February’s Service Theme:  
**ONE PRINCIPLE AT A TIME**

**February 5**  
The Inherent Worth And Dignity Of All People. Really?  
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas  
*Music by:* John Ray & the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  
*Share the Basket:* The LIME Foundation  
We’re going to spend the next couple of months looking closely at each of our UU Principles. The founding and guiding documents of this congregation place “affirming and promoting” the Principles at the very core of our Vision as a community. The First Principle is many people’s favorite. But do all people have inherent worth and dignity? Really? Today we’ll consider the spiritual growth that can come from really living as if this Principle is true.

**February 12**  
(Congregational Meeting Today at 11:00 AM !)  
The Unitarian Trinity: Justice, Equity & Compassion.  
*ONE SERVICE Only Today at 9:15 am / Congregational Meeting at 11:00*  
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Millie Phillips  
*Music by:* Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Tessa McClary  
*Share the Basket:* Sonoma County Multiple Sclerosis Group  
We’ll concentrate on the compassion piece of this Principle today. Compassion, usually taken to mean acts of kindness, literally means “to suffer with.” If we want to respond in a sacred and loving way to the people of the world, whether we consider them friends or enemies, we have to place ourselves in their shoes. Real justice and equity flow naturally from the tender-hearted perspective of compassion. (We will also talk about being more compassionate toward ourselves!)

**February 19**  
Acceptance and Growth. You Can’t Have One Without the Other!  
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty  
*Music by:* Paul Gilger & the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  
*Share the Basket:* North Bay Jobs with Justice  
“If I’m laden at all, I’m laden with sadness that everyone’s heart isn’t filled with the gladness of love for one another,” sang the Hollies. But acceptance and love of one another (or ourselves) isn’t always easy; that’s why we have to encourage one another. If you could measure your spiritual growth like a child’s height is measured against the wall, are you shrinking or stretching? And what would it take to for a growth spurt to occur?

**February 26**  
The Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning – Ha, Ha, Ha!  
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Tet Gallardo, Eric Fischer  
*Music by:* Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Tessa McClary  
*Share the Basket:* Breakfast for our Neighbors  
Rev. Tet Gallardo, who serves the UU Church in Bicutan, near Manila, is this year’s Balazs Scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry. She is the first Balazs Scholar from the Philippines, where the UU movement is rapidly growing. She is a business leader, an activist for LGBTQ rights, and a very funny person. She will preach on “Humor as Holy Common Sense.” *(See Page 12 for More)*

**March 5**  
Whose Conscience is It, Anyway?  
*Service Leaders:* Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas  
*Music by:* Robin Rogers & the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  
*Share the Basket:* Project Censored  
What is the moral sense? Where does it come from? Why does it differ so much from person to person and culture to culture? How can we know what’s right, really? These and other questions will be addressed as we look at our Fifth Principle.
Lifting Up That Distant Light...

UUCSR Minister Reverend Chris Bell

Unitarian Universalists love the image of the spiritual life as a journey. We sing “Come, come whoever you are – wanderers, worshippers, lovers of leaving,” and “Sing out praises, for the journey!” Many of us call UUism a “movement” rather than a religion or a denomination, although we are both. When Rev. Lee Fisher was asked where Universalists stood on the theological issues of the day, he replied that, “the only true answer to give is that we do not stand at all, we move!”

Such a symbol of the spiritual life has benefits. It allows us to remain open to new and deeper truth, and to change our minds and hearts when presented with fresh facts or unexpected experiences. It acknowledges, accurately, that our wisdom and understanding must change as we age and grow. It also offers us acceptance and embrace of the present moment.

There is a weakness of such an image, though. Are we forever on the journey? Without a destination in mind, how do we know where we are going, and why are we trying to get there? Are we actually just wandering around? (Remembering that not all who wander are lost…) Instead of mastering the stormy seas of life, and keeping course amidst changing winds and waves, we may be thrown about by the tempests and tides, like “a rudderless ship on a fathomless sea,” as an old hymn puts it. We don’t have to know the final destination perhaps, but at least the direction of the next stage of the trip.

Through the generations UUs have often been defined, and defined themselves, by what we have stood against – whether it was against Calvinism, or the Trinity, or the notion of Hell, or superstition, or conservatives, or religion, or even God Herself.

I’m not really interested in what you are against. I want to know, what are you FOR? What is the goal of your spiritual life? Who are you trying to become? What are you trying to know that you don’t now know? When, if ever, would you consider yourself to have arrived spiritually, with some sense of security and trust?

For me personally, arrival would mean unwavering trust of Creation and the Intelligence and Grace behind and within it, no matter what my circumstances. It would mean maintaining a perspective of open-mindedness and curiosity toward all people. It would mean facing obstacles and challenges with good spirit, as necessary to my wisdom and moral betterment. It would mean really being a loving person, and feeling the presence of the sacred in that love.

And for us as a congregation, or a society for that matter, what is our goal? What is the shape of this “better world” of which we speak? How can we describe the end of our journey in the most positive way, such that the whole world with its differences might someday get there?

I raise the questions because all around me, in my progressive and UU circles, I’m repeatedly hearing a call to resistance. Resist racism, resist injustice, resist Trump. Such resistance may very well be necessary in these strange times, but I am troubled by so much fighting language, coupled with the arrogant presumption that people on “the other side” are all hateful, or racists, or ignorant.

Once again, we are finding ourselves by what we are against, and our perpetual resistance leaves us at the mercy of the latest crisis, and identifies us as a reactionary rather than a creative force. We find ourselves acting out of fear and anger instead love and hope.

It’s natural to do so, of course. “It is easier to huddle around the campfire of our dread than to mass and march toward a distant light,” as Corey Robin observed.

We must remember that the very function of religion and of faith is to lift up that distant light. In addition to resistance where needed – and it will be needed in days to come on behalf of many jeopardized and marginalized people in America – I would say that we must clearly offer a faithful response to these times. We should proclaim, and manifest, a living spirit of love that guides us to a peaceful, just, diverse, compassionate society filled with decency and happiness and beauty and joy.

As did Jesus and his followers, we can keep an eye on the distant light of The World as it Ought to Be, and, in the meantime, act like we are living there already. We are on a journey, after all. None of us living will see the Peaceable Kingdom that is to come. Martin Luther King, Jr., didn’t make it to the Promised Land. But he got to climb the mountain and look over and see the Promised Land. From his journey on the mountain of faith he saw the goal. It was not mere resistance to injustice – as serious and necessary as that was – that drove him forward, but the certainty that a better world was possible, and could and should be worked for.

Meanwhile, the path is the goal, and the means are the ends. We work toward King’s dream, and we bring it alive right now. Tolerance, fairness, equity, respect for those who differ from us aren’t going to magically come in the future, after we get rid of all the “bad people.” We have to live righteous, kind, curious, joyful, creative lives now, faithfully and joyfully, certain that that is what the Spirit of Love wants for everybody and will bring about in the end.

Love is the path. Love is the goal. The light is distant and it is here. Indeed, you are already shining brightly in my eyes! See you on the next step of the journey, dear ones!

Rev. Chris
The President’s Column

Passages through darkness …

… and into Spring

By Bill Haigwood

Mark the date—February 12th Congregational Meeting

It’s February. We shake off the lingering effects of our passage through darkness and look for signs of spring. Longer days, more sunshine, more time outside in those pockets of incipient warm weather that often pops out at this time.

As your president, my mind is on the business of this still very new year. The Unitarian Universal Congregation of Santa Rosa (UUCSR) will hold its first Congregational Meeting of 2017 on Sunday, February 12, immediately following the sole 9:15 a.m. service. And there is a lot for us to address.

We’ll have our first look together at a preliminary budget for next year (2017-2018) that will include projections of what we have to spend and what we need to spend it on. If you haven’t made or updated your annual pledge yet, this would be a good time. Much of what we say we can do depends on an accurate grasp of what we have. And it is no secret your pledges and donations are vital to our congregation’s future.

We will hear a report from our Advocates for Social Justice that will provide a helpful inventory of the work we do, and will continue to do, to address what most of us fear will be a time of increasing injustice driven by the new administration in Washington. Policies and laws that have expanded human rights and built a foundation for civil tolerance, that have been decades in the making, are now seriously threatened by a surge of potentially official bigotry and hate. There will be much to do, but it is comforting to be a Unitarian Universalist with a long spiritual heritage of advocacy and direct action.

We will hear and approve nominations for three vacancies on the Board of Trustees, as well as new members for the Endowment Committee. The effective functioning of your congregation depends on the volunteered talents of its members who agree to serve on a variety of committees and in a wide range of roles.

We will also have a report on the continuing negotiation involved in bringing a private pre-school to UUCSR this year. The pre-school plan, approved at a special Congregational Meeting last fall, has undergone some unexpected changes and we will share with you the current status of this project, which has important revenue implications for our congregation’s future.

We are a self-governing congregation that depends on the democratic process to guide our life and work in accordance with our UU principles. Your participation in our Congregational meetings is valued and encouraged, as is your engagement in the many, many venues of worship, service, education and colloquy that your support of UUCSR makes possible.

Bill Haigwood, President UUCSR Board of Trustees

“Sharing Our Hearts”

An Introduction to the Legacy Circle

February 19, 12:30 pm

Please join us for an informal meeting to learn more about the Legacy Circle. Room 545, after the 11 a.m. service on February 19. Light food and drink will be provided.

---- sponsored by the Endowment Committee ----

HOPE = Helping Other People Evolve
The UU UPDATE

TREASURER’S REPORT
Midyear Financial Update – December 31, 2016

We’ve hit the mid-year already, it’s hard to believe! And our finances look pretty darn good.

We are over budget on pledge payments and have received 53% of our annual pledge total. In previous years when we have had at least 53% at 12/31, we have ended the fiscal year over budget. Many thanks to everyone for coming through with your pledge payments.

After the Stewardship Team’s successful year-end donation drive we are also over budget for one-time donations. Most other revenue areas are on budget or close to it so we are in good shape going into the second half of the year.

Thank you to all who donated – this makes such a difference for us. As you have likely heard by now, the Cypress Preschool start had been delayed and was not to occur this fiscal year after all. (Please read elsewhere in this newsletter for an update on the preschool.) With my usual optimism (and desire to present a balanced budget that funded the priorities we had for this year) I included revenue from the preschool in our budget. So there is a hole in our budget that we are well on our way to plugging as a result of your generosity.

We are in positive net income territory, even after adjusting for expenses related to the upstairs improvements. As a reminder, the upstairs improvements were to be funded by a combination of an anonymous donation, our building systems replacement fund and excess cash from a previous year (the year before last specifically). The excess cash portion will be an expense this year.

Members will receive a copy of the proposed 2017-2018 Draft Budget in the mail in advance of the Congregational Meeting on February 12 where it will be presented and explained.

Remember we will not be having a formal pledge drive this year - your pledge is a sustaining pledge, remaining the same until you change it. Your hard-working Stewardship Team (formerly the Philanthropy Team) will be actively communicating opportunities for generosity and will be asking all of us to reevaluate the level of our financial commitment to UUCSR. Please consider pledging at the 5%-10% range, if possible, if you aren't already.

“Giving at its best is a response of the heart, done out of gratitude, and is a spiritual practice.” Mark Ewert

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

From Our Intern’s Desk
By Millie Phillips

By the time you read this, a new era will have been entered. We will have marched, attended and built many events, and stepped up our activism in so many ways. That gives me a lot of hope that we can get through whatever the future throws at us. A new spirit of solidarity is emerging and we are part of it. Thank you for all you are doing, including being such great teachers and role models.

Meanwhile, we are also a community for each other, and, sadly, we have had several deaths and many serious injuries and illnesses in our congregation recently. My heart goes out to all the families affected and to our church family as a whole. I've stepped up more to help meet some of our pastoral needs. However, the Caring Connections committee needs more members to meet our ongoing needs more fully.

If you are interested in helping directly - calling, visiting, delivering meals, providing rides, etc., to other congregants who are hospitalized, home-bound, grieving, or needing support with caring for family members - please join Caring Connections by contacting Gail Alford. Also, sometimes we don't find out right away when UUCSR members are hospitalized, ill, or grieving losses. Please let UUCSR know, so the Caring Connections team can respond promptly in your time of need. And, feel free to call me directly for any pastoral support I could provide.

Thanks to everyone who has been attending my humanism class. Even though the extreme rain limited the number able to come to the January class, we had a great discussion anyway.

Glad to be off to a good start in 2017, healthier and more energized than I have been in awhile, though feeling a bit sad that I have only 5 more months with you.

Blessings on our mutual journey,
Millie Phillips, Intern Minister
“It's Time for a Change—
— Earlier RE Classes on the Way!”

Last year RE Steering Committee members suggested changing the time of RE classes from 11:00 am to 9:15 am. Members voiced concerns that the 11 o’clock hour was inconvenient for families with young children - 11:00 am RE classes conflict with nap times for babies and toddlers. While 9:15 childcare has been helpful, families with older and younger children have to split up. Some send one parent while the other stays home with the little napper. Additionally, kids frequently are up early on Sundays, and families wait until 11:00 am for services/classes, by which time a good portion of the day is gone. An earlier RE program solves both of these problems.

In November we sent out a survey with 2 questions:
1) How likely is your family to attend UUCSR worship service and RE at 9:15? and
2) Would you prefer to keep RE at 11:00?

Eighteen of the 22 registered families responded. All our most involved families, who attend RE 3-4 times a month, took the survey. A Majority said they were very likely to bring their children to RE at 9:15, with only 3 saying they were unlikely to attend. Ten families stated a preference, or were neutral on making the change. All these families were very likely to attend at 9:15. Seven preferred to keep 11:00 am classes, but only 3 would be unlikely to attend. Given these results, the RE Steering Committee voted to change the time of RE classes to 9:15 am beginning February 5th, 2017.

I am glad we can hear families’ wishes, and institute a change that makes RE participation more convenient. However change is hard and this one might not work for everyone. I would hate to lose any of our kids because of this. I hope families will be able to work around this change and keep making it to RE.

For adults who will miss the energy of the children at 11:00, come early or to volunteer in RE at 9:15! We need your help and it is a lot of fun!

In Faith, Deborah Mason

What’s Happening In RE Classes this Month:

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

Beginning this month Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 9:15 service. Children grades K-7 begin in the sanctuary for a story for all ages, then go to RE classes. First Sunday of the month is Children's Chapel with all grades 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 9:15 and the 11:00 services, and Congregational mtgs.

FEBRUARY Sunday Morning Children and Youth Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades K-2</th>
<th>Grades 3-7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/5/17</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel: First Principle - Each person is worth while</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12/17</td>
<td>Wisdom Stories: A Bad Case of Stripes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/19/17</td>
<td>Wisdom Stories: The Rainbabies by Laura Krauss Melmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/26/17</td>
<td>Wisdom Stories: The Goblin and the Empty Chair by Mem Fox</td>
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The UU UPDATE

ADVCATES 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

LIME FOUNDATION
FEBRUARY 5
12:45 pm in Board Room

Come and hear the Executive Director and founder of the Lime Foundation, Letitia Hanke, describe her Foundation's services.

The Lime Foundation passionately advocates for the disadvantaged. They strengthen veterans, seniors, low income families and young people and give tools to build a better quality of life. They (1) support a vocational training/construction apprenticeship program and provide free construction services to low-income families and the elderly; (2) run programs for the elderly in an effort to address America's obesity epidemic through light exercise (dance, bowling, hiking) and healthy eating; (3) bring positive, structured activities to disadvantaged youth, e.g. learning technology, playing musical instruments. They have an a.m. activity center and a summer and after school mentoring and tutoring program.

Bring what you would like to eat – we provide light snacks, no lunch.

Share the Offering

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

February 5: The LIME Foundation was developed to strengthen and empower veterans, low income families, and youth to build a higher quality of life. It's vision is to serve specific needs in disadvantaged communities across all ages and income levels by collaborating with key community leaders. The LIME Foundation seeks to harness each individual's potential by providing vital skills in music and the performing arts, construction, technology and health.

February 12: The Sonoma County MS Group (SoCoMS) improves the live of people affected by multiple sclerosis by connecting them for self help groups, yoga classes, and through a newsletter which provides information regarding local events, the national organization, and new research on MS.

February 19: North Bay Jobs With Justice campaigns for better working conditions for wage earners and convenes the Workers Rights Board to hear and investigate about unfair working conditions.

February 26: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday Breakfast program to provide a nutritious meal in a friendly atmosphere for our needy neighbors. It is supported by the volunteer efforts and financial generosity of our members and others in the community.

March 5: Project Censored educates students and the public about the importance of a truly free press for democratic self-government. We expose and oppose news censorship and we promote independent investigative journalism, media literacy, and critical thinking.

The Corruption Of Our Democracy Film Series:
Brought to you by Advocates for Social Justice Film Project

THE TAKE
Written by Naomi Klein, Directed by Avi Lewis
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26
12:45 PM in the Board Room

We are pleased to present this remarkable film as our sixth film in this series. We have thus far been examining the challenges our democracy is facing and, of course, we haven't exhausted that field of inquiry. "The Take" gives us a glimpse of what might be possible if we begin to think about our economy in terms of cooperatives, rather than our current hierarchical model. Without giving too much away, the viewer will feel encouraged and inspired, a 2004 documentary, that tells the inspiring stories of Argentinean workers taking over their workplaces following their country's economic collapse.

"In the wake of Argentina's spectacular economic collapse, Latin America's most prosperous middle class finds itself in a ghost town of abandoned factories and mass unemployment. Thirty unemployed auto-parts workers walk into their idle factory in Buenos Aires, roll out their sleeping mats and refuse to leave. All they want is to re-start the silent machines. But this simple act has the power to turn the globalization debate on its head....(This) is a real-life political thriller that pits ordinary workers against the local ruling elite and the powerful forces of global capitalism."

(from the film jacket)

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 the Social Justice Film Project
WOMEN TOGETHER GATHERINGS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Save these dates for time to enjoy being Women Together this winter and spring, 2017!

WOMEN TOGETHER MOVIE NIGHT, Saturday, Feb 11
On Saturday, February 11th join us to watch Meryl Streep, who is ‘so over-rated’, in the exciting film “The River Wild.” In it she contends with the river and a potential attacker as she tries to save herself and her children from the rapids.

We gather in the Board Room at 6:30. Please bring a dessert and beverage of your choosing and we’ll supply coffee.  (Linda Harlow/Women Together)

Upcoming in Spring

ELDER TALES, Saturday, March 25th from 2pm to 4pm. Our own Mary Lil Lee will be sharing tales about her amazing life adventures this afternoon. It is sure to be an interesting time. Please bring finger food snacks to share and a beverage if you'd like. We UU women must have our communion food whenever we gather!

WOMEN-TOGETHER WEEKEND RETREAT, APRIL 28, 29 & 30! Please note on your calendar that this is a bit of a shift in weekends due to scheduling needs at Saint Dorothy's Rest where we gather for our highlight event of the year. More information will follow this spring, but we wanted to give you a “head's up” that our weekend has changed. It should be lovely there at this time of year and a welcome break before the end of the school year rush that seems to affect us all whether we have school-age children in our lives or not!

Adult Religious Education
Submitted by Helga Lemke

Upcoming Offerings:

Grounding Our Faith in the Human Spirit: Millie Phillips, Intern Minisher, is offering a history of humanist thought, recent and modern critiques and controversies, and the potential for the regrowth of a humanist movement: Tuesdays, beginning in Nov., continuing thr 2/7/17, 3/7/17, and 4/4/17 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Drop in “ok”. Donation suggested.

Sexuality Classes: Bill Stayton (UU member), a sexologist, professor, and minister, will offer "World Religion, Scriptures and Sexuality" on 2/15, 2/22, 3/1 and 3/8, from 7-9pm. The class will focus on sexuality, including marriage and marriage equality, monogamy, polygamy, sexual orientation, cross gender behaviors and reproduction, in the context of Hebraic/Christian/Islamic religious texts. Donation suggested.

The Unique Self Process: Many Unitarian Universalists say there is no “there, there” in their religion, no guidelines to follow in developing their own spirituality. Using the teachings of philosopher Ken Wilber and author Marc Gafni, the Unique Self Process answers this need by weaving together the latest psychological and spiritual research to point the way to personal and spiritual growth for all paths. The Unique Self Process consists of a series of four classes plus a free Introduction/Overview Workshop which takes place Sunday, March 5 at 12:45 at UUCSR. Following this Introduction Workshop, four interactive classes will be offered March 12, March 19, April 2 and April 23 from 12:45 to 2:45. Topics include:

* Identifying your unique perspective, your unique way of thinking and acting Robert Kegan’s Subject-Object Theory and the mechanisms for inner growth
* Identifying our False Core Beliefs and how they often keep us stuck
* Ongoing spiritual practices to support desired growth

Class enrollment will be limited to 12 participants. Fee is $40, with partial scholarships available. To hold your spot, please register at the RE table. The fee is $40 for all four classes. Registration is open until Sunday, March 5 after the Introduction Workshop. For more information contact Kate Raymond raymondkate@gmail.com . Co-leaders: Kate Raymond, former Director of Lifespan Learning at the UU Church of Davis, UU Lay Community Minister, certified as a Unique Self Coach and Ritu Esbjorn, PhD in transpersonal psychology, Marriage and Family therapist, certified Unique Self Coach.
UNITED OVERSEAS UNITED (UOC) LEASE OF RE WING!

The Glaser Center Committee has Preschool news with a twist. We were advised by Cypress Preschool Principals that they were unable to continue with the development of their school due to personal and professional issues. They referred two of their colleagues to us who own 3 preschools in Sonoma County. The principals are Renee Whilock-Hemsouvanh, Administrator and Jenny Kenyon, Teaching Director. Their preschools are: Mark West Community Preschool, Hidden Valley Community Preschool, and Humboldt Community Preschool. We met with them on 12/27 and were very impressed with their experience, professionalism and philosophy. We look forward to working with them. You can review their philosophy, teaching method, tuition and other facts about the schools online under Community Preschool Santa Rosa.

The group has seen the RE wing and are very interested in working with us to sign a lease and begin operations by mid-August 2017. Their other schools have waiting lists and they are definitely in need of an additional facility. They had their Architect and Contractor visit our building to determine what the costs would be to remodel the RE restroom to accommodate their children. We expect to hear back from them very soon. They want to move as quickly as possible to get the lease signed so they can move forward with getting approval from the preschool oversight agency. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Thank you, Glaser Center Committee

GETTING TO KNOW UU

Are you UU-curious? Considering membership?

Saturday February 11, 9:30-12:30
A UU History-and-Values Class

The next Getting to Know UU class is being held on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 9:30am to 12:30pm. Whether you are new to UU or a long time member, this class offers rich history and a chance to meet new friends. Learn Unitarian Universalist history, discover the roots of UUSCR (our congregation) and explore the sacred in theory and practice. This class is open to everyone and is required for UUCSR membership.

Sign up at the Visitor/Welcome table before the class date.

Unitarian Universalist (UU) Principles, as affirmed by the UUA General Assembly in 1960, are:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Work Saturdays

1st Saturday of Month
February 4, 9 am—12 pm

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

SHARE THE BASKET

Each week it is our practice to split our offering-baskets 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 October.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER RECIPIENTS</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wellness &amp; Advocacy Center</td>
<td>$497.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Justice Center</td>
<td>$695.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Safe House</td>
<td>$622.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breakfast for Our Neighbors</td>
<td>$700.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your generous support!

DRAWING GROUP

Wednesday 1-3

Join us every Wednesday from 1 to 3 in the board room for meaningful fun. Learn that you can draw, even if you thought you couldn't. Bring a sketch pad, pencil and eraser.

Open to all!
North Bay Organizing Project

MLK’s Day’s Not a Day Off, A Day On, was a special event...

Surprising connections grow from the UUCSR’s work with North Bay Organizing Project and that was fully on display during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend this year.

For the first time, the MLK Day On, NOT a Day Off event at Community Baptist Church was led by four women who met through NBOP – Nikigiovonie Rogers and Catherine Ybarra of CBC, and Sibyl Day and Carol Kraemer of UUCSR. The Monday event included service projects, a forum with local leaders in government and business, food, music, and even a march in honor of MLK at the end of the day.

Members of one of our UU men’s groups, led by Eric Skagerberg, J.D. Thompson, and Tom Bond helped people write and fax letters to their government officials, thanking them for their efforts on behalf of our shared values on different issues. Many other UU members, as well as our minister, Rev. Chris Bell were also there to decorate and mind the UU table in the Fellowship Hall, to chat with people from the other organizations, and to join the march.

Relational Links Between Our Overlapping Communities Are Growing

None of this would have happened without the relational power that community organizing, like NBOP, develops. We have had hundreds of conversations with each other and with people from other congregations and organizations as we have supported rent control and the rights of immigrants and the homeless, developed Restorative Justice programs in the schools, built Integrated Voter Engagement, and worked for bus passes for students and vets.

Keep your eyes peeled for announcements on our Focus List and in the Order of Service for ways you can become part of this powerful work.

Evening Book Group
Thursday, February 9

The Evening Book Group meets Thurs., February 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The February selection is:
*The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome!

**Upcoming**

March: *A Man Called Ove*, by Frederic Backman
April: *H is for Hawk*, by Helen McDonald.

Faith And Fitness
Saturday, February 18
Foothill Regional Park

Saturday February 18, we will be walking at the lovely and rolling Foothill Regional Park, Windsor. The Perimeter Trail, 2.6 miles, some uphill, has lovely views. Dogs are welcome.

Meet 9:30 at Redwood Credit Union office, Fourth and Farmers Lane in Santa Rosa, or at trail head at 10:00.

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 newsletter at the uusantarosa.org address*

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.

*(Please submit in single space, 10 font, using black color. If you have special formatting requests, please make note in your email.)*

Questions? Call Editor Susan Williamson.
Musical Notes

John Ray will be scheduling music for the services on February 5.

For the services on February 12, the choir will be singing “The Power of One” by Larry King. Here are a few of the first words: ‘If I need a friend, would you take my hand? Would you turn away? Or would you take a stand? Would you leave me out? Or would you let me stay? ‘Cause it’s what you do and it’s what you say. It starts with one voice, breaking through and before you know, a crowd will grow, and stand along with you.”

Paul Gilger will be scheduling music for the services on February 19.

The choir will sing again for the services on February 26.

UUCSR Older Women’s Group

OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES
For Women 80 and Over
February 13 and 27
10:30 am

Old Age is not for Sissies, our group for women 80 and over, meets in the Board Room at 10:30 every second and fourth Monday morning. Coffee will be available starting at 10. This month the dates will be February 13 and February 27.

If you need transportation please call well ahead of the meeting date. (Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White).

UUCSR Has a HISTORY Committee

The History Committee
Needs you!

The History Committee needs your help. Volunteers are needed to sort through church documents, etc. for our archives. Time commitment is flexible to fit your schedule.

I know there are a number of congregants who have a rich trove of information about this congregation and who would be interested in maintaining our history going into the future...

For more information contact:
Kirsten Olney
or
Lee Lipinski
From the Stewardship Team!

Some anonymous wag once observed that “it’s easy to meet expenses—everywhere we go, there they are.”

Obviously that applies to organizations—religious or otherwise—as much as it does to actual people. (Unless of course we’re talking about the Supreme Court’s definition of “people” to include corporations ... but never mind, I digress....)

So, how are we doing as a congregation, financially? Pretty good, actually. The budget that will be submitted to the board this month includes some increases such as staff raises, supplies, web maintenance and upgrading and that sort of mundane but necessary thing.

But some significant increases include a larger request from the Music Coordinators for guest musicians. As you may be aware, music was the single most popular aspect of our worship services in the 2015 congregational survey. Musicians in the congregation do most of the heavy lifting here—obviously for free—but sometimes they need a little help from outside.

Another increase is earmarked for assisting members who wish to pursue the ministry. While we aren’t a proselytizing religion, we do have something to offer the world, and the world can certainly use more of what the UU seven principles offer. Supporting qualified candidates for the ministry is one way toward that laudable goal.

Notice that I’ve spared you actual dollar figures and percentages. (You’re welcome!) Suffice it to say that increased pledges—not to mention fulfilling existing pledges!—is necessary. If you want real details on the budget, come to the congregational meeting on February 12.

And finally, as Richard Friedman (whoever that is) once said, “Money will buy you a fine dog, but only love can make it wag its tail.” So, UUCSR is a pretty fine dog, but to make it wag its tail, i.e., foster spiritual growth, do good works in the community and so on, we still need ... well, you know.

~ ~ ~

Come be a part of CUUPs in 2017! (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

CRONE CEREMONY – March 19

Are you a woman 50 years old or older? Would you like to be honored as a Crone?

Crone?! An evil old witch?! NO! Over the centuries, as the old pagan traditions were persecuted, the word “crone” did come to mean an old woman who was evil or bad, a witch. In ancient times, however, older women were celebrated in special ceremonies to honor their wisdom and power. They became Crones, and everyone joined in the celebration. On March 19 CUUPs will hold such an event to honor some of the older women at UUCSR. If you would like to be proclaimed a Crone, please let your friends in CUUPs know so you can be included in this very positive, life-affirming ceremony!

SUNDAY BETWEEN-SERVICES SILENT MEDITATION RESUMES
Silent meditation upstairs between the two services. 10:15 - 10:45 every Sunday. Above the social hall. Neither instruction nor discussion. Silent sitting meditation. Everyone welcome.

Rev. Tet Gallardo was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines (UUCP) in April 2013 and called to serve the only congregation in Manila, the Bicutan Congregation.

For eight years previous to this, she has served as co-leader of a chalice circle, served as consultant for the Bicutan Congregation and as resource speaker on leadership development for the congregational conventions of the UUCP.

For over twenty years, she has worked on organizing women, youth, farmers, and labor interests for political pressure that results in better legislation. Thus, she has served over thirty NGOs and has served as consultant for many government leaders and political campaign managers for strategic leadership and communications.

In 2015, she founded a company that helps Philippine startups through the stages of establishing business and developing the value chain – Amansinaya.com. She spent March 2016 in Nepal, taking a break from church and work by volunteering in disaster relief

(From Starr King Website :https://www.sksm.edu/meet-us/graduates/balazs-scholars/)
Do you have a money-making idea?
Don’t call George Foreman!
Call the **Fundraising Advisory Committee**.
We need suggestions for fundraisers to benefit the congregation. Our tradition here at UUCSR is to put on events which serve the triple purpose of:

1. Having fun
2. Building community, and
3. Helping to nourish our roots.

**Contact us with your ideas!**

Judy Taylor ([judytaylor@sonic.net](mailto:judytaylor@sonic.net)),
Kirstin Olney ([olney@computer.org](mailto:olney@computer.org)),
Dee Ray ([deerayofhope@gmail.com](mailto:deerayofhope@gmail.com))
OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES—
A New Group for Elders in their 80’s-90’s...
and above. See page 10 inside!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

FEBRUARY 2017

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Send submissions to newsletter at 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 at uusantarosa.org

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

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