



The UU Update

November 2017 • Volume 61 • Issue 11

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

TWO SUNDAY SERVICES
9:15 am & 11:00 am

November

FAITH



November 5
NIGHTINGALE
9:15 & 11:00

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff, Deb Mason *Music by:* Alan Bell & The UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman *Share the Basket:* Fire Relief TBD

Using Judy Collins' song *Nightingale* and the story of Jacob and his famous wrestling match, we consider the struggle for faith in things unseen and unheard. No shame in doubt and uncertainty, particularly after a disaster. Indeed, doubt is necessary for mature faith to flourish.

November 12
BRING MANY NAMES!
9:15 & 11:00

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas, Deb Mason *Music by:* Sadie Sonntag & The Choir, Roger Corman *Share the Basket:* Fire Relief TBD

What's in a name? "The Great Big Thing that can be named is not the *true* Great Big Thing," to paraphrase the Tao Te Ching. This doesn't stop us from naming it again and again. The UU way is to celebrate all of these names. We'll look at both the tradition of the "99 Names of God" in Islam, and Arthur C. Clarke's short story, "The 9 Billion Names of God."

November 19
REALLY MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN
9:15 & 11:00

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Panttaja, Deb Mason *Music by:* Robin Rogers & The UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman *Share the Basket:* Fire Relief TBD

It's hard to have faith in anxious times, whether that is faith in your fellow humans, your country, your God or Goddess. It can be hard to have faith in yourself. Today we'll talk about how to stay sane in insane times, and what it will take to truly make our country great.

Graphic on this page by <https://www.template.net/design-templates/inspirational/phoenix-bird-art-drawing/>

November 26
YUM IS THE NEW OM: SAVORING LIFE
THROUGH INTUITIVE MEDITATION
9:15 & 11:00

Service Leaders: Nancy Wang Gaeden, Scott Miller, Deb Mason, Sadie Sonntag *Music by:* Sadie Sonntag & The Choir, Roger Corman *Share the Basket:* Breakfast for Our Neighbors

What is it like to truly love being in the moment? To be fully present to life in all its colors and textures? To have wondrous moments when time feels timeless? We all have deep instincts for meditation, to fully connect, to deeply rejuvenate. Intuitive meditation savors both the inner and outer lives, uses all of our senses, and plumbs our spiritual depths, keeps us curious, strong, & kind.

December 3rd
A HOLE IN THE ROOF

Service leaders: Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz, Sharon McCarty, Deb Mason *Music by:* Natalie Brundred and UU Usual Suspects *Share the Basket:* Living Room

We enter the season of Advent carrying so much that needs to be healed. The Christmas story proclaims that hope may be found in the unlikely places. Today we consider stories from a Bible Study gathering in the streets of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. *Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz, a UU minister, serves both the Faithful Fools Street Ministry, and as Assistant Minister for the First UU Society of S.F.*

Celebrate Life, Empower People, Care For One Another, Help Build a Better World



BAPTISM BY FIRE

To be “baptized by fire” is an old expression that has its origins in the Christian Bible. As the story goes, John the Baptist was out there in the wilderness baptizing folks with the water of the Jordan River and predicting the arrival of an even greater teacher. He said that, instead of

merely using water, his successor would “baptize with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.” It’s hard to say what John was getting at. Does the presence of the Holy Spirit (think of it as love or wisdom energy) somehow have a burning or painful quality? What does that mean? Or do I receive *either* the Holy Spirit or fire? Is this a hellfire and damnation thing? **Is it a choice? If so, I’m definitely choosing the Holy Spirit;** its symbol is usually a dove. Fire is, well, fire.

Today we use “baptism by fire” to mean learning something quickly and painfully, of going through a difficult and steep learning curve, such as starting the first day of a new job without any training, or bringing home a colicky baby, or a **soldier’s first time in battle. In all cases, these experiences are hard. They are generally unavoidable, even if they are necessary. They are definitely not pleasant.**

We in Sonoma County now know exactly what baptism by fire means. It is no metaphor. It is the terror of a burning house, of neighbors pounding on doors, on grabbing whatever you can save in the next 90 seconds. It is loading up the car **with photo albums and children’s art and legal papers and computer drives and heading out to a sister’s or a friend’s or an emergency shelter. It is sleeping on a cot in the Vet’s building, or in your car in the parking lot outside. It is losing a pet, or a friend or family member. It is staring at the TV, at maps on the Internet, at the latest alert from the sheriff. It is welcoming strangers into the spare bedroom of your home. It is watching it all unfold anxiously from down the street, or out of state, waiting for the return phone call. It is returning to the lot to look at the ashes of a home. It’s looking at a friend’s pictures of that trip. It’s fear and uncertainty. It is the removal of the illusion of safety. My heart aches when I think of all that you, that we, have endured together.**

Oh, we get the fire part.

What of the baptism?

A baptism is a ritual cleansing or purification that comes from the Jewish tradition, originally, though it mirrors similar rituals in other faiths.

Many peoples have used water to symbolically remove sin, pain, regret, or other sorrows and barriers, and to enter a new frame of mind, and to welcome a new life. We all bathe in water, so this makes perfect sense. Might these fires – Tubbs, Nuns, Atlas, Pocket – somehow do the same for us?

They have to.

Dr. Grant Hilary Brenner writes, *“Meaning-making is a uniquely human coping strategy. We make meaning to weave the flax of terror into the gold of wisdom.”*

So, we can, will and must take the experience of October and allow it to transform us for the better.

As Dr. Brenner also observes, *“disasters teach us what is important and what is not important. They show us our place in the cosmos, how tiny we are and how great we are. They show us the full scope of humankind’s evil and grace, and the fierce power of nature, in the face of which nothing can stand. Sometimes they show us what the consequences of our actions are, intended and unintended. They show us the limits of prediction and control, and the limits and heights of our own abilities. The community and morality which disaster evokes shows us the best of what we can do together. Disasters help us to see how people and groups with different fundamental beliefs and agendas can find a way to collaborate, at least for a time. They teach us to work together more effectively, to coordinate, to communicate. Disasters are about being human. These terrible events force us to examine who we are, they don’t give us time to fake it in the heat of the moment, they show us who we are in the moment, and looking back. Sometimes we like what we see, and sometimes we don’t. Disasters show us beauty in our humanity, and show us that we are all part of one family, in the best sense possible.”*

My prayer is that, in addition to all the loss and suffering, these flames have burned away some of the inconsequential and superficial pursuits that separated us from our best and most loving selves, **that the great outpouring of goodwill we’ve shared** will free us of divisiveness and distrust, and that facing our mortality will help us treat life as the truly precious, fleeting, unrepeatable gift that it is. **I hope we’ve been cleansed of some major delusions,** and our hearts have been purified through compassion and love. John was right; the Spirit of Life and Love has come to us through a baptism of fire. My faith is that it will grow, endure, and flourish among us, in this new life we now lead together.

Reverend Chris Bell

The President's Column

Notes from the Fires

I'm writing this on Saturday morning of the "Week of the Fires". I've been trying to write for a few days now, but it's all come out wrong. I finally decided, with my brain so disjointed from exhaustion and stress, to just give you some of the things I've been feeling and experiencing, because I know you've been feeling and experiencing the same things.

I feel like I've been in a mixer – up, down, all around – all in the same day. I've gone from disbelief to shock, to obsession, to remembering that normal life is still there and does go on, to forgetting, to pissiness, to tears, to laughter, to numbness, and on and on and on... Mix and repeat.

I spend all my time glued to KSRO, the local news, **Next Door posts, Sherriff's updates, Facebook, our Focus list, around and around.** I get to a point **where I'm filled up and overwhelmed with all things fire, force myself to put it down, and 10 minutes later, I'm back at it again. I never knew how fast my phone's battery can die! And I've never typed so much on that teeny screen.**

Things seem alternately unreal and very, very scary **real. I'm very lucky – my home seems to be safe (for now).** I am so profoundly sorrowful for all my friends who have lost their homes, and I feel guilty that I have not had to evacuate and have not lost so many things that are dear to me. My car is packed up and ready to go, but I spent last night in my bed, spent the 3 nights before that at some **close friends' house, and have another place to go if I/we get evacuated.**

Last night, I was so "done". So down and just used up. Some sleep (somehow there never is enough sleep) helped, and scrolling through my Facebook

feed this morning helped. The courage of the firefighters and police, the overwhelming outpouring of donations of clothing, food, support and love by our community gives me strength.

When they say "Santa Rosa Strong", they aren't kidding. The messages of dismay, love, prayers and support from people all over the country help so much.

I am so grateful that I live here – even in the midst **of this tragedy. I've lived in a LOT of places in my life, and I don't think any of them would have pulled together to pull through the way this community is.**

And I am so deeply, deeply grateful for our UUCSR community. (Just writing these words has me tearing up, you mean so much.) The care, the unquestioning, immediate support, the love are so special and have made such a difference this last week. I went to the church every afternoon until yesterday. I thought it was so I could use the **internet and be in communication, but I wasn't** getting any work done. It took me till Thursday to realize that I was going for the community. For **MY community. I often say, "It takes a village to raise a human being". Thank you for being my village.** You have pulled me through this, and I know you will continue to.

We have started and will continue to find ways to support all the people in our community, from hugs **to clothing to "stuff" to money to rebuild lives.**

We are "UUCSR Strong". I am so proud to be counted among you.

Much, much love and gratitude,

Natalie Brundred, Board President



What IS Your Board Up To? October 2017

UUCSR's response to the fire disaster in our community was a main focus of our board meeting. We recognize that the needs coming out of the fire disaster will continue for a long time.

Donations to UUCSR's Fire Fund will help members who have lost their homes with whatever their specific needs are.

During November we'll share the basket with several organizations working on fire relief for vulnerable groups, including people who are undocumented.

We'll provide "Compassionate Listening" for our congregation through the month of November. (See the insert for details.)

Advice on self-care during stressful times is on an

insert in this newsletter. Please hang it on your refrigerator – and use it!

A system for members who lost their homes to let us know about items they need so other members can donate to them.

In addition, the Board unanimously agreed to fund an interim Director of Religious Education at 20 hours/week between next January and July.

As always, you are welcome to attend Board meetings, always on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Board Conference Room.

November's meeting is on the 16th. I'd love to see you there!

Natalie Brundred, Board President

TREASURER'S MONTHLY LEDGER

We just completed our first three months of the New Year, or our first quarter.

Operations posted a net deficit of (\$12,900) for the month of September. If we include Non-operational expenses for the restroom repairs that reduces the deficit to (\$10,000) and well within our budget for September. YTD, the picture improves with a deficit of (\$9,400), excluding repairs, which are paid from our Endowment. We have taken in \$115,500 so far this year and are about (\$12,000) under budget; however, total expenditures were lower than expected and our budget is close to our target. Our budget considers the normal slow funding from pledges during the beginning of a New Year, as this is typical at this point in time.

The Glaser Center reported a Net Surplus of \$5,800 for September, and YTD we are up \$7,100. We are running close to budget. BTW—All the remaining OLLI courses from SSU have been cancelled. Hopefully new dates in the future.

If it is within your means, we encourage all members to consider pledging 5% of your income. Defining your income is up to you, as we all have varying needs. For example, you could be supporting a family member during retirement. If so, you might want to adjust your disposable income accordingly. The point is not necessarily the amount you contribute, but how you cut up the pie.

Also, to help with UU cash flow, consider making automatic monthly or quarterly payments directly from your checking account. You can do this online at our website.

Fiscally Yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer

Thanksgiving: A Native American View

For a Native American, the story of Thanksgiving is not a very happy one. But a member of the Dineh Nation and the Yankton Dakota Sioux finds occasion for hope.

An AlterNet Thanksgiving classic.

By Jacqueline Keeler / Pacific News Service 12/31/99, 11:00 PM GMT

I celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. This may surprise those people who wonder what Native Americans think of this official U.S. celebration of the survival of early arrivals in a European invasion that culminated in the death of 10 to 30 million native people.

Thanksgiving to me has never been about Pilgrims. When I was six, my mother, a woman of the Dineh nation, told my sister and me not to sing "Land of the Pilgrim's pride" in "America the Beautiful." Our people, she said, had been here much longer and taken much better care of the land. We were to sing "Land of the Indian's pride" instead. I was proud to sing the new lyrics in school, but I sang softly. It was enough for me to know the difference. At six, I felt I had learned something very important. As a child of a Native American family, you are part of a very select group of survivors, and I learned that my family possessed some "inside" knowledge of what really happened when those poor, tired masses came to our homes.

When the Pilgrims came to Plymouth Rock, they were poor and hungry -- half of them died within a few months from disease and hunger.

When Squanto, a Wampanoag man, found them, they were in a pitiful state. He spoke English, having traveled to Europe, and took pity on them. Their English crops had failed. The native people fed them through the winter and taught them how to grow their food. These were not merely "friendly Indians." They had already experienced European slave traders raiding their villages for a hundred years or so, and they were wary -- but it was their way to give freely to those who had nothing.

Among many of our peoples, showing that you can give without holding back is the way to earn respect. Among the Dakota, my father's people, they say, when asked to give, "Are we not Dakota and alive?" It was believed that by giving there would be enough for all -- the exact opposite of the system we live in now, which is based on selling, not giving..

Since that initial sharing, Native American food has spread around the world. Nearly 70 percent of all crops grown today were originally cultivated by Native American peoples. I sometimes wonder what they ate in Europe before they met us. Spaghetti without tomatoes? Meat and potatoes without potatoes? And at the "first Thanksgiving" the Wampanoags provided most of the food ... What did the Europeans give in return? Within 20 years European disease and treachery had decimated the Wampanoags. Most diseases then came from animals that Europeans had domesticated. Cowpox from cows led to smallpox, one of the great killers of our people, spread through gifts of blankets used by in-

fectured Europeans. Some estimate that diseases accounted for a death toll reaching 90 percent in some Native American communities.

By 1623, Mather the elder, a Pilgrim leader, was giving thanks to his God for destroying the heathen savages to make way "for a better growth," meaning his people. In stories told by the Dakota people, an evil person always keeps his or her heart in a secret place separate from the body. The hero must find that secret place and destroy the heart in order to stop the evil. I see, in the "First Thanksgiving" story, a hidden Pilgrim heart. The story of that heart is the real tale than needs to be told. What did it hold? Bigotry, hatred, greed, self-righteousness? We have seen the evil that it caused in the 350 years since. Genocide, environmental devastation, poverty, world wars, racism. Where is the hero who will destroy that heart of evil? I believe it must be each of us.

Indeed, when I give thanks this Thursday and I cook my native food, I will be thinking of this hidden heart and how my ancestors survived the evil it caused. Because if we can survive, with our ability to share and to give intact, then the evil and the good will that met that Thanksgiving day in the land of the Wampanoag will have come full circle. And the healing can begin.

Jacqueline Keeler is a member of the Dineh Nation and the Yankton Dakota Sioux. Her work has appeared in Winds of Change, an American Indian journal.

<https://www.alternet.org/story/4391/thanksgiving%>

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

The Dawn of a New Normal

Today the sky is clear. Puffy clouds are moving in and the temperature is cool. It is the dawn of the new normal. By the time you read this, the rebuilding of our city will have just begun. It will take many years for Santa Rosa and the people who lost their homes to fully recover from this disaster, but I have faith that relief and renewal will come.

Work of Renewal

The work of renewal will come in many forms. It will take the physical work of clearing the ashes and building the homes. It will take the policy work of ensuring that we rebuild for all people, not just for the affluent. It will take the commitment to forge environmental protections in the process of

restoration. And it will require the inner work of recovering from trauma.

We Each Have a Part to Play in the process.

We Give When The Spirit Says Give

The generosity we have seen through this disaster has been awesome. We are a community of great compassion and we give when the spirit says give. We love when the spirit says love. Let us remember that after the ashes are cleared, the needs of our people will still be enormous. I have faith that we will heed the call for help in any way that we are able. There are many hands and many hearts to pave the way to a new Santa Rosa. We will do this together. *In faith,* Deborah

NOVEMBER	K-1: WISDOM STORIES	2-4: SIGNS OF OUR FAITH	5-7: SING TO THE POWER
11/5/17	Children's Chapel Theme: Have faith		
11/12/17	<i>What Does It Mean To Be Present?</i> by <u>Rana DiOrio</u>	Session 7 Memorial Rituals	The Power of Presence
11/19/17	<i>The Awesome Book of Thanks</i> by Kerry Lee MacLean	Thanksgiving Celebration	Thanksgiving Celebration
11/26/17	<i>And Tango Makes Three</i> by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell	Session 8 We Share	The Power of Silence

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

9:15 every Sunday: 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.

The Youth Group (grades 8 to 12) is held every Thursday from 4 to 6pm. Deborah Mason, Danny Millsbaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for more information.

Caring Connection

Part of our UUCSR mission is taking care of each other. We help fellow members who are recovering from surgery, may be in the hospital, need meals, transportation or would like a phone call to stay connected with our community. Also members that have been displaced by the fires.

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you love to cook? Love to talk on the phone? Like to drive? Make deliveries? Think about how much time you are able

to give to this great cause of caring for each other.

Please stop by the Caring Connections table on Sunday to sign a card. Let us know how you would like to volunteer. Also talk to us if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns.

You could also call Gail Alford at 707-843-4466 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 that would like calls)

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.

Behind Controversial Movies Human Sexuality

Movies and Talks with Bill Stayton

Thursdays, November 2nd to 16th
1:30—4:30 pm

Movies can treat a sensitive topic through story telling. In this series, movies featuring untold stories in the field of human sexuality will be presented on 6 Wednesdays by Bill Stayton, a favorite lecturer at UUCSR.

We will be watching "The Einstein of Sex," "Kinsey," "For a Lost Soldier," "The Sessions," "Loving and Cheating," and "Revelations."

After each film Bill will lead a discussion focused on hearing each other's different viewpoints and gaining a better understanding of the subject. 3 classes are left in this series: 11/2, 11/9 and 11/16.

Donation suggested.

The Evolution of Unitarian Universalism Conflict and Creativity

Talks By Reverend Chris Bell

Wednesdays, October 25 – November 15
7:00 pm —8:30 pm

Rev. Chris Bell presents a four part series on The Evolution of Unitarian Universalism: Conflict and Creativity. Come to any or all!

The story of Unitarian Universalism is a dramatic one, originating in the earliest age of Christianity. Our ranks include some of the great heretics of the Reformation and the innovators of the Enlightenment, Protestant pioneers in America, Transcendentalists, Humanists, and today's free thinkers and justice warriors.

We have been in a perpetual revolution against dogmatic and restrictive religion, and, ironically, against ourselves, since the movement began. Come find your place in the epic of the Living Tradition! Taught by Rev. Chris Bell

October 25	The Christian Heretics	0 – 1700
November 1	The New England Religion	1750 – 1850
November 8	Transcendentalism, Humanism, and Merger	1850 – 1961
November 15	The Modern Era	1961— Now

Submitted by Helga Lemke helgalemke@earthlink.net

SPIRIT MOVES BODY MOVES

November 8 & 22
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
1:00 pm—2:30 pm
Led by Bertha Jean S.

A small group of UU women gathers for an activity called "Spirit Moves – Body Moves". This no-fee collaborative is facilitated by Bertha Jean – (707) 326-3397 or batra69@me.com. No dance/movement experience is necessary, only a desire to keep our bodies resilient as we age. Room 545 on the 1st & 3rd. Wednesdays of each month from 1:00-2:00. Look forward to your participation!

Let's move our energy in this "new normal" time!

UUCSR Thanksgiving Potluck
Thursday, November 23, 2017
Come one! Come all! Come give thanks and share a wonderful meal with your community. We're having a Thanksgiving potluck in our Social Hall, starting at 3:00. It's a big potluck, with signup sheets on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Bring your specialty. Bring something you've never made before! Bring yourself. Bring your family! Come break bread together and share gratefulness for this special community.

Evening Book Group

Thursday, November 9
7 –9 pm, RE Wing

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

The November Selection is: *The Grapes of Wrath* By John Steinbeck

In December we are reading: *Bartleby the Scrivener* by Herman Melville
Visitors and newcomers are welcome!

Questions?
Contact Linda Lampson

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.

SHARE THE OFFERING SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocates for Social Justice, in consultation with our Minister and others of our UUCSR community, have decided to concentrate our November Sunday Share the Offerings with organizations that are helping people deal with the devastation they have experienced as a result of the Santa Rosa and other Fires.

We will mostly be scheduling with not much, if any, advance notice. By keeping fluid, we can look at who needs the most from us at any particular moment in time.

Check the Focus List, Facebook, and the weekly order of service to see which organization we will Share the Basket with each week. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and especially, your generosity.

Advocates for
Social Justice

HOT TOPIC

MEDICARE CHANGES AND CHOICES 2018

Sunday November 12

After 11:00 am Service

*Presented by Alan Piombo, HICAP Counselor
Senior Advocacy Services in Petaluma.*

HICAP: a Medicare Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, which provides beneficiaries with unbiased individual assistance and advocacy related to their Medicare benefits as well as community educational opportunities. HICAP counselors do not charge for any services, sell any product or make any decisions for the individuals.

During the Oct. 15-Dec. 7 Annual Open Enrollment Period, we have the opportunity to examine our plans and learn about changes which will occur and learn about other options which are available to us should we want to change.

Topics: Get Educated to make informed choices; Which Part D Premiums & Formularies are changing; Understand Advantage Plan Changes How to Pay Less for your medications; Understand Advantage plans and your Medicare.

Come join us and bring your questions!

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/CLIMATE CHANGE FILM SERIES

Brought to you by the Advocates for Social Justice Film Project

LIVING DOWNSTREAM: AN ECOLOGIST LOOKS AT CANCER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Produced by The People's Picture Company

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Following the 11 AM service in the Board Room

Living Downstream is a thought provoking documentary springing from the book by poet, biologist and cancer survivor Dr. Sandra Steingraber. This is at once an intensely personal account and a well-documented scientific documentary about the carcinogenic effects of environmental degradation. Following her mentor, Rachel Carson, Dr. Steingraber has become a well-known researcher and activist addressing the cancer epidemics of our time.

Her inspiration comes from a fable about a village on a river:

The residents who live there, according to this parable, began noticing increasing numbers of drowning people caught in the river's swift current and so went to work inventing ever more elaborate technologies to resuscitate them. So preoccupied were these heroic villagers with rescue and treatment that they never thought to look upstream to see who was pushing the victims in.

This 2010 documentary is a walk up that river.

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

*A4SJ Film Project Team: Elaine Wellin, Cassandra Lista,
Mary Louise Jaffray, Carol Daeley, Dorris Lee, Jeanie Bates*

*NBOP ISSUES ASSEMBLY Rescheduled
Sunday November 5, 2017
3-5, Glaser Center*

The Issues Assembly that was scheduled for Sunday October 15th was postponed due to the fires. The new date is November 5, 2017. NBOP will continue to work to assist people with renters rights, affordable housing, transportation. If you are interested in getting involved or have questions please contact Deborah Mason, Sibyl Day, Carol Kraemer, or Ellen O'Hare.

TIE GROUPS

Tie Groups Tie Groups Tie Groups

"TIE GROUPS ARE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN THE CONGREGATION!"

J.H.

TIE Groups are small (8-10) facilitated discuss groups which meet twice a month from October thru May. Participation in a TIE group provides an opportunity to enhance a sense of belonging within our UUSCR community. Members engage in conversation springing from topics that are rich in potential for deep sharing.

Advocates For Social Justice is Sponsoring:

A Talk and Film Clip on the making of "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power"

*By Robyn Kopp, Associate Producer
Dec 3 after 11:00 am Service*

Robyn Kopp, Associate Producer of "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power," the Al Gore sequel to the original "Inconvenient Truth" will speak on December 3 after the 11:00 service.

She will present "Truth in 10," a ten-minute overview of the feature film and describe the making of this timely environmental film, including the decisions and challenges encountered during its filming.

*Sponsored by A4SJ
Thanks, Linda Lambert*

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 S.*

**OLD AGE IS
NOT FOR SISSIES**

2nd and 4th Mondays at 10:30 am

November 13 & 27

10:30 a.m. in UUCSR 545 Room

Old Age is Not for Sissies is a group for Women Congregants 80 and over.

Are you one of us? Meet in Rm 545 at 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

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

September RECIPIENTS

Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow	\$436.63
South East Greenway	\$751.62
UU Hurricane Fund	\$2067.75
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$582.88

Thanks for Your Generosity!

Special Deadlines for UU UPDATE

Please Mark Your Calendars

December Issue Submissions due no later than Nov. 13

January issue Submissions due no later than Dec. 11

UUCSR Monthly
Work Saturday
November 4
9 am—Noon

Our Work Day this month will be...
*Please come and help keep the
building and grounds spiffy!*

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, November 11
10:15 am-1:00 pm

Foothill Regional Park, Windsor

Meet at carpool at 9:30, Fourth and Farmers Lane near the Redwood Credit Union Office or at the park 10:15. Easy to moderate hike, nice fall colors and views, 2-3 miles depending on route, dogs okay, bring water, snacks/lunch. Email signup tofitness@uusantarosa.org or contact Richard Fung and Patty Somlo.

Plan to come along!

UUCSR Women Together Presents:
Our Fall "Elder Tale" Presentation
Saturday, November 18, at 2-4 pm

We eagerly look forward to hearing Shirley Ranck tell us her life story on Saturday, November 18th from 2 to 4 pm in the Youth Room. As many of you know, Shirley is a UU minister and was instrumental in bringing knowledge of the history of The Goddess into our denomination. *Please bring finger food to share.*

CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY SOCIAL HOURS

Hello! There are changes coming to the Sunday social hours.

I need volunteers to help with creating a smooth and enjoyable time for everyone. My desire is to enable everyone to be able to attend the whole service every week.

Since the Saturday breakfast runs like a smooth machine, I would like to model Sunday Social Hour after it. I am looking for five volunteers that would like to be a captain, one Sunday a month. The fifth captain would be whenever there is a fifth Sunday. The captains and I will create teams of volunteers that help once a month (or more if they wish). There will be several shifts. Two people to come in at 8:30 to start coffee, set up and be able to go to 9:15 service. At 10, two or three people to prepare and set out food and oversee the first coffee hour between services and then go to the 11:00 service. If you attended the early service you can go home after the 11:00 service starts. At 12, two or three people to set out food and oversee the second coffee hour. The last shift would be 12:30, where one or two additional people could help clean up. Everyone would only work an hour at most.

My goal is to have everyone leave by 1. It may seem like a lot of people and shifts but there is not much to do during the services and the more people involved the less chance of someone burning out. I am open to suggestions and advice!

*Like to volunteer? Please contact Ellen O'Hare
I look forward to working with you!*

SPEED DIVERSITY DIALOGUE
HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO THE SANTA ROSA FIRES
Stay Tuned Here For A New Date For This Important Event

Speed Diversity Dialog
October 15, 2017

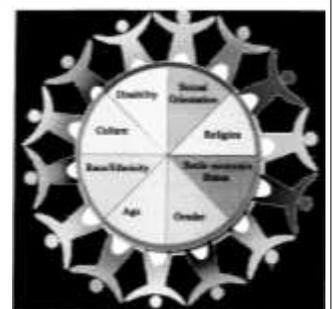
A new approach to our collective commitment to diversity.

Speed Diversity Dialogue [SDD], designed and facilitated by Dr. Elisa Velasquez, Director of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence at Sonoma State University, is an exciting and unique opportunity to expand our understanding of the widest range of diversity issues facing us today.

Dr. Velasquez will lead us in exploring "The Big 8" in a highly interactive, multicultural competency program. SDD has proven success in breaking down social barriers and increasing empathy among participants, and in providing a safe space to learn more about this pressing issue for UUs here and nationally.

Here's what some of the hundreds of participants have said: *"Speed Diversity Dialog is interesting, eye-opening, fun, very useful, rewarding, enjoyable, helpful, thought provoking, valuable, enlightening, and awesome. All in all, an amazing experience."*

Refreshments in 545 before the event. Offered by the Diversity Project of A4J.



Annual Auction Postponed All-Congregation Potluck and Raffle To Take its Place

In the light of recent events in our town and county, Dee Ray (lead organizer), Natalie Brundred (UUCSR President) and Rev Chris concur that this is an inopportune time for us to hold the Annual Service Auction.

"Too many people are scattered and stunned, too much money is needed for other things, and we are all feeling sad," Rev Chris explained.

So the Auction and Auction dinner are postponed until Saturday, February 17th. The "Club N'Awlins" theme that we were already planning to enjoy will make the Auction a perfect Mardi Gras event! But we are still going to get together on November 4th! We will enjoy an old-fashioned, self-organizing potluck, with amazing Latin music provided by friend-of-the-congregation Carlos Herrera and his band. You can learn about them here: <http://carlosherreraband.com>. Many of you will recognize Carlos from Nancy Fitzpatrick's lovely annual garden parties. **"Word is that some of our UUCSR musicians will also sit in."**

We will draw the raffle winners at the soiree on the 4th. You can buy tickets on the next two Sundays, and you can pick up tickets to sell or give away, too, if you wish. All proceeds go to UUCSR.

Here's the New Plan:

NOVEMBER 4

All-Congregation Potluck

- 5:00 Gathering/Beverages/Snacks
- 6:00 Potluck Dinner
- 6:45 Raffle Drawing
- 7:00 Music / Dancing
- 9:00 Clean-up

Admission is free, and all are welcome. Some drinks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring more.

Speaking of Nancy: She has been as diligent as ever

in promoting our raffle, and many tickets have already been sold, and so we will go ahead and draw the raffle winners at the soiree on the 4th. You can buy tickets on the next two Sundays, and you can pick up tickets to sell or give away, too, if you wish. All proceeds go to UUCSR.

Thanks for all your flexibility during these trying times. Please keep our displaced members and friends foremost in your prayers, calls, and random acts of kindness.

Fondly, Rev. Chris

THE UUCSR COMMUNITY RAFFLE
Drawing on November 4 at All Congregation Potluck

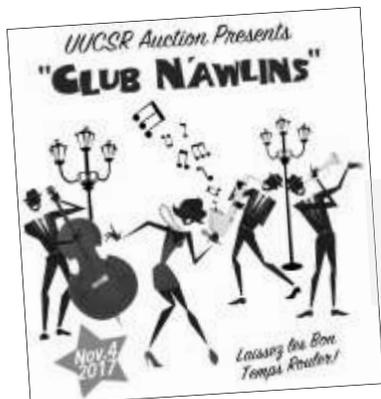
2 Tickets \$6.00	★
4 Tickets \$10.00	
10 Tickets \$20.00	



Buy and Sell Raffle Tickets!

The Raffle runs from October 8 through to November 4th And will be drawn at the All Congregation Potluck at UUCSR on that date.

The Community Raffle always brings a fair chunk of change for our beloved community's work. Nancy Fitzpatrick needs our help to make this year's Raffle a success! Call her to sell or buy tickets.



"CLUB N'AWLINS" Annual Auction Gala February 17, 2018

POSTPONED DUE TO FIRE RECOVERY
PLEASE Calendar the New Date

Still Accepting Auction Donations!

Musical Notes

The sun came to Earth one Sunday night and disrupted all our lives.

As a community we came together celebrating our lives, empowering each other, caring for one another, and now we're pitching in to help build a better world.

In some cases, from the ground up.

The Musician's Showcase was postponed, and at least one choir rehearsal was canceled.

Nevertheless we persist. We will be back to a full musical schedule as soon as we can.

In the meantime, let us all keep singing. Music is a balm for the soul.

Randy Jones

Love and Commitment

From Your Stewardship Team

Love and Commitment.

For the past several weeks, our love and commitment has been working overtime and we'll continue as we transition to the new normal of our changed environment.

Some of our members and friends have lost homes and everything in them, barely escaping with their lives. Many were evacuated, not knowing the state of their neighborhoods and neighbors they saw every day.

What is stewardship, more than this, the manifestation of our love and commitment?

As we move forward, helping to rebuild our community, caring for one another, the gifts we give to our congregation and each other can remind us of what is truly important. Love and commitment.

*Linda Balabanian
For the Stewardship Team*

Blessing When the World is Ending

*Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.
Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.
Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door,
the shattered hope.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet*

*that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.
Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.
But, listen,
this blessing means
to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.
It is simply here
because there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more*

*for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.
This blessing
will not fix you,
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes.
It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.*

*—Jan Richardson
from Circle of Grace*