



The UU Update

SEPTEMBER 2017 • Volume 61 • Issue 9
Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

FALL SUNDAYS: SEPT 10 ONWARD
TWO SERVICES 9:15 am AND 11:00 am

September

Beauty

September 3

BEAUTY: THE DOORWAY TO THE DIVINE
One Service at 10:00 am

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer, Deb Mason Music by: Alan Bell & The UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman Share the Basket: The Living Room

"We are made immortal," Emerson wrote, **"by the contemplation of beauty."** In the midst of political strife and environmental degradation, awareness of beauty and its relationship to truth and goodness can be a powerful spiritual lodestone. What makes beauty? Strictly a matter of personal preference? **And what's God got to do with it?**

September 10

INGATHERING

BACK TO TWO SERVICES!

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

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Cathy Read, Deb Mason Music by: Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Southeast Greenway Campaign

New school year, new church year, new everything year! Today we return to two services and kick off the new year of the Children's Program at 9:15, and celebrate the beauty of living in intentional, spiritual, loving community.

A great congregation is like a great piece of art, with a lively tension between order and chaos, between symmetry and novelty, between a recognizable style and a fully unique expression.

Let's all try to be there, and bring some friends!

September 17

BEAUTY AND TRANSFORMATION:

The Work of Rev. Rebecca Parker

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

Service Leaders: Becky Leyser, Susan Panttaja, Deb Mason Music by: Robin Rogers & The UUsual Suspects, Paul Gilger Share the Basket: Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

In the book, *Saving Paradise*, authors Rebecca Parker and Rita Nakashima Brock talk about the

power of beauty to be a transformational aid. In this time of chaos and broken dialogue is there a way that we could use beauty as a connecting point?

Becky Leyser (Starr King School for the Ministry, 2016) just completed a yearlong chaplaincy residency at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco. St. Francis sits at the crossroads of Nob Hill, the richest part of the City, and the Tenderloin, the poorest. Adventures at the hospital informed this notion of beauty that started in seminary.

September 24

THE HEAVENLY BEAUTY OF POETRY

Two Services 9:15 am & 11:00 am

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller, Deb Mason Music by: Sadie Sonntag and the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Breakfast for our Neighbors

"Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world," said Shelley. In strange and dark times, the calling of poetry to speak truth and celebrate the universal in the particular is needed more than ever.

This service celebrates the radical power of poetry by focusing on Native American poet (and feminist saxophonist) Joy Harjo, and the English poet (and Jesuit priest) Gerard Manley Hopkins.

October 1

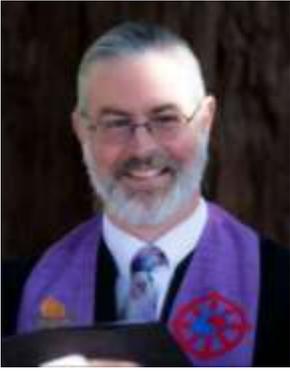
ON BEING WELCOMING

One Service at 9:15 am

Congregational Meeting at 11:00 am

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty, Dee Ray, Deb Mason Music by: Susan Panttaja & The UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Listening for a Change

... A healthy congregation is a little like a hospital and a hostel. So is a healthy nation. Being truly welcoming is no easy task; it takes courage and self-awareness and deep faith. Dee Ray will offer a **guest reflection ...** Only one service, with a congregational meeting at 11:00. Come and learn all the exciting things that are happening at UUCSR beyond Sunday morning.



HELLO UUCSR!

Hello, Everyone! If you want to hear some preaching, which is how I usually use this **space, you'll just have to come to church on Sunday** because all kinds of new things are unfolding at UUCSR and I just need to draw your attention to **them. Let's jump right in!**

The biggest shift that our congregation is facing, as you may have already heard, is that our Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason, will retire in January. Deb has been with us **for 10 years, nearly as long as I have. I'll gush more about her in the future since we've got her for a few more months, but for now I'll just say that she has been an invaluable partner to me in my ministry here, and in the creation of loving and transformative community at UUCSR, as well as a true friend. I reckon we'll have a big party sometime near the end of her tenure, and please mark December 3rd on your calendar for a special R.E. service. With Deb's assistance we can use this imminent staff change as an opportunity to evaluate and invigorate our fine religious education program. A hiring committee will form soon, we'll choose a new DRE in November or December, and provide them with a couple weeks of overlap with Deborah so they can be trained in our system.**

A more immediate change is the return to two services at 9:15 and 11:00 on September 10th, with **our annual Ingathering services. The Children's Religious Education Program kicks off during the 9:15 service. Ingathering is a great time to establish new family habits, so please start building regular attendance at R.E. into your schedule. The more our children attend, the stronger their friendships with others here become, and the more our teaching of love, reason and justice sinks in. If you don't have children, please volunteer to teach! It seems that our generation won't exactly be handing off a perfect world to the next ones, so humanity will need as many open-minded, loving-hearted helping hands as we can generate. I hope each of us will invite our friends and children, and *their* friends and children, to join us on this UU path.**

This year the Board named the goal of **improving our engagement with "new people," (such as visitors, and the freshly joined)** as our collective top priority. In these difficult and threatening times, many are seeking a haven from the distress, and a way to get engaged with like-minded folks. We want to spread the good news of the way we live as UUs, and make sure that those who hear it are warmly welcomed and integrated into our fellow-

ship. The main goal is to create a good mentoring program for new folks, but we all have our part to play in this. Please consistently greet and get to know anyone who looks unfamiliar to you.

To help ensure that we are a truly welcoming congregation, the Diversity Task Force has been revived. With Nazis in the streets (did I just write that?), it is more important than ever to create safe space for people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities and class. Often those of us who **sit on top of society's structure of privilege can unwittingly reflect that in a way that discourages people who are part of marginalized groups from joining us. Look for our first, and very fun, training on October 15th.**

Not that we will ignore the long-time members! **To make sure that that doesn't happen, particularly when elders are unable to get to services on Sunday because of a hospital stay or being homebound, a new team of Lay Chaplains will be formed and ordained as official UUCSR pastoral care-givers under my supervision. I am still accepting applications if you are interested in serving in this way. Of course, just as each of us is a greeter on Sunday, each of us can provide loving care to other members. Reach out.**

Most of you have noticed that we use monthly themes to help give shape to our worship services. These themes are also integrated with our small group ministry program, Together in Exploration. **This year, we'll be taking advantage of a program called *Touchstones*, which is produced by a team of UU ministers in Colorado. They will provide us with small group discussion guides, suggestions for children's engagement with the topic, a monthly reader with quotes and meditations, online resources and more. It is my hope that by being engaged in the same conversation together, our spiritual growth and depth will be magnified. This month's theme is Beauty, which I think we could all use a little more of in our lives, given the ugliness that is around us in the news.**

As to the news, all I can say is: Fear not. Sing. Take the long view. Hold to the good and the true. Join with others. Resist.

Finally, if you are chewing on a personal or moral issue, facing a life transition, want to know how to pray or meditate, or are trying to just figure out quantum mechanics like the rest of us, my ears **and mind are at your disposal. Plus, I've got lots of books to lend. Gimme a call, please!**

That's it for now. See you on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Remember the power of love and don't ever lose hope.

Reverend Chris Bell

The President's Column

Courage to Love

We've got a *great* board this year!

At our Board Retreat, we took a day and a half to get to know each other (and get some planning done). What I discovered was how well one **person's strengths complement other people's** challenges. Gretchen Vap is brilliant at seeing the big picture, while Sara Jones is amazing at all those pesky details. Melinda Napier has strong opinions and says what she means. Gretchen Paradis may be quiet, but she is so wise. John Jaffray is open-minded, yet tends to think contrary to the norm. And Michael Randolph is analytical and pragmatic, but boy, does he have a wicked sense of humor! Rev. Chris can see the *loooong* view and knows so much about our past, and brings spirituality and being a part of something bigger to everything. I see big picture and detail, allow people to be just how they are, and was totally willing to give over my having to control everything.

Individually, each of us is strong. Together, **we're going to be a force to be reckoned with.** I predict a very good year!

While at our Board Retreat, the incident in Charlottesville happened. Between what happened there, what has been happening in the Unitarian Universalist Association, and all of the recent incidents highlighting how divided we are about race and race relations in our country, I have been **deeply introspective of where I am with this "white supremacy"/"white privilege" thing.** It has been deeply uncomfortable for me – a bit like ripping a blindfold off and seeing that things are not as wonderful and rosy as I thought they were.

I am discovering the ways in which I am privileged where others are not. I have been learning a lot about the history of race relations in this country, from back before we *were* a country. **At times, I've seriously thought about moving to**

Canada. Lately, I've even been seriously thinking about moving to a different *planet*. It has been very difficult to see the way white people as a race have been. To see how we have de-humanized others for our own gain – and then believed what we had made up. To see the horrendous outcomes of that thinking. And to see it all continuing today.



And as the hits have kept on coming, I have despaired. The hatred and bigotry, the misogyny and prejudice seem so much bigger than my personal belief that we are all the same underneath the surface, and as such, inherently worthy of dignity and respect. But Rev. Chris was just talking to the board about the courage to love, and I finally got that phrase. In the face of everything that is happening, in the face of all the band aids that are getting ripped off, it takes COURAGE to love. **To stand for love is not a small thing. It's EVERYTHING.** It takes courage to stand for a better future, to stand for the arc of the universe bending towards justice, to stand for positivity and connection, to reach down beneath the surface to what is common to every human being. **And perhaps most importantly, to not make "those people" The Other. To stand in the face of hate, anger and intolerance and bring love. Maybe that's our only weapon. And it's enough.**

I'm not through this. But I have hope again, and I can find my courage and fortitude trickling back, and can feel them nurturing my soul. My deepest wish is that each of us finds that courage to love in the face of what may seem like insurmountable odds. These are not easy times. They will continue to be difficult. But we are the ones to make the difference. This is OUR time. We are the ones who will bend that arc towards justice, love and joy. Much, much love and gratitude,

~ Natalie

What Your Board Was Up To In August

In August, we had our board retreat as well as a regular board meeting.

At the board retreat, we chose one of the congregation's interests from our 2015 visioning process to move forward this year – **Opportunities to Interact with New People.** We're going to start with our new members. Our first "project" is a mentoring program that truly works.

Each of our committees and teams will have a board liaison, and we're reviving the "Talk to a Board Member" concept on Sundays.

At the board meeting, we voted unanimously to **update the Finance Committee's charter, changing** the name from Financial Stewardship to Finance Committee, and to update the policy about Member Mortgage Notes, changing the way we determine the interest rate for these notes to be more competitive with the market. The board also voted unanimously to go with a health insurance plan for our staff that most closely matches the plan we had, that is no longer available.

On another note, know that our board meetings **are open to you. They're always the 3rd** Thursday of the month, 6:30-8:30 in the Board Room. Please feel free to attend. We welcome you!

Natalie Brundred, President BOT

TREASURER'S MONTHLY LEDGER

After careful review and reconciliation of accounts for the 2017-18, there is little new to add from last month's ledger report. Still waiting on July's financials.

Revenue

Total Operating Pledge Revenue for the fiscal year is about \$454k and about \$17k over budget. Yeah! Thanks to the generous support of members, new members and those increasing their pledges this year, we exceeded our goals. Total operating revenue from all sources is \$562k. Excluding the non-materialized \$23k for Pre-School income from the budget, income is about \$26.4k over budget.

Expenses

Total Operating Expenses for the year are about \$575k. Excluding building improvements of \$32k, Operating Expenses are about \$543k. Note, building improvements are paid from savings and prior year

surpluses from the Balance Sheet, and not from Operating Income, which is why they should be excluded from the budget. Notable savings occurred in insurance, fundraising expenses, supplies, utilities and from leadership and training expenses.

Glaser Center

Net Income for the year was about \$25.8k for the year and about \$350 over budget. Excellent job from the Glaser Center Committee and special thanks to Janis for a fine job.

Net Income

From Operations, our net income for the fiscal year was about \$19k thanks to over budget revenue and under budget expenses.

Overall, we had an extremely satisfying year. Looks like Linda Balabanian knows how to exit with a bang.

Thank you Linda, Fine-Com, Rachel, Janis and Kirsten. It takes a small village to run finance!

Michael Randolph
Treasurer

COSM

- The Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with ensuring the health of the congregation by supporting the minister, encouraging communication and providing conflict resolution when needed. COSM also participates in the yearly evaluation of the minister.

Lucia Millburn is our current chair. The other current members are Alan Bell, Bob Anderson, Kitty Wells, Susan Bartholome, Frances Corman and Rev. Chris. We all can be approached at any time regarding COSM business.

When we participate in conflict resolution we strive to mediate from a neutral position and in strict confidentiality even when the conflict may involve the minister, staff or visitors.

We've had a good measure of success over the years and we feel blessed to have offered this service. We've also been pleased that Rev. Chris

September Work Saturday

Tentatively September 15

9 am—Noon

Help Keep our Spiritual Home Looking Good! We need gardeners, people to do minor repairs and change light bulbs, etc., as well as experienced handy people. *We won't have a work day on Sat., 9/2, because of UUCSR Summer Camp. Look for announcement on Focus list to confirm date.*

CUUPs Offering Book of Essays for Sale Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism, © 5/217. Editors Jerrie Kishpaugh Hildebrand and Shirley Ann Ranck.

23 essays by some of the most prominent leaders in Unitarian Universalist Paganism bring Pagan and Earth-centered theo/alogy to life for a new generation.

For sale on Sunday September 17th after the services. Shirley Ranck will be there as co-editor and contributor to sign your book for you.

cuups at uusantarosa.org

"GETTING TO KNOW UU"

Class Offered Saturday, September 23

9:30 am —12:30 pm

at UUCSR (room tba)

Are You UU-Curious? Considering Membership?

Learn Unitarian Universalist history, discover the roots of our congregation, and explore the sacred in theory and practice.

This next Getting to Know UU Class is for you. (This class is required for UUCSR membership, but open to everyone)

Sign up at the Visitor/Welcome table before the class date. The next New Member Ceremony is October 15th during the 11am service.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

A New Year in RE! The key to making this an awesome year of exploration and learning is regular attendance. Please pledge to bring your children to RE every Sunday so that the kids can form community and **get the very most out of the teachings. Here's this year:**

Infants, Toddlers, & Preschoolers: Our youngest children are cared for during the service by two paid preschool aids and volunteers from the congregation. The morning includes lighting of the chalice, a story, an activity, and free time for play. With a range of developmental stages in the group our staff provides a flexible, loving, and child-centered program. Our goals are teaching the children that this is a safe and caring place where they are affirmed and appreciated.

Grades K-1: *Wisdom Stories: Peace & Justice* is based on the idea that children learn best when they are engaged in play. This program is devoted to the Sixth Principle of Unitarian Universalism: In children's language: *We believe in working for a peaceful world.* We use picture books from the best children's literature to bring forth, through playful characters and fanciful allegory, the heart of the Sixth Principle.

Each session begins with worship. Lighting the chalice with unison words spoken and singing a song of peace is a ritual that brings comfort and fosters belonging. A brief teaching and meditation practice then the story. Activities, games, and /or crafts related to the story follow. Activities extend the lesson and allow experiencing the story in a different way.

Grades 2-4: *Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Every Day**. UUism asks us to think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what you love. In order to do this, you must decide what you love and do your best to live that love faithfully every day. *Signs of Our Faith* guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalists love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness.

Grades 5-7: *Sing to the Power**. The word "power" often has a negative connotation, reminding us of corruption that seems inevitable when people pursue power for its own sake. But everyone has power, and the capacity to choose how and when to use it.

Sing to the Power affirms our UU heritage of confronting "powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." Participants experience their own power, and understand how it can help them to be leaders. *Sing to the Power* uses a four-elements metaphor —earth, air, fire, and water—as a framework to explore different forms of power. * *UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum*

Youth Group (Grades 8 - 12) meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. In a casual setting youth explore **life's bigger questions, develop ties to UU peers, and have fun** (pizza is also involved!) The group participates in community service projects several times during the year. Youth explore faith, social justice and beauty together through a variety of activities, including field trips, worship and art.
—Deborah

Here's What's Happening In RE Classes this Month:
The Youth Group (grades 8 to 12) meets every Thursday, 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Danny Millspaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah for more information.

Beginning September 10 at 9:15 am: Children grades K-7 begin in the sanctuary for a story for all ages, then go to RE classes.
Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers will be provided by Sophie Johnson and Emily Payne.

9/3/17 10:00am	<u>This is the last session of the summer program.</u> Theme: We are beautiful the way we are <i>After Aesop: Mirror, Mirror</i>		
	K-1: Wisdom Stories	2-4: Signs of our Faith	5-7: Sing to the Power
9/10/17	Story: <i>What does Peace Feel Like</i> by Vladimir Radunsky Theme: Getting to know you Creating a Covenant	<i>Signs, Symbols & Rituals:</i> Learning about symbols and their meanings, to better understand how religious rituals represent abstract ideas. Story and games.	<i>The Power of Earth</i> Appreciating sacred earth and interconnectedness through story and games. Getting-to-know-you activities.
9/17/19	Story: <i>Peaceful Piggy Meditation</i> Theme: Let's Learn to Meditate	We Lead - First Emblem Children receive a ceremonial stole decorated with signs of our faith throughout the program.	Power of the Earth Part II Meditation on connection to nature. Creating a mural of the 4 elements.
9/24/17	Story: <i>My Mouth Is A Volcano</i> by Julia Cook Theme: How to manage your thoughts and words	Our Faith is a Journey Appreciating being UU. Creating a covenant.	The Power of Roots Exploring "who I am" Appreciating our beginnings.

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.

Exploring Forgiveness

Sept. 12, 19, and 26
1:30 – 3:00

UU member Jane Beach teaches Exploring Forgiveness, a 3-part Series based on former UU Minister Marilyn Sewell's book, *A Little Book on Forgiveness*. Week One focuses on *Why Forgive*; week two, *Forgiveness is My Gift to Myself*; week three, *Forgiveness isn't Complete without Self Forgiveness*. As Ms. Sewell says in her book, forgiveness is "a softening and healing of the heart, in response to pain or injustice. It is a gift, not to the offending party, but to ourselves, as we become no longer willing to nurture the hurt and keep the anger alive."

Sign up at RE table or online at uusantarosa.org (under Learn, Adult Religious Education, Exploring Forgiveness).

Death With Dignity

September 17
12:30 – 3:00

On September 17th from 12:30 – 3:00, Wendall Jackson from the Final Exit network will present a workshop on Death With Dignity/Securing A Good Death. Final Exit's mission is "to work toward obtaining the basic human right of competent adults to choose to end their lives on their own terms when they suffer from irreversible physical illness, intractable pain, or a constellation of chronic, progressive physical disabilities."

Dr. Jackson is the former Past President of Final Exit Network and holds a Ph.D in philosophy from the University of California. He has been Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at Fresno City College since 1999.

Sign up at the RE table or online at uusantarosa.org (under Learn/ Adult Religious Education/Death with Dignity)

COMING IN OCTOBER

One of our favorite presenters, Bill Stayton, will offer Hot Topics in Sex and Film - October 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Submitted by [Helga Lemke](#)

DESK ANGELS WANTED!

Are you becoming too isolated?
Come join our desk angels' team!

The primary task is answering the telephone. It's a "piece of cake and gluten-free!" Opening now for two Thursdays afternoon shifts 1-4, and 3 Friday morning shifts 9:30-1:00. (Subs helpful and welcome too)

A joyful time is guaranteed!
Contact Bertha Jean

OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

Group For Women 80 and above
Sept. 11th and 25th, 10:30 a.m.
in UUCSR Board Room

Old Age is Not for Sissies, is a group for congregants 80 and over.

Are you one of us? 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

Share-The-Basket

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

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

JULY RECIPIENTS

Afghan Family	\$2447.90
Ceres Project	\$480.38
Catholic Charities Immigration Services	\$591.21
Drug Abuse Alternative Center	\$359.99
NDGW Children's Foundation	325.73

SPECIAL DEADLINES for

UUCSR's Monthly NEWSLETTER December and January Issues

December Issue Submissions due Nov. 13, rather than Nov. 20
January issue Submissions due Dec. 11, rather than Dec. 18

Please plan accordingly.
Arrange Exceptions With Editor by Nov 1.

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 that serve greater So. Co., incl. our Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors.

September 3: The Living Room, located on Cleveland Avenue near College, welcomes homeless and at-risk women and children into a warm and safe environment during the day. Caring staff offer lifelines during times of crisis.

September 10: The Southeast Greenway Campaign is a community effort to transform the vacant two-mile corridor of open space connecting Spring Lake Park and Farmers Lane into a vibrant urban greenway that will serve as a strategic link in our regional non-motorized transportation system and improve our quality of life.

September 17: Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow is a fundraiser sponsored by the North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce which supports local youth programs, mentoring and scholarships for high school and college students.

September 24: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday Breakfast, 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.

October 1: Listening for a Change promotes understanding and acceptance of human diversity through education, oral history, and the arts. Programs in schools, communities, businesses and non-profits bring community together through story, and are designed to dispel "otherness"



HOT TOPIC

SANTA ROSA SOUTHEAST GREENWAY

Sunday, September 10

After 11:00 am Service

In UUCSR Board Room

The Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway, the vacant two-mile corridor of open space connecting Spring Lake Park and Farmers Lane, is property currently owned by Caltrans. It has been deserted and closed to the public for over 50 years.

Transforming this land into a vibrant urban Greenway provides a **tremendous opportunity to create our own 'Central Park' in the heart** of Santa Rosa, bringing nature within a short walk of many city residents. Proposed features of the Greenway plan include bicycle and walking trails, community gardens, neighborhood parks, art and educational displays, community gathering spaces and restoration of creeks and natural habitat. Come and learn more about the many social, health, environmental and transportation benefits that the Greenway will offer our community.

Speakers: UUCSR members, Linda and Alan Proulx, have been serving in volunteer leadership positions with the Southeast Greenway Campaign since its inception in 2009.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/CLIMATE CHANGE FILM SERIES

Brought to you by the Advocates for Social Justice Film Project

EARTH and the AMERICAN DREAM

Directed by Bill Couturie

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

12:45 PM, in the Board Room

To set the stage for the Advocates for Social Justice Film Project's 2017-2018 Environmental Film Series, we will view EARTH and the AMERICAN DREAM, directed by Bill Couturie.

This is a beautiful, moving, and truly unique history of the United States...from the environment's point of view. It is a story of the American Dream and the considerable price that was paid to make that dream come true. Using memorable and haunting images combined with the words of indigenous leaders, writers, politicians, businessmen, and ordinary citizens, this 1995 film illustrates powerfully that what was once regarded as progress has now become a legacy of its unintended yet destructive consequences.

The American Dream has produced great things, but at great cost in terms of what has been lost. At the heart of the story lies desire, the desire that defines the American Dream and that spawned today's environmental crises. Compelling, inspirational, this is a powerful introduction to our year's focus in film.

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

Advocates for Social Justice Film Project Team:

Elaine Wellin, Cassandra Lista, Mary Louise Jaffray, Carol Daeley, Dorris Lee, Jeanie Bates

Osher Lifelong Learning Classes at the Glaser Center

September 22 - October 27

Fridays 9:30-11:30 AM

\$25/class - See class list and descriptions in the newsletter insert

EXPLAINING WHITE PRIVILEGE TO A BROKE WHITE PERSON...

BY Gina Crosley-Corcoran / thefeministbreeder.com

Years ago, some feminist on the internet told me I was "Privileged."

"THE FUCK!?!?" I said.

I came from the kind of Poor that people don't want to believe still exists in this country. Have you ever spent a frigid northern Illinois winter without heat or running water? I have. At twelve years old, were you making ramen noodles in a coffee maker with water you fetched from a public bathroom? I was. Have you ever lived in a camper year round and used a random relative's apartment as your mailing address? We did. Did you attend so many different elementary schools that you can only remember a quarter of their names? Welcome to my childhood.

So when that feminist told me I had "white privilege," I told her that my white skin didn't do shit to prevent me from experiencing poverty. Then, like any good, educated feminist would, she directed me to Peggy McIntosh's 1988 now-famous piece, "[White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)."

After one reads McIntosh's powerful essay, it's impossible to deny that being born with white skin in America affords people certain unearned privileges in life that people of another skin color simple are not afforded. For example:

"I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented."

"When I am told about our national heritage or about **"civilization,"** I am shown that people of my color made it what it is."

"If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits **my tax return, I can be sure I haven't been singled out** because of my race."

"I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time."

If you read through the rest of the list, you can see how white people and people of color experience the world in two very different ways. BUT LISTEN: This is not said to make white people feel guilty about their privilege. It's not your fault you were born with white skin and experience these privileges. BUT, whether you realize it or not, you DO benefit from it, and it IS your fault if you don't maintain awareness of that fact.

I do understand McIntosh's essay may rub some people the wrong way. There are several points on the list that I felt spoke more to the author's status as a Middle Class person than a White Person. For example:

"If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area, which I can afford and in which I would want to live."

"I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me."

"I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed."

"If I want to, I can be pretty sure of finding a publisher for this piece on white privilege."

And there are so many more points in the essay where the word "race" could be substituted for the word "class" which would ultimately paint a very different picture. That is why I had such a hard time identifying with this essay for so long. When I first wrote about White Privilege years ago, I demanded to know why

this White Woman felt that my experiences were the same as hers when no, my family most certainly could not rent housing *"in an area which we could afford and want to live."*

And no, I couldn't go shopping without fear in our low income neighborhoods.

The idea that any ol' white person can find a publisher for a piece is most certainly a symptom of class privilege. Having come from a family of people who didn't even graduate high school, who knew not a single academic or intellectual person, it would never occur to me to assume that I could be published. It is an absolute freak anomaly that I'm in graduate school considering not one person on either side of my family has a college degree. And it took me until my thirties to ever believe that someone from my stock could achieve such a thing. Poverty colors nearly everything about your perspective on opportunities for advancement in life. Middle class, educated people assume that anyone can achieve their goals if they work hard enough. Folks steeped in poverty rarely see a life past working at the gas station, making the rent on their trailer, and self-medicating with cigarettes and prescription drugs until they die of a heart attack. (I've just described one whole side of my family and the life I assumed I'd be living before I lucked out of it.)

I, maybe more than most people, can completely understand why broke white folks get pissed when the word "Privilege" is thrown around. As a child, I was constantly discriminated against because of my poverty and those wounds still run very deep. But luckily my college education introduced me to a more nuanced concept of Privilege; the term Intersectionality. The concept of Intersectionality recognizes that people can be privileged in some ways and definitely not privileged in others. There are many different types of privilege, not just skin color privilege, that impact the way people can move through the world or are discriminated against. These are all things you are born into, not things you earned, that afford you opportunities others may not have. For example:

Citizenship - Simply being born in this country affords you certain privileges non-citizens will never access.

Class - Being born into a financially stable family can help guarantee your health, happiness, safety, education, intelligence, and future opportunities.

Sexual Orientation - By being born straight, every state in this country affords you privileges that non-straight folks have to fight the Supreme Court for.

Sex - By being born male, you can assume that you can walk through a parking garage without worrying you'll be raped and that a defense attorney will then blame it on what you were wearing.

Ability - By being born able bodied, you probably don't have to plan your life around handicap access, braille, or other special needs.

Gender - By being born cisgendered, you aren't

(Continued page 9)



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!

Faith And Fitness

Saturday, September 23

"Roz's "Sonoma Coast Surprise"

We'll be heading towards the coast for an easy-to-moderate hike. Exact details as to where and when to meet to be shared much closer to time.

Plan to come along!

Contact Gretchen P.

Evening Book Group

Thursday, September 14

7 -9 pm, RE Wing

The Evening Book Group meets on 2nd Thursdays. This month we meet on September 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino, we meet in the RE wing.

The September Selection is:

Homegoing, by Yaa Gyasi

Visitors and newcomers are welcome!

The October Selection is:

Strangers in their Own Land
by Arlie Russell Hochschild

Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person (Cont. from p 8)

worried that the restroom or locker room you use will invoke public outrage.

As you can see, belonging to one or more category of Privilege, especially being a Straight White Middle Class Able-Bodied Male, can be like winning a lottery you didn't even know you were playing. But this is not to imply that any form of privilege is exactly the same as another or that people lacking in one area of privilege understand what it's like to be lacking in other areas. Race discrimination is not equal to Sex Discrimination and so forth.

And listen, recognizing Privilege doesn't mean suffering guilt or shame for your lot in life. Nobody's saying that Straight White Middle Class Able-Bodied Males are all a bunch of assholes who don't work hard for what they have. Recognizing Privilege simply means being aware that some people have to work much harder just to experience the things you take for granted (if they ever can experience them at all.)

I know now that I AM Privileged in many ways. I am Privileged as a natural born white citizen. I am privi-

Welcome to the 2017 Fall Circle Dinner Groups!

If your name is in bold at the top of a list, YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO KICK-OFF YOUR CIRCLE DINNER GROUP— CONGRATULATIONS! Please contact the others in your "circle" to arrange for your first gathering. You and your group will decide on the times and places to meet for your dinners, and who brings what (i.e. appetizer, salad, main dish, dessert, beverages/bread). Please try to contact everyone within two weeks so no one feels forgotten! As part of your after dessert conversation at each dinner, decide where and when you all will meet for the next month's gathering.

If for some reason, you are not contacted by the folks at the top of your circle group by the middle of September, please call them. If they don't respond or another problem arises, please contact Wayne or Sharon Smith at 543-5943. We'll resolve any problems!

If you cannot make a dinner or need to fill an empty seat or two, please consider calling someone from the substitute list below. They will be glad to hear from you. Enjoy your time together in food, fellowship and fun! AN EMAIL CONTAINING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR GROUP WILL BE SENT TO EACH PARTICIPANT.

Day Group

Carol Kraemer & John Chenoweth
Judy Wismer
Phyllis Fitzgerald
Monique Paven & Peter Wilson

Evening Group 1

Gail Alford
Jenine Giblin
Bill & Tess Hageman
Carol Weisker
Mary Lill Lee
David Abrahams
Deborah Wiig

Evening Group 2

Anne Peterson & Lonnie King
Lynn & Leonard Riepenhoff
Micheline Justine
Marilyn Holmes
Roger DeBeers

Evening Group 3

Gene & Gretchen Vap

Joe & Sharon McCarty
Sam and Betz Miller

Evening Group 4

Dee and John Ray
Chris Wildlake
David & Deborah Hope
Sandra Bandy

Evening Group 5

Mary Wolfe
Catherine & Scott Doty
Cathie Wiese & Robert Lunceford
Judy and Bruce Taylor
Lee Lipinski

Substitutes

Carol Daeley
Helga Lemke
Judith Redding & Michael Randolph
Mary Louise & John Jaffrey
Robert & Elizabeth Marrs
Susan Anorek
Tom Bond and Laura Hageman
Wayne and Sharon Smith

leged as a cis-gendered woman. I am privileged as an able-bodied person. I am privileged that my first language is also our national language, and that I was born with an intellect and ambition that pulled me out of the poverty I was otherwise destined for. I was privileged to be able to marry my way "up" by partnering with a Privileged middle-class educated male who fully expected me to earn a college degree.

There are a million ways I experience Privilege, and some that I certainly don't. But thankfully, Intersectionality allows us to examine these varying dimensions and degrees of discrimination while raising awareness of the results of multiple systems of oppression at work.

Tell me, are you a White Person made uncomfortable by the term "White Privilege?" Does a more nuanced approach help you see your own Privilege more clearly?

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gina-crosleycorcoran/explaining-white-privilege-to-a-broke-white->

*Women Together—Welcome to the New-Church-Year Potluck Lunch !
Saturday, September 23, Noon to 2 pm*

UU women and friends are invited to a potluck lunch in the Social Hall and Patio (weather permitting). We will catch up with old friends and make new ones—a particularly good way for newer women to make connections and learn about what we have in store for the new year! Please bring a lunch dish to share.

*Questions? Contact Linda Harlow, [REDACTED]
Looking forward to seeing you there!*

“CLUB N’AWLINS” Annual Auction is Saturday, Nov. 4th!
It’s not too soon to start thinking about an auction item you could offer!

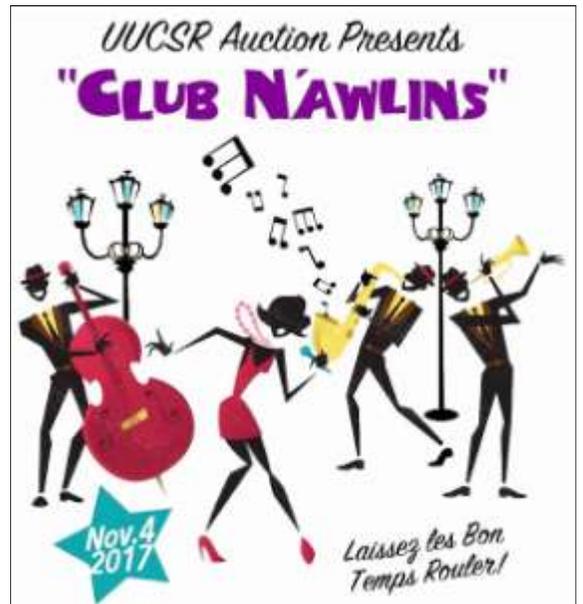
We are now accepting donations of goods, services, or get-togethers. The donation form is available online. Look for the link at <https://web.uusantarosa.org/connect/auction>. Tangible items and forms can be brought to the UUCSR office during office hours. If item is an event or service, scan your form and email to auction at usantarosa.org.

Any activity that brings people together makes a great auction item! And easy, casual, events are just as much fun as more elaborate ones. Here are some ideas to inspire you:

Want to host a party, but don’t have the space or resources? Talk to Dee Ray. She can help!

Auction Item Suggestions:

- ◇ Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange
- ◇ Make-Your-Own-Pizza Party with games
- ◇ Wii Bowling Party
- ◇ Storytelling Party
- ◇ Xeriscaping or Garden Class
- ◇ **Women’s Brunch**
- ◇ Soup Supper with games, book swap or a movie
- ◇ Progressive Dinner or Roving Cocktail Party
- ◇ Christmas Cookie baking party, a Super Bowl party, or an Oscar party



- ◇ Sing-A-Long with instruments & desserts
- ◇ **Work party where guests bring that project they’ve been meaning to get to for a year**
- ◇ Craft bee
- ◇ Outing to a local place of interest like Russian River Rose Company or diRosa garden

Donate Now!

Ticket Information: This year we’ll be selling advance tickets after services in October on a sliding scale of \$10 to \$40, or \$20 suggested donation.

The Meaning Of Your Pledge...To You And The Congregation

Let's pause for a minute to think about why UUCSR is valuable to us? Why do we support it? *In the broadest sense it's because its mission is to transform lives.* What better investment could there be of our time, talent, and treasure?

How do we put that investment into action? A few years ago our congregation discontinued the annual pledge drive. We asked you to take ownership of your financial commitment through sustained, year-round giving. You may change your pledge any time. We can now spend more time on furthering our mission rather than "chasing pledges."

We've changed the methodology, but the question still remains, how much should we give? That's something we often struggle with. We say, "Choose an amount that feels right to you." Fine, but that can sometimes feel like picking a number out of the air. What if instead, we said "Give according to your means – give a *percentage* of your income."

This is called "tithing" – or "fair share" giving. We'd like to encourage you to think about your pledge in this way.



Stewardship Team is throwing a party!

We on the Stewardship Team have given "major donor" parties before but this time we want to specifically celebrate members and friends who pledge five percent or more of their annual income to UUCSR. If **that's you, you're cordially invited to our**

"FIVE TO THRIVE" PARTY

on Saturday, September 30
3:30 – 5:30 pm, in Room 545

There'll be delicious hors d'oeuvres created by Linda Stabler, and live music by UUsual Suspects Robert Howseman, Alan Bell and Susan Panttaja. (Each guest will receive a complimentary CD.) And, because we want to hear about your dreams for the congregation, we will have some lively table discussions.

Don't worry, no one will be checking your tax return – this is strictly on the honor system. If you haven't quite reached the five percent level yet, there's still time to bump up your pledge and come to the party! To RSVP, just call the UUCSR office.

This just in! Thanks to a generous donation from Kunde Winery (near Kenwood) one lucky attendee will win by random drawing a free mountain-top wine-tasting for four people (normal cost \$50 per person). This two-hour excursion starts in Kunde Winery's VIP dining room and proceeds to a tour of their underground caves. Guests are then transported up the mountain to an open-air tasting patio (elevation 1,500 feet) with glorious views over Sonoma Valley. Can you think of a better spot to sit and contemplate your generous pledge to UUCSR? Neither can we.

IN MEMORIAM

Ollie Ostlund's Memorial is September 9th at 12:00 Noon.
There will be lots of wonderful music and memories, and a reception in the Social Hall afterwards.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5241

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Office at uusantarosa.org

<http://www.uusantarosa.org>

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UU Update, UUCSR Monthly Newsletter. Editor: Susan Williamson
UU Update Deadline: 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 at uusantarosa.org w/topic and month in subject line. Single spaced, 10 pt font. Over 350+ words and full page inserts, recommend submit at least week prior to deadline. Questions? Call 707-636-4684. *To receive newsletter by email, send name and email address to administrator at uusantarosa.org*

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

Minister: Reverend Chris Bell
Director Religious Education: Deborah Mason,
Administrator: Janis Brewster
Bookkeeper: Rachel Bingham
Choir Director: Sadie Sonntag
Pianist: Roger Corman
Sexton: Peter Wilson

Sunday Religious Education Staff
Deborah Mason, Director
Sophie Johnson
Emily Payne



BLACK LIVES MATTER