September 4
A TRANSYLVANIAN ODYSSEY
(Summer Service - One service at 10:00 am)
Service Leaders: Rev. Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek, Eric Fischer
Music by: Robert Howseman and the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: The Living Room

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

September 11
INGATHERING / HOMECOMING
Back to two services! 9:15 and 11:00!

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff
Music by: The Choir, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: ACLU Foundation of Sonoma County

Welcome back! Summer’s passing and vacation is over. It’s time to return to two services, and to kick off the Children’s Religious Education program.

Today’s service uses the metaphor of Home, and Homecoming, to ground us and help us look ahead to a new year of service to each other and our community.

September 18
WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
9:15 and 11:00

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Veronica Jordan
Music by: Robin Rogers and some of the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: The Brady Center for Prevention of Gun Violence

Radical Hospitality, a concept that originates in the Benedictine tradition, accurately captures an essential part of Unitarian Universalism: the conviction that all people are our relations and should be treated and loved accordingly. We’ll consider ways we can be truly welcoming and embracing of diversity, and offer hope and belonging even to those who are very different from ourselves – in our congregation, and in our nation.

September 25
INTIMATE STRANGERS
9:15 and 11:00

Service Leaders: Millie Phillips, Susan Panttaja
Music by: The Choir, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: Breakfast for our Neighbors

Intern minister Millie Phillips draws upon her experience as a hospital chaplain intern this summer to explore the weirdness and rewards of accompanying some of life’s most difficult and intimate moments and emotions - pain, anger, fear, grief, death - with people one has never met before and likely may never meet again.

October 2
ROSH HASHANAH
One service only at 10:00!
Congregational Meeting at 11:30!

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason, Scott Miller
Music by: Claire Beery and the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: Becoming Independent We begin our celebration of the High Holy Days by observing the Jewish New Year. This story-rich service on atonement and forgiveness will lead into next week’s service celebrating Yom Kippur. Multi-generational service is offered at 10:00 am because of Congregational Meeting at 11:30.
TURN AND FACE THE STRANGE
By Reverend Chris Bell

I’ve been listening to a lot of David Bowie over the last few months as I’ve grieved his death. Bowie has always been a big part of my musical world, particularly when I was younger. In 1985 the graduating seniors of Lakewood High School, all 950 of us, voted David Bowie’s song “Changes” to be our official theme song. The chorus goes: “Ch-ch-ch-changes – turn and face the strange.”

Turn and face the strange. Good advice for times of change, which as we all know is every moment of our lives. Elsewhere in that same song Bowie sings, “I watch the ripples change their size, but never leave the stream of warm impermanence…”

Here are some of the biggest ripples in the UUCSR stream these days...

Our beloved Choir Director Sadie Sonntag will be taking a leave of absence until January. She will be pursuing graduate-level classes in order to be certified to teach in the public schools, as she did to great acclaim this past semester at El Molino High School. As much fun as directing our choir is, Sadie needs to focus on this important work for her long-term career success. We wish her every blessing, and eagerly await her return.

The good news is Sadie found her own temporary replacement, Mr. Anthony Martin, who brings a degree in choral conducting. He begins work with the choir immediately. He has been singing with some of our area’s best choirs for years, but it has been some time since he has conducted. He is eager for the opportunity. He confessed, when we offered him the position, that he wasn’t particularly warm to traditional religion and is, in fact, an atheist.

I told him he would fit right in!

We also are welcoming our new pianist, Ms. Tessa McClary. Tessa has a successful practice of teaching piano, and her musical studies at Middlebury College included a semester at the prestigious Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris. She also currently directs The Butterfly Ship (http://www.thebutterflyship.com), a travelling musical show and performance art piece which some of you may have seen at this year’s Rivertown Revival. Tessa’s strength is in the classical repertoire, but you know we’ll have her playing Radiohead and the Allman Brothers before long!

We also welcome a new staff member Ms. Rachel Bingham, our new bookkeeper, who will take on the financial duties that we have asked of our administrator Janis Brewster, thereby allowing her more time to support the Board, the Glaser Center committee, the many other congregational committees, and the other staff. Rachel will work about 15 hours a week, and will generally be in on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Rachel brings years of bookkeeping experience to us, and she was in the Marines for several years in the 70s, so we can expect everything to be in top order, I’m sure! Rachel was greatly relieved to learn that she can, in fact, wear her tie-dyed T-shirts to work.

(Your long-haired hippie minister naturally agreed to that request…)

I hope you will all welcome our new staff warmly and enthusiastically!

In other ripples, The Cypress Preschool begins operations in January, per our August 14th Congregational vote (92% approval) to welcome the them as a renter of the Religious Education wing and the Courtyard during weekdays. They expect their January initial enrollment to be 15 students. That big change in our physical environment is accompanied by reclamation of the room we rented to the Islamic Society for the last decade, and by big plans for the restoration of the upstairs.

All of these logistical and physical changes in our community will be accompanied, I strongly hope, by continuing positive changes in our membership, programming, social outreach and financial strength as we continue to grow.

To that end, a few friendly suggestions to strengthen our community, and your place in it:

◊ Check out some books on Unitarian Universalism from our library.
◊ Invite a friend to services some Sunday.
◊ Call, or go visit, a member that you haven’t seen in some time.
◊ Help out in the children’s program on Sunday.
◊ Volunteer for the Saturday Breakfast, or for the Integrated Voter Engagement Drive of the North Bay Organizing Project (http://northbayop.org), get involved with the Advocates for Social Justice, or volunteer for one of the many committees that keep the work of the congregation moving forward.
◊ Take an Adult Religious Education class, join a TIE group, or participate in one of our meditation groups.
◊ Join the choir, or talk to a Music Associate about performing on Sundays.

Finally, please don’t forget that none of our staff can do their work, and none of our ministries can advance, without your generous financial support. I genuinely hope you see the value of our community and find us to be an institution worth supporting. As you know, we have decided to save countless hours of volunteer time by setting aside the massive annual canvass campaign whereby we sought new pledge commitments each year, in favor of trusting the ongoing philanthropic spirit of the congregation. Please, as you are able, set up your automatic pledge withdrawal, raise your pledge, and make donations to the congregation when the spirit moves you. ([https://web.usantarosa.org/giving/](https://web.usantarosa.org/giving/))

Together we’ll continue to face the change, and the strange, as we begin a our congregation’s new year. See you at Ingathering on September 11, when we return to two services.

Be well, be kind, and keep singing that Principles song!

- Rev. Chris
This month our congregation celebrates the return of Fall with our September In-Gathering Service on Sunday September 11th. The return of our regular fall-winter-spring schedule of two Sunday services highlights the larger return of all of us to the tasks of a new year. Summer vacations are over. Children return to school. The march of the old year continues toward the narrow winter passage wherein a new year takes its place.

We are stewards of this spiritual community. With our September In-Gathering we celebrate our unity and purpose as a congregation, as we walk together from the courtyard through the Glaser Center and into the sanctuary to mark a new beginning.

During September, the UUCSR Philanthropy Team will remind us all of our two key annual goals. The first goal is for members to increase their annual pledge. With the end of our pledge drive last year, UUCSR now relies on your stewardship to sustain the month-in-month-out operational costs that keep our community humming. More than just keeping the lights on, your pledge sustains numerous programs and activities that enrich our spiritual life as a community, as well as our missions on behalf of social justice.

The second goal is for more members to pay their annual pledge via auto-pay. Currently about half of us are paying our pledges via a regular electronic payment from our bank accounts. We who monitor the expenses of the congregation and draw up its annual budget cannot say enough good things about auto-pay. Auto-pay provides a steady flow of operational income that assures we can meet our commitments. Auto-pay makes your life easier, too. Your pledge is made securely and consistently in a way that maintains a clear record of what was paid, when.

Stewardship is a commitment that expresses a belief, a commitment to remain connected and connecting. A key part of our UU stewardship is the commitment we make to pledge an annual payment to the support of our spiritual community.

During In-Gathering Sunday, you can visit the Philanthropy Team table either to increase your pledge or automate your pledge. Or both! A team techie will be at the computer to help you access your pledge and the tools you can use to securely make these changes.

Stewardship is a bridge to belonging.
There is no better time than during our In-Gathering month, when we renew our continuing commitment to each other, to also renew our annual pledge to UUCSR.

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

WE ARE ALL STEWARDS

In an extremely well-attended Special Congregational Meeting on Aug. 14, with over 120 votes cast, the proposal to rent the Children’s RE Wing and the Courtyard during weekdays to the Cypress Preschool was passed with an overwhelming 92% vote. The Glaser Center Committee (GCC) thanks everyone for their participation in this process and suggestions for amendments!

The Cypress Preschool begins operation January 2017 with no more than 15 children and they will use the RE bathroom. There will be NO restrictions on the women’s restroom! The remodel of the RE bathroom should occur over the summer of 2017. After the remodel is complete, the Preschool can increase it’s student enrollment up to 45 students.

Because of this rental, we will not re-rent 545 Mendocino Avenue, our digs that used to be rented by the Santa Rosa Islamic Society. They have moved across the alley way to 533 Mendocino, and are still our neighbors, but their old temple hall at 545 will now be in use for UUCSR members, for meetings, etc. We have a new doorway punched through where the lobby library was (ask to peek behind the purple curtains to see the construction) This magic new hall should be available by October.

Our upstairs space, officially 547 Mendocino Avenue, should be available by January for up 16 people at a time. The OPS team continues to work diligently to make the upstairs space available to everyone, including those with mobility issues. We will NOT lose comfortable, cozy space. We’ll have plenty of room for those comfy couches in 545 and upstairs in 547.

A Working Preschool Committee, comprised of members from both UUCSR and the Preschool, will be formed to deal with any issues that arise.

The members of the GCC truly believe that the benefits of this rental will far exceed any inconveniences, and thanks everyone again for their incredible support and involvement.

[Editor’s note: be sure to offer fruit or chocolate to members of the OPS if you see them – they are working so hard!]

Great Thanks to Kelly Moore Paints and Sales Rep Mike Dorado on Roberts Road in Santa Rosa for donating paint for our kitchen!

Cypress Preschool to Have Home at UUCSR!

By Barrie Noe
ANNUAL 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 in Camp Meeker. Enjoy low-pressure men’s fellowship. We eat, relax, explore the grounds, play games, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings together.

There will be gatherings large and small for sharing or discussion, workshops, music, time to read, sleep, sit by a campfire, and slow down.

First timers especially welcome!

Signs-ups are coming soon!
Registration starts August 28 and continues through mid-October, before and after Sunday services.
A sliding-scale payment is available.

Give, and gifts will be given you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured out into your lap; for whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt out to you in return.

Luke 6:38

Save the Date—Oct 1 at Glaser
Another Gig with Our Very Own New Horizons Swing Band

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Chico and The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa cordially invites you to attend

the Ordination and Installation of
Bryan Plude
Saturday, October 15, 2016
at 12:00 noon
at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1209 Hilbert Avenue, Chico, California
Reception to follow in the Social Hall

If attending, please reply by September 10
office@uuchico.org
or (530) 343-1403

Treasurer’s Report
By Linda Balabanian

Opportunity to Participate in Member Note Program
As reported here on a regular basis, our Member Note Program is functioning well, paying off notes held by our members of between $37,000 and $40,000 a year. The notes currently pay 3% interest annually.

As part of the management of the Program, we have scheduled the payoffs of the notes which we expect to be fully paid off in early 2024, about 7½ years from now.

Recently a member holding $25,000 in Member Notes passed away and, as required by the Terms and Conditions of the note contract, we will need to pay that member’s estate the $25,000 within a year of their death. We had originally scheduled that member’s notes to be paid off in two parts, 4 and 5 years from now.

Although we can certainly rework our note repayment schedule to pay off the notes within the required year, this is a good opportunity for members who may want to take part in the Program to participate. If you are a member of UUCSR and are interested in participating in this program by investing at least $5,000 or as much as $25,000 for the next 4-5 years with a 3% annual interest payment please let Janis Brewster, our administrator, or me know as soon as possible.

The Books are Closed on our 2014-2016 Fiscal Year!
Wow – what an eventful year!
Although our pledge revenue was under budget about 1½ percent, we were over budget in most other revenue areas. We accomplished some building improvements that we had planned to fund mainly with excess cash from the prior year but by year end we found almost all our planned expenditures could be funded by our current operations, leaving that excess cash for future improvements.

During most of the year, our pledge revenue position looked bleak. Pledges were not coming in – extra reminders had to be sent. Luckily, people responded to our pleas and we were able to come close to our budgeted pledge revenue total within the last couple of weeks of June.

This experience led us to do some much needed housekeeping in our pledge database, something we will need to stay on top of at all times now that we use sustaining pledges. It is really important that our members and friends let us know right away if they will not be able to pay their full pledge. We depend on the pledged amount for the lion’s share of our budget so we will need to take extra care to make sure we communicate expectations to all of you who pledge and vice versa.

In the coming months, we hope to improve the pledge statements we send out since many of us (most of us?) find them confusing to say the least. In the meantime, please let me or Janis know if you have questions about your pledge or the amounts you’ve paid. I am humbled and very grateful for your generosity.

Next month I’ll provide a full report of our 2015-2016 financial results.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer
SEPTEMBER’S HOT TOPIC
Sunday, September 18 at 12:30 pm

HOT TOPIC: Every year, 32,000 people in this country are killed by guns ~ that’s more than 9 people every day!!!!

The Brady Center for Prevention of Gun Violence has set a goal of cutting that in half by 2025. Come to our Hot Topic on Sunday, September 18th at 12:45 in the Board Room to hear Susan Moore, a community leader and activist for gun control, tell us how they plan to do this and what we can do to help.

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

We hope to see you there! Linda Harlow

2016 SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM PROJECT
FIRST FILM OF YEAR
TITLE TO BE RELEASED VIA FOCUS / OPEN LIST
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
12:45 PM in the Board Room

We are delighted to be back in the business of bringing forward films on important social justice issues. We are pleased to announce that our film presentations will take place each month on the 4th Sunday of the month following the 11 AM service. We appreciate your patience last year as we bounced from week to week.

Thank you so much for participating in our recent survey asking for your suggestions of themes. There was interest in all of our named topics plus many contributions to “other”. The theme that was most often chosen was, “The Corruption of Our Democracy”.

We are quite excited to begin our film year with this topic and we see ways to incorporate many of the other topics that were chosen by you, our respondents and viewers. We have a film that we intend to show on Sunday, September 25 but we have not been able to preview it fully. The trailer looks great and as soon as we can view it we will broadcast the title and a bit about the film as always.

Your focus list, flyers around UUCSR and Order of Service announcements will give you the scoop. Thanks for your continued support of this project.

Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project

ATTENTION UUCSR MEN:
Do you want to...
Join an existing UUCSR men’s group? ✓
Be part of a new UUCSR men’s group? ✓
If your answer is Yes to one of the above contact Roger DeBeers at catsdontkiss@att.net or meet Roger at El Capitan restaurant across the street from UUCSR September 7 at 5:30 PM or at UUCSR in the RE area at 6 PM Wednesday September 7, 14, or 28.
Happy New RE YEAR! Stay present for a lot of fun and learning for kids in the 2016-17 Session of Religious Education, beginning September 11th.

Kindergarten to Second Grade class has another year of Wisdom Stories with new stories to explore, and each Sunday a story that exemplifies 1 of 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism. Then, an activity related to the story's meaning, a game, a skit or an art project. Stories include The Everything Seed, by Carole Martignacco; Stellaluna, by Janelle Cannon; The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles; Wangari’s Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter, and other beautiful stories.

We add an element this year to the K-2 program. Last year the children learned and practiced mindful meditation weekly. This year the encouragement of spiritual practice continues with yoga. Each week begins with stretching, deep breathing and yoga poses. I hope parents will practice the yoga with their kids at home in order to deepen their practice.

The Grade 3-6 curriculum is “Love Connects Us.” This UUA Tapestry of Faith program, written by UU Educators Rev. Dr. Ungar and Michelle Richards, explores our UU legacy of living our connections, loving service, inquiry and acting for social justice. Rev. James Vila Blake’s famous covenant is at its center:

Love is the spirit of this church, And service is its law

This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace, To seek truth in love, And to help one another.

By exploring key ideas of the Blake Convenant, children can grow in UU identity, explore their connections to one another in beloved community, and discover ways they are called to act. The program offers stories of courageous men and women making impacts in the world, along with games, service, and arts & crafts.

Our littlest UUs continue to be cared for Sundays by nursery school care provider Caitlin Fiore and preschool teacher Rachael Garner. We have a weekly ritual of chalice lighting and singing, stories, and play.

Volunteers Emily Heinzelman, Lois Nagle, Carol Kraemer and I prepare to make each session the best possible experience for the children. But what really makes the experience whole is regular attendance of their peers. Yes, there are other activities happening on Sundays, and sometimes families cannot get to church—but my hope is that families will commit to attend each Sunday, and will prioritize spiritual development and teaching of UU values.

My further hope is that each class creates a culture of friendship and connection among the kids, which deepens what we teach in the classrooms.

In Faith, Deborah

Here’s What’s Happening In RE:

Youth Group (grades 8 to 12) meets every Thursday, 4-6 pm. Newcomers most welcome! Deborah Mason, Danny Millsapgh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Questions? Contact Deborah Mason dre@uusantarosa.org.

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during 11:00 services, Sept 11-June 11. Grades K-6 begin in the sanctuary and, after a story and the children’s affirmation, proceed to their classes. First Sundays are Arts Sundays, with all elementary grade kids together. On 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays, kids meet in grade groups, as below.

Childcare for babies, toddlers & preschoolers by Rachael Garner and Caitlin Fiore during both 9:15 and 11:00 services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Morning Children and Youth Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grades K-2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4/16 10am Only: Last day of Summer Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Ages Together for In-Gathering: Getting-to-Know-You Games &amp; Fun</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11/16 Rosie and Michael by Judith Viorst</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18/16 The Everything Seed by Carole Martignacco</td>
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<td>9/25/16</td>
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Dr. Phil Harriman Presents

Scientific Roots
In Four Presentations
Sept 6-20, Tuesdays from 2 to 3:15
Sept 27, 12:15 to 6 pm - a Fieldtrip to Petrified Forest

Sept. 6: DNA Time Travel: What does the human genome project tell us about our relationship with the rest of nature (bacteria, fungi, plants and animals, etc.)? We can now extract genetic information from “ancient DNAs” and have a better idea of how we are related to extinct *homo* (e.g. Neanderthal) species who may have been our ancestors. I review current findings in this area.

Sept 13: The Relationship Between Science and Religion: Carl Sagan gave a series of lectures on “Natural Theology” at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. In those lectures he presented his views on the relationship between science and religion. I find his views to be very “Unitarian” in nature and will summarize them so that we may explore our own ideas in this area.

Sept 20: Astrobiology: In the last decade we have learned much about the environments of Mars and moons of the giant planets Jupiter and Saturn. We have also discovered over a thousand planets orbiting stars other than our sun. What are the possibilities of life on these planets and moons?

Sept 27: Field trip to the Petrified Forest. At this site, located between Santa Rosa and Calistoga, we’ll have a docent-led trip and learn about the past dynamic geology of our area as well as become acquainted with some of the plants and animals that reside in the forest surrounding the site. Cost is $12 for a several hour, docent led, tour. Carpool from UUCSR at 12:15 pm.

Each presentation at UUCSR will be about an hour – allow up to 1.5 hours for discussion and questions. 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 6 courses for Sonoma State’s Lifelong Learning program, and several for UUCSR’s Adult RE Program.

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
**TIE Invites You To Come Join the Conversation**  
(Together in Exploration)

*Imagine a group where you could honestly talk about your life journey, its struggles and joys, as well as many other topics relevant to a search for meaning and purpose. In this group you are surrounded by attentive listeners and fellow travelers, all part of our UUCSR congregation. You get to know great people, and find yourself respectfully heard. What a gift!*  

A participant this past program year wrote the following in the evaluation:  

“This was a profound and nurturing experience for me. The honesty and insights from members was humbling. Our group leaders were always supportive and kind. I’ll miss it a lot!”

*This is our TIE (Together In Exploration) program at UUCSR.* Groups run October through May, and meet twice monthly on a regular schedule for two hours (for example, 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00). Regular attendance is extremely important for creating the best experience for all participants.

*We especially encourage newcomers* to UUCSR to consider a TIE group, an excellent way to get to know other congregants. Generally all participants find a deepened connection within the UUCSR community by participating in a TIE group.

*We offer signups the last two Sundays in September (18 & 25).* Members of the TIE Steering Committee will be available in the social hall to answer questions and facilitate registration. There is no fee for the TIE groups.

*We intend to offer an evening group with child care* available, so families in our congregation may participation easier.

In advance of signups, please direct questions to TIE Steering Committee members Dorris Lee, Sara Jones, Jeannie Bates, Katie Trieller, Melinda Napier, Rev. Chris and Sharon McCarty.

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**Distribution of Key Fobs Continues...** If you have a demonstrable need for exterior access, please apply to Janis Brewster for a key fob. In late September or early October, we change all exterior locks, so access will be only with a key fob, except staff and others who need hard keys in case of a power outage, etc.

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**Work Saturday**  
September 10, 9 AM to 12 Noon  
Note Date Change  

Maintenance & Landscaping Volunteers Wanted  
for this September’s Work-Saturday. Since the All Congregation Retreat is on September 3, the Saturday Work Day is moved to the next Saturday, September 10! Please DO come on 9/10, 9 AM to Noon! Please don’t come on 9/3, unless you want to work alone!  

*Please Come Help With a Task!*  
(We gather on first Saturdays to maintain, improve, & beautify our grounds and building.)

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**Share The Basket**  
Each week we split our offering-basket contributions.  

Our Advocates for Social Justice committee selects a program to receive this donation from our Congregation.

**JULY RECIPIENTS**

- Canine Companions: $391.39
- Redwood Empire Food Bank: $408.08
- Fence at the Top: $293.23
- Breakfast for our Neighbors: $305.50

*Thanks for your generous support!*

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**CUUPs (Covenant of UU Pagans) Wants You To Save the Date**

**Samhain /Halloween Celebration**  
Oct 29, 2016  
Saturday 5 – 9:30 pm

Celebration and Potluck will be in the Sanctuary and social hall. There is a ceremomial gathering to honor our ancestors and departed loved ones, and then a potluck and time to share stories. This is a family friendly event, welcome to all UU’s and friends, new or old.

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**UU’s and Pagans? What’s the Connection?**  
“The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) was chartered by the Unitarian Universalist Association at the General Assembly in 1987 for purposes of enabling:

- networking among Pagan Identified UUs; providing outreach of Unitarian Universalism to the broader Pagan community continually.
- providing educational materials on Paganism for Unitarian Universalist congregations and the general public.
- promoting Pagan - Jewish & Christian dialogue; encouraging the development of theo/logical and liturgical materials based on earth and nature centered religious and spiritual perspectives.
- encouraging greater use of music, dance, visual arts, poetry, story, and creative ritual in Unitarian Universalist worship and celebration.
- Providing support for Pagan-identified UU religious professionals and ministerial students; and fostering healing relationships with our mother the Earth and all her children.”  

From http://www.cuups.org/
North Bay Organizing Project

Our Mission: To Unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic, racial and environmental justice. The membership

NBOP Big Public Meeting! October 16, 3-5 PM, will be the date for the annual public meeting of North Bay Organizing Project. Once again it will be held at Santa Rosa High School Auditorium with music, skits, and noted speakers to keep the energy high. The accomplishments of the past year will be celebrated and we invite politicians to firmly commit to their stands in support of NBOP efforts.

Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) - Everyone is strongly encouraged to sign up for the UUCSR walk days scheduled prior to the election on September 18 and October 2.

Affordable Housing - Just Cause Eviction and Rent Stabilization have been advanced with the Santa Rosa City Council

Education Justice - The new Santa Rosa School District Superintendent has agreed to continuing cooperation with NBOP efforts in Restorative Discipline, Ethnic Studies, and the Algebra Project.

Transit Riders United - Free student and youth bus passes, more frequent service, and the Community Connector Bridge are all top focuses for TRU.

If these are areas of concern to you, 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!

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 for updates.

Women Together Hosts “Welcome-Back” Potluck on September 24th, 12 Noon to 2 pm.

Greetings to All UU women and their friends! You are invited to a 'Welcome Back’ Pot-luck lunch on Saturday, September 24th from noon to 2 at Melinda Napier’s home, 914 Slater Street, Santa Rosa. This is a great opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones! New(er) members especially welcome - we’ve found these gatherings help folk to feel connected and at home! Please bring a lunch dish to share. Any questions? Contact Linda Harlow, We look forward to seeing you!

Evening Book Group 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 Atkison

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 September 3rd 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.

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 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.

WEST COUNTY UU WOMEN
Meet casually for monthly breakfast at 8 am in Sebastopol or Graton
Come regularly, or once in awhile. Meet other members, one by one.
Call Phyllis Clement.
Musical Notes

We have just hired a new pianist, Tessa McClary! She began playing for us August 21. Some of you may have heard her already. If you were not at services in August, you will be able to hear her play piano pieces and accompany the choir in September.

Tessa McClary is a classical pianist who has studied music at Santa Rosa Junior College and Middlebury College in Vermont. She studied more piano music at La Sorbonne in Paris and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She currently teaches piano music to students in Petaluma.

We regret that Sadie Sonntag is unable to direct our choir from September through December because she has to take several classes in order to continue to be able to teach at her high school. She hopes to return in January. Fortunately, she suggested Anthony Martin as an interim choir director. He has sung with Sadie in high school, at Sonoma State University, and the Bach Choir.

Anthony has been a professional musician for some other churches, and is especially interested in our Congregation. Rev. Chris and I met with him in August, and it has been decided to hire him as our interim choir director. Anthony will begin directing at our Ingathering service on September 11.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

2016 UUCSR Annual Auction

This is our biggest most festive party of the year. Think “an evening’s escape on a tropical cruise ship.” Everyone is welcome—your $20 admission will get you a good four-course meal, a drink, and an evening of high spirits. Children are free and childcare will be provided.

Think About What You Want To Donate!

Everyone has something to give—be it an item, a service, a class, a meal, a party, or an outing.

Here are some suggestions to get you thinking:

**Items:** If you have a special item you can no longer use, bring it in, but remember, this is not a rummage sale. We’re talking about high quality jewelry, arts, crafts, collectibles, or wearables that show little or no use.

**Services:** If you have a special skill, give a few hours of your time. But anything you can do that someone else would pay for is a good donation—detail someone’s car, donate child care, frame a picture, clean a house, give computer support, financial counseling, a family portrait session.

**Classes:** What is your area of expertise? Give a class in dance, bread-making, felting, meditation, decorating Easter eggs, playing an instrument, gift-wrapping, drought-tolerant plants.

**Food and fellowship:** Anything from fine dining, ethnic foods, or food and wine pairings to a traditional high tea, chili and beer, or pizza and a movie.

**Parties:** The possibilities are endless. Board games, charades, women’s clothing swap, book swap, an Amazing Race, Children’s Museum with other UU families, poker, beer tasting, Oscar Night party, Superbowl party, pottery workshop.

**Outings:** Star-gazing at the Observatory, a bicycle ride followed by brunch, a guided tour of a place you know a lot about…

For Donation Forms see newsletter insert this issue, pick up services starting Sept. 18 or in the office, OR print one from https://web.uusantarosa.org/connect/auction/ (Click “Download PDF” at the bottom of the page) Leave completed form in the Auction mail slot in copy room. Questions? Other ways to deliver your donation form? Email Dee Ray at auction@uusantarosa.org

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 linens?  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
"The current (economic) model says scarcity is the basic condition of life. This is a model grounded in the fear that we are all alone, there is not enough, no one will share—and so we’ll die. But what about the word abundance? What if I say, there is plenty for all—if we will just share. When we are willing to live within limits, and not take more than what we need, there is plenty for everyone …

When we come together in community to experience beauty through ritual and ceremony, through song and dance, and shared food and drink, we are training our bodies to share with each other, to trust one another, to trust in a larger love that holds us all.

If we do this well, our fallback behavior during adversity becomes courageous, creative love.”

Excerpted from a sermon at UCSR by Rev. Leisa Huyck

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Welcome Back from the Philanthropy Team
With our Ingathering service, we begin a new year for UUCSR with great optimism for renewing and expanding our ministries—excited to reconnect with each other and reaffirm our commitment to work together. The Philanthropy Team has developed a year round stewardship program to remind you that **UUCSR needs your ongoing financial commitment and generosity**. We will be at our table in the social hall after services on September 11 and September 25, and we hope you’ll stop by to chat. We can help you use our website to increase your pledge and/or set up auto-pay. Together, we will bring our vision of love and justice into the world.

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Your Support Made it Happen

- Hired a part-time intern minister
- Hired a part time bookkeeper
- Established a new staff retirement plan
- Provided salary increases to help employees keep pace with the cost of living
- Paid hourly workers close to or equal to a Sonoma County living wage
- Gave financial support for members wishing to attend District Assembly and General Assembly
- Completed building improvements in our kitchen and courtyard, and improved building security
- Funded renovation of the upstairs space to create 2 classrooms and 2 meeting rooms
- Opened 545 Mendocino (the space formerly occupied by the Islamic Society) for our use to meet our growing needs
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-568-5381
office@uusantarosa.org fax: 707-568-5387
http://www.uusantarosa.org

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Choir Director: Sadie Sonntag/ Anthony Martin, choir@uusantarosa.org
Pianist: Tessa McClary
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
Fiona Mackenzie

Standing on the Side of Love