### December 4
**CHALICA**
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason, Jen Collins  
**Music by:** Robin Rogers, John Ray, the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  
**Share the Basket:** Redwood Empire Food Bank

Let's kick off the winter holidays with our own UU *Chalica* observance, a kid-friendly celebration of our Principles through story and song. Together we light a flame for each Principle over the course of a week, as a recommitting to values that most deeply bind us. Don't have a Chalice at home? A good time to get, make, or repurpose one!

### December 11
**THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB**
**Service Leaders:** Millie Phillips, Scott Miller  
**Music by:** Anthony Martin and the Choir, Tessa McClary  
**Share the Basket:** The Living Room

As we end Chalica, we focus on our seventh principle, which recalls to us the indigenous wisdom that tells us we are a part of, not apart from, the Great Big Thing. Building respectfully on the words of Chief Seattle, this service will help us understand various meanings of the idea of "web." The aim will be to teach us ways of healing the many kinds of alienation that we are heir to.

### December 18
**FOR THE EARTH, FOREVER TURNING**
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Millie Phillips, Cathy Read  
**Music by:** Alan Bell, John Ray, the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  
**Share the Basket:** Interfaith Council of Sonoma County

Nature Herself is our greatest teacher. As the cycle of the year moves toward darkest night and shortest day, we consider the lessons, challenges and comforts that Mother Earth offers us in the eternal changing of the seasons.

### December 24
**CHRISTMAS EVE**
**6:00 PM**
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Millie Phillips, Joe Gabaeff, Deborah Mason  
**Music by:** Anthony Martin and the Choir, Tessa McClary  
**Share the Basket:** Minister’s Discretionary Fund

We remember and give thanks for the life and teaching of Jesus, in whose words many Unitarians, Universalists, and UUs, have placed their trust. In our time of uncertainty, his bravery and compassion toward “the least,” and his teaching about loving your enemies is more vital than ever.

### December 21
**WINTER SOLSTICE**
**5:30 pm Drumming  6:00 pm Service**
**Service Leaders:** Millie Phillips, Eric Fischer, CUUPS.  
**Music by:** Roger Corman, Eric Skagerberg, the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary

Darkness triumphs, then recedes. Light returns, an ever-repeating cycle. Come celebrate the shortest night of the year with our Solstice celebration. We’ll drum, chant, tell stories, and sit in darkness. We’ll light the Yule log, then eat. Come help bring back the Sun. Light shall return!

### December 25
**CHRISTMAS**
**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 AM!!**
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason  
**Music by:** Robert Howseman & the UUsual Suspects  
**Share the Basket:** Saturday Breakfast for our Neighbors

Join us Christmas morning for a contemplative service of music and readings celebrating peace. Come in your jammies if you want. We’ll have hot cocoa. One service only, at 10:00am!

### January 1
**MILESTONES**
**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 AM!!**
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty  
**Music by:** Claire Beery, Susan Panttaja, the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  
**Share the Basket:** Social Advocates for Youth

We’ll consider the big events of 2016 (any come to mind?), and take time for private reflection on our own personal milestones. We also look ahead to the year 2017. What milestones do we hope we are celebrating one year from now? How will our faith lead us there? One service only, at 10:00am!
**Ministerial Musings**

Here is a famous and challenging Zen koan for your meditation:

*Once when the great teacher Dongshan was washing his bowls, he saw two crows contending over a squirming frog. A monk nearby asked, “Why does it come to this?” Dongshan said, “It’s only for your benefit, Honored One.”*

This Western theologians call a theodicy – a theory of evil. Theodicy asks and tries to answer eternal questions as Why does evil exist and what is its origin? How can a good Ultimate/God/Source allow for, or even cause, needless and undeserved pain? How shall we face the real complexity of life, which includes destructive emotions and impulses, wrong and harmful choices, and the inevitable reality of sickness and death? These are the monk’s questions, when he asks “Why does it come to this?”

Dongshan’s answer is shocking. Pain and suffering is “for your benefit, Honored One.” The ancient Chinese is vague enough that his response might actually be: “It is because of you, Honored One!” Wait, that doesn’t seem fair! How could it be because of ME, when it’s been going on for eons before I even got here?

Of course, that “Honored One” doesn’t refer just to the individuated monk, although it includes him. It refers to the Honored ONENESS, the completeness of being, the Universe, the Tao, the God/Goddess. You know, the Great Big Thing/Verb that has been going on for eons.

Zen considers koans as instances where non-dualistic consciousness of the Oneness was manifested. That story conveys a moment of embracing the world completely, without rejecting any part of it. Yes, animals eat other animals. Yes, most lives involve some pain. All end in death. Yet life also includes the monk’s compassion for the frog (and, we hope, the crows, forced to kill). Spring comes with peach blossoms, and the moon and I are made of the same stuff. Affirming that EVERYTHING is connected and whole is the essence of Buddhist wisdom, although such an approach is not exclusive to Buddhism.

Writing in *The Perennial Philosophy*, Aldous Huxley argued that a universal core is found in rudimentary form in the traditions of the most ancient people, and “has been treated again and again, from every religious tradition and in all the principal languages of Asia and Europe.”

He described this Perennial Philosophy theme as “the metaphysic that recognizes a divine Reality substantial to the world of things and lives and minds; the psychology that finds in the soul something similar to, or even identical with, divine Reality; and the ethic that places humanity’s final end in the knowledge of the immanent and transcendent Ground of all being.” The point of life for Perennial Philosophy is to awaken to this divine Reality, then to live and act from that awareness.

This Real Ground, with which we are intimately connected, is consistently described by mystics, poets, preachers and philosophers, in spite of life’s hardships, as benevolent, intelligent and compassionate. Even in allegedly non-theist Buddhism the NOT-TWO is called “a formless field of benefaction.”

Early Unitarians and Universalists affirmed this teaching, affirming our “Likeness to God” and proclaiming the primacy of God’s all-inclusive Love, as so do we, modern Unitarian Universalists. Our First Source steers us toward “direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, known in all cultures, which moves us to renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.” We call the One an “Interconnected Web of All Existence,” and give it at least our respect, if not our unbridled love and devotion.

Through Buddhism and UUism I have come to trust Life completely. I experience a divine Power surging through creation toward beauty, complexity and harmony which gives us the capacity to love. Like many people over the centuries I find that when I stop trying to exclude portions of Reality, and take it on its own terms, I actually become more fearless, more free, more creative, and more appreciative of all that is good in life. In the face of suffering, the One turns me toward a higher inclusiveness and compassion, a higher appreciation of life’s fleeting blessings, and a greater selflessness, if I remember to listen for Her. We really can and do find the best of ourselves, and each other, in hard times. The very fact of evil and suffering allows me to know the good, and to share in the healing and building up. What a thing! You can’t have one without the other. In Isaiah, The Bible quotes the One as saying “I am that I am, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe, I do all these things.”

AND, just because we can and should open ourselves and dare to fall in love with the entire world just as it is, doesn’t mean that we can’t respond to the suffering and pain that we find within it. Just after that passage above, God also cries out, “Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness,” and elsewhere declares mercy, justice and humility as the best path through life.

We can do so much to extend the formless field of benefaction that relies on us as its eyes and hands. Simply taking care of our families and neighbors. Feeding and clothing people. Offering a Mobilization Fair to get people engaged in good causes. Adopting a refugee family. Making room at the Glaser Center and in our imaginations for the many people who are going to want to join us in spiritual awakening and loving service in the next few years.

*How do you respond to this koan? It is all for your benefit, Honored One.*
Anyone Can Be President? ANY-ONE?

A political science professor in college said the end of one political battle marked the beginning of the next. Then we now are underway with the fight of our lives.

A woman tweeted on election night: “Really? Anyone can be president? ANY-ONE?” The answer in this country now is “yes.” An Italian correspondent put it, “You’ve just elected your Berlusconi,” referring to Silvio Berlusconi, the scandal-ridden Italian tycoon who served 9 years as Italy’s prime minister, the longest term since Benito Mussolini’s, until he was convicted of tax evasion in 2013. “But we’re Italy,” the correspondent said. “You are the USA. Do you know what you’ve done?”

I don’t think so. Few of us imagined this outcome, most of us are dazed and dismayed.. We know well the man who has been elected president, who has explicitly promoted racism, misogyny and autocracy, who is a self-admitted sexual predator, who takes pride in tax evasion. He promises a “change,” not unlike his predecessor, but a change focused on undoing nearly everything President Obama worked to achieve. A shocking and terrifying prospect. I am certain we all lost sleep imagining what lies ahead.

What can we do to meet this challenge? What is still possible in a national political environment dominated by the most extreme elements of a reactionary and now powerful political movement?

As a spiritual community we share the benefits of a well-developed practice in accessing and honoring the humanity of everyone. This practice commands us to attempt to understand how so many Americans could find promise in this man’s raging hatred of immigrants and minorities and women; for his completely obvious and pathological egotism, for his lack of interest in policies or issues. Most of our fellow citizens who describe themselves as religious voted for this man. What is it that makes this possible? How do we understand it?

It is not enough to dismiss 50 million voters as deranged or foolish. We must be committed to understanding what about their humanity shaped such a vote. We must reach outside ourselves to comprehend whatever pain, fear and sadness is driving an anger that seems to run so deep. Some of it may derive from comprehensible insecurities or feelings of powerlessness. Some of it may be “deplorable.” All is now a force and power in our lives we cannot ignore. We must speak about it and to it. We must be a noisy voice in dialogue with it. We must be a power in shaping every argument, even as we try compassionately to understand what brought this about.

As a politically-active community we share a commitment to peace and justice. This close election is a call to continue to fight for our values. We will not stand by while immigrants are deported. We will not accept imposed limits on women’s reproductive rights. We will not tolerate racial or gender discrimination or injustice. We will continue to offer protection and support to all victims of hate and prejudice, and to rally a defense of their families and children.

During election night it was reported that the Canadian Immigration website had so many hits it crashed. There is no solace in panic. This story has had many rehearsals. Humans, as long as they have attempted to live together, have struggled for an understanding of what constitutes a common good.

Our principles support the living proposition that peace and love are the root values of human experience. The next political contest has already begun. We have not lost. We just haven’t yet won.

Bill Haigwood  
President UUCSR Board of Trustees

From the Committee on Shared Ministry

Reminder: We are currently involved in compiling our annual evaluation of our minister. We are contacting the Board and committee chairs for their input. We would also welcome feedback from anyone in the congregation who has information to contribute. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee: Lucia Milburn, Kitty Wells, Bill Foshee, Bob Anderson, Alan Bell and Mary Lill Lee. We need this information by Dec. 15th, 2016. Thank you.

Food Barrel for Donations to The Redwood Empire Food Bank

As we think about the food and festivities of this season, please help create that joy and affirmation for those without our blessings! There's a barrel in our lobby for donations to the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Let’s fill it up many times before Christmas!!!

Linda Harlow/Advocates for Social Justice
Our Service Auction Was So Much Fun... AND A Huge Success!!
Thanks to all who contributed to the Service Auction success this year! To everyone who attended, everyone who contributed to the remarkable array of goods, services and events, everyone who generously bid and bid again, everyone who volunteered at the event and most of all, Dee Ray and the tireless members of the committee who worked for months to make it so much fun for the rest of us THANK YOU! This year’s auction grossed over $22,000!

ACT NOW to Reduce your Tax Bite Come April 15th!
Remember to get all your pledge payments and other donations to UUCSR (and any other non-profits to which you contribute) paid during the month of December if you plan to include them as a deduction on your tax return. Please take a look at your pledge payments so far this year and make sure you’re up-to-date. The consistent luminous hum of our congregation depends on it.

Some of you with investments may want to consider donating appreciated stock in order to avoid paying tax on the increase in value. You can take the deduction for the full value of the stock but will not have to pay tax on the difference between the full value and the original cost of the stock. Please discuss with your financial advisor if you are interested. If you would like to donate stock as a donation or your pledge payment, please let Janis Brewster know.

Finally, please join me in making an end of the year donation made possible by buying less during the holiday season. This is the third year I have deliberately and consciously reduced my spending budget for gifts for my loved ones and given the savings to the congregation. It has compelled me to think deeply about my loved ones and what would make them happy, about finding gifts that are more meaningful and reduced frivolous purchases of items that are ultimately not really useful or wanted.

I am also determined to help my grandchildren to have a true appreciation for the gifts they receive. Giving fewer of them has made a big positive difference, allowing us to focus on the gift and why it is special. I was so pleasantly surprised to find that one of my grandson’s favorite books is one I got from the sale table at Copperfield’s after looking through every book for the one that I felt would touch him.

By making these adjustments to my holiday gift-giving I am able to provide an additional financial gift to the congregation. It feels so good to write that check. Won’t you join me?

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Happiness is not made by what we own.
It is what we share.
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Lament for America
By The Reverend Darrick Jackson
Dir. of Contextual Ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School

Nov. 12, 2016

Great Spirit of this nation, rageful Goddess, despairing God, Hear our cry. Our world has been torn upside down. The hateful and divisive rhetoric of racism, misogyny and xenophobia have won the day. Fear flows through streets and fields. What was hidden has now been revealed, and it is ugly. Holy one, our faith has been shaken. Where is justice? Where is Goodness? Have we been forsaken? All we have left is a tenuous hold on hope. Hope that we can still shift this turning tide. Hope that others will step forward to help. Hope that this backward movement can still propel us forward. As the fall heads into the winter, we pray that it does not last four years until Spring comes again. But if it must, we will persevere. We will make change in every way we can, raising up the principles of justice, equity and compassion in this United States of America. Change has happened before, and can happen again. It must happen again. This is our country, no matter our race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability or class. We are called forward into this trial, and that which calls us will see us through. May our grief propel us. May our anger be righteous. May our love sustain us. Blessed Be.

https://www.facebook.com/darrick.jackson.5
I write this a week after the disappointing (devastating) news of the presidential election. So many of us were stunned and frightened by the election of Hillary Clinton’s opponent. You may not be aware of how much this has effected our youngest UUs.

The Sunday after the election, I taught our upper elementary school class. The session was about The Golden Rule and how Unitarian Universalists come together in the spirit of love. During the sharing of joys & sorrows every single child in the circle expressed sadness, disappointment and fear about the new president. They asked many questions that were deep and sensitive. Each child was allowed the space to express their feelings freely. I answered their questions and told them that the world is full of people of good faith and that Unitarian Universalists along with many, many others will be keeping a close eye on what happens in the coming years. And we will stand up for justice. At the end of the discussion the children expressed that they knew what they would do. They would continue to act with kindness and they would keep the UU Seven Principles as their guide. And then they asked if they could write letters to Hillary. The letters were so sweet and so heartfelt. It was a touching and tender moment in RE.

This month we celebrate Chalica, the UU winter celebration that honors each of the Seven Principles over the course of a week. Chalica will begin with a multi-generational worship service on Sunday, December 4th, and the seven principled days will begin on Monday, December 5th. I hope that every family in the congregation will participate by lighting a chalice at home every day and honoring the principle though actions, discussions and maybe the sharing of a reading or poem. I will be providing suggestions for celebrating the principles on the 4th. There will be an all congregation pot luck on the Friday of Chalica. This is the day we affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, also known as “each person has a say”. In light of recent events, this is a good one to celebrate together.

Chalica is a simple celebration, no gifts or outlandish decorations are needed. Only some time spent contemplating and promoting the principles that our youngest UUs have turned to in this time of uncertainty.

In Faith,
Deborah

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**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 Millsapugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah Mason for more information.

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 11:00 service. Children grades K-7 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)**

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**December Sunday Mornings — Children and Youth Activities**

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<th>Grades 3-7</th>
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<td>Children’s Chapel. Theme: 5th Principle “Each person has a say”</td>
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<td>In honor of the upcoming Election Day, the children will learn about the importance of voting.</td>
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<td><strong>December 11</strong></td>
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<td>Wisdom Stories:</td>
<td>Love Connects Us</td>
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<td><em>Stellaluna</em></td>
<td><em>Love Your Neighbor As Yourself</em></td>
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<td>by Janelle Cannon</td>
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<td><strong>December 18</strong></td>
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<td>Wisdom Stories:</td>
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<td><em>An Awesome Book of Thanksgiving</em></td>
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<td><strong>December 25</strong></td>
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<td>Wisdom Stories:</td>
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<td><em>The Sissy Duckling</em></td>
<td><em>The More We Get Together</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>by Harvey Fierstein</td>
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Hot Topic
Presented by Advocates for Social Justice

Getting to Know American Muslims and the Islamic Faith
December 11th at 12:45 pm

Stereotypes and misinformation about Islam abound. This presentation covers basic facts about the background, beliefs and practices of Islam and its place in the Abrahamic prophetic tradition.

To help people understand more about the religion practiced by one quarter of the world, Aisha Jill Morgan volunteers as a speaker on American Muslims and as an organizer in the interfaith community of Sonoma County. She shares personal stories of living as a Muslim and her visits to the Middle East and the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah. She has a MA in Education and works with Santa Rosa City Schools as District Assessment Data Specialist.

Please join us in the Board room at 12:45 pm on Sunday, December 11th and bring your questions. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

The Corruption Of Our Democracy Film Series:
INEQUALITY FOR ALL
By Robert Reich, directed by Jacob Kornbluth
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
12:45 PM in the Board Room

Our 4th film in this series, "Inequality for All" comes to us from Robert Reich, political commentator, economist, professor and author. Reich examines in this 2013 documentary widening income inequality in the United States and explores what effects this increasing gap has on the U.S. economy and on American democracy itself.

Robert Reich has served in 3 administrations, that of Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and with Bill Clinton, as Secretary of Labor from 1993-1997. Currently the Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, he teaches a course entitled, "Wealth and Poverty."

This film’s rich information is communicated in accessibly and with gentle humor. For those of us concerned about the distortion of our democracy that our wealth imbalance has wrought and those of us who care about the many among us who struggle to make ends meet this is a “must see” film.

Discussion, as always, 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
On a bright Saturday in November more than 50 UU’s came from across the country for a co-gathering of the UU people of color organization DRUUM, and the UU white anti-racist ally organization ARE. Although the leadership of both organizations had planned the meetings together, each organization had different goals for their particular meeting.

The DRUUM gathering served a need for deeper connections between UU people of color and for encouraging more leadership. The ARE meeting served a need for UU white anti-racists to connect and to reflect on how white supremacy permeates our institutions and influences our own actions, no matter how well-intentioned.

Each group used UU ritual, song, small group discussions, and conversations over shared meals, to build relationships. The beautiful view from the hilltop of the Mt. Diablo UU Church inspired us all.

DRUUM (Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Ministries) formed in the late 1990’s as the UUA developed the Journey Toward Wholeness resolution to move toward being an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural institution. Identity caucuses provided spaces where people could fully explore the hopes that grew from shared experience, shielded from the pressure of a white dominant culture.

Powerful multi-racial coalitions grew from taking this basic step toward personal transformation. One of the ways that the dominant culture repeatedly asserted itself was in the eagerness of well-intentioned, white UU’s to participate in and put their mark on DRUUM. ARE (Allies for Racial Equity) began as the White Anti-Racist Allies Caucus of DRUUM. In 2005, the leadership of DRUUM decided that a new relationship was needed between DRUUM and its allies in order for all of us to be able to do the racial identity work that strengthens our multiracial coalitions. They requested that white allies get together to form a partner organization rather than a caucus.

Since then, both organizations have worked together to promote an understanding that encourages leadership by people of color in UU work and to develop greater consciousness among all UU’s of the impacts of their actions.

DRUUM website: http://druumm.onefireplace.org/page-394140 and ARE: http://alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org Facebook pages are also available for more information.

Submitted by Carole Kramer

HUMANISM:

What is it? What is its history?
6-part series on Humanism by Millie Phillips

What is Humanism? What is its history? What are Humanism’s variations and controversies? What has been Humanism’s role in UUism, and what does the future of UU humanism look like?

The class meets the first Tuesday of each month November through April, 7:00-8:30 pm. Sign-up for class is required. A syllabus with reading assignments will be provided at the ARE table on Sundays.

SEXUALITY CLASSES:
Taught by Bill Stayton
(Donation suggested)

“The Internet, Erotica and Sexuality”
January 11—February 8, Wednesdays 7-9 pm

“World Religion, Scriptures and Sexuality”
February and March — more information to follow.

UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS
Supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Buy Them!
Available through December

We’re selling these lovely affordable cards now! This annual event supports Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

UUSC is our international Social Justice representative, operating in many countries, partnering with existing local organizations to help promote economic and environmental justice and to protect rights at risk.

At present there is an emphasis on work in Haiti, which has just been visited by a hurricane while still reeling from a devastating earthquake.

Our congregation also supports UUSC through our holiday gifts to Guest at Your Table, and by encouraging individual UUs to become members of the UUSC organization.

Submitted by Marilyn Beckerbauer

“Change requires more than righteous anger. It requires a program, and it requires organizing.”
President Barack Obama at Howard University Commencement Ceremony, May 07, 2016
A fun way to fight climate change? Yes!

Redwood Seedling Planting Jan 6 & Jan 7
At St Dorothy’s Rest—Service for Mother Earth

On Friday, January 6th and Saturday, January 7th, you can give Mother Earth a wonderful New Year’s gift by helping volunteers plant 1 yr old baby redwood seedlings at St. Dorothy’s Rest, a beautiful retreat center in Camp Meeker/West County. This is a fun event; individuals, groups and families are encouraged to join in. It is easy to do; training is provided so there’s no experience necessary. There will be shuttles to and from our planting areas, warm treats in the morning, and a hot, nourishing lunch.

The Reforestation Project is coordinated by the nonprofit Forest Unlimited. In this 20th anniversary year, we will add about 1,200 redwood seedlings to the over 28,000 trees planted in protected areas across our County through the last decades.

When: The dates to save are Friday, January 6 and Saturday January 7, 2017. We’re meeting at the Camp Meeker post office parking lot between 8:00 am-8:30 am for shuttles up to St. Dot’s.

Let us know which day(s) you, and perhaps friends and family, will be on board with us. As always, expect a wonderful bunch of people, all necessary equipment, and that welcomed lunch.

Please contact Elaine Wellin at contact link at www.norcalearth.org with the date(s) you wish to come. Dates do fill up so reserve by calling or messaging soon.

St. Dorothy’s staff is graciously providing lunch—they need to know your dietary preferences or restrictions, if any, e.g., none, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, lactose intolerant, nut-free, other. Please add questions or comments. In return, we’ll send a confirmation with pictures of last year’s plantings, and get back to you with updates and important information to make your day(s) enjoyable and rewarding.

There are few more direct ways to meet the challenges of climate change than working to restore our temperate redwood forestlands.
Thanks! Elaine Wellin, Advocates for Social Justice

Let’s Celebrate Chalica

The Religious Education Committee Invites you to an

All Congregation Pot Luck & Recognition of the Seven Principles of UUism

Friday, December 9 at 6:00pm
UUCSR Social Hall
Bring a dish to share and drinks for your family
Evening Book Group
December 8, Thursday
The Evening Book Group meets on Thursday, December 8th, 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The December selection is *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
Visitors and newcomers are welcome!

Upcoming:
January: *Missoula* by John Krakauer
February: *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

Faith And Fitness
December 10, Saturday
Hike at Bodega Bay
Hike at Bodega Bay Loop trail starting at Pinnacle Gulch trail head parking. Just under 2 miles with a bit of scrambling and climbing, mostly very easy and scenic.
Meet 9:30 at Fourth and Farmers Lane, or 10:15 at trail head parking, 20600 Mockingbird Road, Bodega Bay.
No fee to park, dogs on leash permitted, bring snacks/lunch, water.
Contact Gretchen P.

Sexton's Corner:
Why Did the Rat Cross the Road?
It Was After The Chicken in the UUCSR Kitchen
Leaving food out, unless it is in a rodent proof container, puts rodents at risk for being killed when they enter our kitchen.
It also puts us humans at risk. Food left out, whether it is in a garbage can, in a box, or in a bag, attracts rodents to their death.
Please be mindful of our interdependency with other species, and theirs with us, when using our kitchen.
Questions? Peter Wilson, Sexton at www.uusantarosa.org

The UU Update
Our UUCSR Monthly Newsletter
Electronic Submissions preferred.
Send to contact tab at www.usantarosa.org

Last day to submit electronic copy for the following month is by noon on the Monday immediately following the 3rd Sunday. (Paper copy must be delivered by 3rd Sunday, noon, to newsletter inbox in church office.)
Large articles (submissions over 350 words) and full page inserts — recommended to submit a week prior to deadline.

Questions? Call Editor Susan Williamson.

North Bay Organizing Project
Ongoing Task Force Meetings
Transit Riders United Meeting
December 14, 2016 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Glaser Center (UUCSR, 585 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa)

Education Justice Task Force
December 12, 2016 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm
Glaser Center (UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa)

Leadership Council Meeting
December 15, 2016 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
First Congregational United Church of Christ of Santa Rosa (2000 Humboldt Street)

Voter Engagement Task Force
December 27, 2016 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
NBOP Office (2000 Humboldt Street)

NBOP’s Mission:
To unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic,


“Unitarian Universalism” is a liberal religion characterized by a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning”. The Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church does not have a creed. Instead UUs are unified by their shared search for spiritual growth.

As such, UU congregations include many agnostics, theists, and atheists among their membership. The roots of UU are in liberal Christianity, specifically Unitarianism and Universalism. Unitarian Universalists state that from these traditions come a deep regard for intellectual freedom and inclusive love. Congregations and members seek inspiration and derive insight from all major world religions.

The beliefs of individual Unitarian Universalists range widely, including atheism, agnosticism, pantheism, deism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, neopaganism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Humanism, and many more.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) was formed in 1961, a consolidation of the American Unitarian Association, established in 1825, and the Universalist Church of America, established in 1793.
It is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, and serves churches mostly in the United States. A group of thirty Philippine congregations is represented as a sole member within the UUA. The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) became an independent body in 2002. The UUA and CUC are, in turn, two of the seventeen members of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists.

Under the Category of “Celebrate Life”...

 Musical Notes

Dec. 4: For the services on December 4, Natalie Brundred, Bruce Kramer, Robin Rogers, and Larry Weissenborn will sing and play “So Much Love” and “Lord of the Starfield.”

Dec. 11: The choir will sing “In My Life” by John Lennon for both services on December 11.

Dec. 24: For the Christmas Eve Service, the choir will sing “Ave Maria” by Franz Biebl, and they will also have several soloists sing along with them.

Anthony Martin will first sing a Bass solo, and then direct the choir and the other soloists. Mark Kratz will sing two Tenor solos. Then he will sing with Mary Chapot who sings as an Alto and Cathy Read who sings as a Soprano. As a Trio they will sing with the choir.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

...UU Women bask in each other’s warmth and cheer (invite a friend!)...

WOMEN TOGETHER HOLIDAY GATHERING
December 10th, 12 - 3 pm (Saturday) at Helga L.’s Home

The holidays are here! The best part of this season is gathering with friends and family and sharing in the abundance of good food and warm hearts.

Save the afternoon of Saturday, December 10th from noon to 3pm for a chance to take a break from the clarion call of the retail world and gather at the lovely home of Helga Lemke in Santa Rosa for our annual holiday get-together. Helga’s address in Santa Rosa is easily found—contact the church office!

Bring a favorite dish to share (luncheon type) and relax for awhile amongst good friends old and new to enjoy community and conversation. We look forward to our time together!

and UU Music Lovers might enjoy these December Concerts at our very own Glaser Center ...

Come and Share Holiday Joy with Healdsburg Chorus!

This year, we are singing “Carols, Canticles and Christmas Classics” for our Winter, 2016 concert. You’ll hear some holiday standards, a few new arrangements of old favorites, and some new surprises. This beautiful assortment of music will surely get you into the holiday spirit.

Thank you for purchasing your ticket ahead of time. This year, due to popular demand we have added an additional concert in Healdsburg. You are assured a seat at your preferred day and time when you buy in advance!

Concert Times and Tickets: www.healdsburgchorus.com

Glaser Center Performance:
December 4, 4 pm (Sunday)

Occidental Community Choir Winter Concert Series!

These Delightful concerts joyfully offer familiar and original songs of celebration and beauty and even include a not-to-be-missed choral romp through the ages.

The "Musicological Journey of the Twelve Days of Christmas" will cover the history of western music from 6th century Gregorian Chant to 20th century marching band music (and nearly everything in between).

The Choir’s own composers have contributed several pieces including a lovely lullaby, a song about juggling with an enormous twist, another about the Trinity River, a celebration song, and another about how to keep warm in winter.

Concert Times and Tickets: OccidentalChoir.org

Glaser Center Performance:
December 11, 3 pm (Sunday)
2016 Annual UUCSR Winter Solstice Celebration

On December 21st we at UUCSR will thank the Winter Darkness for a much needed rest and welcome back the Sun with it’s ever lengthening days with a Winter Solstice Celebration.

Wednesday, Dec 21, 2016, gathering at 5:30 pm with drumming, celebration at 6:00 pm

Winter in the Northern Hemisphere is when the Earth is actually CLOSEST to the Sun, so why do we feel colder? This is because of the axial tilt of our Mother. If you internet, go to earthsky.org for fascinating information on the science of Winter Solstice. Ancient people however, didn't need the internet to notice what was happening each and every wheel of the year; that there was that one very short day and hideously long night just before the beginning of longer light-giving days. They celebrated this wonderful event with all those things that represented the Sun and warmth and life. Yule logs for the Scandinavian's represented not just the warmth of fire but of the birth of new animals for the year. The Greek's version of the end of Winter was when Persephone would begin her journey up from the underworld to join her mother, Demeter on Mount Olympus and the Earth would be fertile with a mother's joy.

We celebrate the joy of our Mother Earth warming again with drumming, a Yule fire, and a delicious potluck! Drumming starts at 5:30, celebration at 6:00. Potluck follows immediately after the celebration. This is a family-friendly event, and we encourage you to bring your drum and other musical instrument to add to the night’s energy. For more information contact cuups@uusantarosa.org

Weaving Global Partnerships...Forging a Just Future Together

3rd International Women's Convocation of Unitarian*Universalist Women and People of Progressive Faith
February 16-19, 2017
Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA

Do not miss this opportunity to hear bell hooks, one of the most influential voices in the American feminist movement!

bell hooks gives a keynote address at the 3rd Annual International Women’s Convocation. Writer, professor, feminist theorist, and activist, hooks is the author of numerous critically acclaimed and widely influential books on the function of race, gender, class, and culture. Her most well-known works, such as Ain’t I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism (1981) and Feminist Theory from Margin to Center (1984) focus on issues surrounding the invisibility of black women from common discourses of racism and gender. Feminism Is For Everybody: Passionate Politics (2000) details her beliefs on the significance of feminist values in everyone's lives - women and men alike. hooks is currently the Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies at Berea College in Kentucky.

Register at Third International Women's Convocation. Consult the latest edition of the Program Guide.
Operations Team Remodel Update of 545 and 547 Upstairs

Work has been progressing rapidly in the remodel of our upstairs space in 547. It has fresh paint throughout, new carpeting in most of it and new floor tiles in the remainder, i.e. the bathroom and maintenance/tool room. New LED lighting makes it all very inviting, all of which can be controlled by area-specific dimmers except the hallway. One HVAC unit that services the 547 upstairs has been replaced by crane and crew. Many new, heavy duty shelving units were purchased and assembled for the use of maintenance and a number of committees for their storage needs, each committee having their assigned storage area. Many of the ceiling tiles have been replaced, and as many more will be replaced as the budget allows. The aesthetics committee will be working on providing finishing decor in both the 545 large room and the upstairs 547 rooms. We invite you to take a look when you have an opportunity.

Janis is ready to schedule your use of any of those rooms now available. Please contact her to reserve the space that you wish to use. The rooms are currently designated by letter numbers that you’ll find on the outside of each door, each of which also shows a floor plan of the whole upstairs. There is one unisex bathroom upstairs in 547, and the bathrooms in 545 have been designated for women on the west side and unisex on the east side.

It became clear when boxing up and moving records upstairs that there is a need for reconvening a historical committee. There are a lot of things that are valuable to our congregation’s history that need attention and organization, e.g. photos, memorabilia, and lots of other records. Three or four folks might really enjoy helping out with this. If you are one, please contact Janis and/or an Ops Team member to form a committee and find out where those things are now being stored.

Regarding locks, the back gate lock has been repaired. We’re still working on exterior and possibly some interior lock rekeying. We will publicize the changes when the timing has been decided. If you need a fob and have not gotten one, call Janis to arrange a time to pick one up.

Finally, after a monumental effort over these last few months to clear out unwanted things that have accumulated and were either never used or outlived their usefulness, we would like to emphasize strongly that no unsolicited donations are to be brought to our building and left. There are specific “stewards” of various spaces, be they a committee or an individual, that must be asked about something that you wish to donate. Please do not put the responsibility for making these decisions on Chris or Janis, but contact the appropriate person(s) who know best about specific areas. A synopsis of the policy regarding stewardship of the building follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanctuary, minister’s office</th>
<th>Minister (currently Chris Bell)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.E. Wing, director’s office</td>
<td>R.E. Director (currently Deborah Mason)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office, copy room</td>
<td>Administrator (currently Janis Brewster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen, coffee service area</td>
<td>Kitchen Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common areas (upstairs, downstairs of 545 and 547), roof, breezeway, courtyard, building exterior</td>
<td>Operations Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above stewards would consult with other committees and/or individuals associated with those spaces in making decisions. For any permanent installation, it is required that the aesthetics committee have input. For the full policy, see the blue binder of policies located in the office.

Operations Team: John Jaffray (chair), Bud Willis, Kirsten Olney, Gretchen Vap, Peter Wilson, Janis Brewster, Pam Tennant
The holiday season is a good time to reflect on how well we use our money to advance the causes we hold dear. With 2016 drawing to a close, now is the time to think about how much to give this year, and to whom.

A gift to UUCSR by December 31 may entitle you to a charitable contribution deduction against your 2016 income tax. A contribution to a qualified charity is deductible in the year in which it is paid.

70% of UUCSR’s funding comes from pledges from our members and pledging friends. Donations make up another 10% each year. These gifts fund our mission to support each other’s search for truth and meaning, and our work for social justice in the community. They also fund staff salaries and benefits—we can take pride that ours are well within UUA guidelines!

Our financial challenges are the result of our growth and success. We need to support Rev. Chris with an assistant minister and to make improvements to our building to address our space needs.

This is where you come in. Your financial commitment to our congregation can help us address these challenges. It is up to each individual to determine the right pledge level, but we suggest that members strive to attain a pledge level of 5% to 10% of income.

What do you gain from contributing your time, talents, and treasure? You gain fellowship and support from a community of friends. You gain a safe place for you and your children to explore spiritual matters. You gain an organized base to work for social justice in our community.

All gifts given to UUCSR are received with gratitude.

Whatever gift you are able to give is an excellent investment in a vibrant, visionary congregation with a mission to the world that surely needs our message.

Observations on Albireo

I was at the Robert Ferguson Observatory at Sugarloaf Ridge Park one night last month, marveling at the stars. I was observing Albireo, a beautiful double star—the brighter star gold and the dimmer star blue. Peering into the telescope, I saw two shining jewels, a topaz and a sapphire on a field of velvety black. It was wondrous to contemplate that the gold star is in fact a stellar giant, many times larger than our sun. These stars are true siblings that formed together and are bound together by their mutual gravitational attraction. In these dark winter days, it seems an apt metaphor for the connection that humans feel for each other. After all, we humans are made up of the same fundamental particles that the entire universe is made of. “We are star dust, we are golden”, as Joni Mitchell’s song goes, and as we travel through space on our fragile blue planet we are as interdependent as those distant stars orbiting each other. We generate bonds with others and give of ourselves, and thus find meaning in our lives. Love, gratitude and generosity are the gravitational forces that bind us together and make of us a great community of light and energy. No matter our differences, it is good to remember that these bonds of love are our surest source of peace and joy.

~ Erin Howseman
Celebrating Life, Empowering People, Caring For One Another, Building a Better World

DECEMBER 2016