



The UU Update

JULY 2017 • Volume 61 • Issue 7

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

SUMMER SUNDAYS: JUNE 18 – AUGUST 27
ONE 10:00 AM SERVICE ONLY

JULY

this place of peace

JULY 2

STEP UP, STEP BACK
One 10:00 a.m. Service

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Veronica Jordan, Deborah Mason Music by: Claire Beery & The UUusual Suspects, Tessa McClary Share the Basket: The Ceres Community Project

"You who choose to lead must follow," we sang on June 18th as we bid farewell to our intern minister. **Today we'll consider more deeply the dynamics of leading and following,** in our own lives and in our community. We will remember and reaffirm that all **God's critters got a place in the choir, and we'll** commission our new UUCSR Board. Some news of the UUA General Assembly, where our first female president will have just been elected, might find its way into the service, too.

JULY 9

OVER THE HILL
One 10:00 a.m. Service

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas, Deborah Mason Music by: Roger Corman Share the Basket: Catholic Charities Immigration Services

On the occasion of Rev. Chris's 50th birthday, which he won't stop reminding everybody about, he and newly minted "senior citizen" Andrew Hidas will offer reflections on the challenges and blessings of aging and mortality through the image of getting up and over the hill.

JULY 16

STUCK IN A LOOP:
LIFE LESSONS FROM GROUNDHOG DAY
One 10:00 a.m. Service

Service Leaders: Roger Corman, Joe Gabaeff, Robert Howseman Music by: Robert Howseman and the UUusual Suspects Share the Basket: Center Point Drug Abuse with Alternative Care (DAAC)

Ever seem like you keep repeating the same day

over and over? Do the patterns of your life help and promote your life goals? Sometimes repetition is good, and sometimes it can make us feel trapped. The film and Broadway musical Groundhog Day explores themes which are universal: redemption, self-**improvement, achieving true love.** We'll discuss how the film affected our lives and continues to be a source of inspiration.

JULY 23

THE SONGS THAT SAVED US
One 10:00 a.m. Service

Service Leaders: Scott Miller, Susan Panttaja, Paul Gilger, and the UUCSR Music Coordinators Music by: The UUusual Suspects Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors

It's a nearly universal experience: At the darkest and most confusing times in our lives, there is a song that gets us through the night. A song that comforts. A song that helps us cry it out. A song that changes our perspective. A song that gets us out of a funk and into our dancing shoes again. Through words – and music – we will celebrate the songs that saved us.

JULY 30

GROWING UP PAUL SIMON
One 10:00 a.m. Service

Service Leaders: Music by: Robin Rogers and the UUusual Suspects Share the Basket: NDGW Children's Foundation

Paul Simon shines as an American musical treasure. Over the last 50+ years, his diverse musical inspirations and poetic lyrics have enchanted young and old (and some young into old). Join us in celebrating Paul's music and messages through the lens of musicians that love his art and the children of his generation that grew up nurtured by his wise, artistic spirit.

How Has UU Involvement Bettered Your Life?



In a recent board meeting I asked Trustees to think of a way that being a part of UUCSR had made their life better in the last 6 months. Had they learned something about the world, or about themselves? Had they received the blessing of kindness in the form of a hug, a call, a ride? Did worship open something up in them? Was there a hopeful or encouraging word that inspired them? Had they acted in some new way because of their values or their faith? How, in the simplest language, had UUCSR been good for them

The Board broke into pairs, and shared with partners. After I asked folks to share anything surprising they had discovered, or that they had in common with one another.

Silence. Gulp.

I could tell that this might not have been an easy question. I got a sense that it was somehow too personal. Was it too much like bragging to talk about how your life was improving? Was it spiritual matters are so private?

My worst fear, and the cause of a terrible moment of anxiety as I stared inquiringly at the **Board's unresponsive faces, was that no one had experienced anything good, and that UUCSR wasn't improving anyone's life!**

My sincerest prayer is we can all answer this question easily. The just reward of worshipping, learning, serving people in need, conversing and working for justice, is to become more content and fulfilled. There are hard parts about the spiritual path, our community is not exempt from conflict or disappointment, the struggle for justice can be agonizing, or deadly. But facing those challenges can bring remarkable growth and fulfillment.

Fortunately, back there at the Board meeting, a few began to open up at last, to my great relief.

One key takeaway was how grateful the leaders of this congregation are to serve within your strong web of support. Because of an overall climate of trust, flexibility and forgiveness, there is a freedom **to stretch one's wings, to try new things, to take on more authority, and to become more visible.** That empowering experience brought confidence and self-esteem. Life had been made better, for others, from the satisfaction of working together for a set of common values and justice priorities. They knew greater courage in the face of our screwy society through sharing the effort with others. Still another benefit was the simple sense of belonging that folks experience in loving community.

Of course, the benefits of religious community are not meant for leaders alone. Hardly. I want even one-time visitors to leave uplifted and changed from the good news in a sermon, or a friendly

handshake in coffee hour. No matter who we are or where we've come from, we can all get better acquainted with the Great Big Thing, and find well-being as a result. By this emphasis on happiness and positivity, I don't mean to discount the seriousness of the challenges facing human beings as individuals, nor those facing humanity as a whole. There is a lot at stake in the world right now. There always has been a lot at stake.

Our job in the midst of struggle is to show that people can find enlightenment, that we can build a better world, that serenity and liberation are real, and that love is a real and miraculous power. That there is always a place for music, celebration and laughter.

For me that's the essence of the UU Gospel, an old and powerful Greek word from the Bible that simply means "good news."

Through the centuries, many UUs have turned to the Christian Gospels to be inspired by the teaching and example of Rabbi Jesus and the healing, service, selflessness, faithfulness and tolerance of noisy children we find there. It is just a fact that nearly every Unitarian or Universalist until about 1900 considered themselves a Christian, including the Transcendentalists. Jewish and Christian scripture, liturgy, social action, mysticism and faith **run through our tradition's veins.** (Lots of other traditions and philosophies run through our veins, too, to be clear.) We know that our job is to share Good News. Yes, all kinds of harmful and troubling interpretations of the Gospels abound, but what I take from Jesus and his strange and often apocalyptic teachings is the very same Unitarian and Universalist theology that we proclaim today.

In a nutshell, and in my words, the good news is that there is a Universal Spirit of Life and Love that is available to everybody, even the nasty dirty **people we don't really like, or the lost and selfish souls who deliberately hurt others,** and that opening to that Spirit can change your life.

It's true, really! And, though I am more weird-Taoist-hybrid than Christian these days, I am profoundly grounded in that faith and am made happier and more hopeful for living it and sharing it in community.

Being a part of UUCSR makes my life better in so many ways. I am regularly called to reflect on my morals and ethics and beliefs. I get to meet a diverse group of interesting, wise and creative people and learn from them. I get to sing, loudly and off-key, **without shame. I get to see people's lives changed.** I pray for people, they pray for me. I get to share in a beautiful living body that does more good works and generates more love than I could ever dream of doing alone. And, listen, if you are NOT being made happier by UUCSR, please call me! But if you are made happier and your life is the **better for it, won't you share that good news with someone who needs it?**

Thanks for being you and sharing you with me. Love to one and all.

Reverend Chris Bell

The President's Column

As I begin my term as your next President, I've been reflecting on how I got here. When I joined the board last year, I was adamant about NOT being President. But...when I told my friend in Michigan (who knows me SO well), she stopped me cold. "Natalie. Let's tell the truth. You can't NOT do it." She was right, and here I am. And I'm very happy to be serving our congregation this way.

I've lived in Santa Rosa since early 2011, and I started coming to UUCSR almost right away. It's become my home, my community, sometimes my salvation. Here is where I am accepted, appreciated, allowed to be the flawed human being I am, welcomed. That's so rare, and I appreciate it every time I step through the doors. How can I not contribute every strength and talent I have to move our church forward in its mission?

This Board of Trustees is YOUR board.

If you have a question, a concern, a gripe, a "woo-hoo!", please know my door is open, my email box is at the ready, and I'm just a phone



call away. I welcome your input, because we are creating our congregation's future together.

The same goes for everyone on the board—we all welcome your input.

As the following Trustees complete their

terms on the board, please give your thanks to them: Linda Stabler, Marge Wright and Tom Bond for their many efforts and years of service in bettering our congregation.

And please welcome our new Trustees:

Sara Jones, Melinda Napier and Gretchen Paradis join the board. They will each bring their unique qualities and strengths to our work.

Stay tuned for lots more to come! I'm very excited to get to work.

*Natalie Brundred
President, UUCSR Board of Trustees*



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

Actions We Took in June's Congregational Meeting

A busy Congregational Meeting last month!

We approved a distribution from our Endowment

Fund of \$10,000 to remodel the women's restroom countertops and sinks. This is something people have been clamoring for (literally) since we moved into the building!

We approved our next budget (July-June). **We're in very good fiscal shape**, thanks to our Treasurer and FineCom (Financial Committee, formerly known as FineStew).

We elected Carol Kraemer, Susan Panttaja, Natalie Brundred, Roger DeBeers, Peter Wilson, Paul Marking and Anna Ulrich to be our delegates at General Assembly.

We also elected Barrie Noe and Joe Como to the Nominating Committee.

We acknowledged Linda Balabanian for her 4 years

of tremendous contributions as our Treasurer, and Bill Haigwood for his year of service as our board President. We also acknowledged Jenny Harriman for her many years of service as chair of our Music Committee and Mary Louise Jaffray for all the administrative work she does. In addition, we acknowledged Millie Phillips for all she has done as our Intern Minister.

Our Congregational Meetings for the upcoming year will be on October 1, 2017, and February 11 and June 10, 2018.

Mark your calendars now! We vote on important things at every one. We need you!

Submitted by Natalie Brundred

UU Update is UUCSR's Monthly Newsletter. Last day to submit e-copy for following month is by noon on the Monday after the 3rd Sunday. Paper copy must be delivered by noon 3rd Sunday to newsletter inbox in church office. *E-Submissions preferred.* Send to newsletter@uusantarosa.org w/topic and month in email subject line. 350+ words? Full page inserts? Recommend submit week prior to deadline. Prefer copy single spaced, 10 pt font. Questions? Call Ed. S. Williamson.

TREASURER'S MONTHLY LEDGER

Our new fiscal year, 2017-18, begins with a changing of the guard to a new and "green-around-the-ears Treasurer."

At the June 11th Congregational meeting, a new "balanced" budget was passed and our new year will begin in a few weeks. We'll be closing out last year's books in July. With 11 months under our belt, UUCSR finances are looking very healthy. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, our net income as of the end of May shows a surplus of approximately \$23,000. This is the direct result of taking in more revenue than anticipated and expending less than forecast.

If you haven't done so, please consider making your pledge payments automatic from your bank to the UU, as running the UU household budget is easier on Janis Brewster, our administrator and Fine-Com. Without fail bills need to be paid and a steady continuous flow of funds makes life easier on everyone associated with UU Finances.

Making an Auto-Payment is very simple — just go our website at www.uusantarosa.org and click on the "Donate Now" button to set-up auto-pay.

I can't stress enough how indebted to Linda Balabanian our Congregation is. She has worked tirelessly over the last four years, has streamlined many of our financial processes, and ***provided wise counsel to the Board. We'll miss her humor and level-headedness. Knowing Linda, I suspect she'll assert her opinions and I plan to lean on her for the time being - so, Linda no travel for awhile, right?***

Michael Randolph, Treasurer

"Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need."

- Khalil Gibran

GOT SANCTUARY?

By Millie Phillips

(from M.P. Report to UUCSR Congregational Mtg 6/4/17)

Earlier this year the City of Santa Rosa adopted an "indivisible city" policy roughly the equivalent of declaring a sanctuary city where agencies will not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) ...

After that, our board began to look at the issue of becoming a sanctuary congregation for immigrants facing deportation. Several UU congregations have directly sheltered immigrants, Denver CO UU being one covered prominently in the news.

Becoming a sanctuary congregation raises many issues, such as legal and liability implications, are there appropriate facilities in our congregations, do the congregations have volunteers who speak the **immigrant's language if not fluent in English ...**

That churches have been considered sanctuaries from arrest is not law, but a typically honored tradition that could be overturned.

The UUA has many resources on sanctuary and immigration: <http://www.uua.org/immigration>

Our UU Justice Ministry of California also offers many immigration rights resources and a committee devoted to this work. See <http://uujmca.org/>

Two key points that most resonate for me are:

1) Sanctuary means many different things, not just directly using our buildings to harbor immigrants facing deportation. It can also mean creating a

community spirit of sanctuary for immigrants and others under attack, which could look like working for local sanctuary policies, providing rights training, accompanying people to hearings, being a witness during raids and legal proceedings, attending protests, and directly aiding affected families.

2) Whatever we do must meet actual needs expressed by the communities we are attempting to support, not our assumptions about what they need. That means we must work in partnership with organizations that are already working on the issues and are based in the affected communities.

Rev. Chris has been attending a series of meetings that include NBOP, immigrant rights groups, and other Sonoma County congregations. What we've been told is needed most is a local rapid response network, which is in the process of being organized; and other forms of assistance such as accompanying immigrants to proceedings; as well as continuing our advocacy for immigrant rights via protesting and lobbying.

We will be following the collective lead of these discussions and keeping UUCSR informed of whatever actions others would like us to take. Meanwhile, Rev. Chris, the Board, and UUCSR activists continue to learn about the legal issues and facility needs related to literal building sanctuary and keep the congregation informed about what we would need to do to actually provide that, should we be called upon to do so and agree to accept that call.

[Got Sanctuary? continued on page 6]

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

SUMMER R.E. SCHEDULE
JUNE 18—AUGUST 27

Children's RE Classes held at 10:00 am

Childcare for babies & toddlers available at 10:00 during Summer

UU YOUTH GROUP

Grades 8 to 12 Meets Thursdays 4-6 pm

See below left for more info

Last month saw the completion of another session of The Art of UU Parenting with seven UU families participating. One of the primary reasons people come to UU communities is to be part of a community. Over the years that I have led this group I have seen a close community develop among the families who participate.

Parenting is not an easy road. One of the most love-filled and creative things we humans do, it is also most challenging. It has been a blessing to witness the **parents' devotion to instilling our faith in family life, and** a privilege to facilitate a group that has grown into a trusting support system for one another. This year the families in the group held on to one another through the process of losing a beloved grandfather, the birth of a

new baby, the welcomed miracle of a new pregnancy, a life-changing personal crisis and the blending of a family through marriage. The joys and sorrows of family life were fully present within the group -**each member's** openness created shared experience of love and support.

The Art of UU Parenting will be held again in the fall and the group will be open to new members. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month for three months. We break bread together at 5:30 and then from 6 to 7:30 the parents go to the group meeting and the children are cared for by two members of the Youth Group. Calendars fill up fast, so please keep this group in mind when the summer comes to an end.

In faith, Deborah

Here's What's Happening In RE Classes this Month:

Youth Group will go on summer hiatus beginning June 22nd. The group will reconvene on August 17th. Deborah Mason, Danny Millspaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah for more information.

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 10:00 service. Children begin in the sanctuary for a story for all ages, and then go to RE class. During the summer months

all children from grade K through 6 learn and play together. Each session has a theme, a story and an activity, usually games or an art project. We keep the summer program simple and fun.

Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers is lovingly provided by Natalie Hernandez and Emily Payne.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7/2/17 | <p><i>Theme: Kindness</i> <i>Story: A Town Called Driftwood</i> <i>Activity: Sand Paintings</i></p> |
| 7/9/17 | <p><i>Theme: Solving Problems</i> <i>Story: The President Who Got Fed Up</i> <i>Activity: Tower Building with Marshmallows and Spaghetti</i></p> |
| 7/16/17 | <p><i>Theme: Courage</i> <i>Story: Brave Raven</i> Activity: Smaug's Treasure (game)</p> |
| 7/23/17 | <p><i>Theme: Freedom</i> <i>Story: The (H)Edge of the World</i> <i>Cooperative Game - Three Things</i></p> |
| 7/30/17 | <p><i>Theme: Righting and Wrongs</i> <i>Story: Stolen Hearts</i> <i>Activity: Decorating cupcakes</i></p> |

Adult Religious Education

Guided by UU Principles, Rooted in Sources of Unitarian Universalism, and the Vision and Mission of Our Congregation, the Adult RE Team strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth

by offering classes, activities, programs, training of facilitators and coordination of other UUCSR activities. Members of the ARE Committee: Rev. Chris Bell, Nadene Carroll, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, Helga Lemke (Chair), and John Speck.

Seniors in Transition Thursdays 1-3, August 17–October 5

It's human nature to put off or ignore life's difficult decisions and the challenges of aging may intimidate us.

To help prepare for the important transitions that aging demands of us, Adult RE sponsors an eight-week program presented by the Seniors in Transition program.

This class starts August 17, and runs Thursday afternoons through October 5. Explore in a supportive environment independent living options and alternatives when living on your own is neither safe nor desirable.

Topics covered will be participants' current status, hopes and dreams regarding independent living, stereotypes of aging, in-home care, alternative living

situations and downsizing. Presenters discuss personal knowledge of local senior communities, arrange site visits, and discuss how to share your plan with friends and family.

The lead facilitator is Ms. India Geibel, a former nurse, nursing instructor at Boise State University, and past Santa Rosa resident who has returned after her retirement. She will be assisted from time to time by another facilitator, John Morris.

John has a passion for working with seniors and cared for his mother-in-law during her final years w/ Alzheimers. Today John is a private caregiver for several local clients in addition to working with the Seniors in Transition program.

Dates: August 17, 24, 31; September 7, 14, 21, 28; and October 5
Time: 1:00-3:00pm Fee: \$25.00
Registration: Register at uusantarosa.org. Class limited to 14.

DESK ANGELS WANTED!

We need 2 volunteers to cover Monday mornings 9:30 am-1:00 pm until Oct. 30. (*Brownie Pts Given*) Contact Bertha Jean @church office

Circle Dinner Attendees Forget Membership

Fall 2017 Organizers
Require All New Sign-Ups!
"Everyone Who Wants To Participate Again Needs To Sign Up Again," members told. Word is some people forgot they signed up for Circle Dinners. This created problems for the group- formers. EVERYONE is asked to sign up again if you want to participate in **this Fall's Circle Dinners.** Signups after the service outside the sanctuary on Sunday, August 6 and 13. Circle Dinners are a wonderful way to meet new people and eat good food. Wayne & Sharon Smith.

Got Sanctuary? [cont. from p 4.]

It is not an immediate need at this time, though, of course, that could change.

One immediate thing we can do is to help build the rapid response network by attending legal observer trainings. One was held by NBOP at UUCSR on Saturday June 21. [Ed. We expect more Legal Observer Trainings will be offered in the future.]

Rapid Response Network: Witness, Accompany and Advocate / Legal Observer Training through the North Bay Organizing Project.

We are working to create a way for people to respond to fear and anxiety in our community as a result of the increase in immigration enforcement, ICE raids and other attacks against our communities.

Teams are building across Sonoma County in order to form a rapid response network that responds to calls made to a Sonoma County-based hotline that will operate 24-hours a day. We need to build teams of people in each and every part of Sonoma County who can respond day and night (many ICE raids take place in the dark early morning hours). Questions? Susan Shaw at sshaw@northbayop.org or 707-481-2970.

Training will be conducted by team members from the San Francisco-based *Immigrant Liberation Movement*. There will be translation in Spanish. http://nbop.nationbuilder.com/legal_observer_training

REPORTS ARE IN: OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

Group For Women 80 and above
JULY 10 & 24, 10:30 a.m.
in UUCSR Board Room

Old Age is Not for Sissies, report 80 and over congregants. Octogenarian women at UUCSR form group for fellow (female) travelers of the Octogenarian and Nonogenarian stripe.

Are you one of them? Meet in the Board Room 10:30 a.m. every second and fourth Monday morning. Coffee service starts at 10:00 a.m. Secret Handshake not required, but a plus.

Need transportation? Please call well ahead of meeting date.

Questions? Call:

Phyllis Clement
Dorris Lee
Shirley White

A4SJ

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.

Share the Offering

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

July 2: The Ceres Community Project supports individuals dealing with serious illness with free delivered meals, nutrition education, and a community of caring.

July 9: Catholic Charities Immigration Services provides services by five staff who accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals. They help with family reunification, undocumented childhood arrivals who need work permits, help to obtain immigration status for victims of violence, and conduct citizenship classes.

July 16: Center Point Drug Abuse with Alternative Care (DAAC) offers a wide range of treatment programs and services at more than 15 locations throughout Sonoma County including: Residential, Outpatient, School-based, Methadone, Perinatal, and HIV/ Hepatitis C Health Services.

July 23: Breakfast For Our Neighbors, our own Saturday Breakfast provides nutritious meals in a friendly atmosphere for our needy neighbors. It is supported by volunteer efforts and financial generosity of our members and others.

July 30: NDGW Children's Foundation provides medical services and camps for children with special needs such as cancer patients, the blind, and those with diabetes and hearing loss.

August 6: The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Sonoma County provides education, support and advocacy for all people affected by mental health challenges. NAMI Sonoma County collaborates with community partners to increase public and professional awareness of mental health challenges and eliminate stigma.



HOT TOPIC

HOT TOPIC

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 2017 — JUNE 2018
 12:45 pm in the Board Room

There will be no Hot Topic in July!

We start up again August 13 with a Hot Topic about The Women's Recovery Services.

ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM PROJECT

RESULTS OF THE ADVOCATES-FOR-SOCIAL- JUSTICE FILM PROJECT SURVEY IN!

The Film Project Advocates thank all for their responses to requests for input as the Project Advocates pick a theme and plan next year's films.

The results from the 90 surveys received:

- # 1 PICK: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- TIED FOR 2ND: ECONOMIC JUSTICE/ECONOMIC DISPARITY IMMIGRATION/REFUGEES

The Film Project Advocates realize there are easy linkages between these domains and will look for ways to note those as they choose films. The Advocates are working over the summer to preview and select films and hope to have much of the year's program ready to publish in the August newsletter. They intend to continue to present films on the 4th Sunday of each month, beginning in September, unless there is good reason to adjust that timing. That schedule will also appear in the August newsletter.

Thanks once again, for your interest and support of this project. Jeanie Bates, for the Advocates for Social Justice Film Project

PRINCIPIOS EN ESPAÑOL DE UNITARIOS UNIVERSALISTAS

- Nosotros, las congregaciones miembros de la Asociación Unitaria Universalista, convenimos en afirmar y fomentar:
- El valor y la dignidad propia de cada persona;
- La justicia, equidad y compasión en las relaciones humanas;
- La aceptación del uno al otro y el estímulo al crecimiento espiritual en nuestras congregaciones;
- Una búsqueda libre y responsable por la verdad y el sentido;
- El derecho de la conciencia y el uso del proceso democrático dentro de nuestras congregaciones y en la sociedad en general;

[continua a p. 10]

Caring Connection Serves UUCSR Mission

Our UUCSR Mission 3 : Caring For One Another

The Caring Connection Committee helps fellow members who are recovering from surgery, may be in the hospital, need meals, transportation or would like phone calls to connect them w/ our community.

Interested in volunteering? Do you love to cook? Love to talk on the phone? Like to drive? Make deliveries? How much time are you able to give to this great cause of caring for each other?

Stop by the Caring Connections table on Sunday to sign a card. Let us know how you would like to volunteer. Feel self-conscious and want training to know what to say and how to approach elders or vulnerable members? Talk to us. Let us know your ideas, questions, or concerns. Call Gail Alford at 843-4466 to make arrangements to volunteer or let us know of a member that has a need for a caring connection.

Please ask at the office for telephone list of members who would like calls or visits.

“The New Men's Meeting” Continues to Dine Through it's 8th Summer

The New Men's Meeting that has been gathering together at the UUCSR every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM for the past eight years is continuing their summer tradition of gathering for dinner at a local restaurant twice a month in the months of June, July and August. Our first dinner meeting was June 14th a Legends on the terrace. Our next dinner meeting is a BBQ on June 28th at the home of one of our long time members.

The New Men's Meeting is always open to any man looking for a Men's Group.

LAMMAS BREAD FESTIVAL AT UUCSR

JULY 30 after 10: am SERVICE

CUUPs dedicates this year's Lammas to celebrate the life of Mel Jones, our departed Pagan, Master Baker, 1st to celebrate Lammas at UUCSR.

Celebrate the first loaf of bread from the grain of the harvest cycle with the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) on Sunday July 30th after the one 10 am service. CUUPS will have various breads for you to enjoy in the Social Hall. If you would like to bring your own favorite bread to share that would be a further blessing: cuups@uusantarosa.org or call Lucia Kasulis. - *Blessed Be*

With our modern year-round abundance some may forget the importance of a plentiful harvest. In ancient times if you ran out of grain before the time of Lammas or Lughnasadh, your family could starve.

Lammas begins traditionally around August 1, marking the end of the hay harvest, begun at Midsummer, which then heralds the beginning of the wheat harvest. The first bread made from this harvest celebrated the Summer's plenty and gave thanks to the Earth's bounty for another year. Lammas is an Anglo-Saxon word that comes from 'loaf' or 'half mass', and exemplifies the importance of the first grain and first loaf of the harvest cycle. Lammas also honors the goddess as Grain Mother, bearer of the sustainer of life. That same grain being a seed is also the source of new life after the death of the grain stalk and harvest of its seeds.

Death and rebirth, the harvest of the mature grain for flour or replanting for next year, remind of us of our own mortality and also acknowledge the immortality of all organic life. We wither and die, compost into the soil, and feed new life. Life in all forms changes into soil or heat. Continues the circle...

TIE Groups Start in October

We are looking for TIE group leaders.

Keep an eye out for further notices

Pagans Gather at UU Glaser Center

Most 4th Thursdays

CUUPs (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) meets monthly normally on the 4th Tuesdays, at 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. We plan out our celebrations and share ideas for spreading Earth-Centered spirituality within our Congregation. We have great plans for the rest of 2017!

Confirm with events calendar or email us at cuups@uusantarosa.org

July's meeting will be the 25th-come join us. Blessed Be!

CUUPs DRUM CIRCLE

2nd FRIDAYS, 7-9 pm

Join us second Friday nights and feel Mother Earth's heartbeat. She heals what is injured in our souls.

2017 drumming dates

July 14, Aug 11, Sept 8, Oct tba, Nov 10, & Dec 8. Check out [sonocodrumz](https://www.google.com/groups) in Google Groups. Contact Lucia at cuups@uusantarosa.org.



Share-The-Basket

It's our practice to split our Weekly offering contributions.

Our social action committee, called Advocates for Social Justice, selects a program to receive a special donation from our Congregation.

MAY RECIPIENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Habitat for Humanity | \$430.59 |
| Harold's Home | \$453.62 |
| Verity | \$763.89 |
| Breakfast for our Neighbors | \$458.05 |

Thanks 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

**Faith And Fitness
2 JULY EVENTS!**

Annadel State Park Hike
Saturday, July 15

&

Spring Lake Potluck
Saturday July 29

Our July hike in Annadel Park on Saturday July 15 gets an early start 9:00 am at the Fourth and Farmers Lane carpool location (Safeway Parking Lot near the Redwood Credit Union office). Hike starting at 9:30 at the Park Trail Drive trail head.

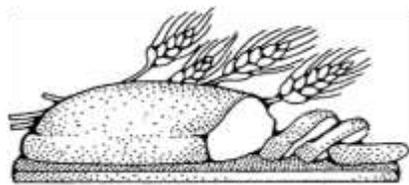
We'll be heading up Canyon trail and beyond to Henry's Knob, a lesser known destination in Annadel, a good challenge at around 5 miles total, with a great view at the top.

Bring food & water, sorry NO dogs.

Don't Miss Our Annual Potluck

Picnic on Saturday July 29 picnic at Spring Lake, 3:00 pm at upper Jack Rabbit group picnic area.

Bring side dishes, desserts, we'll be grilling hamburgers. This is for everyone who loves the out of doors, no hiking required. Dogs welcome. Sign up with Gretchen P.



www.europe-travel-guides.com/2017/05/bread-colouring-page/

SUNDAY SOCIAL-HOUR FRIENDS!

Cori reports that we would love more donations for Sunday Social Hour. Bring whatever you like - cookies or more healthy choices like veggies, cheeses, etc.

Many Thanks, The Social Hour Crew

Evening Book Group

Thursdays at 7 pm

~ *On Vacation Until September!* ~

The Evening Book Group is on vacation for July and August. Meetings will begin again in September. We have selected the 2017-2018 books! We welcome new members as well as visitors. Please join us if any of the following selections interest to you:

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Sep. 14 | <i>Homegoing</i> | Yaa Gyasi |
| Oct. 12 | <i>Strangers in their Own Land</i> | Arlie Russell Hochschild |
| Nov. 9 | <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> | John Steinbeck |
| Dec. 14 | <i>News of the World</i> | Paulette Jiles |
| Jan. 11 | <i>Bartleby the Scrivener</i> | Herman Melville |
| Feb. 8 | <i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i> | Amor Towles |
| Mar. 8 | <i>Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of America's First Poet Laureate</i> | Aletta George |
| Apr. 12 | <i>Destiny of the Republic</i> | Candace Millard |
| May 12 | <i>The Heart</i> | Maylis De Kerangal |
| Jun. 14 | Potluck to select books for next year | |



**ALL UU Summer Camp
at Enchanted Hills, Napa
September 1-4 2017**

Labor Day weekend, with an option to stay for a 3rd night!

*Parents, some childcare will be provided!**

People, can't you almost feel it? That crisp morning air when you walk out a cabin door. **And can't you almost smell it?** That earthy, redwood scent as you hike through the duff on one of the many trails at Enchanted Hills.

Come and enjoy the Summer Retreat! Check out a workshop. Groove to the campfire sing along. Participate in the amazing Variety Show, or just sit back and enjoy! Or work on your backstroke in the pool. You don't want to miss this chance to hang with your UU family!

Registration begins July 30 and goes through Aug. 20 during coffee hour (after 10:00 am service) in the Green Room. You can fill out the registration form included in this newsletter and bring it to the sign-up table or else mail it in, along with your check, to the UUCSR office. Aug. 20 is the registration deadline.

**Megan Foote and Sofie Parrish, two of Deborah Mason's wonderful helpers from RE, will be available at certain times during the weekend so Parents can relax, enjoy a workshop, or just have some adult fun!*

Mark your calendar for our exciting annual auction event:

"CLUB N'AWLINS" on Saturday, Nov. 4th!

Look for expanded offerings to fit any budget!

You won't want to miss sharing this fun evening with fellow UUs! Featuring a four-course dinner, prizes, music, and camaraderie, the auction helps us reach our budget goals. Dinner will again be prepared by Marilyn Holmes who garnered raves for her menu last year.

This year's event will include offerings to fit any budget, including opportunities to sign up for some fabulous events at a fixed low price, request a scholarship to reduce or waive the entrance fee, or get free pass in exchange for helping at the event or after services during October.

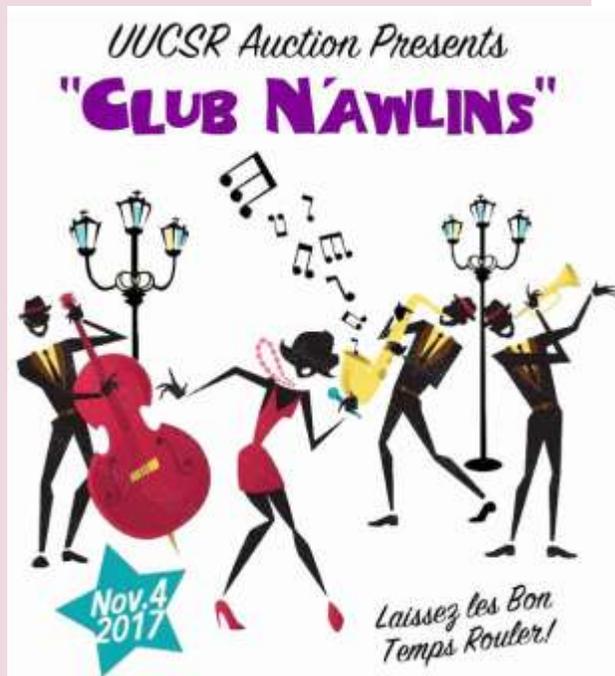
Email Dee Ray at [auction at uusantarosa.org](mailto:deeray@uusantarosa.org)

What can you share this year?

The auction's success depends on the array of items and activities we all donate. You can create an offer that shares your talent or service, but UUs also love opportunities for fellowship and fun! (And it doesn't have to cost a lot of time or money!)

Here are some ideas to inspire you:

- Serve a chili supper to enjoy with a game or movie.
- Host a sing-along with pizza and beer.
- Offer a Christmas cookie-baking party.
- Plan a Super Bowl- or Oscar-watching party
- Organize a walk and a picnic in Armstrong Woods or a Russian River beach party.
- Host a visit to Hallberg Butterfly Gardens or the Russian River Rose Company.



Musical Notes

Lots of varied and interesting music this month ...as always!

Kicking things off on July 2 will be a quartet (along with fiddle, penny whistle and trombone) serving up the rousing *A Place in the Choir*. July 16 will feature our own home-grown and congregational favorite, *The Great Big Thing*.

Add to that the *Bookends* theme from Simon and Garfunkle and tentatively *Bridge Over Troubled*

Water plus another UUCSR original, *A Simple Man*. The Music Coordinators are going all-out on the 23rd, with a mostly music service. This will be among the most varied musical experiences the congregation has ever, well ... er, experienced. From *You'll Never Walk Alone* to *I Can See Clearly* and just about every genre in between, all the music will reflect the theme, Songs That Saved Me.

And finally, the month will wrap up on the 30th with the music of **Paul Simon. Can't hardly go wrong** with that.



[Principios de Unitarios Universalistas, cont. d p. 7]

La meta de una comunidad mundial con paz, libertad y justicia para todos;

El respeto por el tejido interdependiente de todo lo existente, del cual somos una parte.

La tradición viva que compartimos proviene de muchas fuentes:

La experiencia directa de aquel misterio y maravilla afirmada en todas las culturas, que nos lleva a una renovación del espíritu y a una apertura a las fuerzas que crean y sostienen la vida;

Las palabras y escrituras de mujeres y hombres con visión profética que nos desafían a enfrentar las po-

deres y estructuras del mal con justicia, compasión y el poder transformador del amor;

La sabiduría de las religiones del mundo que nos inspiran en nuestra vida ética y espiritual;

Las enseñanzas judías y cristianas que nos llaman a responder al amor de Dios, amando a nuestros vecinos como a nosotros mismos;

Las enseñanzas humanistas que nos aconsejan a oír la guía de la razón y los resultados científicos y que nos advierten contra las idolatrías de la mente y del espíritu. Las enseñanzas espirituales de tradiciones tierra-centradas, las cuales celebran el sagrado círculo de la vida y nos enseñan a vivir en armonía con los ritmos de la naturaleza.

“Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness.”

– Dalai Lama XIV

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

It’s been three years since our last pledge drive. In that three years our budgeted annual pledges have increased 7.5% while expenses have increased 12%. Clearly, this is not a sustainable giving situation. Especially for a congregation with dreams and hearts as large as ours.

One of the things we had learned about the cycle of pledge drives was that the result of a low-cost **budget is that the congregation’s hopes and dreams go unfulfilled.** For example, adding a paid position to help us identify and coordinate the efforts of our many dedicated volunteers, installing a solar panel system on our roof and completing the necessary improvements to be able to fully utilize our upstairs for meeting rooms and rentals have all been on our wish list for years. An item on my personal wish list is to move toward giving away 100% of our offering each Sunday. Maintaining the status quo will not get us there.

As we grow and deepen our commitment to each other and our mission, we will need to add staff positions, like an Assistant Minister and a Communications Coordinator, who would be responsible for updating and enhancing our website, coordinating communications within the congregation, improving our outreach to the external community and much more. As we grow, we need to ensure that we are both attracting our kindred spirits

who have not found us yet and keeping track of each other. This position would enable that in a way that volunteers can no longer manage. We will need to make more building upgrades to expand our ability to house our vital and exciting programs, and take **care of aging facilities. The lion’s share of these costs must be paid for by pledges from our members and friends.**

Rev Chris has suggested to us on several occasions that if we all made pledges that were 5-10% of our **incomes we’d have funds for these necessities as well** as new programs to support to our larger community and NBOP. We would be able to act on opportunities for more community building within our congregation and greater outreach. Rather than talking about how **much we need to just get by, let’s talk about the** place our congregation holds in our hearts and how much it is worth to us.

I pledge over 10% of my income to this congregation because it has been my home for more than 30 years. I care deeply for the many friends I have **made here and I’m grateful for the love and appreciation** (and the challenge!) that has been heaped upon me during my term as Treasurer. I continue to strive to become the person I wish to be, to be open to the world and all its varied inhabitants and that struggle has made a huge difference in my life. I have faith when I give to my congregation and increase my pledge each year, that my generosity creates a force of love in the world that returns to me exponentially. In all these years, I have never been disappointed and expect I never will be.

Linda Balabanian,
for the Stewardship Team

IN MEMORIAM

The Family of Don Ford Invites Fellow UUs and Friends
To a Celebration of His Life.

Come Join Us at 2 PM on JULY 4, 2017
In the sanctuary, with Rev. Chris Bell and Rev. Eric Meter
and Don Ford’s family, officiating.

Reception to follow. July 4th would have been Don’s 95th birthday.

To Honor UUSR Member Lois Glavins Gilbert,
Who Died March 7th 2017, Please Join The Gilbert family To
Celebrate Her Life on Saturday, August 12th,
from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the UUCB in Berkeley
Lois was a longtime member at UUCB for 15+ years.
UUCB is located at 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Carpooling en-
couraged. For more information,
please contact Lois’s stepdaughter Susan Gilbert.
Thanks and hope you can join us to celebrate Lois’s life.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/375980268865002943/>