There are two ways we can live in this world: from a place of fear, in which we compete for scarce resources, or from a place of love, in which we share in the life abundant. Universalism calls us to the latter. How can we make it so? Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, an ecologist for 20 years before becoming a minister, is called to help our culture make the spiritual transformation we need in order to live on Earth sustainably, with love and justice for all.

We invite the congregation to bring surplus produce to share during the Story for All Ages at this service.

The science fiction universe of the Star Wars films enjoys almost unparalleled devotion and attention from its legions of fans, and indicates just how deep our hunger for magic and myth remain. There are even real orders of Jedi Knights. We’ll look at the spirituality and philosophy behind the movies and the way good, evil, and violence are portrayed therein, in light of our own conflicted and divisive times.

How does one maintain a spiritual center in the midst of growing chaos? Our planet is becoming increasingly uninhabitable, and our political leadership has not yet proven itself capable of reversing our course. We can face this daunting future by developing our own spiritual strength. Rev. Earl W Koteen, our guest minister, a lifelong UU, is the Environmental Justice Minister for the UU Ministry for Earth.

Rev. Schumacher Strejcek reflects on the living Unitarianism in Hungary and Romania, and the exciting possibilities of partnering with a sister church there.

On August 1st, 2006 a clean-cut Harvard man arrived in sunny Sonoma County to accept his call to ministry from the UU Congregation, Santa Rosa. Ten years have passed. Together we will reflect on the change and evolution of our shared ministry over the last decade, and look to the future of our community.
Our Journey’s Unfolding
By Reverend Chris Bell

Looking back, my life seems like an overstocked silverware drawer, just full of forks.

When I first went to college in 1985, to American University in Washington, D.C., I was going to pursue a career in journalism, for which I had discovered a love while serving as an intrepid reporter for my high school paper.

Or I was going to study international relations and enter the diplomatic corp.

Or I was going to be a sound engineer and produce brilliant records.

Instead, I shaved my hair into a Mohawk, dropped out of school and moved home. Fork! I worked at Burger King. I worked in my mom’s insurance office. I worked as a messenger for a law firm. I ended up in the restaurant business – fork! – and when I finally returned to school, I quickly found an intense interest in religion, which soon became my major.

Fork!

Around the same time (1991), I became involved with my good friend Rita, and we were quickly engaged. I began to assume the role of father to daughter Caitlin. By age 25 I was married with a six-year old daughter. Fork!

That certainly had not been a part of “the plan.” But there I was, and rock-and-roll stardom had to be put on the back burner (until now!)

It was that same year that I discovered Unitarian Universalism, and even though it makes me a little embarrassed to admit it, it was during my first-ever service that I heard my first call to ministry. It came in the sound of my own voice, which asked, “I wonder if I could do that?” I didn’t even know I was at a fork in the road that day, but, in retrospect, it was one of the biggest of my life. Still, it took almost 15 years to discover that the answer to my question was “yes.”

Then there were the years in Boulder, studying Buddhism and Zen, and adding Aaron to the family. I worked in restaurants, and considered management therein. I was a restaurant critic for the local paper (journalism, anyone?). I sold wine, and considered making that my permanent career, since its perks included trips to South America, Australia and South Africa. But then I preached for the first time at the Boulder UU Fellowship and I got accepted at Harvard and we moved to Massachusetts, and, finally, the biggest blessing of my life was upon me: I became a Red Sox fan.

While attending Harvard I met my root Zen teacher, Rev. James Ford, in whose lineage I still practice. James was a former member of UUCSR, and when my search process for first ministerial settlement began he said, “You should check this congregation out.”

Now that was a fork!

What a great mystery life is. All these moments, all these choices, some willful and evident, some subtle or seemingly insignificant, all adding up to move us through the journey of our lives. Lessons learned and unlearned and ignored.


Are they all moving us toward our destiny? Or are they random? Are we choosing the course of our lives, or is the course being chosen for us?

I do not think that there is a destined outcome to our lives, although there is much that shapes our path beyond our control. A thousand circumstances and a million ancient choices help shape our being before we are even aware of ourselves.

And yet I do believe that there is a magnetic Force of Nature, a magnet of love, a godly lure that attempts to persuade us and every other thing in the universe – all the way down to the atoms and all the way up to the galaxies – toward the most harmonious, novel, complex and beautiful expression of being that is possible. We’re free to respond to that persuasive energy or not. When we don’t, a new best possibility emerges. And we’re free to respond to that one or not. The only sure way to determine what’s next is to ask, “what is the right thing to do, now?” Right now. Next. And then we ask again, and respond again, and listen to our conscience, and ignore it, and continue to do noble things and stupid things and keep on learning and growing in love. That’s the meaning of life, as I understand it.

My destiny wasn’t to be a journalist or a restaurant critic, or a Zen student or even a minister. My destiny, like yours, was to just be a human being learning how to love and be loved.

Ten years ago my family and I drove across the country en route to my new call at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa. A decade passed and now it is now. My family circumstances have changed, my children are grown, my rotten dog Calvin is gone, but I’m here, and you’re here, and UUCSR is here, and new love is here, and a host of new possibilities and new friends and new forks are here, too.

What a good day to be alive this is! What a joy to be in Santa Rosa. How blessed we are to have one another. Everything that has happened in my past, and yours, has brought us to this remarkable moment, where the future really is wide open.

And so I can agree with the poster Lisa made that hangs in our home, which says, “Your journey is unfolding exactly as it should be.” Even with forks, seen and unseen, all around me. Forks, forks and more forks!

I hope to see you on August 28th when I’ll preach about the many wonderful things we have done together in our journey of shared ministry, and what I dream for our future together, and I look forward to hearing what you dream and hope for too.

Bless you, dear friends. See you soon.

Rev. Chris
Greetings from Our President
Charting a Course for Next Year

I was struck by a story in last month’s UU World* about the rapid growth of The UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, in last month’s UU World,* which closely parallels our own growth. Their UU fellowship in Bend, Oregon, experienced a surge of membership along with their hometown’s population increase.

They, like us, have been successful in welcoming new members who have moved to a thriving, growing community. We have seen a surge of growth during the past decade of more than 30 percent. With our current membership of 350, we are among the five largest UU communities in Northern California.

We are now a “medium-to-large sized congregation,” with significant assets. We occupy a popularly accessible and centrally located center in downtown Santa Rosa. We are led by a brilliant, dynamic minister and supported by a dedicated staff. We have a history of responsible stewardship and are a powerful voice for peace and justice within and beyond our community. And we benefit enormously from our talented members, active as worship associates, musicians, teachers, and committee members.

With this increase in size and presence, though, we also face some new challenges. As your 2016 Board of Trustees takes office, we’ll address ways to secure our congregation’s future and to meet needs generated by our growth.

The conversation about our future must revolve to some degree around the funding required to support UUCSR. Steady financial support let’s us pay our staff living wages, support religious education and outreach, and dream of additional capacity that could include expanded pastoral care or an associate minister.

We are all Sustaining Members since last year, when we moved from an annual pledge drive to a “Sustaining Pledge” model. So it is important for each of us to continue making pledge payments, and increasing them as we can. Your consistent pledge support is crucial to the planning we do as your board, not to mention the bills we pay to keep our congregation humming. As you’ll hear more during the year, our Philanthropy Team has been charged with reminding all of us about our pledge commitment.

The Board continues to seek other appropriate sources of revenue. With the loss of our Islamic Society tenant this year, we’ll look closely at other rental opportunities. As I write this, the congregation is discussing the promising possibility of a weekday rental of our religious education wing to a new preschool. Endowments, fund-raisers, and donations are also getting a fresh look.

We board members are deeply interested in your thoughts and ideas. At our annual three-day Board retreat in late August, we will be developing goals for the coming year. Write to us, phone us, or connect with us in the social hall after a service. We’re listening.

Bill Haigwood, Board of Trustees President
707-322-9829 or bchaig@pacbell.net

(*The magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association)

YOU CANNOT KILL ME
by Franklin Abbott
3 May 2006

I am not only I
but a multiplicity of souls
I have always been here
I will always be back

I was your uncle, your 5th grade teacher, your cousin
I will be your grandson,
your niece, the boy next door

you can erase my words
and a new Sappho, Rumi,
Whitman, Stein, Lorca,
Lorde will emerge and write what
I wrote even more beautifully

you can shatter my statues
and a new Michaelangelo
with a sharper chisel and a stronger arm
will make grander statues

you can silence my singing
and a new Bessie Smith
will sound a bluer note

I have always been here
indivisible, essential
to the human spirit
firebird I am
feathered serpent
in every opposition

I am
the tender collapse
that always happens
before a song
rises up
to heaven
you see
I cannot die
you cannot
kill me

A Thank You from Susan Panttaja ...

Many thanks to you, UUCSR, for voting to sponsor me on my path to UU ministry at the Congregational Meeting in June. I feel deeply honored that you believe in my potential to be a worthy UU minister. I truly aspire to fulfill that potential.

Just what does congregational sponsorship mean and why is it important? Congregational sponsorship is one of many requirements set by the Unitarian Universalist Association for those who wish to become UU ministers. Sponsorship demonstrates that a.) the aspirant (that’s me) is familiar with UU congregational life and our faith tradition and b.) the congregation has confidence in the aspirant’s potential and suitability for UU ministry. Beyond the congregational vote, sponsorship can take many forms. More information is on the UUA website.

Your vote was simply a formal acknowledgement of what you all give me every day. You entrust me with serving you as a worship associate, musician, and concerned member of our community. You challenge me to grow spirituality and expand my capacity for compassion. You show your enthusiasm for my studies as I pursue a Master of Divinity degree (another requirement for UU ministry).

Thanks for being in my corner as I pursue my calling
-Susan Panttaja
(707-338-6011)
Treasurer’s Report

A very significant part of our financial activity does not show up in our budget – the amount we collect and give away to others. These amounts are accounted for as “restricted donations”. Amounts are donated, through “share the basket” or by individual donation and then paid to the intended recipient or used for the intended program outside of our budget or operating financial statements. We now regularly list such recipients in the newsletter and order of service. Let’s shine a light on the high level of generosity practiced by our congregation this past fiscal year.

**Rev. Chris suggests we strive toward the goal of tithing to the community - giving away the equivalent of 10% of our operating budget each year.** Over a year ago we took another step toward becoming more deliberate in the level of our financial generosity by committing to share the Sunday Basket every week rather than twice a month. As we move forward, we should also consider donating more of the proceeds of our fundraisers. One thing that is becoming clear is that the more we give, the more we have.

**Generosity is a core value of this congregation.** Many of us give generously of our time, talents and treasures in order to maintain, nurture and grow our congregation and to improve and sustain the community of which we are a part. See the list of recipients of our financial generosity last fiscal year (see box to right). To these organizations and causes we have donated a portion of our financial treasures.

*Linda Balabanian, Treasurer*

---

**UUSCR’s 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Donations to Our Larger Community**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Breakfast</td>
<td>16,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister’s Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>6,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Together Scholarships</td>
<td>1,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Fellowship Retreat Scholarships</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Retreat Scholarships</td>
<td>1,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Group</td>
<td>4,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrienne Swenson Award</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Garden</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UUSC Guests at your Table</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Parenthood</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAACP</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming Independent</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckelew Center</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities Family Support Ctr</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTS</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Aging</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Outside</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graton Day Labor</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake County Fire Victims Fund</td>
<td>3,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bay Jobs w/Justice</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkinsons</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petaluma People Service Center</td>
<td>453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebuild the Churches</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwood Empire Food Bank</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restorative Resources</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAY</td>
<td>889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Vet Connect</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoma West Medical Foundation</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR Quilt Guild</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verity</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Living Room</td>
<td>1,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UU Justice</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans for Peace</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voices</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West County Health</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Womens Justice Center</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth our Weight</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Safe House</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>53,093</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Share The Basket

**JUNE 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Living Room</td>
<td>$389.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Parenthood</td>
<td>$389.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow</td>
<td>$299.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast for our Neighbors</td>
<td>$395.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Thanks for your generous support!*

“True giving is not an economic exchange; it is a generative act. It does not subtract from what we have; it multiplies the effect we can have in the world.”

-Kent Nerburn
**AUGUST’S HOT TOPIC**

**Sunday, August 14th at 11:30 am**

**Getting To Know Muslims and Islam**

*Aisha Morgan*, who volunteers with Islamic Networks Group, will begin the presentation with basic terminology and the demographics of Muslims in the United States and the world, will describe the major beliefs and practices of Islam, including major Muslim holidays, and will expand on the faith's principal theological teachings, including its relation to Judaism and Christianity.

She will also address the questions about headscarves, hajj, Jesus, and basic information, beliefs, practices and common misconceptions about Islam.

**Please come with questions and an open mind!**

---

**The A4SJ Diversity Movies Task Force**

**Wants Your Movie Suggestions!**

*(See Questionaire Insert in this Issue)*

**Dear Fellow UU’s**—It’s time again to choose A4SJ Diversity Movies!

We are including questionnaires in this newsletter requesting your assistance by sharing your suggestions and opinions.

Please leave the completed questionnaires at the Advocates table, in the Advocates mail cubby or e-mail them to Cassandra Lista <clistra@sonic.net>. Even better, we invite and welcome you to join the Advocates for Social Justice. We meet the second Monday of the month from 10 am to noon. The location is posted near the office door.

**Thank you from the A4SJ Diversity Movie Group**

Jeanie Bates, Mary Louise Jaffray, Cassandra Lista, Carol Kraemer, Jan Prater

---

**Work-Saturday Volunteers Wanted**

**Next Work Day:**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**

9 AM to 12 Noon

Once a month we gather to maintain, improve, and beautify our grounds and building. **Please Come Help With a Task!**

---

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

Take a tour through the Sunday Visitors Table Brochures...
**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.

**NBOP Presents a UUCSR:**

**Forum on Integrated Voter Engagement**

Sunday, August 28, 11:30 – 1:00 pm

in the Board Room

~ a light repast and childcare will be provided ~

"We're in the midst of an amazing election cycle - you might call it a cyclone!! Much is at stake for our country come November and we at NBOP are on the move to engage voters in serious dialogue about the issues that effect their neighborhoods, communities and personal welfare and how they play out in electoral politics.

**Through a strategy called Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE), we go beyond election day get-out-the-vote campaigns by concentrating on issues rather than candidates.** Issues do not get resolved on election day. We all know the limitations in the ability of elected official to create policy change.

**Civic engagement around ISSUES creates momentum that see a movement through to real change.** It creates new leaders, and it creates an avenue for the people to have their voices heard.

**Please come and learn more about this innovative approach to electoral politics.** Learn the process that we are working with and how the congregation can get involved. See how we are engaging “unlikely voters” who are overlooked in traditional election campaigns. The program will be presented by NBOP organizer for voter engagement, Annie Dobbs-Kraemer, and Ana Lugo and Deborah Mason who are leaders of the IVE Team.

**The Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism calls us to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.** NBOP/IVE is living this principle.

Interested? Reach out to Deborah Mason at debmasonuu@gmail.com

NBOP task forces—Education Justice, Affordable Housing, Transportation Justice, and Integrated Voter Engagement: find out the latest, please come to our NBOP Core Team meeting the second Thursdays at 2 p.m. at UUCSR. Or call Sibyl Day at 707-695-6665 for updates.

---

**BRYAN PLUDE TO BE CO-ORDAINED**

by UUCSR and UU CHICO Fellowship

October 15, 2016

(at Chico UU Fellowship, Chico, California)

Bryan Plude, our beloved Intern Minister for two years, including the time Chris was on sabbatical, is now the Called Minister at the UU Fellowship, Chico. He has honored us by asking us to co-ordain him.

Our June 12 Congregational Mtg affirmed his request by overwhelming vote. His ordination is noon at the Chico Fellowship, and we are all invited!

No doubt there will be a strong contingent attending from UUCSR.

**Please Be Sure to RSVP!**

**Formal Invitations in Church Office and on p. 8 in this Newsletter**

---

**Evening Book Group**

**Is On Summer Vacation and Returns September 8!**

Fall Book Selections:

- September - Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner
- October - The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
- November — Stonewalled by Cheryl Atkinson

Normal meeting time is Thursdays 7 to 9 pm, in the RE wing at UUCSR. (Members take turns leading book discussion and providing light snacks.)

---

**Faith and Fitness**

**Saturday August 6th Hike**

From Sonoma Valley Regional Park to Suttonfield Lake. Two to three miles, easy to moderate, some short climbs, unpaved, dogs allowed. Bring water and lunches to eat at the lake.

Meet 9:30 am at the Safeway/Redwood Credit Union parking lot at 4th and Farmers Lane for carpool, 10:00 meet at trail head parking lot on Highway 12.

Rsvp fitness@uusantarosa.org or call Gretchen P. at 707 889 3007.

---

**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.

---

**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.
**Religious Education for Children & Youth**  
**Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason**

**How Our UUCSR Youth Spent Their Summer Vacation**

After months of planning and fund-raising the youth group had their service trip to New Orleans in mid June - an amazing experience!

The journey actually began 6 weeks before. To prepare the youth for their immersion in a different culture, I hired Stephanie Puentes, a local consultant on race and privilege. She led them in deep conversation and learning about white privilege and issues of racial injustice. Stephanie has a unique ability to address sensitive issues in a safe and open way which enables self-discovery and self-disclosure. The group learned about structural racism and about the ways which white privilege plays out in our culture. They also learned practical ways they could address people who express racism and bias.

Equipped with new knowledge and increased sensitivity, our 8 youth, Caroline, Raechel, Alex, Chloe, Elliot, Jeremy, Roger and Claire landed in New Orleans to WORK. And they worked hard! Each day carried a new assignment, each day had challenges and rewards.

Our first day of work was at a Bible Day Camp held in the Broadmoor neighborhood. The program was grounded in Bible and focused on teaching self discipline. Pastor Greg, minister of the church and leader of the camp is determined to spare young African American children from the perils of the hard life on the streets. After some initial awkwardness about the way the children were introduced to the youth volunteers, our youth developed rapport with their charges and had a pretty good day with them.

Our second assignment was at a horse rescue ranch outside the city. In years past great groves of Cypress trees growing in the wetlands buffered the land during intense storms. Over time the Cypress groves have disappeared due to human activities. The St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation non-profit replenishes the wetlands near the levees in an effort to protect neighborhoods during hurricanes. The group spent the day in the beautiful outdoors weeding pots of saplings. We were one little cog in the wheel of restoring New Orleans. After our work was done, the amazing Becky Livaudais, our host, took us to a river where we saw enormous alligators in their natural habitat. This was a real treat! We got stuck in another amazing storm, with loud, loud thunder and lightning and buckets of rain.

After Katrina, New Orleans’ already-suffering school system took a real beating. Schools were damaged, many beyond repair. The city has struggled to create a system.

[**YOUTH SUMMER, continued on next page**]

---

**Ongoing in Youth and Children’s RE**

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](http://www.pcdmuugs.org) or from Deborah at debmasonuu@gmail.com or 707-568-5381.

**The Sr. High Youth Group also on hiatus mid June until August 16, may however, have some mtgs over the summer for community service. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for info. Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisers.**

---

**Sunday Morning Children and Youth Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel, Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three Ingredient Scratch &amp; Sniff Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>Cake Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proceeds benefit All UU Summer Camp scholarship fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel, Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Making pencil decorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel, Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sequined CD Fish project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
[YOUTH SUMMER, continued from prior page]
that works for all, and since Katrina, has gone to an all Charter School system. On our fourth day the group painted a brick wall in an elementary school courtyard, a bright color of blue. Out in the blazing hot and swimmingly humid sun, we toiled. We completed at three-quarters of the quad! A big surprise came at lunch when a huge mound of boiled crawfish was piled on a table for the volunteers to feast upon. Rev. Chris was in heaven!

On our final day, the volunteer coordinator took pity on us for having to work outdoors most of the week and assigned us to serve lunch for a senior center. The group set up the room, took orders for lunch, served it and joined the elders at their table.

There were many other experiences on the trip. Our youth made friends with a group from a small town in Nebraska who had never seen the likes of our California kids. Everyone loved the French Quarter where we ate beignets at Cafe du Monde and Creole food at a local eatery. They took in the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, which was totally awesome. As a special treat we went to a magnificent French restaurant where Roger had his first escargot (and loved it!) On our last day, before flying home, we took in the Nat’l. World War II Museum. An amazing museum, an amazing trip, so much to see, so much to learn...

If it weren’t for the generosity of our amazing congregation these youth would not have had this incredible experience. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In Faith, Deborah

---

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

Acclaimed poet Robert McNally presents 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 min. of 12 people. McNally’s previous presentation was very well attended and we expect this one will be the same.

Dr. Phil Harriman Presents
Scientific Roots
Four Presentations

Sept 6: DNA Time Travel
Sept 20: Astrobiology
Sept 27: Field trip to the Petrified Forest
(there is a $10 fee for this tour)

Instructor Phil Harriman has a BS in Physics from Caltech and a PhD in Biophysics from U.C. Berkeley. He served for many years as Program Director for Genetics at the National Science Foundation. He’s taught six courses for Sonoma State’s Lifelong Learning program, and several for UUCSR’s Adult RE Program.

For more detailed information about these classes, stop by the ARE Table on Sunday to pick up a hand-out.
ALL-UU SUMMER CAMP — Sept 2–4 !

All UU Summer Camp is at the Enchanted Hills in Napa. Sign ups ongoing in the social hall!
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 report on her family's experience last year:
"We had a blast. As first timers ... we were ambitious in bringing our 2-year-old and his 3-year-old best friend... Deborah from RE was there to make us all feel comfortable.
We were able to participate in different classes while Deborah watched over the boys and other kids that were there. Swimming was a huge hit. Arts and crafts were fun, the food delicious. The music and talent show were "happening."
We can't wait to go back and hope that more families make this an annual tradition."

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

Got it on your calendar? We want to see you there!
We are a “Welcoming Congregation:” We are committed to being a diverse congregation, fully inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender people.

Phanethropy Team

“Generosity has many levels. We have to think generously, speak generously, and act generously. Thinking well of others and speaking well of others is the basis for generous giving. It means that we relate to others as part of our ‘gen’ or ‘kin’ and treat them as family. Generosity cannot come from guilt or pity. It has to come from hearts that are fearless and free and are willing to share abundantly all that is given to us.”

◊ Henri Nouwen

When we become members of this congregation, we become kinfolk in this spiritual community, and we assume shared responsibility for sustaining it.

Everything from keeping the lights on and paying our staff a fair wage to the social outreach we do in Sonoma county is paid for directly by us.

We are a self-funding congregation, and through these efforts we are truly spreading our message of hope and love within and beyond our walls.

All of our ministries — all we receive in spirit, in music, and in friendship—are a direct result of our commitment and generosity. And as we grow and extend our reach, the need for financial engagement from each of us increases.

In light of this, if you have not raised your pledge in the past year, please consider doing so now, so that we can continue to deepen our worship and our work in the many creative ways that you have expressed you would love to see.

When we share abundantly, we can draw satisfaction from the knowledge we are serving as faithful stewards of our community.

We also ensure that UUCSR continues to be a powerful presence for good in our lives, and a strong voice for love and justice in the world. Through your heartfelt volunteer work and financial generosity we can make this so.

Erin Houseman
Phanthropy Team

Circle Dinners: Small groups of persons of Unitarian Universalist persuasion or acquaintance that meet informally in small monthly gatherings over a potluck meal. Groups meet concurrently, are arranged in semi-annual cycles, and are usually organized around locality...
[from UUCSR Wiki-Social-Pedia Archives, 7/17/2016]

Fall 2016 UUCSR CIRCLE DINNERS Begin in October!
Sign-ups August 28, September 4, September 11 in the Social Hall on Sundays after Services

How do Circle Dinners work? Members and friends of UUCSR’s sign up for Circle Dinners. We then take all the names and shuffle them into groups of 7 or 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a “Circle Dinner Group” for 4 months. We post the Fall Circle Dinner lists in the October newsletter. The groups contact each other, decide on date, time and place, and on who brings what. The rest takes care of itself!

Enjoy meeting new folks and Re-Connecting with old friends? YES!
Love lively conversations and a good meal? YES!
Can Live without formal dining table and linen? YES!

Interested? We are taking sign-ups in August and September as indicated above - details in the social hall at sign-up table. We’ll need to post your name and number on a list so that your Circle can connect.

PARTICIPANTS from LAST TIME will continue unless you inform us OTHERWISE!

Circle Dinner Organizers, Wayne & Sharon Smith
August 7  Music by:  Robin Rogers and the UU Suspects  
August 14  Music by:  Susan Panttaja and some of the UUsual Suspects  
August 21  Music by:  Roger Corman and some of the UUsual Suspects  
August 28  Music by:  Paul Gilger and some of the UUsual Suspects, and THE CHOIR  
Sept 4 Music by:  Robert Howseman and some of the UUsual Suspects  

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Islamist Society/UUCSR  
Women and Kids Pot Luck Saturday  
12:00 Noon - August 6  
in the UU Social Hall  
Interfaith Pot-luck Lunch with our Muslim Neighbors ~ spread the word! All UU women (and children) invited. to come to a pot-luck lunch on Saturday, August 6th at noon with the women (and children) of the Mosque around the corner. We did this once before and it was an interesting, fun and valuable experience. We expect a lovely afternoon. 

In your food contributions, please avoid: alcohol, any non-halal meat products, vanilla, marshmallows, nutmeg, and gelatin.  

Hope you can make it! Please RSVP if you are able to attend, so we know how many to set-up for.

ANNUAL UUCSR  
MEN'S RETREAT  
October 21-23  
at St. Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker  
The UUCSR 8th Annual Men’s Retreat will be held October 21st, 22nd, and 23rd at St. Dorothy’s Rest, Camp Meeker. 

Enjoy men’s fellowship eating, relaxing, exploring, playing, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings together. 

Gatherings large and small, workshops, music, time to read, sleep, sit by a campfire, and slow down. 

First timers especially welcome!  

SIGN-UPS COMING! Registration commences August 28, before and after services. 
A sliding-payment scale is available

Rev Chris’s Summer Schedule

| JUL 16-AUG 7 | Rev Chris on VACATION. |
| AUG 8 | Rev Chris back to work! Preaching twice in August. (And CELEBRATING 10 YEARS of ministry together!) |
| AUG 19-21 | UUCSR BOARD RETREAT |
| SEPT 2-4 | UUCSR FAMILY CAMP |
| SEPT 11 | IN-GATHERING! A return to two services, and the annual kickoff of the Children’s Religious Education program year. |

Transylvanian Unitarianism in the 1600’s  
“We need not think alike to love alike.” 
Frances David, circa 1570  

“Unitarians and Universalists have always been heretics. We are heretics because we want to choose our faith, not because we desire to be rebellious. “Heresy” in Greek means “choice.” … … [in] the sixteenth century when the Protestant Reformation took hold in the remote mountains of Transylvania in eastern Europe…the first edict of religious toleration in history was declared in 1568 during the reign of the first and only Unitarian king, John Sigismund. 

Sigismund’s court preacher, Frances David, had successively converted from Catholicism to 

Lutheranism to Calvinism and finally to Unitarianism because he could find no biblical basis for the doctrine of the Trinity. Arguing that people should be allowed to choose among these faiths, he said, “We need not think alike to love alike.” 

In sixteenth-century Transylvania, Unitarian congregations were established for the first time in history. These churches continue to preach the Unitarian message in present-day Romania. Like their heretic forebears from ancient times, these liberals could not see how the deification of a human being or the simple recitation of creeds could help them to live better lives. They said that we must follow Jesus, not worship him.” 

[from http://www.uua.org/beliefs/history/our-historic-faith]
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401    707-568-5381    http://www.uusantarosa.org

- **President** Bill Haigwood, president@uusantarosa.org
- **Vice-President** Natalie Brundred, vicepresident@uusantarosa.org
- **Treasurer** Linda Balabanian, treasurer@uusantarosa.org
- **Corporate Secretary** Gretchen Vap

**Board Members**
- Tom Bond
- John Jaffrey
- Sam Miller

**Recording Secretary** Sharon Smith

**Minister:** Reverend Chris Bell minister@uusantarosa.org
**Intern Minister:** Millie Phillips, internminister@uusantarosa.org

**Director Religious Education:** Deborah Mason, dlre@uusantarosa.org
**Administrator:** Janis Brewster, administrator@uusantarosa.org
**Choir Director:** Sadie Sonntag, choir@uusantarosa.org
**Pianist:** TBA
**Sexton:** Peter Wilson, sexton@uusantarosa.org

**Newsletter (UU Update):**
Send submissions to newsletter@uusantarosa.org
**Editor:** Susan Williamson
**UU Update Deadline:** Noon on Monday following the 3rd Sunday.
To receive newsletter by email, send name and email address to administrator@uusantarosa.org

**Order-of Service Announcements (OOS):**
Send submissions to announcements@uusantarosa.org
**Editor:** Janis Brewster
**OOS Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**Sunday Religious Education Staff**
Deborah Mason, Director
Shawna Hoxsie
Fiona Mackenzie

**AUGUST 2016**