations might take action together by engaging in public witness or social justice, or combine their “Our Whole Lives” or Coming-of-Age programs. We have done this with the Petaluma UUs. More pulpit exchanges and musical sharing might occur.

When a happy couple moves in together, in the next stage, a Network of Sharing is created. Greater expectations and trust are found in such a phase. Two congregations might actually share their small group ministry programs, co-sponsor a “coffee-shop church” for their young adults, or share staff members. They might coordinate their worship themes and topics so their ministers don’t each have to write 3 or 4 new sermons a month, but instead 3 or 4 between them and exchange pulpets regularly. Sermon prep time could be used for more pastoral care or justice work.

At the next level, a Network of Being, congregations are like a married couple. Here they are sharing identities, holding each other accountable in new ways, making sacrifices and being truly vulnerable. Here two congregations might actually share a board, or budgets or by-laws in order to be more efficient. Can you imagine? Admittedly, this is much more likely to occur when a satellite congregation is founded, rather than when two pre-existing communities merge, but the latter has been known to occur to very positive effect.

At this point in Rev. Taylor’s talk, everyone started to get a little nervous. What about boundaries and differentiation? What about us being us, and them being them? Valid questions, but I am fascinated by the possibilities of partnership with other congregations. Perhaps we could share a webmaster, a youth advisor, legal counsel, or even an assistant minister. Could we do more Sunday exchanges, not just of ministers, but of choirs and worship associates? Let’s get out of our silos and connect with fellow UUs! Heck, I’d be happy if we could just have a disco party every now and again.

Yet as much as I appreciated Rev. Taylor’s creativity and vision, it is clear that congregational collaboration is not the secret for growing our faith. We have been looking for that secret for generations. UUA has tried the fellowship movement, policy governance, embracing social media, promoting non-congregational communities, starting legislative ministries, buying billboard space, and showing up in yellow shirts to stand on the side of love. Yet UUism has not grown in over 100 years. Such strategies are what organizational experts call “technical fixes,” which cannot replace the vital ingredients that our permanently tiny movement most lacks: strong leadership and compelling vision. Indeed, we are nearly allergic to strong leadership because it requires followers, and allegedly no UU wants to be that. (I do.)

So, our UUA president is more the director of a nonprofit than a prophet who directs. Many congregations struggle for power with their minister – whom they called to lead them! Most denominational elections are uncontested, and can be filled by the merely willing, rather than the inspiring or capable. We don’t even have a District Executive anymore. Our regional staffers are more consultants than leaders. Can you name any of them?

We continue to seek technical fixes because the real problem of leadership and vision is so hard to face. In my (barely) humble opinion, most UU congregations and the Association itself are confused about our fundamental purpose as religious communities. They become activist collectives, social clubs, whereas congregations should offer people personal and collective transformation into their highest and best selves. Religious communities must be humble servants of the larger world where the limitless energy of Love can be felt, relied upon and made manifest.

The Spirit of Life must be our main collaborator. UU services and activities must speak to our deepest longings, and offer heartfelt and faithful reasons for hope and happiness. We achieve this here which is why we continue to grow, in spite of our technical or organizational limitations.

I will joyfully partner with anyone outside or inside our doors who serves these goals. In that spirit, then, I really do look forward to a collaborative future together!

Rev Chris
Greetings from the President

“The world’s favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.”

Edwin Way Teale

I can’t help but feel optimistic as Spring comes into its fullness in the month of May. For me the perfect antidote to the barrage of media negativity is a walk in the newly greening woods or spending time in my sunny garden.

Membership in this beloved community bolsters my sense of hope and excitement for the future as well. As UUCSR continues to grow and flourish we can anticipate the expansion of our children’s and music programs, more adult RE opportunities, improving and expanding our facility space use, more support for our homeless neighbors, increased community involvement and much more!

Would you like to learn more about all the interesting folks and groups doing fun and important things to keep UUCSR a vibrant and active community? Your UUCSR Board of Trustees (another interesting group) is sponsoring an Activities Fair on Sunday May 15. Please mark your calendars for this festive and informative event between and after the services.

Another opportunity to learn more and serve your local, and the greater UU community, is to represent UUCSR as a delegate to the 2016 UU General Assembly June 22-26. For more information contact Heather Mutz and Carol Kraemer who will be providing 2 info sessions regarding GA. (Your Board has scholarship money available to help defray some of the General Assembly costs.)

Peace and love,

Susan Bartholome,
President UUCSR Board of Trustees

Treasurer’s Report

The Buddha said that no true spiritual life is possible without a generous heart. . . . Generosity allies itself with an inner feeling of abundance — the feeling that we have enough to share.

Sharon Salzberg

There are opportunities all around us for spontaneous giving. It’s not always easy to recognize them but sometimes events in a normal day may include an opportunity to share a sudden bounty. There are several examples I’ve noted in the past year or so from members and friends of our congregation.

Recently a member handed me a check, above and beyond his pledge, and indicated that because he had received an income tax refund, he wanted to donate half of it to the congregation. A generosity of spirit enables us to recognize an opportunity to give in our day-to-day world.

In a couple of instances, members have inherited money they weren’t expecting. This allowed them to make additional donations to the congregation, in one case to the Endowment Fund. The other donation was quite large and allowed us to purchase and install our wonderful projector system and has helped us upgrade the kitchen, the security system and the courtyard cover project as well as other smaller projects. A selfless gift donated with the stipulation that it be used where needed.

Another member refinanced the mortgage on her home, reducing her monthly payment. Not an unusual event and several of us may have done so in the past few years. When she realized that she would be saving quite a bit every month, she raised her pledge by most of the difference in her payment. Saving in one area can open the door – it’s up to us to choose to walk through with our arms outstretched.

Even using eScrip is an opportunity to share our bounty with our congregation – nothing is too small to matter. And small gifts tend to add up. When we use the eScrip site to shop on-line it brings additional funds for our mission that cost us literally a couple of extra seconds of time.

There are other opportunities for generosity such as these during the course of our everyday lives. They are large and small. Our generosity is valued and appreciated by the congregation and by those for which it is our mission to care. And it opens our own hearts in a way that few other actions can. I know that raising my pledge this month warmed my soul and put a smile on my face. Every time I add something to the bag on Sunday (or use my phone to text my donation) I am filled with gratefulness for this community and all it does for others and for me personally.

Our Financial Condition in Three Quarter Time...

At the end of our third quarter, the news about our finances is mostly positive. We are still behind in pledge revenue but we are more behind in our expenditures. We’re doing well on Glaser Center rentals and our non-pledge donations and Sunday Basket are over budget. We are well over budget in our fundraising. Thanks to all of you for your generosity and care for our wonderful community.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer
**North Bay Organizing Project - News and Events!**

ULUCSR’s community organizing partner, NBOP, offers abundant opportunities to real differences in our communities in a way that supports our values as UU’s.

**May 12 UU NBOP Core Team Meeting**

2-3 PM UUCSR Board Room

Latest information about the task forces on Education, Affordable Housing, Transportation, and Integrated Voter Engagement is always available at this meeting. Afternoon meeting not good for you? Please contact Carol Kraemer, Sibyl Day, or Deborah Mason for more information.

**May 21 5th District Supervisor Candidate Forum**

3-5 PM Roseland University Prep

100 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa

If you live in the 5th District, how can you afford to miss this?

**May 28 Precinct Walking for Integrated Voter Engagement**

2 PM –onward Neighborhood Walk and Conversations

This will be our congregation’s particular opportunity to join in the effort to walk through neighborhoods that have been historically underrepresented in Sonoma County. The goal is to deeply listen to the interests and concerns of the people of those neighborhoods. English Only speakers will be paired with Spanish speakers and you will receive training to help you have a satisfying experience. There are also other Saturdays and Sundays in May and June if that works better for you and there will be phone banking. Talk to Deborah Mason for more information.

**July 16 Noche Sabrosa**

NBOP member organizations gather for Festive Annual Dinner, Dancing, and FUN!

**October 16 Public Meeting**

NBOP members invite the public to review and celebrate the many accomplishments of the past year, as well as to look ahead toward the issues that will be important to us all.

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**ALL UU SUMMER CAMP!**

**(Sept 2-4, 2016)**

Summer is just around the corner and I bet your calendar is already starting to fill up! So be sure to block off Sept. 2-4 for the 2016 All UU Summer Camp. This Retreat is available to everyone in our Congregational family – parents, kids, teens, adults, singles, and grandparents.

Jennifer Collins, a camp virgin last year, says, “We loved the camp because it was just enough wilderness and just enough civilization. There was good food, fun workshops for all ages, a nice pool complete with toys, and great camaraderie around the snack tables! We can’t wait for this year.”

That civilization that Jennifer referred to? It’s the cabins and the lodge. Both are very comfortable with real mattresses and indoor bathrooms. However, the camp does offer very rustic (Gualala-like) cabins for a lower price if you want a more campy experience.

C’mom! You don’t want to miss the loads of fun that are available! Campfire songs, workshops, relaxation, and amazing entertainment with the annual UU Variety Show!

So check your calendar! The Retreat will be a peaceful, serene weekend amidst the redwoods, but filled with rousing excitement, games and entertainment for the whole family with memories that will last a lifetime! Your participation will make this the best Retreat ever!

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**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**

May 12, 547 Mendocino.

We meet in the RE wing.

The May selection is *The Care and Management of Lies* by Jacqueline Winspear. In June we have our annual potluck and select books for the following year.

**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.

**Faith and Fitness**

**Saturday, May 14**

Annadel hike up Spring Creek Canyon to Lake Ilsanjo. Two and a half miles, from the Parktrail drive trail head to the lake and back, some uphill sections, lots of shade. Bring lunches, water, sturdy shoes. Sorry, no dogs. Meet 9:30 am where Parktrail drive first curves to the right, street parking. Info and sign up, **fitness@uusantarosa.org** or call Gretchen P. 707-889-3007.

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**Gentle Reminder From UUCSR Library Committee:**

**Books are due back after 30 days**

Return them any Sunday or to the office Mon–Fri, 10am-2pm.

**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.
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 suggestions. Request a recipient form at A4SJ table.

May 1: Vet-Connect of Sonoma County is an all volunteer organization to serve military veterans and their families, which provides a one stop, no-cost resource for information and referrals regarding veteran’s benefits, VA health care, counseling, for housing, employment, and more, with strict confidentiality. They are available once a week at the Veteran’s Hall in Santa Rosa and monthly in Guerneville.

May 8: UUCSR Youth Group Trip to New Orleans. Our youth group will travel to New Orleans on a service mission this summer.

May 15: Council on Aging Meals on Wheels. The Senior Nutrition Services program in Sonoma County provides over 280,000 meals every year, helping seniors in need through Meals on Wheels and other vital food programs.

May 22: Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors. Our own program to help our needy neighbors, which is supported by the volunteer efforts and generosity of our congregation.

May 29: Sonoma County Chapter of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This organization speaks out on local issues of race and inequality here in Sonoma County.

June 5: The Living Room welcomes homeless and at-risk women and their children into a warm and safe environment during the day.

Social Justice Film Project

MAY FILM

VOCABULARY OF CHANGE
IN CONVERSATION WITH ANGELA DAVIS AND TIM WISE
SUNDAY, MAY 22
12:45 PM in the Board Room

In this 2012 film Angela Davis and Tim Wise join moderator Rose Aguilar onstage for an unscripted free ranging conversation on the state of contemporary global politics. They explore our country’s embrace of pervasive individualism, the myth of meritocracy and entrenched institutional inequality and the way in which these have led to a racialized public policy, the privatization of education, health care and the environment and the commodification of many of our basic needs, including water and food.

Tim and Angela conclude that if we are to move beyond this state we need to employ a new vocabulary and engage entire communities.

This film, presented by Speak Out, is the 9th in our monthly series, the 10th including our Color of Fear workshop. We break over the summer, plan for the coming year, return in September. We want your suggestions of topics and films! We would also love to hear your opinion/critique of our project.

Thanks — Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project

Hot Topic

May’s Hot Topic has been postponed to the Fall.
Watch this column for the rescheduling of Evelyn Cheatham’s presentation on Worth Our Weight Culinary Apprentice Program.

ADRIENNE SWENSON AWARD
May 18 Elsie Allen Award Ceremony

Many of us remember Adrienne Swenson, a long time member and tireless advocate for social justice. Education, racial equality, the environment, civil rights and the Democratic Party were all at the top of her list and she was one of the founders of the Peace and Justice Center. Also Adrienne served on the UUA committee that drafted our 7th Principle. You can read about her on the plaque on the wall to the right of the women’s restroom.

After her death the Advocates for Social Justice decided to award a $1000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who plans further education or training and has demonstrated an active commitment to social justice. You can find the names of past winners on that same plaque.

This year the winner will be announced at the Elsie Allen Awards Ceremony on May 18th and shortly after that s/he will come to our service to receive the check and a framed certificate. I’ll let you know the date when I know it!

Linda Harlow/Chair – Advocates for Social Justice
Adult Religious Education
Submitted by Marilyn Beckerbauer

Spirit of Practice - Ongoing Series
presented by Rev. Chris Bell

Our current Spirit of Practice series is drawing to a close. It was created to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. Spirit of Practice affirms religious diversity while seeking unity in our communal quest for meaning and wholeness. Whether participants follow a path they identify as Humanist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Theist, Atheist, Agnostic, Mystic, and/or any of the other paths we follow in our diverse congregations, the Spirit of Practice workshops offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich their faith journeys.

The following three sessions in May will conclude this series --
May 3 Life Practices - May 24 Justice Practices - May 31 Class Review

Seniors in Transition Program
The Seniors in Transition Program is currently underway. It offers a supportive environment to explore options for independent living and alternatives when living on your own is no longer safe or desirable. In May we still have four sessions. There will be facility visits and speakers on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 and 5/25.

Looking Ahead

Personal Finance Course

Do you find that you have too much month left at the end of your money? Well, we have a program coming up to help you gain control of your personal finances. Mary Chapot, a UU member, is an accomplished accountant, a small business owner and trained financial analyst. She holds a Master of Science in Accountancy and will be offering a 6-week course in personal finance.

The classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. beginning June 28 and concluding August 2.

More information to come.

Give A Book, Get A Book
Starting Sunday May 15

The Monday evening TIE Group B has organized a Give A Book, Get A Book program.

Is your children’s book shelf overloaded with books you no longer read? Leave the books on the designated bookshelf in the RE wing!

Looking for another good kid-read? Take a book that someone else has donated!

The Key Card Access System is Here!

As of May’s newsletter deadline, the key card access system for our building and Courtyard is being installed!

People who have a demonstrated need for access to the building and grounds when the building is locked need to apply to Janis Brewster, our Administrator, or her designated assistant, to obtain a key fob. The fob will attach to a key chain.

Announcements will be made on the Focus list and in the Sunday Order of Service insert for individuals to apply by e-mail or in person in the office for an appointment to get a key fob during May.

In June we expect to re-key the exterior doors so only staff will have access by key in case of power outages. At that time access to the building and grounds by all others will be only by key fob.

Other parts of the new security system, including the video intercom system will be installed during May. We will keep you informed of developments.

The Operations Team
Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education Deborah Mason

What a glorious spring! The rain has brought such beauty to our county: flowers, bright green hills, trees in full leaf. We are so blessed to live in such a beautiful place. Summer is right around the corner. As the school year winds down families look toward summer plans. I hope Religious Education will be on your calendar through the busy months of summer. This year, as last year we will keep summer programming fun and simple with active games and arts and crafts. Children need a break from the rigors of the academic year, and RE will offer a summer of fun Sunday programs to fill the spirit.

Volunteers needed for Summer Program! I need 3 volunteers for each Sunday. All you need to do is commit to one hour on one Sunday. I will prepare the projects and games, volunteers will check in with me prior to their Sunday and prepare to have fun!

I will reach out via email for help, but if you’d like to help don’t hesitate to contact me.

We have had wonderful, creative, loving teachers in RE this year. We will have a celebration to honor them on May 29 after the 11:00 service. Teachers who taught a full quarter (three months) of classes this year were: Lois Nagle, Jenine Gilbin, Susan Miller, Janet Barrows, Emily Heinzelman, Carly Rieber, Jeanie Bates, Jennifer Collins, Dawn Caccavale, Larisa Ashley, Carol Kramer, Jean Smith and Paul Polling. Danny Millspaugh was MUUGs advisor for all three quarters and he was joined by Diane Koehler and Melissa Neufer. We have had many volunteers for first Sunday Children’s Chapel and in the nursery and preschool throughout the year. Special thanks to Gretchen Vap and Mary Wolfe who have volunteered one Sunday a month in the Nursery.

Please offer these generous people your thanks when you see them. They provide an amazing service to our congregation.

In Faith, Deborah

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<th>Grades K-1</th>
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<td>Grades K-5 will spend the morning together doing an art project</td>
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<td>Tim Berners-Lee Inventor of the World Wide Web</td>
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<td>Muggles Attend Worship Service this morning as Seniors for Youth Group Bridge</td>
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<td>Famous UUs</td>
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<td>Henry Bergh Founder of the ASPCA</td>
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<td>Youth Begin Service this Morning light the chalice MUUGs Touch Group - Worship then Games</td>
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<td>End of the year Celebration!</td>
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Here’s 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 Advisors. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) 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 will be provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Caitlin Fiore during both the 9:15 and the 11:00 services.
May 2016

**Only You Can Prevent Geek Burnout!**

Help prevent burnout of the few who are currently responsible for web site updates—Volunteer! We need to train more people.

The UUCSR Communications Team needs volunteers familiar with HTML to help with web site updates!

Pages are formatted using Wordpress, a content management system, and representatives from the various groups and committees at UUCSR have been or will be trained to update the content on their own group pages.

**Can you help maintain the UUCSR web site?**

Please contact John Ray (jzrayjzray@yahoo.com) or Eric Skagerberg (eric@skagerberg.com).

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**The Grief Group will continue the third Sundays of April and May, starting at 12:45 and lasting no later than 2:30—in the Green Room.**

Open to anyone who is living with grief and might benefit by sharing concerns and experiences with others in a safe, supportive environment. Drop-ins are welcome, but facilitator Millie Phillips prefers you called or emailed her in advance so she can go over the group’s purpose & guidelines. Call her at 415 272-4152, or email: milliephillips@comcast.net

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**UU’s and GAY PRIDE! Sunday June 5th**

Sunday June 5th, our congregation will be participating in the Sonoma County Gay Pride Parade! We will have our VW convertible in the parade for people who want to participate but can’t walk the five blocks. Stay tuned for meeting and parade times. Contact Becky Montgomery at (707) 573-0103 or montyb@sonic.net.

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**Be a Delegate to the National UU General Assembly!**

**June 22 - 26 Columbus, Ohio**

*Ever wanted to see how Unitarians Universalists make things happen at the national level?*

In this election year, do you find yourself thirsting for greater personal involvement in the democratic process? Have you ever wanted to sip from the overflowing opportunities to learn, celebrate & connect with other UUs at our magnificent annual General Assembly (GA)? Our congregation has slots for 7 congregation members to serve as delegates to this year’s GA, taking place in Columbus, Ohio, June 22 - 26.

**Interested? Attend our info sessions, before and after the services on Sunday, May 8th, in the Board Room, 10:15 - 10:50, or 12:30 - 1:30.** If you cannot make these times or want to find out more now, please call Heather Mutz at 707.775.8176.

**NOTE:** Registration fees for GA go up on May 1st, from $350 to $405 (for an adult, full-conference registration). We can also have off-site delegates, who “attend” plenary sessions and vote via computer. We can help you figure out that process. **Registration for off-site delegates also goes up on May 1st** from $135 - $160. Scholarship fees are available to cover registration fees but let’s get you signed up now and save some money!

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**General Assembly (GA) 2016**

"Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect"

June 22 to 26, 2016, Columbus Ohio

Register by May 1st for early bird fees

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**SAVE the Date!**

**UUCSR Annual Auction Fundraiser**

The Annual Auction fundraiser this year on November 5 will feature music and food from our southern island neighbors. Mark your calendars and start thinking about what you can give. Got volunteer time? Got a service you can share? Got a precious item you can no longer use? Got a fun idea for a gathering? Got wine? Questions? Suggestions? Contact Dee Ray (deerayofhope@yahoo.com)

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**2016 UUCSR Annual Auction**

November 5

*Yummin’ Caribbean Escape*
**Activity Fair**

**Exciting Sunday After-Service Event**

**at UUCSR  MAY 15th**

**Our Annual Activity Fair is Coming!**

Sunday, May 15th, between and after services, UUCSR groups and committees will have tables up in the courtyard to display what they do, and how you can join! Get your questions answered!

**Do I need to major in CompLit to join a book group?**

**Do I need to know everyone’s name before I join a T.I.E. group?**

**What in the heck do they “tie” anyway?**

**Do I have to sleep on the ground at Whole Congregation Camp?**

There’s a lot more happening at UUCSR than you might know.

Come and learn all about the many activities that make this place so lively.

Email Marge Wright if you have questions.

**Of Just Plan to Show Up**

(And wear a Silly Hat!)

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**UUCSR has Multiple Wonderful Ways to Make Connections!**

Read the current group brochures on the Visitors Table every Sunday – see all the lovely opportunities.

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**Join a Women’s Support Group!**

6-8 women meet share in a confidential setting. Topics vary widely; what is said there stays there.

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

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**WEST COUNTY UU WOMEN**

Come meet your UU neighbors!
We meet casually for breakfast once a month, at 8 am, in Sebastopol or Graton.

Come once a month or once in a great while. Sometimes we are four, sometimes we are more than twelve—we always have fun. A great way to meet other members.

Please give call Phyllis Clement if you want to join us - we welcome you.

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**Art Hanging at the Glaser Center**

by Ron Sumner

MARCH 15 – JUNE 20

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**Work-Saturday Volunteers Wanted By Maintenance Peeps**

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

**Next Work Day:**

Saturday, May 7
9 AM to 12 Noon

Please Come Help With a Task!

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**Share The Basket MARCH 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Living Room</td>
<td>$677.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckelew Programs</td>
<td>$410.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Justice Center</td>
<td>$389.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast for our Neighbors</td>
<td>$644.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks for your generous support!
What Price Our Priceless Jewel?

We hear people say, “That’s priceless!” They may be speaking about watching their child take his or her first steps, or the sight of a sunrise over a mountain lake. In this material world, we long to affirm a realm where the value of precious things can’t be measured in dollars.

I would never put a price on having a rich spiritual life, but I know that to have a flourishing congregation money must be spent every month. As Reverend Chris said, “Our vision is always expanding, and thus our financial needs are always expanding too.”

We are quickly approaching the time when the new budget will be determined. We are optimistic that members of the congregation will be moved to generously increase their pledges. By increasing revenue 6%, we can achieve the following:

- Increase salaries for staff
- Reclaim the Islamic Society space
- Increase summer hours for our Choir Director
- Increase hours for our Sexton to support Breakfast for our Neighbors
- Hire a part-time Bookkeeper
- Enable greater outreach through social media and the Internet
- Move hourly workers to or closer to living wage

Foster more interfaith cooperation and additional opportunities for worship and spiritual growth

Many of us support the idea of a living wage for workers in the community, and I personally think we need to walk the talk in regards to those we employ. Knowing how our building is stretched to capacity, the idea of reclaiming the former rental space for our own use seems like a grand idea. Imagine the possibilities!

Collectively we must take care of this resource so it will continue to flourish as a spiritual home for us and for new members in the future. In the next few weeks, please take time to look at your pledge amount in terms of percentage of your income. Can you work toward a tithe of 5% or 10%? Increasing your commitment will bring you a priceless feeling of good stewardship and connection.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “Happiness is not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort.” It is a joy to me to see how much UUCSR has achieved since I’ve been a member, and it is exciting to imagine what may come through the creative efforts of this amazing congregation.

- Erin Howseman, Philanthropy Team

UUs Got Talent
A Musical Showcase

Saturday, May 7
7:00 pm at the UUCSR

Our Sunday services are hugely enriched by the talent, creativity and dedication of our Music Associates. On Saturday, May 7 at 7:00 PM, we have the unique opportunity to enjoy an entire evening of their music.

Back by popular demand will be *Oh, Mary, Don’t You Weep* (performed in November 2015) and *My Funny Valentine* (from last Valentine’s Day).

This showcase will feature over two dozen performers staging 20 musical numbers—an eclectic mix of ballads, spirituals, folk, show tunes, rock, classical, and renaissance music with some silly thrown in. This is a benefit for the UUCSR general fund, so you get a fun evening while supporting the musicians and the UU community for the easy price of $15 per person.

Buy tickets online at [http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2538156](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2538156) or at the door!
Music Notes

On Sunday, May 8, Mother’s day, the choir sings “Mother’s Love” by Linda Spevacek.

For May 15 Services, Bobby Jo Valentine, a Guest Musician who is a well-known local singer-songwriter and prominent figure in the LGBT community, will perform for us.

On Sunday, May 22, Johnnie “JZ” Ray brings us Jazz music, be sung by both the choir and other musicians.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Farewell, Tyler Johnson -

Sunday, May 29th will be a sad day in the life of UUCSR. It will be the final appearance of our talented, flexible and fun-loving pianist Tyler Johnson. He is moving to Florida to live near his father and take up an interest in the real estate business.

Tyler said that he has loved playing for us and attending our services, and that he will look for a UU congregation near his new home. “Just replace the word God with the word Love,” is Tyler’s elevator speech for Unitarian Universalism, which sounds about right to me.

I’m sure we all will miss his fluid, heartfelt playing and accompaniment, which was equally adept in all genres: classical, jazz, ragtime, folk, rock and improvisational. Please be sure to wish Tyler well and thank him for his time with us!

Submitted by Rev. Chris

For UUCSR Music Lovers and Fans of the OCC (Occidental Community Choir) whose non-profit mission is to empower local musicians, and whose composers and committees and choir create and perform funny, sublime, and social and eco-justice flavored music. See the show at our own the Glaser Center ...

A West County Home Companion: Songs and Stories from the West Pole. Directed by Andrew DelMonte.

With kazoos in hand, the Occidental Community Choir invites you to their unique celebration of the West County! We don’t have Garrison Keillor, but we do offer catchy jingles supporting local businesses, a barbershop quartet (SpellBound), the incomparable singer/songwriter Teresa Tudury as well as the talented Thiessen Brothers; and of course our own heartfelt original compositions.

Saturday April 30 @ 7:30pm is Community First Night at Occidental Center for the Arts (OCA) with $10 admission plus Family Sing!

Sunday May 1 @3 pm in Sebastopol Center for the Arts

Friday May 6 @ 8 pm Occidental Center for the Arts

Saturday May 7 @ 8 pm Occidental Center for the Arts

Sunday May 8 @ 3 pm Glaser Center, Santa Rosa

www.occidentalchoir.org for information/reservations.

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.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

May 2016

Please Recycle