

NOVEMBER SERVICE THEME: POLITICS AND POWER

Sunday Services at 9:15 am & 11:00 am

November 6 POLITICS AND POWER

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff Music by: Susan Panttaja and the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary Share the Basket: Wellness and Advocacy Center

The interminable, embarrassing, depressing spectacle that is the American Presidential Election will be coming to a close in just two days. Today we will consider its implications for our democracy and our future, and how we will keep the faith and keep our hope alive, no matter what happens. (Part One)

November 13 NOW WHAT?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas Music by: Anthony Martin & the Choir, Tessa McClary Share the Basket: Women's Justice Center

The interminable, embarrassing, depressing spectacle that was the American Presidential Election will be over just five days ago. Today we will consider its implications for our democracy and our future, and how we will keep the faith and keep our hope alive, no matter what has happened. (Part Two)

November 20 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Panttaja, Others Music by: Robert Howseman, Alan Bell, and the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary Share the Basket: YWCA Safe Place

We will celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of all **people and the beautiful uniqueness of each person's** gender expression, whatever it may be. We will memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of trans-phobia and bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

November 27 THANKSGIVING

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty Music by: Anthony Martin & the Choir, Tessa McClary Share the Basket: Breakfast for Our Neighbors

Gratitude, it has been said, is the very essence of **Unitarian Universalist spirituality**. **Gratitude isn't just a feeling**. It is something we can practice, much like one might practice yoga or even practice for a play. Many of us find that being generous back toward the world is the **best way to say "Thanks!" for the many blessings we have received**. A fun story for all ages and some great music will help complete our Thanksgiving today.

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 holiday season with our own UU observance, *Chalica*, a kid-friendly celebration of our Principles through story and song. As a community we will light a flame for each Principle over the course of a week as a way of **recommitting to the values that most deeply bind us**. Don't yet have a Chalice at home? This is a good time to get or make or repurpose one!

PRAYERS FOR US ALL

By Reverend Chris Bell

Many issues are dear to many UUs – reproductive rights, addressing climate change, women’s equality, racism, gun control and more – and many of these have been brought forward during the interminable, exhausting ordeal that has been the 2016 election. Yet **some of you may have noticed that I’ve taken a hands-off approach to politics from the pulpit this year.**

There are a couple of good reasons I haven’t talked about it much.

Foremost, a religious community cannot take a stand for any party or candidate lest we jeopardize our non-profit and non-taxable status. I am allowed to have my own opinion and express it as an individual outside of the congregation, but if I were found to be compelling you to vote-as-I-command, O simple and guileless sheep, we could be in trouble.

As if. (Our UU path doesn’t allow for my commanding anything other than the pulpit on Sunday, where I can barely get people to be quiet during the announcements!)

The second reason I’ve kept the slime of the 2016 campaign out of the Sanctuary is that I think UUCSR’s primary function is to help us each find a source of faith and hope that allows us to face the world’s many challenges.

I assume that you already know about the challenges, whether those are on a global, national, local or personal scale. But I can’t assume that you have a source of faith and hope. So, on Sundays (at least), while I don’t want our heads in the sand, I don’t necessarily want them in the dirt either. I want them lifted up toward whatever we each find sacred, strengthening, hopeful and good, precisely so that when we get back out there on the streets, back to our jobs, our homes, our volunteer work, and our political lives, we have some real love and beauty power running in our veins. We tap into the Buddha, human nature, the Tao, God, Goddess, community itself, Life, or Love first, and then look around to see how to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another, and help to build a better world.

That said, I just finished watching the Presidential Debate, and now, at this late hour, I gotta say a little something. I need to pray for my country.

First, I offer a prayer seeking forgiveness for our land. I feel like I want to direct these to God through Martin Luther King, Jr. or Rev. Olympia Brown as an intercessor. These prayers go something like, “I’m sorry, Noble Ones, that it has come to this. I strongly suspect this is not what you had in mind. We pledge to clean up all this poo and do better in the future.” I’d like to see us all fast together in sackclothes, as a nation, for about two weeks and then take a long, healing bath.

Then, prayers for increased understanding of one another. With so many issues demanding our time and

attention, we have degenerated to the lowest form of personal attack and hate-mongering on all “sides.” The most heart-breaking moment of this last debate was the failure of the candidates to shake hands at either the beginning or the end of the event. Really? Are we at war?

Maybe. I also need to pray (and later act, if need be) for a smooth and peaceful transition of power, since one of the candidates has refused to pledge acceptance of the results of the election if they go against them. As a UU, my Fifth Principle calls for the right of conscience and the use of a democratic process in society. The peaceful transfer of power is vital to a democratic process. The last and only time that the results of an election were refused was when Lincoln was elected, leading tragically, necessarily, and predictably, to the Civil War. (I happen to believe, that a second revolutionary war was necessary to solve the previously intractable problem of slavery, but that’s a topic for another day.)

We are not at such a crisis in these times. Although we did not solve, and have not yet solved, the problems of inequality and racism, and many others, none of the current problems facing the nation require revolutionary, radical, government-destroying energy, let alone violence. Yet we now live under the shadow of that threat, thanks to a certain someone. (I’m not naming names, mind you!) When what we really need is common sense and a spirit of cooperation, a stated refusal to accept the outcome of the election is immoral, unjustified and, dare I say, treasonous, just as it was for the Southern states in 1860. So, my fierce, free-thinking sheep, just think about that, ok?

Finally, I have prayers to reclaim the noblest visions of our country. When any body of people loses sight of its fundamental purpose, it often degenerates into factionalism and pettiness. The surest way to work together happily and cooperatively is in common purpose toward lofty ideals and a better future. When are we going to get a presidential candidate who inspires us to look 50 years ahead, to what can and should still be, instead of playing our various self-interests against one another?

All this prayer notwithstanding, I am not downhearted. The dog is still here next to me. The Bristlecone pines keep their silent watch. Somewhere the child has already been born who will cure cancer or invent the perfect solar cell. Bob Weir is still singing.

I remember that every presidential campaign, ever, has had its scandals and its lies and its overreactions, and that humanity has made it through some horrible things with its sense of hope and decency largely intact. Other buffoons have run for president. And America has had a split personality, or personalities, since its inception. So, we are right where we belong in the grand drama we live in, and I know, thanks to my source of faith and hope, that all can and will be well. Well enough, at least.

If you can vote, I beg you, do. And then get back here soon and let’s sing some songs of protest and hope together, ok?



What is Being Asked of Me?

As of this writing we do not know the outcome of one of the most perilous national elections in the history of the United States. The stakes are especially high for progressives who must fear victory by a presidential candidate that makes a calculated appeal to white nationalists by threatening to push millions of immigrants out of the United States.

The image of countless families being perp-walked to the border by an armed domestic force is just one of a number of ugly scenarios to be imagined in the campaign promises of Donald Trump. There are others equally execrable that might or might not be realized by a Trump administration. Not a few comparisons have been made between the US election of 2016 and the German election of 1932 when a brash National Socialist candidate named Adolph Hitler led electoral challenges to the government that resulted in the eventual dissolution of the legislature and the rise of a fascist dictatorship.

*These comparisons brought me back to the writings of Victor Frankl, a Jewish psychologist who had the misfortune of practicing in Vienna during World War II. In 1942, the Nazis sent Frankl and his wife, Tilly, to a concentration camp in Eastern Europe. There they were separated. Frankl was sent to Auschwitz and his wife to Bergen-Belsen, where she died in 1944. Frankl, however, survived to write a memoir of his concentration camp experiences entitled *Man's Search for Meaning*. The book, published in 1946, describes how Frankl—amidst the horror of his imprisonment—uncovered a crucial truth he credited with saving his life.*

*During his suffering in Auschwitz, Frankl frequently asked himself the question: *Why is this happening to me?* Then one morning, a year into his confinement, he saw the sun rising over the camp's barbed wire and thought lovingly of his wife. He realized in that moment that love*

was the ultimate and highest goal to which someone can aspire. "I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: the salvation of man is through love and in love."

*Frankl concluded he had been asking the wrong question. Instead of "Why is this happening to me?" he asked instead, *What is being asked of me?* On the strength of this epiphany he set about trying to make life in the camps better for his fellow prisoners. He negotiated with guards for extra food, managed the distribution of shoes and clothing left by dying inmates, and attended the suffering of others with a generous and loving heart. "The last freedom we have is our own attitude," he wrote later while developing the theories that comprise existential psychology.*

Of every 100 people imprisoned in Nazi concentration and death camps, fewer than five survived. Victor Frankl was one of them. He credited an attitude of love for giving his life meaning under the worst imaginable circumstances.

*Regardless the outcome of this election, we also have a choice. We can submit fearfully to the possible, or even real, victory of hate or we can choose to work harder on behalf of justice. We can ask, *why is this happening to us?* Or we can ask, *what is being asked of us?**

The answer to the second question will lead us wherever we need to go and to do whatever must be done. The answer will carry us forward into the next challenge. Win or lose, there will be much to do after this election. We will find meaning in the fact our attitude is our last freedom and that acts of love continue to build the only lasting bridges to peace and justice.

Bill Haigwood

President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

"I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: the salvation of man is through love and in love."

Dr. Victor Frankl

National Day of Mourning

"Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. To them, Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of their people, the theft of their lands, and the relentless assault on their culture. Participants in a National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience."

Erected by the Town of Plymouth on Behalf of The United American Indians of New England

The National Day of Mourning text above is taken from a plaque on Coles Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts, erected by the people of the Town of Plymouth in 1970. This is the 47th year of commemoration. [<http://uaine.org/>]

Treasurer's Report

Service Auction November 5th!

Our largest fundraiser of the year, please come and participate. It's a wonderful chance to socialize with your fellow congregants, have a nice meal, and support our mission. Dee Ray and her cadre of volunteers have outdone themselves this year and the evening promises to be the best yet. Children get in for free so bring the family, bid on some of the cool events and nifty items provided by many generous souls, take part in the raffle for prizes donated by our local merchants and have some fun. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Generosity in Our Consumer Culture...

This time of year it's hard to avoid the evidence

that we live in a consumer culture as we are constantly cajoled and harassed to spend our money to acquire the latest gadget, car or unhealthy food. Our super-charged consumer culture creates intense pressure to spend, entertain, and give gifts, sometimes heightening our expectations to idealized proportions. This can add stress to our lives and begin to seem out of control and overwhelming for many of us. But, if we can pause for a moment to reflect, we have the opportunity to experience moments of true generosity and the spirit of the season.

While gift-giving is a way of demonstrating our love for those important to us, material things are not the only gifts we can give. How many of us have received gifts that are now lurking in the back of the closet or in the garage never used? Consider the benefits of owning fewer possessions: less to clean, less debt, less to organize, less stress, more money and energy for our greatest

passions. The idea of living a simplified, uncluttered life with less stuff sounds very attractive. Those who attempt to rid themselves of the extraneous stuff they have amassed, report feelings of freedom, unburdening and relief.

When we give to our congregation and our mission it is an investment – our services and programs are definitely not products to be consumed. We are a community of faith on a shared journey through which we try to embody our mission to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another and build a better world. It is an endeavor truly limitless in potential when we generously invest our time, talent and treasure to further our mission. The level of our financial support as a proportion of our resources is a direct manifestation of our commitment to our mission and each other.

This holiday season I plan to match what I spend on gifts for my loved ones with a donation to UUCSR, as I have done for the past couple of years. Will you join me and make an extra gift to the congregation?

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

I think something happens to us when we give. There's a better self in us that comes to the surface, gasping for air, glad to be let out.

Alan Alda

Greetings from Your Internship Committee

We are so pleased to welcome back our intern minister, Millie Phillips, from her summer chaplaincy. Millie has already shared her experiences in the service entitled, Intimate Strangers, and has enriched our experience of Yom Kippur.

In addition to worship services, Millie will be involved in many ways with our congregational life. She will be working with Deborah and the children at least once a month and she will teach a class on Humanism, once a month over a span of several months. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of this great Adult Ed offering.

The Internship Committee works with Millie to listen and reflect, observe her work, provide meaningful feedback, and provide support so that her internship is a rich learning experience.

Please share your reflections and feedback on Millie's intern ministry with us so that we can be of service to Millie and to our congregation.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Internship Committee

(The members of the Internship Committee are: Bob Barrows, Co-Chair, Linda Proulx, Co-Chair, Frances Corman, Ben Ford, Andrew Hidas, Elizabeth Marrs, and J.D. Thompson)



Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

Celebrating Chalica

Did you know that there is a specifically-UU winter celebration? It is called Chalica. In 2008, my first holiday season here, we celebrated Chalica. When I first introduced this holiday to Rev. Chris' attention he was immediately reminded of "Festivus" the alternative to Christmas lifted up in popular culture on the TV show Seinfeld - you know, "Festivus for the rest of us". Well Chalica is NOTHING like Festivus, which has as its central practice "The Airing of Grievances".

The central practice of Chalica is lighting a chalice in honor of each of our seven UU Principles. Each day, a chalice is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle.

Chalica is celebrated at a time of year when many faith traditions come together to give rise to the hope that burns bright even in the darkness of winter. The brightly lit Christmas tree, the candles of the Hanukkah menorah, and the Kwanza kinara, the fires at Solstice all shine as a beacon reminding us of the promise that there

will come light out of the darkness. While winter festivals in our culture have devolved into work intensive, expensive, and stressful events, Chalica stands apart in its simplicity and its connection to meaning.

This year UUCSR will celebrate Chalica beginning with an multi-generational worship service on Sunday, December 4th with the seven days of Chalica beginning on Monday the 5th and ending on Sunday the 11th. As we prepare for the sometimes overwhelming and usually over commercialized celebrations of Christmas or Hanukkah let us take time to celebrate in very simple ways the fire of commitment we feel to our seven principles.

Let Chalica *be not another thing on the "to do" list*, but a simple act of reflection and a renewal of our shared faith. You will hear much more about our celebration of Chalica as it draws nearer. There will be an inter-generational Chalica Celebration and pot luck on Friday, December 9.

Please mark your calendar for this week long celebration. There will be more details to come as the week of Chalica draws nearer. Stay tuned!

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 Millsbaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah 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)

November Sunday Mornings — Children and Youth Activities

	Grades K-2	Grades 3-7
November 6	Children's Chapel. Theme: 5th Principle "Each person has a say" In honor of the upcoming Election Day, the children will learn about the importance of voting.	
November 13	Wisdom Stories: <u>Stellaluna</u> by Janelle Cannon	Love Connects Us <u>Love Your Neighbor As Yourself</u>
November 20	Wisdom Stories: <u>An Awesome Book of Thanksgiving</u> by Dallas Clayton	Thanksgiving <u>We are Thankful!</u>
November 27	Wisdom Stories: <u>The Sissy Duckling</u> by Harvey Fierstein	Love Connects Us The More We Get Together

ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We meet 2nd Mondays, 10 am—12 pm, at UUCSR - Join us! We welcome your participation!
Contact Linda Harlow or visit our table Sundays in the social hall.

HOT TOPIC

~ Factor XX ~

Critically Missing from Criminal Justice Debate

Sunday, November 13th 12:45

in Board Room

In the current logjam in the country's search for criminal justice reform, women, and the novel solutions they offer, have been inexplicably overlooked.

Women come to the criminal justice system with a unique set of perspectives, grievances, and skills. Despite this, and despite being half the human population, women's vision has been all but ignored in the debates. Yet it's precisely in this unexplored terrain that many promising and proven remedies to the whole litany of law enforcement problems lay hidden and untried.

On Sunday, November 13th at 12:45 in the Board Room, **Maria De Santis, founder and director of the Women's Justice Center, will lay out** the many obvious, and many not so obvious solutions to this situation a gender analysis can provide, and will put forth specific ways in which these solutions can be applied in our community.

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Share the Offering

UUCSR shares Sunday offerings with local non-profits which serve greater So. Co., incl. our Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors.

November 6: *The Wellness and Advocacy Center*, a non-profit Mental Health consumer-run self-help center, offers services and group sessions.

November 13: *The Women's Justice Center* provides free advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence and child abuse, particularly in the Latina and other underserved communities of Sonoma County; and advocacy training, community education, and coordination with Task Force on Women in Policing with the goal of increasing the number of women and minorities in our law enforcement agencies, and obtaining equal justice for all women and girls.

November 20: *The YWCA Safe House* provides refuge in a confidential location for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Operating since 1977, the program provides a therapeutic 60-day residential program which serves 200 women and children yearly. There is nurturing and empowerment building, legal services, support groups, children's services and advocacy, and intensive case management. Women and children leaving the program are directed to follow-up programs to assist them in returning to normal life.

November 27: *Breakfast With Our Neighbors* is our own Saturday Breakfast program which provides nutritious meals in a friendly atmosphere for our needy neighbors. It is supported by the financial generosity and volunteer

The Corruption Of Our Democracy Film Series:

CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY

By Michael Moore

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 12:45 PM in the Board Room

The Advocates for Social Justice Film Project is pleased to present the third film in our series on "The Corruption of Our Democracy". We are **delighted to feature another Michael Moore film, "Capitalism: A Love Story"**... a bit of a Michael Moore mini film festival.

In this 2010 film Moore examines corporate greed, the global economic meltdown and their disastrous effect on American lives. The film explores the social costs of corporate interests pursuing profits at the expense of the social good and the current reality that economic power is held in the hands of the few. Viewers are led to ponder the question of the price our country pays for our love of capitalism. Compelling, this film leads us into an economic understanding of the challenges to our democracy.

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

Thanks! *Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project*

UU HOLIDAY CARDS

Supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Watch for Them!

Available in November

We'll start selling these lovely affordable cards as soon as we get them. We do this annually to support Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. (UUSC).

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.

Adult Religious Education

Submitted by Marilyn Beckerbauer

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 given out at the first class.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT at UUCSR

An Invitation To All To Explore What We (You And I) Can Do About Climate Change

Advocates for Social Justice is pleased to announce a new project that will help each of us to answer the question, "What can I really do about climate change?"

Elaine Wellin, Professor Emeritus, Sonoma State University, Professor of Environmental Sociology, has brought us the gift of an exciting program. Small (8-12) groups come together to explore specific aspects of climate change, separated into courses of study and action.

Meetings are one hour each week for three to seven weeks, depending on the particular course. Group members read, discuss and provide mutual support as folks commit to often quite small changes.

We invite all who may want to join us to call or email me and we will arrange the next step, coming together to begin forming our groups.

Elaine has generously offered to take the lead as we get underway. She has used this course in her classes at Sonoma State. See this month's insert for a flyer from the Northwest Earth Institute, whose curriculum we propose to use, or go to their website, <http://nwei.org>. There you can go to "Model for Change" and see "Discussion Courses" for full titles and descriptions.

We look forward to getting this program up and running here at UUCSR. We think this looks like a winner for our earth.

Jeanie Bates

From the Intern's Desk

By Millie Phillips

Here we are already approaching November. Seems like just yesterday I wrote an item in the Milestones Book announcing the birth my second grandchild, Kai Morgan, and now he will be a year old on 11-17. He is vigorously crawling and cruising the furniture. Big brother Ryu, who will be 3 in January, is quite the conversationalist these days, though it seems his favorite word is "No."

Being an intern reminds me a bit of babyhood. Being welcomed into an exciting new life, then struggling to sit up, then crawling, then walking, then talking...and then sometimes feeling like a toddler who wants to set limits in the face of so many new things to learn and do. After my demanding summer chaplaincy internship, I will admit I wanted a long nap or could even have used a time-out. I am glad to report I am finding my stride again and happy to be in such a positive environment during this depressing election season.

Starting on November 1, I will be teaching an adult RE class on humanism. It will meet from 7:00-8:30 on the first Tuesday of each month through April; a total of 6 sessions. Please sign up.

In the coming months, you will see less of me in Sunday services. For example, I won't be preaching at all in November. This is so I can focus on other aspects of ministry, especially teaching and children's RE, areas where I am not as confident or experienced as I am at service planning.

Thanks again for the warm welcome I received from so many of you on my return in September.

Millie Phillips, Intern Minister

Parents' Night Out

Friday, November 11, 2016

5:30 to 8:30pm

Join your fellow UUCSR Parents-of-Young-Children for an evening of getting to know one another.

Children will be cared for here at UUCSR by Deborah and a volunteer at no charge, while parents enjoy dinner together in downtown Santa Rosa.

All you have to do is RSVP, show up and pay your share of dinner!

Please let Deborah Mason know if you can come

Work Saturdays

1st Saturday of Months
(No work Saturday for November)

December 4, 9 am—12 pm

Volunteers Wanted!

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



The Living Room Invites UUCSR for a Tour!

Wednesday November 16th at 11:00

Katy, the volunteer coordinator for the Living Room, has invited **UUCSR members for a tour of The Living Room's new campus on Wednesday November 16th at 11:00.** The address is 1207 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa.

The Living Room was established over twenty years ago when people at the Incarnation Episcopal Church noticed women and children aimlessly wandering the streets. They learned that many were shelter residents who were turned out during the day. The members decided to welcome them in for coffee and a warm place to rest.

Now, the program has become an independent organization that offers comprehensive services to the women and children needing them. We've been supporting them for many years with quarterly 'Share the Offering' donations, so come see their wonderful campus! Please come to enjoy the beautiful home-like setting.

Please RSVP to Becky Montgomery

Share The Basket

Each week it is our practice to split our offering-basket contributions.

Our social action committee, which is called Advocates for Social Justice, selects a program to receive a special donation from our Congregation. Below are the recipients for August.

AUGUST RECIPIENTS

CASA	\$ 593.60
Lake County Fire Relief Fund	\$1399.57
Task Force for the Homeless	\$ 478.40
VIDAS	\$ 389.58
Breakfast for Our Neighbors	\$ 592.58



Thanks for your generous support!

*"Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up.
In contrast to optimism or despair, hope requires that
one actually do something to improve the world.
Authentic hope comes with an imperative to act."*

– David Orr

North Bay Organizing Project

Ongoing Task Force Meetings

Transit/Equity Task Force

November 9, 2016 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Glaser Center (UUCSR, 585 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa)

Education Justice Task Force

November 14, 2016 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm

NBOP's Mission:

To unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic,

Glaser Center (UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa)

Leadership Council Meeting

November 17, 2016 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Santa Rosa (2000 Humboldt Street)

Voter Engagement Task Force

Evening Book Group

November 10

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The November selection is *Stonewalled* by Cheryl Atkinson. Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

Upcoming December:

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Upcoming January:

Missoula by John Krakauer.

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

COSM evaluates the minister every year. Last year we surveyed the entire congregation via questionnaires all could fill out, which we compiled and reported on.

This year we will interview all members of the Board, as well as chairs of committees, and compile our report from that information.

We also welcome feedback from *any* members who would like to contribute their thoughts or experiences to be included in our report. We need this information by the middle of December.

Do you have any information you would like to share with COSM about Rev. Chris Bell? Get in touch with any member of COSM. We are: Lucia Milburn, Kitty Wells, Bill Foshee, Bob Anderson, Alan Bell, and Mary Lill Lee. Thanks in advance for any contribution you would like to give us.

Submitted by Mary Lill Lee

Delightful One and 1/2 hr at Living Room After-School Program!

UUCSR volunteers had our 1st Friday after-school program for moms and kids at the Living Room, October 21. We set up with the Living Room for UUCSR members to manage a monthly after-school program for kids and moms.

Sharon Smith made adorable tiny Halloween cup cakes, loved by kids and moms! We brought fruit, cheese, Chex Mix and apple juice. Kate, the children and moms coordinator, played and sang, as did Bill Montgomery. Wayne Smith had a ball playing *Jengo with the little boys*. *Becky Montgomery "puzzled" with little girls*. We also had crafts, and crochet was taught by one of the moms. This After-School Program is at the Living Room, 3rd Fridays from 3:30-5:00. Want to Volunteer? Contact Becky M.

Faith And Fitness

November 12 Hike

Riverfront Regional Park

We have scheduled our next hike on Saturday, November 12, at Riverfront Regional Park.

This hike is about 3 miles, almost all flat, lake and river views.

Carpools meet at 9:30 am. at the Fourth and Farmers Lane parking lot near the Redwood Credit Union Office or meet at the park, 7821 Eastside Road, outside of Healdsburg at 10:00.

Bring water/snacks, county parking pass or fee required at park. Dogs ok! Sign up with Gretchen P.

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.

The UU Update

Our UUCSR Monthly Newsletter

Electronic Submissions preferred.

Send to the newsletter email.

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.

UU Update is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, California. E-submissions preferred. Send to the newsletter email. Due by the Mon. after 3rd Sundays of the month: Paper submissions must be received in the Newsletter mail slot in the office workroom at UUCSR 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. All submissions should have Topic and Month in email subject line. Articles 200-400 words. Ads and Announcements 20-150 words. 707-568-5381, ext. 106, for info. Non-congregational announcements only as furthers the congregation's mission and as space allows.

Musical Notes

♪ For November 6 Services, Alan Bell, Susan Panttaja and Robert Howseman sing “Simple Faith.”

♪ For the Transgender services on November 20, a band will play “I Was Born This Way.”

♪ The Choir will sing for two services this month on November 13 and 27.



And several members will also sing for the early Christmas Sonoma State University Family Concert by Candlelight on Sunday, November 20, at 7:30 pm in Weill Hall.

Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Our November-5th UUCSR Annual Auction is HERE!

2016 UUCSR Annual Auction November 5



2016 UUCSR Annual Auction
November 5

There's Still time to—

*Buy Your Raffle Tickets for Hot Prizes!
Bid on Phenomenal Silent Auction Offerings!*

and

Escape to The Caribbean
in Our Own Glaser Center Saturday November 5

UUCSR's biggest fundraising event of the year!
Be a part of the extravaganza!

New prices this year for Raffle Tickets! 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!

WOMEN TOGETHER

HOLIDAY GATHERING

Saturday, December 10th, 12 - 3 pm

The holidays are coming up fast! Soon we will be gathering with friends and family for the annual feasting frenzy. Your dedicated Women Together Steering Committee wanted to give you a head's up to mark your calendars to save the afternoon of **Saturday, December 10th from noon to 3pm** for a chance to take a break and gather at the lovely home of **Helga Lemke in Santa Rosa** for our annual holiday get-together.

Bring a favorite dish to share and relax for awhile amongst good friends old and new to enjoy community and conversation. Details will follow in the December Newsletter and OOS announcements.

During Peanut Butter Lover's Month...*..Remember #Giving Tuesday!**From the Philanthropy Team*

Well, it's November! We all know what that means—it's Peanut Butter Lover's Month! And Novel Writing Month. And also World Vegan Month! Break out that organic jar of peanut butter, loaf of bread, and your favorite soy or hemp or almond milk, and sit down at that non-vegan typewriter and get busy!

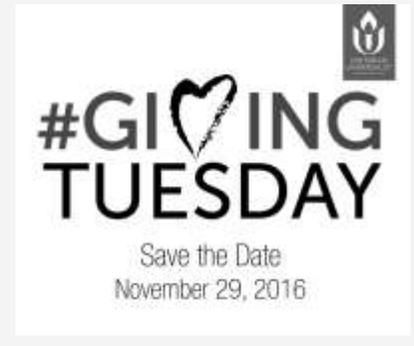
When I was in high school I read a satirical author who claimed that there were 320 months in the year, if you counted all the commemorative months intended to raise awareness of... well, you name it. He didn't even count how many DAYS there were. Love your Lawyer Day, anyone? Pizza With the Works Except Anchovies Day? Yes, that's actually a day (Saturday the 12th, if you want to mark your calendar.) By my count there are 89 days in November.

Giving Tuesday on November 29 is worth noting, buried among fun, silly, or frivolous commemorative days. (Area Code Day, Have a Bad Day Day) Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 by the 92nd Street Y in New York City, and the United Nations Foundation. Their intention was to set aside a day that was "all about celebrating the generosity of giving, a great American tradition." And what better way to express "thanksGIVING" than to share what we have?

Giving Tuesday encourages us to assess what we have here at UUCSR and how we continue to support it. This is the job of commemorative days - to focus attention on something. Of course, the key word in the previous sentence is "support." This congregation provides spiritual and social nourishment for its members and friends, and also it's an increasingly important pillar in the larger community. All that requires your time, effort, and yes, money to keep it healthy, vibrant and relevant.

So, once you've made out that check or increased your pledge, put on your dancing shoes and celebrate your generosity, because Tuesday November 29th is also Square Dancing Day!

Alan Bell, for The Philanthropy Team



Art at the Glaser Center

Many people comment on the changing art exhibits at Glaser, so we know you have been enjoying the Art! Members Sarita Hazen, Patrick Craig, Shirley Williams, Nancy Wilkins, Jamie Kerr, John Dumbrill, Bertha Jean Schmidt, and the UU fiber artists, have all had their work on display over the last year.

But did you know that you can exhibit too?

Your Aesthetics Committee curates these exhibits. It is our intention is to give preference to work of our many talented UUs when planning future shows.

Interested in a show of your work? Whether in a group exhibit or individually, contact an Aesthetics Committee member. We are interested in presenting a variety of media.

*Elizabeth Marrs and Shirley Williams
Co-Chairs of the Aesthetics Committee*

