APRIL 2
TRANSCENDENTALIST DISCIPLES
Service Leaders: Rev. John Buehrens, Susan Panttaja  Music by: Claire Beery & the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
Share the Basket: Chrysalis Community Counseling
Transcendentalism began in 1836 with Emerson’s first book, Nature. It led to a spiritual revival within Unitarianism – not just in rural Concord, but in urban Boston, leading to activism on race, gender, and social justice. It continues to offer lessons today.

Rev. John Buehrens was President of the UUA from 1993-2001. He is the author of Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People’s History [2011] and of a forthcoming book with the same title as this sermon. He retires this summer as Senior Minister of the First UU Society in San Francisco.

APRIL 9
THE SUN HAS NEVER SAID, “YOU OWE ME!”
Service Leaders: Millie Phillips, Scott Miller  Music by: Alan Bell & The UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  Share the Basket: Positive Images
Without the sun’s constant energizing light and warmth, there would be no life on Earth. Today, with the sun as our guide, we will explore the power and presence of generosity.

APRIL 14
GOOD FRIDAY
(Friday 12:10 pm – 12:50 pm)
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon M Carty
Meditations on suffering, grief, and death using the Stations of the Cross will help us understand how the Sacred is with us even in times of death and despair, in this unabashedly UU Christian service.

APRIL 16
EASTER/FLOWER COMMUNION
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Millie Phillips, Veronica Jordan, Cathy Read  Music by: Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Roger Corman  Share the Basket: The Parkinson’s Support Group of Sonoma County
Let us celebrate the wonders of Life in its gorgeous, diverse splendor. Please bring a single flower (or more!) to share, as together we will create a huge beautiful bouquet for our annual Flower Communion ritual. At 9:15 our children will be in the whole service, and help present a story from Fabelia. At both services, The Choir will perform an original piece by UU Petaluma Music Director Jesus Contreras, husband to our own Sadie Sonntag.

APRIL 23
BROKEN IMAGES AND PRACTICAL CATS
Service Leaders: Rev. Shirley Ranck, Rev. Chris Bell, Aphrodite Bellochio, Millie Phillips  Music by: Eric Skagerberg & The UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors
In 1995, a Sixth Source was adopted by the UU General Assembly, adding to formally recognized roots of UU spirituality: “Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.”

This came after years of organizing, activism and agitation on the part of UU pagan women (and a few men), to open us to feminine imagery of the Divine and a deep ecological consciousness. Today we hear a pioneer of this movement, our own Rev. Shirley Ranck.

APRIL 30
THE REAL DAVINCI CODE: Fibonacci and Phi
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaef, Millie Phillips  Music by: Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Tessa McClary  Share the Basket: Restorative Resources
The intelligent order of the Universe is revealed in many ways. Considering the wonders of the natural world can strengthen our trust and faith in the Great Big Thing as surely as any scripture. Come get your head stretched on the Golden Ratio and the Fibonacci Sequence. You may never look at trees, your body, or a rectangle the same way again!

May 7
ON THE VIRTUE OF COURAGE
(Bridging Ceremony for Youth Group Members at 11:00)
Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Deborah Mason  Music by: Susan Panttaja & The UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  Share the Basket: Verity of Sonoma County
Today we’ll begin a series on the Seven Virtues, and welcome our graduating seniors into the community of adult members.
Looking out my window ... 

I see dark, heavy clouds approaching, low to the ground, bringing yet another day of rain. In between showers, the house finches and the chirping sparrows are coming by for some sunflower seeds. I hear them chirping in the palm tree out front, which provides them shelter from the damp. The patter-patter of rain on the windows seems to be whispering. “Nap, nap, nap...” it says.

The weather seems like it’s been about 60 degrees, gray, and rainy for four straight months. Each day a lot like the next. Yet, somehow, the plants on my patio know that it is time to start showing off. Buds and new shoots are everywhere. The trees in the neighborhood are covered with flowers, and the pollen is whipping on the wind in a fuzzy vernal snowstorm. Yes, it is Spring, thank God and/or Goddess. Thanks, at least, to gravity, for so predictably slinging our little ball of rock and gas around that giant warm light in the sky, hidden though it now may be. There is a spirit in nature, as this month’s worship theme will explore, upon which we can rely and trust. This year I am particularly grateful for the palpable reminder of the hope and possibility inherent in life that spring brings to us.

A long winter of brutal storms, particularly those coming out of Washington, D.C. and across our news feeds. It is oh-so-tempting to want to keep hiding and hibernating. But the time of rebirth and renewal is at hand. The days are longer than the nights again. It’s time for action, for movement, for exuberance, and for the flowing of the juices, if you will. The daffodils and bunny rabbits demand it!

As in the world around us, so too at UUCSR.

For example, we are in the final round of negotiations for the lease with our new preschool renter. In addition to the increased presence of children and families throughout the week in the Glaser Center, a blessing in its own right, this additional income, added to your pledges, will allow us to seriously discuss hiring a part-time assistant minister.

I am very eager for our community to receive more pastoral care, more elder care, more religious education for adults, more new member integration, more diversity in our preaching voices. I look forward to partnering in ordained ministry here, and to continuing to strengthen our amazing staff team. I want to make sure that the Board, the Commit-tee on Shared Ministry and I have a good understanding of the congregation’s needs. Keep your eyes & ears open for a survey and an after-service forum to offer your input into what focuses a part-time assistant minister’s portfolio should have.

Since moving the RE program to 9:15 we have seen a significant increase in attendance in that service, and in the number of visiting families. I suspect that the crazy times around us are reminding parents that raising moral, helpful, loving, and faithful children is a team effort, and cannot be taken for granted.

All real reform and progress seems to come when the children take up their parents’ noble causes naturally as their own.

A stance such as, say, being openly gay or in support of the rights of gay people, which took great sacrifice and revolutionary bravery in one era, can become just a matter of course in a succeeding generation. I am filled with hope for humanity when I consider the environmental consciousness of today’s youth, their tolerance of differences, and their globalism, which they easily hold to a degree unimaginable just 50 years ago.

Our congregation has its part to play in this patient transformation of society, too. Perhaps the most important thing we do as a religious community is offering a reasonable, naturalistic faith in Love, Nature, Humanity and the Great Big Thing to our children, a faith that I pray will serve them when it is their turn to serve the world.

We are strengthening our ties to other congregations in the area, and expanding our community activism. We are hosting the local rent stabilization campaign. We are training interns and sponsoring candidates for ministry. We are looking for ways to expand our Caring Connections participation, and to improve our collective care of members who are stuck at home. Our adult RE offerings continue to increase, the youth group is growing, and more.

Yes, UUCSR blossoms abound. If these signs of spring are inspiring to you, too, I hope you will find a way to share your time and talents with the community. Building beloved community within and beyond our walls takes a lot of good, fun work, and we can use everybody’s help! I also hope you will consider making your first pledge of support, if you have never done so, or raising your sustaining pledge. Every contribution helps us fulfill our Mission.

Finally, let us all remember that the simplest and surest way to contribute is to care for one another. Haven’t seen someone in awhile? Reach out to them when they come to your mind. Eat together. Have tea together. Visit each other in the hospital. Pray together. The storms of the world are far from over. The seeds of basic kindness are the ones that will make the garden of UUCSR truly beautiful and strong, no matter what the literal or metaphorical weather may be.

There is rebirth and renewal all around us, and in us. Can you smell it? Can you see it? I can. Happy spring, dear ones!

Reverend Chris Bell
The President’s Column

More Faces in the Pews?
You Know Why.

Seeing more people at our UU services these days?
Since the election, our congregation has witnessed a surge of attendance at our Sunday services, not to mention more than a few new faces. Our UUCSR Congregational meeting on Feb. 12th drew more than a third of our some 350 members, an unusually large turnout for a regular business meeting.

We who’ve noticed this increase in participation and attendance are not alone. According to the latest edition of UU World, Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country are experiencing a surge in attendance at Sunday services. One congregation with an average Sunday attendance of around 190 had to accommodate more than 300 who attended the Sunday after the election.

The post-election increase in attendance most often represented congregation members who had not been recently active and were seeking to reconnect. But some were also new arrivals, clearly looking for a faith-based community to support their opposition to a frightening new president.

Unitarians hold a wide range of political views and affiliations but are notably progressive in the implementation and practice of their values. The Pew Research Center reported last month that 84-percent of self-identified UUs lean toward or identify with the Democratic Party. In Sonoma County, it’s a fair bet that percentage is much higher, which doesn’t mean at all that our congregation is not welcoming to anyone interested in learning about UU principles and the people of the “open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.”

It’s likely those curiously attending for the first time to learn more about UU, and those returning for Sunday services, are drawn by a need to “do something” to resist the threats of what most of us recognize as a dangerously pathological new leader.

We can, and should, engage these newcomers who are seeking ways to counter the reactionary repression and fearful hatred that is beginning to emerge as government policy.

If you see people wearing visitor’s badges, make a point to talk with them and welcome them. Ask them what they are most interested in and concerned about. Introduce them to other members and be certain they understand the impressive range of actions and activities our congregation supports and in which we participate.

If you recognize a returning member, do the same. Learn their worries and concerns and help them to reconnect with the congregation’s ongoing agenda of actions on behalf of social justice.

At a recent board meeting, we tried to envision positive outcomes of the Trump presidency. Aroused local resistance and a rising national movement to take back our government were mentioned, of course. But the work of sustaining these efforts begins with our direct engagement with the new faces in our midst.

Right here. Right now.

Bill Haigwood
President UUCSR Board of Trustees

Support our mission!

Pledging? Go Electronic— It’s Easy...

Help us manage banking costs — pledge electronically!

Look for the green Donate button.

Celebrate Life
Empower People
Care For Each Other
Help Build a Better World

UUCSR Mission
**The Treasurer’s Monthly Ledger**

What is Pledging All About Anyway? And How Do Budget Elves Play Into It?

*Every year everyone involved* in the administration and activities of our congregation, all the committees, groups, Board Members, Rev Chris, and several others, compile their best guess of the expense they will incur to fulfill the priorities of our community for the next fiscal year. Based on the information they provide, the budget elves, better known as financial stewards, assemble a budget. All the different sources of funds to support the budget are estimated based on our experience, expectations and other information. The gap between those other sources of funds, such as rentals, donations, fundraisers, etc. and the budget expenses must be filled by the financial commitments – **pledges** – of UUCSR members and friends.

*In order to provide a reliable budget*, it really is necessary to have a close idea of how much financial support our members and friends will give during the year. If we haven’t received pledges sufficient to fund the next fiscal year’s budget by May when the Board finalizes it, some items may have to be cut. The generous pledges of UUCSR members and friends provide the basis to move forward with the budget that will help make our needs and our dreams for that year attainable.

*Since we have gone to sustaining pledges*, the pledge you last made will continue until you change it. This makes it possible for you to change your pledge on a schedule that may be more convenient for you personally and also to make changes when you are so moved or when your circumstances change.

*On April 2nd and 9th, members of the Stewardship Team will have a table outside the sanctuary stocked with pledge cards and other interesting literature and information.* You are invited to submit a new pledge card there or on the website. There will be a computer on which you will also be able to set up an automatic payment or change your current payment if you desire.

*April, when we used to conduct our pledge drive, is still a month during which we emphasize Stewardship and Generosity.* It is an ideal time to consider increasing your pledge since it is also when we finalize the budget. To support our mission and vision to which we are called to generously give, please consider pledging 5% - 10% of your gross income or as close to that percentage as your circumstances currently allow. Deepest gratitude to all of you who give so generously of your time, talent and treasure and make our extraordinary community a beacon for justice and love.

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**Around The Intern’s Corner ...**

Some Grateful Notes to You All...

* I have finished my Humanist Class: thanks to attendees for helping me teach and articulate my own beliefs more effectively.

* Appreciation to those who have enlarged the Caring Connections Committee! Visiting homebound or hospitalized congregants is such an important ministry. One of my pastoral care goals is having enough volunteers to make regular visits to people even when there is no immediate crisis or specific need.

* Thanks to CUUPS for inviting me to be “croned” at last month’s Croning Service. One of the weird things about starting a new career at my age is that, on one hand, I really am a mature adult with a lifetime of experience and some hard-won wisdom to accompany it, yet, on the other hand, much of my life experience has little to do with ministry, and I have often felt like a vulnerable kid as I returned to school and then to this internship. Thinking of myself as a “crone” is a reminder that the rest of my life still counts, no matter how new I am in my current line of work.

* On the social justice front, I am gratified to continue participating with Of One Soul in their work to defend Muslims in Sonoma County and by our congregation’s growing interest in sanctuary for undocumented workers. Drawing on my union background, I look forward to helping host a “hot topic” on June 4 entitled “Which Way Forward for Labor?” We already have confirmed speakers from Jobs With Justice and NBOP.

UUCSR feels like home now, so I’m very aware how odd it feels that there are only a few months left in my internship here. Thanks to everyone for making it such a great experience!

---

Millie Phillips, Your Intern Minister
Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we
don’t even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds,
green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child—
our own two eyes. All is a miracle. — Thich Nhat

Do you believe in miracles? I do. I see them every
day. Not necessarily the kind of Webster’s Dictionary,
the miracles I experience are usually explicable by
natural or scientific laws, but still I consider them
miracles. Last week I held the newest UU in our
congregation, one-day-old Brynna Jordan Poling. The laws
of nature and science can surely explain the perfection
that is her tiny body and the way she cooed and greeted
the world around her with such serenity. She is a
miracle none-the-less. To me a miracle is the feeling of
awe and wonder when something appears that is so
beautiful, and so amazing that it seems to defy all
possibility.

This month our upper elementary students will begin
a course about miracles. Through their lessons the
children will discern the unfolding of miracles all around

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.

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 a volunteer from the congregation
during the 9:15 service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Children’s Chapel: SPIRITUALITY OF NATURE</th>
<th>RE Classes for children are held at 9:15am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/2/17</td>
<td>GRADES K-2</td>
<td>GRADES 3-7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Easter Egg</td>
<td>Session 1 - Miracles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Jan Brett</td>
<td>Naming Miracles</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/9/17</td>
<td>Multigenerational Worship — Grades K-7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FLOWER COMMUNION</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Children attend worship with their families. Childcare is available for babies and toddlers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/16/17</td>
<td>The Empty Lot</td>
<td>Session 2 - Miracles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>by Dale H. Fife</td>
<td>The Miracle of Close Attention</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/23/17</td>
<td>My Diary From Here to There</td>
<td>Session 3 - Miracles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Amada Perez</td>
<td>The Miracle of Transformation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In Faith, Deborah

NEW R. E. SCHEDULE!
RE Classes for children are held at 9:15am
Childcare for babies and toddlers
is available at 9:15 and 11:00
The UU UPDATE

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.

“UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE”
Sunday, April 9
12:45 pm in the Board Room

Martha and Reverend Waitstill Sharp - Waitstill was a Unitarian Minister in Massachusetts, and they both were parents of two small children. In 1939 they agreed to go to Austria to establish an "Underground Railroad" for Jewish children under Nazi occupation. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) sprang from their acts of amazing courage and commitment to “the worth and dignity of every person.” The UUSC continues to partner with grassroots organizations anywhere rights are threatened - by natural disasters, armed conflicts, genocide, forced migration and systematic injustice. We can imagine the demand for their help now!

On Sunday, April 9th, aka “Justice Sunday,” Carly Cronon from UUSC will be here to tell us how they are responding to the horrendous crises around the world today and how we can help. Tom Andrews, President and CEO of UUSC, is convinced that churches have a central role to play in these dangerous times! Come to the Board Room at 12:45 on 4/9 to find out what he means.

Light snacks will be available but no lunch.

HOT TOPIC PREVIEW— SUNDAY, MAY 7
“The Living Room: An Exciting Update”

The Living Room, a provider of day-services for homeless women and children, has moved and has their own campus on Cleveland Avenue. Katie Phillips, volunteer coordinator and member of the program staff, will brief us on facility & program news!

NB: This Hot Topic Meeting is on the 1st Sunday of May, May 7, rather than usual 2nd Sunday.

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

CASINO JACK AND THE UNITED STATES OF MONEY
Directed by Alex Gibney
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017 12:45 PM in the Board Room

The 8th film in our current series - jaw dropping! This 2010 documentary tells of the high life and eventual downfall of wealthy Republican lobbyist, businessman and con man Jack Abramoff. Abramoff was involved in a massive corruption scandal that led to the conviction of himself, two Bush White House officials, Representative Bob Ney and nine other lobbyists and congressional staffers. Abramoff was convicted of fraud, conspiracy, and tax evasion in 2006, of trading expensive gifts, meals and sports trips in exchange for political favors. We meet familiar Republican folks as this story unfolds, from Grover Norquist and Ralph Reed to Karl Rove and President George W. Bush.

From the director, Alex Gibney, in an interview with Amy Goodman:
“You know, he’s now called ‘disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff,’ and a lot of people like to say that they didn’t really know him. In fact, he was in the mainstream. He was very much a power broker in Washington, DC, (with) very good relationships with Karl Rove, President Bush, and particularly Tom DeLay, the former Majority Whip. So that’s the big story about Jack Abramoff. He was a guy who really bought and sold politicians, is really what he did.”

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

Share the Offering

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

April 2: Chrysalis Community Counseling Services provides a safe, supportive place where all voices are heard, encouraged and respected. Counseling may include long or short-term assistance. Services provided on sliding scale, based on individual or household net monthly income.

April 9: Positive Images provides support and advocacy to Sonoma County’s gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, and intersex youth and young adults, ages 12-24, and educates the greater community. We envision a Sonoma County where all youth are valued, compassionate community members, creating a just society.

April 16: The Parkinson’s Support Group of Sonoma County provides an atmosphere of counseling, comfort and encouragement to those with Parkinson’s and their caregivers, gathers the latest information on Parkinson’s to share with members, promotes activities that benefit the PD community, & advocates for a cure.

April 23: Breakfast For 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 volunteer efforts and financial generosity of our members and others.

April 30: Restorative Resources provides restorative justice circles and school programs, and establishes restorative practices, an effective community-based approach to prevent crime and repair the effects of crime.

May 7: Verity of Sonoma County works to provide support to victims of sexual violence. A paid staff of 14 plus 60 volunteers provide education, prevention, counseling, and crisis intervention. The volunteers staff a 24/7 hotline for survivors of sexual assault and other violence to access help. Verity also work with the community to end sexual violence by eliminating the conditions that cause or tolerate it.
Women Together Spring Weekend Retreat: “Resilience”
April 28, 29 and 30, 2017 at St Dorothy's Rest, Camp Meeker

It’s time to register for this year's Women Together Spring Weekend Retreat! We will gather and stay at the beautiful Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker, about 30 miles west of Santa Rosa. Our theme this year is “RESILIENCE: celebrating our strengths and resolve to live our lives fully!” We will have our popular small group discussions on the theme and a variety of great workshops among which to choose, plus our Silent Auction and the great food!

Registration will begin on Sunday, April 2nd for our UUCSR member women, then open to friends and guests on Sunday, April 9th as space allows. Look for registration forms outside the UUCSR office door or on the days of registration. Remember to bring your checkbooks!

Sign-ups will be accepted after each service on April 2nd and 9th, not before. We cannot hold your place without your payment. Rooms will be assigned at registration. If you're not able to be there in person, fill out the form, give it and your check to a friend or roommate, if you've already decided on that, and ask her to sign up for you. If you have mobility issues and need special arrangements, please contact Linda Harlow.

The cost is $200 for a room and $180 if you stay in the dorms. Scholarships are available at half price; just put 'Request scholarship' on your registration form. Please make your check payable to UUCSR and put Women's Retreat on the memo line.

This year Saint Dorothy's is providing bedding and towels. We're looking forward to a wonderful weekend!
The Western: America’s Mythology: By Alan Bell
Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm, in April at UUCSR

Alan Bell (UU Member) will present a course on movie westerns in all their forms (romance western, epic western, the elegiac western, etc.) and show how westerns incorporate and help form America’s myths.

America’s most enduring mythology has been the western. From Columbus onward, the frontier has been our guiding image: always pushing west, searching for the next big thing, constantly reimagining and remaking ourselves.

Film clips from dozens of movies will be included. Wednesdays, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, and 4/26 from 7-8:30 p.m. Alan was a public TV producer for 20 years and a professor of media studies for 15 years.

Donation suggested. Register online or at RE table.

Art Hanging at the Glaser Center
by Karen Miller and Shonnie Brown
Will be on display March 29-June 26, 2017

Reception: Sunday, April 9, 2017 1 pm – 5:30 pm
Questions? Betz Miller

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.

JANUARY RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration</td>
<td>$657.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Advocates for Youth</td>
<td>$388.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Recovery Services</td>
<td>$382.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breakfast for Our Neighbors</td>
<td>$993.43</td>
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Thank you for your generous support!
North Bay Organizing Project

North Bay Organizing Project once again takes lead in fight for Santa Rosa Rent Control

The campaign is called Fair and Affordable Santa Rosa – Yes on Measure C.

Over 3 years I have spoken with voters in Santa Rosa precincts through my work with NBOP’s Integrated Voter Engagement Team. Over and over I hear stories of huge rent increases, landlords who refused to make essential repairs, and people stressed-out about the looming possibility of being forced out of their homes because of high rents.

Almost half of Santa Rosa residents are renters. People who work in restaurants, work in the vineyards, teach our children, provide essential services to our community and others are being forced to move away because their salaries do not match the high cost of housing here.

We are indeed in a housing crisis. Santa Rosa’s vacancy rate is only 1%, which means if you lose your apartment, you will have a very hard time finding another. It means that landlords can raise rents with impunity. Not all landlords have taken advantage of this by leveling giant rent increases, but many have.

What Measure C will do is prevent unscrupulous landlords from gouging renters with unreasonable rent hikes. It will put a cap on annual rent increases of 3% and it will require just cause for evictions, while allowing for larger rent hikes when significant improvements to property are required.

Measure C will do no harm to landlords who make reasonable demands of their tenants; it will keep in check those who capitalize on this housing crisis with unreasonably high rent increases that force people out of our community.

UUCSR has joined in this campaign. Several of us are working hard to keep the campaign going. Sara Jones, Ellen O’Hare and Michele Murphy are providing administrative support, Sibyl Day, NBOP Vice President, is on the Campaign Committee and I serve as coordinator of precinct walks for the Campaign.

But we need more help. There are several ways to participate, but what we need most is for people to canvass precincts with us. Precinct walks are held every Saturday from 10am -1pm and every Sunday from 3 - 6pm up until the June 6th election. We meet at the First Congregational UCC at 2000 Humboldt St.

We provide training at the beginning of each walk, and you can walk with a partner. I have found precinct walking to be a very positive experience. Many people are not aware of this campaign and are supportive of rent control. It feels good to be engaged in my community in a way that promotes the common good.

There will be a UUCSR Precinct Walk for Measure C on Saturday, April 8 at 10am. Please plan to join others in the congregation to move rent control forward in Santa Rosa.

For more information contact me, Deborah Mason or Sibyl Day.

North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) is a diverse, multi-issue organization that believes participation of our members is essential for the survival of democracy. NBOP’s Mission is to unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for social, economic, racial and environmental justice. UUCSR is a member of NBOP.

Evening Book Group
Thursday, April 13
The Evening Book Group will meet on Thurs., April 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The April selection is: H is for Hawk, by Helen McDonald

Visitors and newcomers are welcome!

Upcoming
May: Lab Girl by Hope Jahren.
June: Our annual potluck to select books for the coming year.

Faith And Fitness
Saturday, April 8
Sugar Loaf Ridge Park

Saturday April 8, waterfall and wildflowers at Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park. Approximately 2 miles with some steep sections, mostly shade.

Carpool near Redwood Credit Union office at Fourth and Farmers Lane 9:30, or the main parking lot at Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park 10:00 am, parking fee required.

Bring water, snacks, sturdy shoes. Dogs not allowed on trails. Sign up to call Gretchen P.

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!

The UU Update—Our UUCSR Monthly Newsletter
Electronic Submissions preferred ~ Send to newsletter@uusantarosa.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.

(Please submit text in single space, 10 font, black. Special formatting requests? Please note in your email.)

Questions? Call Editor Susan Williamson.
Music in the worship services this month will be typically varied and, well, atypical.

We kick off on April 2nd for a service on Transcendentalism and The Spirit of Nature with an octet singing Schubert's *An Die Musik*. This is generally recognized as one of the most beautiful pieces of music in the classical literature.

On April 9 the focus is on the sun with the theme of generosity. For this service, the UUsual Suspects will perform *Follow the Sun* from Australian Xavier Rudd. (This is definitely NOT the familiar Beatles song of the same name.)

Easter Sunday, April 16, brings the Flower Communion and Sadie Sontag leading the choir in the haunting *Hymn to Gaia*.

April 23 will feature instrumental Irish airs from the ‘Suspects. And really, who doesn’t like a good Irish air?

As for April 30... well, frankly, we have no idea at this point, except that it will be Sadie and the choir, so you can’t go wrong there, right? Embrace the mystery.

*Alan Bell*
*Music Committee*

**SUNDAY BETWEEN-SERVICES 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.

**OLD AGE IS (STILL) NOT FOR SISSIES**
*Ongoing Group For Women 80 and Over*  
*April 10 and 24  Board Room at 10:30 am*

Old Age is Not for Sissies, a group for women 80 and over, meets in the Board Room at 10:30 am every second and fourth Monday morning.

Coffee will be available starting at 10 am. This month the dates will be April 10 and April 24. If you need transportation please call well ahead of the meeting date.

**Q’s? Call:**  
**Phyllis Clement**  
**Dorris Lee or Shirley White**
I’d like to ask you a personal question. What would motivate you to raise your pledge to UUCSR?

Would you be motivated to give more because …

You feel a sense of closeness to this community?

You like the feeling you’re changing someone’s life?

You feel grateful for what the congregation has given you and for the good work being done at UUCSR?

You feel fortunate and want to give something back to others?

Robert and I are raising our pledge this year because of all of the above – and because the mission of this congregation feels like our mission. I invite you to feel the joy of giving and ask again – what would motivate you to raise your pledge?

Our budget for the upcoming year includes: Additional opportunities for worship and spiritual growth by hiring an assistant minister • Opportunities for guest musicians to enhance our worship • Support for our own members pursuing the ministry to bring our essential message of love to others • Greater outreach through social media and the Internet • More interfaith cooperation to support the most vulnerable in our community.

Stop by the Stewardship Table on April 2 or April 9 or visit our webpage anytime to increase your pledge.

https://web.uusantarosa.org/giving/

Help make these aspirations a reality by increasing your pledge this spring!