October 2
ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE
(One Multi-Gen Service Only at 10:00 am)
(Congregational Meeting at 11:15—all members should attend)

Service Leaders: Mr. Rick Concoff, Rev. Chris Bell, Claire Beery, Scott Miller
Music by: Mr. Rick Concoff, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: Becoming Independent
An interactive, song- and story-filled multi-generational service - we learn the meaning of Rosh Hashanah, consider an ancient creation story, and prepare for a week of forgiveness and atonement. We’ll hear the sound of the Shofar! Our special guest service leader, Rick Concoff, is a Jewish community social worker, educator and camp counselor.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Meeting at 11:15 am
All Members Should Attend!

October 9
ATONEMENT, FORGIVENESS, AND INTEGRITY:
EXPLORING THE THEMES OF YOM KIPPUR
Service Leaders: Millie Phillips, Eric Fischer, Deborah Mason
Music by: The Choir, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: Graton Day Labor Center
Our service honors Yom Kippur, the highest holy day in the Jewish faith, when Jews atone for their sins in the previous year, pray for forgiveness, renounce false promises, and recommit to living with integrity and compassion. Today we put a UU spin on these themes, exploring the spiritual power of keeping our word, forgiving others, and acknowledging our mistakes.

October 16
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman
Music by: Robin Rogers, Paul Gilger, and the UUsual Suspects
Share the Basket: League of Women Voters, Sonoma County
Today we honor our 7th Principle by inviting our animal friends to join us at our worship services. We encourage you to bring your friendly, well-mannered pets to a courtyard Blessing of the Animals. Or bring a photo of your pet, or one in remembrance of a friend now gone. There will be some indoor seating in the RE common area which will be animal-free. Through song and poetry we pay homage to our connections with the creatures of the Earth.

October 23
Getting Closer to Truth
Service Leaders: Carolyn West (guest preacher), Veronica Jordan
Music by: The Choir, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: Breakfast for our Neighbors
Religion can take us deeper into ourselves, deeper into communion with each other, and the Sacred. But we must be willing to let go of assumptions and habits that act as safety nets. Some seem able to jump into the depths—without a safety net—so much more easily than the rest of us. What can we learn from their willingness to let go and go deep?

November 6
POWER AND POLITICS
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff
Music by: Susan Panttaja and the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
With the election just days away, we consider the UU response to the many difficult issues before us on the ballot.
TURN AND FACE THE STRANGE
By Reverend Chris Bell

In 1933 Adolph Hitler was named Chancellor of Germany. In short order the news of political repression and violence against Jews came to our shores and caught the attention of the leaders of the American Unitarian Association. The AUA undertook recruiting someone – anyone – who was willing and able to go to Europe on their (our!) behalf to help coordinate the covert immigration arrangements for the many displaced citizens of Eastern Europe. After seventeen other candidates turned then-president Frederic May Eliot down, Rev. Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha, a quiet, good-looking young ministerial couple from Wellesley, Massachusetts, accepted the call. They immediately boarded a ship to London and soon set up their office in Prague, only weeks before the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Nazi Germany, The Unitarian Service Committee, which continues today as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, was born.

Reverend Waitstill and his wife Martha Sharp were American Unitarians so strongly devoted to social justice and universal human liberty that they risked their lives in Nazi-controlled Europe, under the watchful eyes of the Gestapo and later the Vichy Government, to arrange the passage of numerous persecuted innocents to safe haven in Britain and the United States, among other shores.

Over the next five years the Sharps would make repeated trips to Europe, leaving their two young children in the care of relatives, in order to smuggle out the persecuted intellectuals, the Jewish children, and anyone else they could free from the fascist regime. They worked closely with Norbert Capék, the minister of the Unitarian church in Prague and the creator of the Flower Communion. Tragically Capék lost his life in Dachau for his anti-Nazi activities. Fortunately, the Sharps managed to survive.

Decades later, the heroic and selfless efforts of the Sharps earned them the rare honor of being named “Righteous Among the Nations” by the state of Israel, an award that recognizes non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust. Only five Americans have been so named.

I had learned the basics of the Sharp’s story in Divinity School, but never in such detail and drama as when watching Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War, which broadcast on KQED recently. If you missed it, find a way to see it.

Whenever I reengage the history of Nazism I am filled with complex emotions. My easy optimism about human nature is deeply challenged. I get very angry. I get very sad. And these days I can’t help but wonder about the conditions that allowed fascism to blossom in a country that throughout the 1800s had been considered the most progressive nation in the world. What is the mix of fear, economic distress, xenophobia, demagoguery and lies that can draw forth the human capacity for evil on such a grand scale? And where are those conditions found today here in our own land? And what am I going to do about it?

The night we watched The Sharps War, I had just preached a sermon on welcoming the neighbor, and trying to understand the humanity in the people with whom we profoundly disagree. I still hold to that conviction. Completely writing off people of the other political party or the other side of an issue kills the spirit of cooperation and compromise upon which democratic societies (including UU congregations!) utterly depend.

But I don’t want to understand Nazis. I want to defy them and fight them. And Waitstill and Martha felt the same way. Their bravery and selflessness was humbling and inspiring to me, and still has me asking – as I hope all of us might ask – whether I would do the same, and whether I am doing enough now to prevent evil from taking hold, and to preserve and uplift the good. Is advocating for rent stabilization sufficient? What am I going to do about yet another unarmed black man lying dead in the street in Tulsa? Clearly, a point does come when we have to take sides and take action. Each of us must determine this moment for ourselves.

It is easy to be complacent. It is easy to take the easy road. It is easy to give in to fear. Even as the Sharps conducted their work, boatloads of Jews were turned away from U.S. shores for fear of Nazi spies on board. Today Syrian refugees face the same response from many countries in Europe, and here on our shores.

My prayer for myself is to continue to act with love, respect, curiosity and care for everyone who presents themselves to me.

But if fascism decides to give it another go, I pray for the defiant, courageous, astonishing decency of Martha and Waitstill to be reborn in my soul.

On a more mundane note, before I sign off, I would ask you to read this newsletter closely. A number of interesting and uplifting activities and programs are unfolding here at UUCSR, and I sure wouldn’t want you to fall into the category of those sad souls who proclaim, “But I never heard about it!” Here are the events I’ll be attending...

There is a Getting to Know UU class for anyone interested in membership, or simply wants to know more about the history and practices of our tradition and this particular congregation.

On October 15th we will co-ordain Bryan Plude to the ministry at the UU Fellowship in Chico, CA. The ceremony is at 12:00 noon, and yours truly will be preaching on the “The Mission of Progressive Religion Today” or something similarly serious and profound.

The following day, October 16th, the service will feature a Blessing of the Animals, so please bring your pet or a picture of your pet, and please bring all the kids. We will worship outside, weather permitting. (It has not rained on that day in 10 years, so there is reason for hope!)

Later that day, from 3:00 – 5:00, the North Bay Organizing Project will have its Annual Public Meeting at the Santa Rosa High School Auditorium. We will hear reports of our victories in the areas of tenants’ rights, improving public transportation and re-forming our school system, get pledges of cooperation from local officials, and demonstrate the power of organized people. The Hub hub Club will be providing the music, which could mean our own Joe Como will be there on the sousaphone!

Finally, this year’s Men’s Retreat will occur from October 22 – 24 up at beautiful St. Dorothy’s Rest in Camp Meeker. The emphasis this year is on men’s spirituality, and means to provide a wonderful, safe, environment for exploration of ritual, prayer, meditation, and sacred poetry, prose and music. Whatever your expression of UU faith may be, fellas, I hope you will come and share it with your brothers. Please sign up as soon as possible!

Take care, everyone, and call me if you need me.

Love, Rev. Chris
Goals for a Growing Congregation

Fall begins quickly with our first Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 2nd, at 11:30 am.

This meeting features 2 important voting items. One regards funding our first phase of facility improvements to the Glaser Center upstairs. The second is to approve our annual budget.

Then we will review congregational goals, developed by your Board of Trustees and Reverend Chris during their annual weekend retreat in August. These congregational goals include:

1. Fundraising
   Our congregation has excellent financial oversight from the members of the Financial Stewardship committee, and from our conscientious treasurer, Linda Balabanian.
   However we need to improve our fundraising capacity, especially since we decided 2 years ago to stop an annual pledge drive. Consequently, an important Board goal is to increase pledges of members and pledging friends in a way that assures a steady congregational annual income stream.
   The Philanthropy Team leads this effort to increase pledge amounts and to get members on auto-pay. We want to ensure adequate funding for staff and committees throughout the year, to keep the lights on and the thermostat at a comfortable setting. But fundraising is about more than simply maintaining what we have. Our reliance on your pledge extends into the future as we plan for the needs of a growing congregation. In the coming year it’s a conversation we hope to have with everyone.

   The congregation’s Endowment Committee is looking at ways to increase fundraising through gifts and legacy contributions. How might a gift to UUCSR also benefit you? The Endowment Committee has some important information to share.

2. Leadership Development
   We want to promote greater involvement by members in the leadership of UUCSR on committees and as committee chairs. The Board has discussed leadership training as a way to involve more of you in our governance. The Board would like to increase participation in UUA General Assembly and our District Assembly.

3. Communication
   We intend to enhance our congregation’s communication, both within UUCSR and in the wider world. This includes improvements in our website, in our use and organization of the Focus List, in creating stronger liaisons between the Board and standing UUCSR committees, making Board members more accessible. Look for a return of the “Ask a Board Member” table on Sundays!

Other Goals:
The Board plans to monitor policies and strategies in our evolving Human Resources scene, to oversee significant facilities improvements scheduled for Glaser Center upstairs, the empty space next door, and for the RE Wing rental by the new pre-school.

Expanding pastoral care remains a goal. The pastoral care survey from last spring will help guide our next steps.

And the Board is always looking for ways to support our active and growing Religious Education programs. Adult volunteers are still needed every Sunday.

Your input about our goals is desired and welcomed. This will be an important year of growth and change for UUCSR. We need your help and support.

Bill Haigwood
President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

Reflections on Shared Ministry

By Lucia Milburn

Ministry to Unitarian Universalists has a broader meaning than just the work of the minister. UU’s think of ministry as a joint venture, shared by the minister and all of the members of the Community. I was asked to give this Reflection today because I am chair of COSM, which stands for Committee on Shared Ministry.

A lot of us “share” the ministry of this Congregation in a lot of different ways. But the specific role of COSM, in addition to evaluating the minister and encouraging his professional growth, is to oversee the relational health of the Congregation.

A Congregation is … an assemblage of relationships with inevitable differences of opinion. COSM’s role is … to support healthy communication and resolve conflict when any members of this community, including the minister, are having trouble in their relationship as it relates to the business of this community. These relationships are seemingly harmonious most of the time. But issues do come up. As one wise person said, if there is no

Being real to me is much more important than being positive. Then, when we are able to be positive, it is real and nurtures us and others much more deeply than superficial positive-ness.

- Anonymous UUCSR Member
Treasurer’s Report

2015–2016 Financial Summary

We had a good year fueled by our growth and your generosity! Most people were enthusiastic about embarking on the Sustaining Pledge program after our Last Pledge Drive and we were able to make a budget that included our basic desires. But as the year wore on, pledges did not come in as expected. Toward the end of the year, we appealed to those who had not kept up their pledge. As a result, we were able to come close to our budgeted pledge amount by year-end.

Here are the details:

Donations and Fundraising revenue were over budget, about $18,000 combined.

Meanwhile, operating expenses were under budget by about $9,000.

The Glaser Center net income was right on budget.

We ended the year with approximately $21,000 in total net operating income.

After adjusting for expenses of the kitchen remodel, the new security system and the remainder of the courtyard project not covered by the Endowment Distribution, we had a net loss of about $4,000.

Some notables took place during the year that make this result so much more satisfying. First, although we had expected to pay for the kitchen remodel, security system and part of the courtyard improvement from last year’s excess cash as well as a generous donation from some members, our financial results allowed us to conserve almost all our excess cash and half of our member’s donation. This will come in handy as we consider improvements in our upstairs.

Second, we have received more in one-time donations than in previous years, perhaps in response to messages from our Philanthropy Team. People are giving as the opportunity arises and not always in relation to a pledge. This is a wonderful way to increase generosity and add to our ability to continue to move toward our goals. We have also been receiving donations from the artists whose work hangs in our building on a consistent basis. Extra thanks to our wonderful Aesthetics Team who make it possible.

Finally, our Service Auction was record-breaking, thanks to Dee Ray and her team as well as many, many of you who helped in various capacities. It was really fun! And several other fundraisers took place during the year benefitting both our Operations and Saturday Breakfast.

I am so grateful for this generous community. Our financial results from last year will allow us to move forward on some priorities we have identified as a congregation. As we implement our vision for the next decade, it is exciting to think about the new ideas and programs that may spring from our hearts.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Reflections on Shared Ministry (continued from p 3)

negotiated between a minister and a congregation in order to appropriately "share ministry."

Some conversations have helped to clarify simple misunderstandings, and others have provided Chris with useful feedback, as his understanding of the role of minister deepens. We have facilitated honest and productive conversations about these and other issues. We try to work confidentially as much as possible.

This work of sharing ministry, together, all of us, is not for the faint of heart! It requires people of courage who are willing to do the hard work of making sure communication is alive and well. We have to be willing to talk to each other when problems arise. We have many people in this congregation who are willing to engage in this way, and that is a testament to the health of our ten year “shared ministry,” evidence that it is working well.

And so with great appreciation for the vitality of our thriving Congregation, despite and because of our differences of opinion and points of view, I would like to say thank you, thank you to Rev Chris, thank you to all of You, and thank you to the Great Big Thing for this blessed community.

- excerpted from Lucia Milburn’s reflection on the 10th Anniversary Celebration of our Shared Ministry, given on 8/28/16.

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

William Shakespeare, from Romeo and Juliet

UU’s think of ministry as a joint venture, shared by the Minister and all of the members of the Community.

The Committee on Shared Ministry evaluates the minister, encourages his professional growth, and oversees the relational health of the Congregation.

LM
**OCTOBER HAS *2* HOT TOPICS!!**

Hot Topic #1:  
**Ballot Propositions**  
Sunday, October 9 at 12:45 pm  

So many Propositions on the November ballot, and often written in such confusing language! Come to the Board Room at 12:45 on Sunday, October 9th, at 12:45 when representatives of the League of Women Voters will untangle them for us. Bring your questions and sample ballot.  

*Remember ~ If you don’t Vote, you can’t complain!*  
A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Bonus Hot Topic #2:  
**Medicare Changes and Choices for 2017**  
Sunday, October 30, 12:45  
*(in the Board Room)*

Presented by Alan Piombo, a HICAP Counselor at Senior Advocacy Services in Petaluma. HICAP, Medicare Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, provides beneficiaries with unbiased individual assistance and advocacy re Medicare benefits as well as community educational opportunities. HICAP counselors do not charge for any services, sell any product or make any decisions for the individuals.

During the Oct. 15-Dec. 7 Annual Open Enrollment Period, we have the opportunity to examine our plans and learn about changes which will occur and learn about other options which are available to us should we want to change. This timely seminar focuses on:  
- Part D Prescription Options  
- Understanding your Part A or B Benefits  
- Cost Saving Considerations  
- Medigap Advantage Plan Choices

A Question & Answer period follows. Come join us and bring your questions. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

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**The Corruption of Our Democracy Film Series’ October Film**

**WHERE TO INVADE NEXT**  
By Michael Moore  
*SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 12:45 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM*

The A4SJ Film Project presents the second film in our series on "The Corruption of Our Democracy". In this 2015 film (widely released in 2/16) Michael Moore, in the role of "invader", takes us to Italy, France, Finland, Slovenia, Germany, Portugal, Norway and Tunisia discovering alternatives to our way of doing our collective lives here in the U.S.  

We visit countries with thoughtful, humane policies and practices, in areas of civic life that include labor rights, school meals, sex education, drug policy, women’s rights, prisons, and more.

Thoughtful and entertaining, this film reminds us that there is change to be made. (Not that we need reminding!) Michael Moore imagines bringing back what he finds as the "invader" and I suspect that you will wish for some of that movie magic as well.

Discussion follows the viewing of the film.  
Please bring whatever you wish to eat. We will offer a snack, not lunch. Thanks.

*Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project*
SPECIAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER!

A few of the October special events I want to highlight:

On October 2nd there is only one worship service, at 10:00. This has been scheduled because of the Congregational Meeting that will happen at 11:30. The service will be multi-generational, which means the children will be present in worship for the whole hour.

The planning of multi-gen services is a tricky balance of child-friendly and adult-interesting elements. Sacrosanct elements of the order of service, the chalice lighting, milestones/meditation, offering and, of course, announcements are part of every service. Beyond that the service is filled with story and song.

This service will center on Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the Jewish High Holy Days, a time of self-reflection and atonement.

The second multigenerational service this month will be a Blessing of the Animals, on October 16th. Our animal companions play a central role in our lives. They bring us such warm companionship, they play with us and bring joy and laughter. Every Sunday at least one of the children mentions their beloved pet during RE joys and sorrows. In this Blessing of the Animals service, inspired by St. Francis' special connection to animals, we will honor our sacred connection to the pets in our lives. We will celebrate worship in the courtyard and you may bring your pet (if your pet will be okay coming here) or a picture of your pet to honored in a ritual. As a special treat Robin Rogers has been working with the children on a special song to be presented at this service.

Lastly, the kids in RE will be holding an RE Open House in the RE wing after the 11:00 service on October 30. We hope everyone will come! This will be an opportunity to meet the children and talk to teachers about what is happening in RE classes. Coffee and refreshments will be served in the RE wing.

It will be a fun and faithful month! I hope to see you at each of these events!

In Faith, Deborah

Here’s What’s Happening In RE Classes this Month:

The Youth Group (grades 8 to 12) meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Newcomers are most welcome! Deborah Mason, Danny Millspaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah (redacted@gmail.com) for more information.

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 11:00 service. Children grades K-6 begin in the sanctuary and are excused to their classes after a story and the recitation of the children’s affirmation. First Sunday of the month is Children’s Chapel with all elementary grade children together. On the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays children meet in grade groups, as described below.

Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers provided by Raechel Garner and Caitlin Fiore during both the 9:15 and the 11:00 services. (And during all congregational Meetings)

October Sunday Mornings — Children and Youth Activities

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<th>October 2</th>
<th><strong>MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE (ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY AT 10:00)</strong></th>
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<td>Children with adults in the worship service this morning. This child-friendly service celebrates the Jewish high holy day, Rosh Hashanah through story and song. A Congregational Meeting follows the 10:00 service.</td>
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| October 9 | **Grades K-2: Wisdom Stories**  
*The Birdman,* by Veronika Martenova Charles | **Grades 3-6: Session 2 – “Love Connects Us”**  
*A Heritage of Love* |
| --- | --- | --- |

| October 16 | **Multi-Generational Worship Service – Blessing of the Animals** |  |
|  | Children with adults in the worship service this morning at the 11:00 hour. We worship in the courtyard as our beloved animal companions are given blessings. The children perform a special song for the occasion. |  |

| October 23 | **Grades K-2: Wisdom Stories**  
*Horton Hears a Who,* by Dr. Seuss | **Grades 3-6: Session 3 – “Love Connects Us”**  
*Love Is the Spirit of This Church* |
| --- | --- | --- |

| October 30 | RE Open House today after the 11:00 Service.  
Children prepare the RE classrooms for the Open House during RE time today. |  |
"Searching the History in Historical Fiction"

Based on her novels, UU member Linda Lambert will lead a seminar exploring the religious and spiritual history of Egypt, Italy and New Mexico, contrasting Christianity, Judaism and Islam. October 4 and 11 at 7 pm - no cost (donation suggested).

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Wills & Trusts!

Sunday, October 16
12:45-2:45 PM
in the Board Room

Been meaning to create a will or trust, but just haven't gotten around to it? Do you already have a will or trust & need to update it? Do you just want get the most current information available on this important subject?

After receiving requests for information on wills & trusts, the Endowment Committee is sponsoring a FREE seminar by a prominent Santa Rosa attorney, Carmen Sinigiani, on Sunday, October 16 from 12:45-2:45 PM in the Board Room. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up at the Adult RE table in the front lobby so we can make sure we have enough food. Don’t miss this important opportunity!

Questions? Please contact Judy Taylor at redacted

JULY RECIPIENTS

Canine Companions  $391.39
Fence At the Top   $293.23
Redwood Empire Food Bank  $408.08
Breakfast for our Neighbors  $315.50

Thanks for your generous support!

An Excerpt from The Pamphlet, "Our Unitarian Universalist Faith" by Alice Blair Wesley, submitted by Marilyn Beckerbauer

In the sixteenth century, Christian humanists of Central Europe—in Poland and Transylvania—studied the Bible closely. They could not find the orthodox dogma of the Trinity (God as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) in the texts. Therefore, they affirmed—as did Jesus, according to the Gospels—the unity, or oneness, of God. Hence they acquired the name Unitarian.

These sixteenth-century Unitarians preached and organized churches according to their own rational convictions in the face of overwhelming orthodox opposition and persecution. They also advocated religious freedom for others. In Transylvania, now part of Romania, Unitarians persuaded the legislature to pass the Edict of Toleration. In 1568 the law declared that, since "faith is the gift of God," people would not be forced to adhere to a faith they did not choose.

In continuity with our sixteenth-century Unitarian forebears, today we Unitarian Universalists are determined to follow our own reasoned convictions, no matter what others may say, and we embrace tolerance as a central principle, inside and outside our own churches.

Big Milestone - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Celebrate Sunday, October 2nd!!
(after service)

We are now ready to occupy the space that the Islamic Society vacated. Please join in the ribbon cutting ceremony and a glass of sparkling cider after the service and before the congregational meeting and take a look at our "new" space!

If you see them, please say a big thank you to Kirsten Olney, John Jaffray, and Bud Willis who played major roles in making this happen. Next up, pending congregational approval, is new HVAC, painting, and new flooring in most of the upstairs.

Pam Tennant, Operations Team member
CUUPS Samhain Festival Honors Our Beloved Dead
October 29 at UUCSR

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans honors our Beloved Dead this Samhain with a family friendly celebration and potluck supper.

Please join us for a part or all of the evening on Saturday October 29. Ritual starts at 5:30 and Supper at 6:00 pm. Bring a photo or object representing your Beloved Dead, a potluck dish, and your drum for a drum circle afterwards. For more information email us at cuups@uusantarosa.org

Ritual at 5:30 pm, Potluck Supper at 6:00 pm. Family Friendly.

SAMHAIN (pronounced sow-in) is a festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or “the darker half” of the year. Traditionally, is celebrated from sunset on 31 October to sunset on 1 November. This places it about halfway between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice. It is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals... Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Like Beltane, Samhain was seen as a liminal time, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld could more easily be crossed....

(from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samhain)

From the Intern’s Desk
By Millie Phillips

I am so glad to be back here for the second year of my internship, after spending the summer working as a hospital chaplain (I hope your summer was easier than mine!) Your warmth, caring, engagement, and advice for my professional growth have been the best any intern could imagine.

In my 2nd year, interns are expected to focus on those skills that were not the easiest for them, as well as improve further on what they did well. Most feedback I’ve received agrees that worship is a strong area for me, and teaching is my challenge.

So, you will see a bit less of me in services, though I still will preach most months, and more of me in adult and children’s religious education. I will help lead children’s chapel and will teach a series of adult RE classes on humanist theory and history, including contemporary debates within UU about humanism. Since this class will meet monthly, it will allow for time to do suggested readings in advance. Details soon.

As I become more adept at the tasks of everyday ministry, I will take on more complex and challenging assignments and will exercise greater leadership in congregational business — increasing my involvement in the arts and music of the church, conducting a solstice service, deepening with Of One Soul, the Sonoma County interfaith organization in defense of the Muslim community, and engaging more deeply in the social life of the congregation.

As a rather reserved and methodical person, I am challenging myself to greater improvisation, more conversation, deeper connections, and freer creativity.

I already feel sad that I will have to leave you in June 2017. Thanks so much for all you do.

Millie Phillips, Intern Minister

Work Saturdays—1st Sat. of Month
October 2, 9—Noon
Volunteers Wanted!

(We gather on 1st Sat. to maintain, improve, & beautify our physical plant)

NEWS FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee has set an ambitious agenda for the next year. In addition to our ongoing stewardship of endowment funds, we have developed a strategic plan which focuses on visibility, education, and - most importantly - increasing the number of people who choose to make a legacy gift to the Endowment Fund now or by including the UU in their wills.

Our first effort is a workshop that has been frequently requested - About Wills and Trusts. (See our notice in this newsletter) This seminar will take place on October 16th. We look forward to getting your feedback as well as ideas for future classes.

Our committee is deeply grateful to those of you who have already committed to giving to the Endowment Fund. We plan to honor and thank you at a future Legacy Circle reception. Your gifts help ensure that UUCSR will be strong and viable for years to come.

The Endowment Committee is chaired by Eric Peterson; members are: Diana Breslich, Helga Lemke, Robin Rogers, Reid Stinnett, and Judy Taylor. Bill Haigwood and Linda Balabanian sit ex officio on the committee.

Please contact any one of us if you have suggestions, want more information, or are interested in becoming a Legacy Circle member. We’re excited about our plans for the new year and hope you are too.

Helga Lemke (redacted@earthlink.net)
North Bay Organizing Project

5th Annual NBOP Big Public Meeting
October 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Santa Rosa High School Auditorium

North Bay Organizing Project Core Team Report
Our 5th annual NBOP Big Public Meeting is on October 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Santa Rosa High School Auditorium with music, theater, multi-media, noted speakers and a lot of energy, interaction, and fun!

We will celebrate all that has been accomplished in the last year: rent stabilization and just cause eviction policies; integrated voter engagement to increase voting in under-represented areas; a pilot program with free bus passes for college students and veterans; continuing restorative discipline in the schools—and much more! We will ask politicians to pledge to support our values and our efforts. And, did I mention that there would be fun music and a children’s parade??

Please come to celebrate with us. Also, please consider joining the NBOP Core Team here at UUCSR. Carol Kraemer, Sibyl Day, and Deborah Mason are all available to answer your questions. We would love to meet you! Membership NBOP task forces—Education Justice, Tenant Protections (formerly Affordable Housing), Transportation Justice, and Integrated Voter Engagement. Call Sibyl Day at 707-redacted for updates on meeting times for the Task Forces.

UUCSR Women Together presents our fall
Elder Tale
Sharing by Carolyn McCleese
Saturday, October 22nd
1 pm in UUCSR Youth room

We continue our tradition of inviting one of our own amazing women to share a bit of her life story. Gather with us in the Youth Room to enjoy photos and anecdotes presented by Carolyn McCleese highlighting her interesting, active, and somewhat rule-bending (imagine that!) life. We know she brought TIE to our UUCSR, but surprising stories lie beneath her gracious demeanor! Carolyn will begin her tale at 1:00 pm in the UUCSR Youth Room.

All (men, too) are welcome...no birth certificate required. Please bring finger food to share and a beverage if you’d like. We will have coffee, tea and water, of course.

Time for a Woman UUA President
All three candidates for the next President of the UUA are women. Take advantage of a rare opportunity to get acquainted and chat with them at the Third International Women’s Convocation, Asilomar Conference Center, CA, February 16-19, 2017 – while networking with women around the globe to build support for the issues that matter to you. An additional $50 discount is available for UU ministers. Young adults aged 18-40 can register at a special all-inclusive package rate.... Visit IntlWomensConvo.org for all details.

GETTING TO KNOW UU Class Sat. Oct. 8th, 9:30am-12:30pm. This informative class will acquaint you with the joining and history of Universalism and Unitarianism, as well as an understanding of the Santa Rosa UU Congregation. Open to all, this is a requirement for membership in our congregation. Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sunday!

Evening Book Group
October 13
The Evening Book Group meets Thursday, October 13th, 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino, in the RE wing.
The October selection is The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd.
Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

We meet on 2nd Thursdays 7 to 9 pm, in the RE wing at UUCSR. Members take turns leading discussion and providing light snacks.

Upcoming: November Stonewalled by

Faith And Fitness
Saturday October 15 Hike
Our October hike is at North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park, nice views and fall color, 3.6 miles to lookout and return, with some moderate climbing. Meet 9:30 at the Santa Rosa carpool, 4th St. Safeway near the Redwood Credit Union office, or at trail head off Sonoma Mountain Road at 10. Bring water & snack/lunch, back to Santa Rosa by 2:00. Sorry, again no dogs.
Sign up to fitness@uusantarosa.org or call Gretchen P. redacted.

Drawing Wednesdays!
Open drawing 1-3 pm Green Room

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.
For the single service on October 2nd there will be a lot of special music by Jewish Guest Musicians.

Most of the music for our Rosh Hashanah service will be provided by Rick Concoff, an esteemed member of the Sonoma County Jewish community. Rick has an extensive background in music (singing, guitar and especially violin) and social work (especially with children, teens, and their parents). Rick brings his student, Nick Alexander, who will play the shofar.

The choir sings a song about Kol Nidre for the services on October 9 which will be about both Yom Kippur, which is the Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the year in Judaism, and Kol Nidre, which means “All Vows.”

For the services on October 16, about a Blessing of the Animals, Robin Rogers sings and plays guitar for two songs: "All God’s Creatures” and "God Gave Names to All Animals.”

An all-female version of our choir sings for the services on October 23, as the men will still be at their retreat that weekend.

For October 30 services celebrating the Day of the Dead, musicians John Ray (trombone and vocals), Josh Crips (trumpet), Ruth Ahlers (soprano sax), Ted Dutcher (bass), and Paul Gilger (Piano) sing and play two songs: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” and “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

If it's October — and the Annual Auction is just over a month away!

It's October — and the Annual Auction is just over a month away!

2016 Annual Auction
November 5

(Our biggest fundraising event of the year, folks! Be a part of the extravaganza!)

There’s still time to donate silent auction items, still time to solicit donations for the raffle, and now it's time to buy your raffle tickets! Beat the rush, stop by the table after service.

2016 Annual Raffle
On Sale in October

(Winners drawn at Caribbean Auction)

Caribbean Escape Raffle tickets go on sale in mid October. New prices this year! Buy early and often, sell some to your friends or neighbors. We have plenty of great prizes. For example, $100 certificate to La Gare Restaurant. WOW! Look for our table after the Sunday services. (Bring your peel- and-stick address labels for easy filling out)
Philanthropy For Everyone

"It's easy to think of philanthropy as something done by the very wealthy, or big foundations, or prosperous companies. Actually, of the more than $300 billion that Americans give to charity every year, only 15 percent comes from foundation grants. Just 6 percent comes from corporations. The rest [79 percent] comes from individuals.

And among individual givers in the U.S., while the wealthy do their part ...the vast predominance of offerings come from average citizens of moderate income. Between 70 and 90 percent of all U.S. households donate to charity in a given year.

People with means, as you might expect, are substantial givers. Middle-class Americans donate a little less. But the lower-income population surprises by giving more than the middle, and in some measures even more than the top, as a percentage of available income.”


The internet has proven to be an excellent vehicle for philanthropy, using (among other strategies) “crowdfunding.” Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising monetary contributions from a large number of people. The Web is the arena in which projects are promoted, giving Web users exposure to compelling ideas that can inspire support. The Web also provides easy means of sending financial support for those ideas.

Here are some examples of highly successful crowdfunding projects used by ordinary people. More than a million people made small contributions to Bernie Sanders’ presidential via a well-designed Web site. Bernie’s virtual Internet-based community donations kept pace with his opponent’s solicitation of corporations and PACs. Another example is “Support Victims of Pulse Shooting” in Orlando, FL, which raised over 5 million dollars in less than a week. Crowdfunding has also raised sorely needed money for post-Katrina reconstruction in the Mississippi Delta region.

Our congregation has a venture defined by our mission: celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another, and helping build a better world. We crowdfund our work by inspiring our 350 philanthropists (all ordinary people of moderate means) to make sustaining pledges. And we use new, Internet-based philanthropy tools to automate giving, making financial participation as easy as possible.

We have forged a partnership with an outstanding electronic transaction service. We have very convenient Web tools, allowing convenient, automated donations. Our Donation Web page is available 24/7 for giving when the spirit moves us. And, one can text donations via smartphone as we practice generosity during Sunday services.

So, fellow philanthropists, we are all part of our very own crowdsourcing project, which we might call “You Go, UU!” We are the donors, AND the recipients. Give with love according to your means, and with pride in using the newest ways to give with ease!

Joe McCarty, Philanthropy Team

2016 MEN’S RETREAT
October 22–24
St Dorothy’s Rest, Camp Meeker

The Men’s Retreat Planning Committee currently consists of Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Fischer, Richard Senghas, and Russ Powell. (New Planning Committee members are warmly welcomed and genuinely needed!) We can’t wait to see you OCTOBER 22 - OCTOBER 24 at St. Dorothy’s Rest in Camp Meeker.

We are excited to offer a retreat that will have us focusing more directly on our spiritual lives as UU men. The whole weekend will lead up toward a truly co-created service on Sunday morning, with different groups of men exploring different aspects of worship, including, it is hoped, one that they might be less familiar or comfortable with. We envision four “tracks”: Poetry/Prose, Prayer/Meditation, Ritual, and Music.

The Saturday morning workshop features discussion about the topic (perhaps some teaching from the facilitator if needed), and some experience to go with the topic. Thus participants will actually pray and meditate, read and/or write poetry, explore and create a ritual, sing and/or play music. After a very relaxed Saturday afternoon, groups centered on the same topics will come together that evening to determine how to contribute to the service, with the agreed-upon goal of universal participation. So again, the prayer group would decide together how to bring prayer into our service in an authentic and meaningful way, the music group would work toward the goal of offering several pieces of music in the Sunday service, and so on. We this will really give men a chance to explore areas of spiritual growth (howsoever understood), or spiritual resistance, and to increase their engagement with worship in general. Oh, and we’ll have lots of fun!

Also, in lieu of the Saturday Variety Show, we will play and sing together on Friday evening though. Men are encouraged to bring a song or poem to share, and on object for our altar, but we’ll mostly bust out songs from Rise Up Singing and get everybody singing together.

Scholarships are readily available. Your friends are indeed most welcome. Contact Eric Fischer for more information and to register, or sign up after services on any Sunday until October 9.

Submitted by Rev. Chris
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Send submissions to newsletter@uusantarosa.org
Editor: Susan Williamson  Proofreading: Woody Todd
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