March Service Theme: ONE PRINCIPLE AT A TIME

Sunday Services at 9:15 am & 11:00 am, unless otherwise noted. Silent meditation between services upstairs 10:15-10:45 am

March 5
WHOSE CONSCIENCE IS IT, ANYWAY?
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff  **Music by:** Natalie Brundred & the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
**Share the Basket:** Project Censored
The Buddha said we should be lamps unto ourselves, and the whole democratic experiment depends upon trusting each other’s conscience. But what is the moral sense and where does it come from? And given that it differs 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.

March 12
THE IMPOSSIBLE WILL TAKE A LITTLE WHILE
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Leisa Huyck, Jen Collins  **Music by:** Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Tessa McClary  **Share the Basket:** Santa Rosa Quilt Guild
The goal of world community, with peace, liberty, and justice for all may seem like an impossible dream right now, and we may think we are naive to even dream it. But are we, really? What does UU theology have to say about this, and how can our theology support our action?

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, a former ecologist, became a minister because she is called to help our culture make the spiritual transformation we need in order to live on our beautiful planet sustainably, with love and justice for all. She is the founder of Viriditas Ministries, whose mission is “healing the heart, nourishing the spirit, and greening the world--with the power of love.” ([viriditasministries.org](http://viriditasministries.org))

(Rev. Chris is preaching at the First UU Society of San Francisco this morning.)

March 19
THE GREAT RIVER (OF WHICH WE ARE ALL A PART)
**Service Leaders:** Millie Phillips, Joe Gabaeff  **Music by:** Roger Corman and the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
**Share the Basket:** The Living Room
The interdependent web is one way to describe our inherent interconnectedness. In this service, we are going to look at interconnectedness as if it were a river; all of us as drops who enter the stream from different locations and yet are flowing together on a journey seeking a common destination. Gravity guides the river. What guides us?

March 26
ONE PRINCIPLE TO RULE THEM ALL
**Service Leaders:** Rev. Chris Bell, Millie Phillips, David Hope  **Music by:** Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, The UnUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary  **Share the Basket:** Breakfast for Our Neighbors
We’ll recap our survey of the Seven Principles by examining the essential thread that runs through them all, but which, incredibly, is not mentioned by name at all. In song it has been called a boomerang, a losing game, a battlefield, a drug, the tender trap, the reason, the message, the way, the answer, and all you need. It is like oxygen, like a fire, like a red, red, rose, and like... WO! All true. And it is the heart of our religion.

April 2
TRANSCENDENTALIST DISCIPLES
**Service Leaders:** Rev. John Buehrens, Susan Panttaja  **Music by:** Claire Beery & the UUsual Suspects, Tessa McClary
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 for us today. Rev. John Buehrens, President of the UUA 1993-2001, is author of *Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People’s History* [2011] and *Transcendentalist Disciples*. He retires this summer as Senior Minister of the First UU Society in San Francisco.
From UUCSR Minister Reverend Chris Bell

Empty Chair

As I was cleaning up my bloated hard drive, I found the first sermons I preached to this congregation. The first Sunday of my candidate-ling week almost 11 years ago, I preached the sermon Love is the Center; an all-purpose stump speech I had written to try to convey my theology to ministerial search committees. The UUCSR Search Committee thought it was decent enough to offer to you.

(Nice to see that I don't disagree with anything I said then, although I might have used fewer words …)

The second sermon I preached here at the end of that week of discovery and discernment, called The Empty Chair, was written just for you. The empty chair was an image that came from UUCSR’s then-fledgling small group ministry program, Together in Exploration (T.I.E.), now in its 11th year. The idea was that every T.I.E. group would leave a chair in the circle empty to symbolize the next person who might join, to indicate an ongoing openness to growth and change, an awareness that the circle is never fully complete as long as someone is in need of the gifts the group has to offer.

So too for the congregation as a whole. Our congregation is never fully complete as long as someone else is in need of the gifts we have to offer. As I said 11 years ago:

“The world is full of people who can make a difference in their own and others lives if they are simply invited to do so, if they are told they are trustworthy, powerful and good, if they are offered partners in their work and companions on their journey. Why should someone have to wait their whole lives to stumble upon something that gives such meaning and richness and healing and joy?

“There is no one who does not deserve an invitation to the empty chair. By definition, anyone who wants to pursue this path of pluralism, reason and love with us has a place in it. We’re Universalists, for crying out loud! This chair is for an elder, a college student, a rich person, a poor person. This seat is for married people, single people, gay people, straight people, young mothers, widowers, transgendered people, those who have served in the military and those who never would. It’s for winemakers and drug addicts. It is for the person who was harmed by religion and the person who has cheerfully pursued the religious path their entire life. This chair is destined for scientists, poets, Christians, Buddhists, Humanists.

“It is for the grumpy and the happy, the smart and the less so. Perhaps most importantly are the seats we leave open and the invitations we make to those whom we will never meet, the children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren of this congregation, the future generations of UUs who will bring forth the fruit of the vision we plant in our short time. We best give thanks for those who gave us our seats at the table by making more seats available for others.”

All still true!

Strange to read a sermon from a decade ago and realize you could preach it again word-for-word. A cynic might take this to mean stagnation, ineffectiveness, or lack of creativity. I think it indicates that truths of religion are timeless, slowly learned, and forever needed. In the midst of swirling current events, troubling politics, with apparent crises arising in every moment, there are certain things that need to be repeated again and again and again. And again.

Such as these words, which came from members of the UUCSR community during that long-ago week of sacred flirtation that led to my settlement here, when I asked what your vision for the congregation was:

“To provide outreach to a more diverse population, to provide community with an orientation to the needs of the city and the county.”

“To be a loving, open, spiritual group of all ages who support each other and reach out to the community and the world in support of peace with dignity for all.”

“To be the leader in framing peace and justice issues in a context of love for all creation.”

“To be a center for multi-generational activities of culture and education.”

(Some, admittedly, were a little more mundane. One person’s vision involved more people doing their share to keep the kitchen clean. We’re still working on that one …)

Again and again, I read a vision of UUCSR leading in the community, confronting oppression and injustice, serving young people and families and children, growing, and becoming ever more well known and impactful.

Perhaps the most compelling was the vision:

“to develop a community of people committed to spiritual growth, committed to a deep understanding of ourselves, committed to an enlarged view of our contribution to our society and environment, and committed to the power of Love.”

Yes, do let’s do that.

As the craziness in the news threatens to envelop and overwhelm us, let’s remember that these most basic and lovely expressions of our religious vision are as necessary and alive now as they were 10 or 100 years ago. They will still be necessary 10 years from now, and in 100 years.

If it’s been awhile since your backside found one of our empty chairs, get on down here and share in the ancient, and utterly timely project of building a loving, transformative community. If you know someone who would benefit from this timeless work, remember that there is always an empty chair for the next pilgrim …

And look! Here comes Spring again! I bet there will be one of these 10 years from now, too ...

Blessings to you and yours – Rev. Chris
The President’s Column

Why Your Pledge Matters

By Bill Haigwood

There was a time not too long ago that spring marked the beginning of our congregation’s annual pledge drive. A team of tireless volunteers would take to the phones to ask each member to renew a pledge of financial support to UUCSR. A tally at the end of the drive would provide a total—and a good part of our budget—for the following year.

Two years ago we agreed as a congregation to cease the UUCSR annual pledge drive and to make the pledges of all members “sustaining.” That is, your pledge to UUCSR continues year after year unless you change it.

The good news is that after two years our pledge support continues to be strong. And we thank you! Our pledge drives were time and energy consuming activities that took a lot of attention away from the good works of our congregation.

Still, in addition to sustaining a pledge of financial support to UUCSR, it also important for us, wherever and whenever it is possible, to increase our support. Our new Stewardship Team—formed when we ended the pledge drive two years ago—now makes regular appeals throughout the year for increased pledge support.

One of those appeals occurs in the spring.

Toward the end of this month and the beginning of April you’ll be hearing a lot more about what we do as congregation, what you can expect from us as a spiritual community, and what we need from you to continue our good work to celebrate life, empower people, care for each other and build a better world.

It is true that sometimes a community of faith—any community of faith—might feel to a member like a product to be consumed and not one in which to invest. Someone else unlocks the doors, turns on lights, sings hymns or plays music, pours coffee, or delivers an inspiring message of hope.

Our goal at UUCSR is that you always feel welcome and also easily grasp the nearly infinite range of ways you can participate with us. Whether you seek a deepening understanding and vision of life’s mysteries, wish to share in an exploration of faith, or want to work with others to build a just and fair world, you will find that opportunity here.

Please consider increasing your pledge support, and your participation, this year in UUCSR. It is your community and we all benefit from your engagement. To paraphrase Shakespeare’s Juliet, “love is infinite, and the more we give the more we have.”

Bill Haigwood,
President UUCSR Board of Trustees

PSALM SEVENTY-FIVE *

A Morning Song
Awake and praise the Eternal!

Awake and throw back the covers
That obscure your potentials,
Smothering quilts of before
That stifle change
Awake and praise the Eternal!

Awake from uneasy dreams,
Awake from predawn murmuring
Alert to a new day,
Poised with renewed opportunities.

Awake and praise the Eternal!

Awake from dulled senses,
Muffled winter tedium;
Awake to returning warmth
That rouses your dormant soul.

Awake and praise the Eternal!

Awake as a child awakens,
Hands unfolding, grasping for the day
A shout of joy, feet kicking,
Eyes blinking in new born sunlight.

Awake and praise the Eternal!

Awake to this new day, this gift
To share out, more than you can hold.
Awake with hunger to learn and to do,
To respond, and praise God’s Name.

From Our Intern’s Desk
By Millie Phillips

Thanks to all of you for your positive energy during troubling times. I was thrilled by the turnout for the women’s march and the interfaith service, MLK Day On, the Engagement Fair, Of One Soul events, and the city council meetings discussing sanctuary. It’s an honor to be temporarily part of a community that pulls together so well - both our UU community itself and Santa Rosa as a whole.

On another issue of social justice, I’m in the preliminary stages of trying to get a UU Class Conversations workshop to come to the greater Bay Area. This would likely take place in the fall, after I’ve left you, but I intend to have it planned and scheduled by the time my internship is over in June.

Thanks for efforts to build up our Caring Connections Committee. We could still use even more volunteers.

My humanist class has two more sessions (March and April) and I appreciate all of you who have contributed. I’ve learned a great deal - about how to teach a class and about humanism itself.

Being a part of so many church activities - social justice, religious education with our younger children this year, working on memorials, ongoing service planning, new member outreach, and many other assignments - has been an incredibly valuable experience that will serve me well wherever my ministry takes me in the future. Especially during these times of great global uncertainty and stress, being with you is inspiring and spiritually grounding.

As always, thanks for being who you are.

Millie Phillips, Intern Minister

Blessings on our mutual journey!
Religious Education for Children & Youth
Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."

—John Muir

Creating balance between a fast pace of life and the inner spiritual life is a sacred practice. With the schedules of work, keeping up the house, kids’ activities, homework, volunteering, etc., etc. inner peace and spiritual connection be relegated to the bottom of the list. Many of us have a hard time committing to a sustained and regular spiritual practice. We have the best intentions, but finding the time is not easy. But there are many ways to find that source of inner peace and deep love the thing we must do is find what that is for ourselves.

What do you love?
In my UU Parenting class many things emerged: taking long bike rides, cooking, and painting with watercolors were a few things that came up. There are many things we love to do and if we are intentional about it and take the time on a regular basis, simple pleasures can become spiritual practice. When we are in the moment, free of distractions, feeling the air in our lungs, breathing in the light and love around us, we are in a place that renews, enlivens and strengthens our sense of well being.

Simple ways to teach your children the joy of spiritual practice:
* Find time in your daily routine to light a chalice and honor the joys or sorrows of the day.
* Practice saying nightly affirmations as you put the little ones to bed.
* Say grace before shared meals as a practice of gratitude.
* Get out into nature. When you take a hike, ask the children to remain quiet for a time, to pay attention to their bodies, to feel the warmth of the air that surrounds them.
* Make a practice of acts kindness every day and provide the family with the space to share what they did and how it felt.

In this precious life, finding balance between our daily responsibilities and spiritual enrichment is crucial to happiness and well being. May we all find simple ways to lead us on the path of more love and more peace.

In Faith, Deborah

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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 Caitlin Fiore during the 9:15 service.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."

—John Muir

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Citizens’ Climate Lobby Meets Hot Topics
Sunday, March 13
UUCSR Board Room
Shortly after the 11:00 am Service
Come hear from representatives working locally for worldwide solutions to climate change. Citizens’ Climate Lobby creates political will for climate solutions by enabling individual breakthroughs in personal and political power.
By building constructive, working local relationships with all members of Congress, we seek passage of Carbon, Fee and Dividend, a climate change solution that bridges the partisan divide.
Carbon Fee and Dividend, a revenue-neutral carbon tax with 100% of the net revenue returned directly to households, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions 52% below 1990 levels within 20 years while growing the economy and saving lives.
Hear about our growth and activities and see where you could fit into an organization that is successfully building Bi-partisan support for a viable solution to climate change in our country.
Alan Proulx, a long-time member of UUCSR says:
“I have looked at all the current solutions that could work in this political climate to produce real sustained reduction in greenhouse gas emissions quickly, while benefiting all U.S. households. This will really work.”
Come and see how this works!
Spring Forward. Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead the night before!!

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

March 5: Project Censored educates students and the public about the importance of a truly free press for democratic self-government. The organization exposes and opposes news censorship and we promotes independent investigative journalism, media literacy, and critical thinking.

March 12: The Santa Rosa Quilt Guild makes and donates quilts and baby hats to organizations that serve needy people through its Community Quilt Program. Last year they donated 1185 quilts to the community.

March 19: The Living Room, at their new location on Cleveland Ave. near College, welcome homeless and at-risk women and children into a warm and safe environment during the day. Caring staff offer lifelines during times of crisis.

March 26: 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 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 are provided on a sliding scale, based on individual or household net monthly income.

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

THE BEST DEMOCRACY MONEY CAN BUY
A Greg Palast Film
SUNDAY, MARCH 26
12:45 PM in the Board Room
At the heart of our democracy is the practice of free and fair elections. The integrity of our voting process, our confidence in the premise of one person, one vote, is explored in this entertaining and informative 2016 documentary, our 7th film in our current series. Greg Palast is an author and a freelance journalist for the BBC and The Guardian. He has researched nationwide attempts to purge voter lists and disenfranchise voters suspected of voting more than once. This investigation, brought to life in this film, unfolds like a detective story with cartoon animations, secret documents, hidden cameras. Mixed in with the intrigue of the story telling is compelling and troubling information about the practices of some who have a vested interest in silencing the voices of some of our country’s citizens.
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
WOMEN TOGETHER
GATHERINGS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

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

Upcoming Spring Women Together Events

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!

Upcoming Offerings:

Grounding Our Faith in the Human Spirit: Millie Phillips, Intern Minister, 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 thru 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.

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.

May All Beings Be Happy
May All Beings Be Safe
May All Beings Everywhere Be Free

May All Nations’ Leaders Be Happy
May All Nations’ Leaders Be Safe
May All Nations’ Leaders Everywhere Be Free

[based on metta prayer by teacher Jennifer Berezan]
Support our mission!  

**Pledging? Great! Please Go Electronic—It’s Easy...**

Our bank is again threatening to charge us an additional fee for the large number of checks we deposit. While we are hoping to get this fee waived (and are even looking at making a change in our banking relationship), please help us manage these costs by making your pledge payments electronically by signing up for easy pay on our website - look for the green *Donate* button.

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**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!*

---

**Work Saturdays**  
1st Saturday of Month  
March 4, 9 am—12 pm  
*Volunteers Wanted!*  
(We gather on 1st Saturdays to maintain, improve, & beautify our physical plant)

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**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 December recipients.

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<th>DECEMBER RECIPIENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afghan Family</td>
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<td>Redwood Empire Food Bank</td>
<td>$672.22</td>
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<td>The Living Room</td>
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<td>Breakfast for Our Neighbors</td>
<td>$1195.85</td>
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*Thank you for your generous support!*
Evening Book Group

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

The March selection is:
A Man Called Ove
by Frederic Backman

Visitors and newcomers are welcome!

Upcoming
April: H is for Hawk, by Helen McDonald and
May: Lab Girl by Hope Jahren.

Faith And Fitness
Saturday, March 4
Pinnacle Gulch Loop
Saturday March 4, if weather permits we’ll do the Pinnacle Gulch loop originally scheduled for December. Our hike will start at the Pinnacle Gulch trail head parking. Just under 2 miles with a small bit of scrambling and climbing, mostly very easy and scenic. The tide will be quite low that day, so we’ll be able to tide pool a bit as well. Meet 9:30 at Fourth and Farmers Lane, or 10:15 at trail head parking, 20600 Mockingbird Road, Bodega Bay. No fee to park, dogs on leash permitted, bring snacks/lunch, water. Contact Gretchen P.

The UU Update
Our UUCSR Monthly Newsletter
Electronic Submissions preferred
Send to newsletter at the uusantarosa.org email domain

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.
If you have special formatting requests, please make note in your email.)

Questions? Call Editor Susan Williamson.

Gentle Reminder From UUCSR Library Committee:
Books are due back after 30 days
Return them any Sunday or to the office Mon—Fri, 10a-2p.

North Bay Organizing Project

UUCSR NBOP Core Team

The NBOP Tenant Protections Task Force and the Integrated Voter Engagement Team (IVE) are focusing their work on winning the “Fair and Affordable Santa Rosa” campaign to reinstate the Rent Stabilization and Just Cause Eviction Ordinance passed by the Santa Rosa City Council that was placed on hold pending the outcome of a ballot initiative in June this year.

IVE will coordinate the ground campaign with walks in 30 precincts. We will walk precincts every Saturday morning beginning March 4 and every Saturday and Sunday in the month of May. We need volunteers from UUCSR to help walk precincts, make calls, help with administrative work, and do data entry.

There will be a Campaign Kickoff on March 4. Our first walk will be that morning at 10:00 a.m., meeting at the NBOP offices at 2000 Humboldt Street. And there will be a party that evening at 7:00 at the Arlene Francis Center in Railroad Square. Justice work needs some fun, too!

March 11 will be a family walk. Kids are welcome to join the campaign and knock on doors with their parents.

The Education Justice Task Force is working on getting ethnic studies into the school curriculum; the Algebra Project to help improve math skills for those students who are struggling; and they are engaged with the work of creating Safe Haven Schools.

Transit Riders United (TRU) works to expand free bus passes for students kindergarten - college and for other transportation justice issues.

The NBOP Core Team meets monthly on first Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm in Room 545. NBOP Task Force meetings (Transit Riders United; Tenant Protections; & Education Justice) and the Integrated Voter Engagement group meet 2nd Mondays at 6:00 p. at the NBOP offices, 2000 Humboldt St., Santa Rosa.
**Musical Notes**

For both services on March 5, Natalie Brundred and Eric Skagerberg will be singing “Give A Little Whistle” from Pinocchio for the Prelude. Paul Gilger will be playing on the piano for them.

Natalie and Eric will be singing Hymn 184. “Be Ye Lamps unto Yourselves.” a capella for the special music as well, with Rev. Chris joining in on harmonium.

The choir will be singing for both services on March 12.

Roger Corman will be scheduling music for both services on March 19.

On March 26, the choir will be singing “Song of Community” by Carolyn McDade for both services. Here are some of the words:

“We'll weave a love that greens sure as spring, then deepens in summer to the fall autumn brings, resting still in winter to spiral again. Together my friends we'll weave on.”

*Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair*

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**UUCSR HAS HISTORIANS ...**

...And They Want 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 and Lee Lipinski.

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**OLD AGE IS (STILL) NOT FOR SISSIES**

Ongoing Group For Women 80 and Over

March 13 and 27

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 March 13 and March 27.

If you need transportation please call well ahead of the meeting date.

Phyllis Clement,
Dorris Lee, or
Shirley White
**From the Stewardship Team!**

**Spring is here.** That means the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. On Sunday, March 12, the clocks will “spring forward” an hour.

There’s a downside, of course. From Saturday night to Sunday morning you’ll lose an hour’s sleep. The early service that Sunday morning will seem awfully early. If you have to be there, this may make you grumpy. But as the day goes on, and in the days ahead, your feelings will change. You’ll really appreciate the extra hour of daylight each afternoon/evening. It’s definitely worth it.

**So…what better time is there to up your sustaining pledge?** OK, when your first bank statement with the increased amount comes in, you might momentarily say “Ouch!” But on further examination, you might reassess the long term value of this particular investment compared to some other items on that bank statement.

Maya Angelou said, “I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.” Over time, likely any initial misgivings will be superseded by the joy you feel from your greater commitment to your beloved community.

As the days stretch longer, a warm glow will spread from your head to your heart. You will look around at your friends in the congregation and without saying anything, you’ll just know that you’re supporting all their endeavors more generously. You’ll be transforming lives and building a better world (and boy do we need that right now) while discovering what is truly valuable in your own life.

The congregation will put your increased pledge dollars to good use. The 2017-2018 budget (which was first presented at the congregational meeting on February 12) calls for much-needed staff raises, more money for guest musicians, more support for members who wish to pursue the ministry, and more robust website development for greater community outreach. These goals and many others will bring more diversity to our ministry and programs and make us stronger advocates for social justice.

**If this congregation is a valuable resource in your life for community and for spiritual growth, please consider strengthening your stewardship by increasing your pledge of financial support.** In your personal budget, expenses go up a little each year. The same is true for the congregation, and those regular increases are reflected in the new budget. But each year we also try to reach a little higher to accomplish more and fulfill our mission more abundantly. If we join together we can do this and spread the message of love and hope wider in the world.

**If you have not increased your pledge recently, now’s a great time, as we finalize our budget.** It’s easy with our web tool and phone app. Do a double “spring forward” – your clock and your checkbook! You’ll feel doubly good about it. It’s definitely worth it!

*John Mason*

**Stewardship Team**

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**CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans) CRONE CEREMONY – March 19**

**Got wisdom? Got power?**

On Sunday March 19, CUUPs will celebrate the wisdom and power of some of the older women at UUCSR. Come and meet these special women and be part of this exciting ceremony!

Will these women become evil old witches?

NO! In ancient times “Crone” was a positive title. Older women were honored in special ceremonies to celebrate their wisdom and power. They were proclaimed “Crones.”

Cronings acknowledge and celebrate the richness and potential of the last third of a woman's life--the transition to Crone and Crone wisdom.

As we sometimes say in this ceremony: “Wisdom is a wise old woman and the value of wisdom is far above rubies; wisdom is a wise old woman and strength and honor are her clothing; wisdom is a wise old woman and her children rise up and call her blessed.”

If you are a woman over fifty and would like to be honored as a Crone, please let us in CUUPs know. We hope everyone will join us for this very special ceremony.

*Shirley Ranck*

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**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.