



# The UU Update

FEBRUARY 2018

Volume 62 • Issue 2

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

## LOVE

FEBRUARY

TWO SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 am & 11:00 am

February 4

### A BLUEPRINT FOR LOVE, PART 1

Love, as poet and author bell hooks has observed, is an action, never just a feeling. It is a choice we make and a practice we pursue. In this congregation, we guide ourselves, and one another, toward loving action through our Covenant, which is **our blueprint for loving actions. Step one: "Seeking Unity in our Diversity." It's not always an easy practice, but it might just save the world.**

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY at 11:00

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Fischer, Deb Mason* Music by: *Alan Bell & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman* Share the Basket: Islamic Society of Santa Rosa

February 11

### A BLUEPRINT FOR LOVE, PART 2

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:15 AM

The second and third lines of the UUCSR Covenant call us "to welcome and respect divergent opinions and beliefs" and "to listen to one another with open hearts and minds." The importance of such a practice, and the cost of not pursuing it, is as clear **as the next morning's headline from Washington, D.C., but we'll keep the inquiry closer to home. How** are we doing in really welcoming divergent opinions? And, divergent from what?

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty, Deb Mason* Music by: *Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman* Share the Basket: *Senior Advocacy Services*

February 11

### ALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MTG AT 11:00

*UU 5th principle: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations*

**We'll receive and review the Board of Trustee's reports, recommendations, and appreciations. We'll discuss and vote. All members requested to attend. All others welcome as well. Let's all keep current, and participate in our beloved UUCSR's congregational process.**

February 18

### A BLUEPRINT FOR LOVE, PART 3

Our Covenant next calls us "to acknowledge our shortcomings and be quick to forgive them in others." It is impossible to have loving relationships without the capacity to forgive, and forgiveness is necessary for health, but it is not an easy task. Facing our own shortcomings can be frightening, and granting forgiveness is frequently much easier **than asking for it. And just how quick is "quick," anyway? Today we'll consider this profoundly liberating practice and its challenges.**

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Aphrodite Bellochio, Deb Mason* Music by: *Eric Skagerberg & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman* Share the Basket: *Fence at the Top*

February 25

### A BLUEPRINT FOR LOVE, PART 4

**The final line of our Covenant calls us "to keep our focus on our Mission," which, as everyone knows, is to "celebrate life, empower people, care for one another, and help to build a better world." We'll look** most closely at the challenges and rewards of keeping our focus in an era of the briefest spans of attention, and discuss how that can make both our individual souls, and our community, stronger and more resilient.

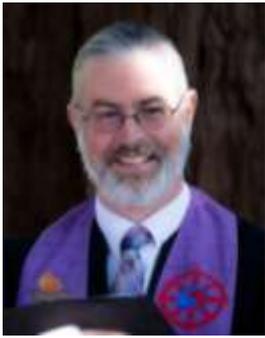
Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller, Deb Mason* Music by: *Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman* Share the Basket: *Breakfast for our Neighbors*

March 4

### ON BEING HUMBLER

**The theme of the month of March is humility. We'll** begin our series by considering the vital role of failure, and our response to it, in our social and spiritual development as individuals and as a people.

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff, Deb Mason* Music by: *Robert Howseman & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman* Share the Basket: *The Peace and Justice Center*



## A Study in Love

A universal salvific and creative love has been the center of our tradition since its very beginnings. Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence and early Universalist, wrote *"a belief in God's universal love to all his creatures, and that he will finally restore all those of them that*

*are miserable to happiness, is a polar truth"* of our tradition. Later, Ralph Waldo Emerson, one time Unitarian minister and Transcendentalist writer whose ideas profoundly informs our religious tradition, wrote *"Love is our highest word and the synonym for God."*

Given how central Love is to us, it is odd that the word "Love" does not appear in our Seven Principles. It does appear in the Six Sources, where we urge ourselves to turn to "words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love," and to "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves."

Like "justice," "truth," or "God," Love is a word truly hard to define. It carries plainly mundane and utterly profound meanings. Love is a fluid concept, like obscenity, which Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart was forced to admit that he could not define. But, he said, *"I know it when I see it."*

I agree, but let's hone in a little more. bell hooks writes, *"...how much easier it would be for us to learn how to love if we began with a shared definition. The word 'love' is most often defined as a noun, yet all the more astute theorists of love acknowledge that we would all love better if we used it as a verb. I spent years searching for a meaningful definition of the word 'love,' and was deeply relieved when I found one in psychiatrist M. Scott Peck's classic self-help book The Road Less Traveled, first published in 1978. Echoing the work of Erich Fromm, he defines love as 'the will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth.'"*

Sounds like our Third Principle, "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth," doesn't it?

Everything we do here fundamentally relates to nurturing our own and each other's spiritual growth. Our effort to create a more just society outside our walls is about creating conditions where people can blossom into their full potential and agency as spiritual beings. Love wants everybody to be free, to have enough food, shelter and money, to have access to learning and creative endeavors, to commune with nature.

Internally, our Covenant helps us act lovingly. If we abide by the guidelines of the Covenant, then

we embody love. Not always an easy task, but nothing in the spiritual life is easy. It involves subsuming our ever-pesky egos to purposes larger than ourselves.

**We'll spend February in services looking at our Covenant as a powerful instruction manual for love.** The more seriously we take our guiding language, **the greater our rewards. We'll be more loving, and thus, more happy.**

**Which is the meaning of life, don't ya know?**

If we dutifully and joyfully abide by our Covenant then we can create what M. Scott Peck calls **"true community."** Wikipedia describes Peck's characteristics of such a community. Do you recognize UUCSR in these characteristics? I do.

*Inclusivity, commitment and consensus: Members accept and embrace each other, celebrating their individuality and transcending their differences. They commit themselves to the effort and the people involved. They make decisions and reconcile their differences through consensus.*

*Realism: Members bring together multiple perspectives to better understand the whole context of the situation. Decisions are more well-rounded and humble, rather than one-sided and arrogant.*

*Contemplation: Members examine themselves. They are individually and collectively self-aware of the world outside themselves, the world inside themselves, and the relationship between the two.*

*A safe place: Members allow others to share their vulnerability, heal themselves, and express who they truly are.*

*A laboratory for personal disarmament: Members experientially discover the rules for peacemaking and embrace its virtues. They feel and express compassion and respect for each other as fellow human beings.*

*A group that can fight gracefully: Members resolve conflicts with wisdom and grace. They listen and understand, respect each other's gifts, accept each other's limitations, celebrate their differences, bind each other's wounds, and commit to a struggle together rather than against each other.*

*A group of all leaders: Members harness the "flow of leadership" to make decisions and set a course of action. It is the spirit of community itself that leads, and not any single individual.*

*A spirit: The true spirit of community is the spirit of peace, love, wisdom and power. Members may view the source of this spirit as an outgrowth of the collective self or as the manifestation of a Higher Will.*

There are ways we can improve our practice. We can face our hidden prejudices and privileges and become more inclusive. More folks can step up into leadership. We can risk greater vulnerability with one another. And we can always turn more toward that Higher Will within us that is Love itself.

However you define love, my earnest prayer is that being a part of this community helps you to bring more of it into your life. It does that for me, and for that I thank each and every one of you.

**So, Happy Valentine's Day, my dears!**

**Reverend Chris Bell**

**“No Time for a Casual Faith”**

**The President’s Column**

You know, sometimes it feels as though the 1950’s are giving their last gasp: their last grab at power. White men should be the only ones to have a say, all women and black people should “know their place”, immigrants should just stay away, and what’s good for large corporations MUST be good for everyone. Regulations, shmeregulations!

**We’re in a time of transformation. Of deep transformation, moving towards a new paradigm. And transformation ain’t easy. The waters aren’t calm. The old order doesn’t just say “Oh, you want it to be a different way where I’m not in charge? Where life isn’t so easy for me? Sure! Have at it!” It RESISTS change. And the new order fights for that change, with heart and passion and commitment. (Sound like the times we’re living through, doesn’t it?)**

In this time of transformation, UUCSR, our principles and our mission are more important to me than ever before. This is a faith that I can and want to hang my hat on. Do I want that new paradigm? Yes. Can I do it alone? No way. (I call my mind “a bad neighborhood, filled with bottomless potholes.” 3:00 am is NOT a fun time.) Can I do it with my beloved community? **Absolutely. At the Women’s March, both last year and this year, I was uplifted, energized and moved to action. It meant so much to see Courthouse**

Square filled to the brim. It means so much to see our Sanctuary filled every Sunday. It means so much to have all the varied work of the congregation done by so many willing volunteers.



Unitarian Universalists bring something unique and special to **this “transformation party”** the world is throwing. Our principles ground us in loving, in caring, in supporting, in connecting, in being one point of a beautiful web of life. And the world needs all of that it can get these days. As UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray says, **this is no time for a casual faith. It’s time for each of us to walk our talk. To reach out to the hurting, the needy, the lonely, the scared. To extend a hand in love and support. It may be to a friend. It’s all needed. Now is the time. We are the ones.**

You are a beautiful point in the web of all existence. **Shine your light as brightly as you can. We’re all counting on it!**

*Much Love, Natalie Brundred,  
President UUCSR Board of Trustees*

*P.S. – Please be sure to come to our Congregational Meeting after our 9:15 service (note the time!) February 11th. We’re electing next year’s board members, as well as presenting and talking about several important issues talked about in other articles in this newsletter.*

*What Is Your Board Up To?  
January 2018*

**We have a new “Member Engagement” committee!** Sara Jones is heading it. They will support our members engagement in the work of the church. The committee is grounded in the principle that the more you put in to something, the more you get out.

We spent a lot of time planning the February Congregational Meeting. Big things are happening, so be sure to attend! Michael Randolph, our Treasurer, will present his draft budget for next year, **and we’ll discuss our goal of having a part-time assistant minister and our proposal to move from three Congregational Meetings a year to two.**

The board can only be as effective as our partnership **with you. Please feel free to find the “Speak With a Board Member” sign at Social Hour and talk with the board member under it, contact me any time, or attend a board meeting. Our next one is February 15th at 6:30 in the Board Room.**

*Natalie*



**SUPPORTIVE DROP-IN GROUP**

**FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE FIRES**  
Monday, February 5 (ongoing)  
6:30-8:30 pm in the UUCSR Board Room  
*A place to talk about your fire experiences and feelings.* This drop in group meets Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Board Room. All affected by the fires are welcome, no matter the particular loss. Facilitated by Jeanie Bates and Lucia Milburn.  
Like more information? Call. Or just show up.

# Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

Love is this month's theme.

But isn't it our theme every month in RE? Over the years I have learned what makes a successful RE program is love. Plain and simple.

If teachers can express openhearted love to their students, children will feel safe, secure and accepted. This is what children want and need when they come to church on Sunday mornings.

We say that love is the doctrine of our church. It is the curriculum as well. We teach about fairness and justice because both are in essence a form of love. When we teach environmental stewardship we teach love for

nature. We teach service to others because spreading love to those in need is the highest form of loving.

There is lots of love in the world. But there is also a lot unkindness and kids are confronted by it in many ways every day. Sunday morning at UUCSR is an antidote to the pain and stress out there in the world.

When we surround kids with love and kindness, even for just an hour-and-a-half every week, we do them and their families a lot of good. Love is the ministry of the RE program. It is here for all who come to us.

*In faith, Deborah*

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 (4-6 pm every Thursday) Deborah Mason, Danny Millsbaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah ([debmasonuu@gmail.com](mailto:debmasonuu@gmail.com)) for more information.

FEBRUARY	<u>Grades K-1</u> Wisdom Stories	<u>Grades 2-4</u> Signs of Our Faith	<u>Grades 5-7</u> Sing to the Power
FEB 4	<b>Children's Chapel - All Ages Together</b> Theme: Love		
FEB 11	<i>A Sick Day for Amos McGee</i> by Phillip C. Snead	Special Holiday session <i>Susan B Anthony Day</i>	Session 14: The Power of Passion Part II
FEB 18	<i>The Big Orange Splot</i> by Daniel M Pinkwater	Session 13: Signs of Being a UU And Third Emblem	Session 15: The Power of Action
FEB 25	<i>Just Because You're Different</i> A story about Nina	Session 14: Beauty In Uniqueness	Session 16: The Power of Reaching Out

*Share-The-Basket*

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

**DECEMBER RECIPIENTS**

RCU Fire Fund	\$1007.05
The Living Room	\$601.15
YWCA Safe House	\$751.60
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$389.97

*Thanks for Your Generosity!*

*UU Update*

Submissions for Newsletter  
**March's Due By February 19th!**

Why Wait? Submit your items for the March Newsletter *Now* and Earn Gratitude Points.

Send to [Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org).  
Questions? Editor at 636-4684.

## 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: Helga Lemke (Chair), Nadene Carroll, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck and Rev. Chris*

### *Detective Fiction From Peo to Penny*

Mondays, February 19 - March 26  
3 - 4:30 p.m.

Detective fiction appears in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe as part of urbanization, the establishment of professional police forces, and broad popular interest in scientific developments. Class sessions will focus on its early forms, the Golden Age, the definition of the detective, and recent developments in form and focus. The last class session will be a discussion of Deborah Crombie's *A Finer End*. Class members are encouraged to read. Carol Daeley is a retired Professor of English from Austin College in Texas with degrees from Rutgers University and the University of California, Riverside. After starting her career as a specialist in 18th-century British literature and William Blake, she became unruly and pursued teaching interests in such fields as detective fiction, World War I literature, literary and other relations between Asia and Europe, and trade history. February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 3: to 4:30 p.m.

### *Being Mortal by Atul Gawande: A Book Discussion*

Thursdays, March 15 - April 5  
7 - 9 pm at UUCSR

This deeply moving book will be our resource to consider attitudes towards aging and dying in our country. Doctors are trained to keep patients alive as long as possible- but not how to help them prepare for death. Join us for a 4 part discussion of this book which compares attitudes toward death and dying in the West and India and asks hard questions about how we as a culture and the medical profession in particular treat the old and the terminally ill. Moderated by UU members Linda Lampson (UU book club coordinator, a trained hospital chaplain and CPA specializing in estate planning), and Helga Lemke, UU book club member. Both are avid readers.

### *What Moves Us*

Wednesdays, March 7 - June 6  
7-8 pm at UUCSR

Starting March 7, Rev. Chris will offer a theology series on Unitarian authors such as George de Benneville, Charles Chauncym Hosea Ballou and Margaret Fuller. This Wednesday class will run from 3/7 until 6/6 from 7:00 -8:30pm.

### *The Logic of Faith*

Tuesday, March 20, 7-8 pm

A very special event will take place on March 20 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in our sanctuary. Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel, noted Buddhist teacher and author, will offer a talk and book signing of her new book, *The Logic of Faith*. Join Elizabeth as she explores the creative relationship between faith and doubt, knowing and not-knowing, and shows how an awakened life results from living from the place in between. Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel has studied and practiced the buddha-dharma for more than thirty years under the guidance of Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche.

### *Drawing Group*

Wednesdays, 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!*

### *Evening Book Group*

February 8 (2nd Thursdays)  
7 -9 pm in the RE Wing

The Evening Book Group meets February 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The February selection is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. In March we read *Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of America's First Poet Laureate*, by Aleta George. *Visitors and newcomers are welcome!* Questions? Contact Linda Lampson

### *Spirit Moves Body Moves*

February 7 & 21 (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)  
1:00 pm—2:30 pm in Rm 545

A small group of UU women gathers for an activity called "**Spirit Moves - Body Moves.**" This no-fee collaborative is facilitated by Bertha Jean. No dance/movement experience is necessary, only a desire to keep our bodies resilient as we age. ***Let's move our energy in this "new normal" time!***

### *TIE GROUPS*

TIE groups have openings for new members! TIE groups will meet from January through May, 2018. For more info contact Jo Katon to sign up.

*"Participating in a TIE group makes me know I belong to the UUCSR community."* JMH

## The Case for an Assistant Minister

As you know, for the past 3 years and more, the board and Rev. Chris have been talking about the need for an Assistant Minister. Given the size we **have grown to, it's appropriate to have a part-time** minister who can expand our ability to fulfill our mission in our community, as well as assist Rev. Chris in his many demands on his time.

Imagine if we had not one but two ministers to provide pastoral care, as well as our new Lay Chaplains? Imagine if we could create and maintain a robust, vibrant campus ministry at both SRJC and SSU? Imagine if we could be even more of a presence in the community? Imagine if we could reach out even more? What else can you imagine? So much becomes possible with an Assistant Minister that is just not possible now.

An Assistant Minister will make things possible for you, for our UUCSR community, and for our larger community. How could that make a difference? We are at a point as a congregation and a community to find out those answers.

Your Board of Trustees unanimously recommends that we do what we need to do to hire an Assistant Minister to begin in August. **Let's not fool ourselves** – this will require each of us increasing our pledge to meet this need. But I know we can do it. Every time **we've seen a need like this in the past, we have** stepped up. As Rev. Chris says every Sunday, we are a generous people.

**Let's be generous again to further fund our Mission:** Celebrating life, empowering people, caring about one another and helping to build a better world.

**Now is the time. We are the ones. Let's make it happen!**

- Natalie Brundred



## Big Congregational Meeting News!

Your Board of Trustees would like us to move from three meetings to two meaty, functional meetings a **year. In the past, we've needed three meetings,** mostly because of our pledge drives.

**However, since we don't do pledge drives any more,** it no longer makes sense to make the effort and take the time to create a budget almost 6 months in advance. That early budget is almost meaningless, as the Finance Committee cannot utilize the most current data to prepare their projections.

We want to balance our need for transparency and **oversight with our need to best utilize our volunteers'** time, effort and expertise.

Therefore, your Board of Trustees is unanimously recommending that we move from three meetings a year to two: one in January, and one in June. The proposed budget will be mailed out to the congregation in early May, and several forums will be held so people can get their questions answered and their concerns heard. The Finance Committee will take all the input from these forums to revise the draft budget as appropriate. What is voted on in the June Congregational Meeting **WILL HAVE HAD** congregational input and oversight.

I will be letting you know more about this at the February Congregational Meeting. (Another reason to attend!) And if you have any questions or **concerns about this, don't hesitate to contact me.**

*In partnership,  
Natalie*

*Auction/Mardi Gras Celebration at UUCSR  
Fun and Games, Buying and Dining!  
Saturday, February 17  
Happy Hour Begins at 4:30 pm!*

*I'm still being asked frequently: "When is the auction?"  
It's FEBRUARY 17! Happy hour 4:30. Please put it on your calendar now.*

We're making a special effort this year to make sure there is something for everyone at the auction party. See the catalog of donated items at <https://web.uusantarosa.org/connect/auction/>.

*Admission is on a sliding scale from \$10 to \$40.  
You may pay as you are able and you'll still get a four-course dinner!*

We have about 170 items, and counting, to bid on ranging in price anywhere from \$5 to hundreds. Bidding starts after services in the Narthex. Deadline for submitting donations is Sunday, February 11.

We have dinners and parties open for competitive bid such as "Come to the Kasbah," "Indian Feast," "Star Trek Fest," "A Taste of Iberia," "An Afternoon of Jazz with a View," and many more. We have a recumbent exercise bike, we have musical instruments, we have many household items, and some really lovely art, which you can see hanging on the walls of the Glaser Center right now.

We have "Signup" events for a fixed price (usually \$15) on a first come, first-served basis. Look for the SIGNUP board on Auction night. They include an Ice Cream Social at the Milburn/Como home, the Women's Brunch at Yulupa Co-housing sponsored by Linda Proulx and friends, a Games Galore party at the UU hosted by Dee & John Ray, a Story Circle hosted by Jeanie Bates and Linda Harlow, and MORE! *(It's rumored that Rev. Chris will be hosting one.)* [Please See Insert for Full Flyer]

*Dee Ray, Auction Coordinator*



• LISTENING FOR A CHANGE •

*LISTENING FOR A CHANGE WORKSHOP  
ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
DIVERSITY PROJECT*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018  
FOLLOWING THE 11 AM SERVICE, BOARD ROOM

Listening as well as engaging with skillful questions is at the heart of making real contact with folks. The Diversity Project of Advocates for Social Justice is pleased to offer a workshop on listening and interviewing brought to us by Listening For A Change.

*From the website:*

**Our Mission**

Listening For A Change promotes understanding and acceptance of human diversity through education, oral history and the arts.

**Our Vision**

As our communities become increasingly diverse, it is imperative that we find meaningful ways to respect and understand the rich and complex cultures among us. We work to eliminate prejudice and intolerance in order to promote true acceptance of others. This is achieved by working with communities to develop oral histories and art projects based upon the personal stories of community members who have lost human or civil rights.

This offering by the Diversity Project promises to support us all with useful skills as we work toward the "better world" we hope to build. We will offer snacks and, of course, you are welcome to bring what you would like to eat.

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.*

FEB. 4: ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF SANTA ROSA. Our good neighbor, the Islamic Society of Santa Rosa, has fallen on difficult times because of the recent fires, which affected many of their members. Please make a contribution to help them.

FEB. 11: SENIOR ADVOCACY SERVICES, w/ offices in Petaluma, educates and advocates for the rights and dignity of those who need assistance with Medicare, Senior Justice issues or advocacy in Long Term Care settings.

FEB. 18: FENCE AT THE TOP a mentoring program for at-risk youth in Sonoma County, providing vital life skills to foster the greatest success possible for each of them. A proactive approach which intercepts at-risk, troubled, and neglected youth.

FEB. 25: BREAKFAST FOR OUR NEIGHBORS, our own Saturday Breakfast, provides nutritious meals in a friendly atmosphere for our neighbors in need. Supported by volunteer efforts and financial generosity of members and others.

MARCH 4: PEACE & JUSTICE **CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY'S** mission is to inform, support and energize the community to create peace and social justice, through active non-violence, educational events, informative articles on current issues and promoting local peace and justice efforts in the community. We provide meeting space and organizational resources to local activist groups.

FEBRUARY  
HOT  
TOPIC

LIFE IN PALESTINE  
UNDER OCCUPATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4  
after 11 AM service in the Board Room

PRESENTERS: THERESE MUGHANNAM & SUSAN RAHMAN

One of the most troubling humanitarian and political dilemmas, in our world full of humanitarian and political dilemmas, is that of Palestinians who live under Israeli occupation. Depending on our source of news about the Middle East we may have little or no information about the conditions that Palestinians endure.

Our presenters will offer first hand descriptions in word and picture of these conditions. Therese has long been an active member and leader of North Coast Coalition for Palestine. Susan is a Sociologist and is a professor at College of Marin. Both have family connections in Palestine. Both have traveled to Palestine and have experienced for themselves the restrictions imposed under occupation. Susan, in her doctoral dissertation, examined Palestinian women's resistance to occupation and will share some of what she learned. We are fortunate to have Therese and Susan with us for this important Hot Topic.

*We invite you to bring whatever you would want to eat.*

*ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/CLIMATE CHANGE FILM SERIES  
 The Advocates for Social Justice Film Project is pleased to present this important documentary.*

**BLUE GOLD: WORLD WATER WARS**

Director Sam Bozzo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018  
after 11 AM service in the Board Room

Talking about the water crisis isn't just muttering about predictions of **what could happen if we don't straighten up and fly right. It's upon us.**

There is plenty of evidence in "Blue Gold: World Water Wars," a 2008 award winning documentary highlighting the science, politics, and future of water on planet Earth. Blue Gold is endlessly informative, documenting the environmental issues behind why we are rapidly losing our fresh water supplies, the politics behind water ownership and distribution that worsen the situation, and scenarios of what will happen as water becomes increasingly scarce. The film captures truly **innovative and memorable solutions, many immediately 'do-able' and nearly free.** Featuring inspiring international environmental activists, Canadian Maude Barlow and Indian Vandana Shiva, the film names names and presents an international analysis hard to ignore.

*Discussion follows viewing of the film. Please bring whatever you wish to eat. We provide snacks, not lunch. Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Jeanie*

*Monthly Work Saturday*

Saturday, February 3  
9 am—Noon

Keep our Spiritual Home looking good! We need gardeners, people to do minor repairs and change light bulbs, etc., and experienced handy people. Look for announcement on Focus List to confirm date.

*Faith And Fitness*

Saturday, February 3  
10:15 am-1:00 pm

Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park  
Walk at newly reopened Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, through burned and unburned areas, we'll see how the land is recovering. Easy to moderate 2 mile loop, bring water, lunch. Meet 9:30 am at the carpool or at 10:00 at the day use parking lot, fee to park, may be crowded due to reopening. Contact Gretchen P.,



**OLD AGE IS NOT  
FOR SISSIES**

2nd & 4th Mondays  
FEBRUARY 12 & 26  
10:30 a.m. in UUCSR 545 Room  
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. Need transportation? Please call well ahead of meeting date.

Questions? Call:

Phyllis Clement  
Dorris Lee  
Shirley White

**DESK ANGELS WANTED!**

*Lonely? Isolated?  
Join our Desk Angels team!*

The primary task is answering the telephone. This service is a "piece of cake and gluten-free!"

*A joyful time is guaranteed!*  
Contact Bertha Jean

*CUUPS Croning Ceremony*

Sunday, February 4, 12:30 pm  
Room 545 at UUCSR

*"There is no greater power in the world than the zest of a postmenopausal woman" - Margaret Mead*

The word Crone is derived from the word cronus (time) and it means the wisdom gained through life long experiences. In other words, a Wise Woman; and you are everywhere!

Cronehood isn't static, a point in time, but rather an ongoing journey along this incredible timeline of life on Mother Earth. If you feel drawn to the wisdom and power of this point in your life, would like to celebrate this moment and share your wisdom with others, come join the Covenant of UU Pagans at their second **annual Croning Ceremony on February 4. Make the word "Crone"** a word of power! Share your wisdom with your Sisters!

*For more info, contact Cuups@uusantarosa.org*

*WT: Tell Us the Story!*

Saturday, February 10, 2-4 pm at UUCSR

On Saturday, February 10th, Women Together invites you to bring an item of any kind that has meaning for you and tell us about it and why it's important to you. We'll meet from 2 to 4 in the Youth Room. We'll discover new aspects of each other and make new connections! Please bring finger food to share and we'll provide coffee. Questions? Contact Linda Harlow at linda37@sonic.net or 526-3528.

*WOMEN TOGETHER SPRING RETREAT*

APRIL 27-29, 2018

**St Dorothy's Rest**

The 2018 UUCSR Women's Retreat is April 27-29, 2018. This retreat is open to members, friends and visitors. Our weekend is a little earlier than we've had in the past and we wanted to be sure you all knew. More information will be available in a few months but for now, please mark your calendars!

*Women Together Steering Committee*

*TRAINING for CPR and AED (defibrillator)*

Invitation to UUCSR Staff and Volunteers

Saturday, March 17, 10 am—2 pm

The course, running 3-4 hours, is an ASHI (American Health and Safety Institute) certified course and results in a 2 year certification. The CPR training is the 'Hands Only' method (no mouth to mouth). Staff will be paid for by UUCSR and volunteers will pay about \$70. We have 10+ on the list now and we can accommodate 20. If we have more than 20 we will choose according to the safety needs of the congregation and order of signup. We will also add a second date if needed. We highly recommend Officer's of the Day, Kitchen crew, Saturday Breakfast Leads, Ushers, Greeters, RE staff, Operations, Maintenance and volunteers in charge of building security to attend. If you wish to receive a scholarship for the course fee, please contact Gretchen Vap - Operations Chair. Please contact Bob Anderson to sign up.

*Music, Music, Music*

There will be *music* in the worship services in February.



On February 4, the theme for the service is part 1 of our covenant: "to seek unity in our diversity," eg "we're all in this together." What better time for the UUsual Suspects to perform the song "We're All in This Together?" A jaunty little tune with a big, important message.

February 11 is a choir Sunday, so you'll want to come and find out what music intrepid director Sadie Sonntag has chosen to reflect the theme, "to welcome and respect divergent opinions and beliefs." Those words practically leap into song, don't they?

Forgiveness of others and ourselves is the theme for February 18, and if you immediately think of Brenda Lee's old chestnut, "I'm Sorry," well, it probably won't be sung in the service. Sorry.

To wrap up the month, the worship calendar reads cryptically, "to keep our focus on our mission, OR: something about love." If it's about the latter, Sadie's main job as choir director will be to choose among the 142 million (give or take) songs about love. If it's the former... any suggestions?

*Sonorously Yours, Alan Bell*

*What Do I Do When Someone Dies?*

The Practical and Legal Issues

Presented by the Endowment Committee  
Date Changed—Stay Tuned for New Date

Our own Mary Chapot (financial planner) and her good friend Cynthia Tasker (attorney) will share their expertise, with tips on what to do beforehand, and when the inevitable actually happens.

**It will be an educational and informative, "nuts and bolts" type presentation, with handouts to take home.** There will be time for Q&A and lunch will be served. We expect to have a new date soon.

*...from The UUA Touchstone Journal, February 2018*

Love & the Common Good

In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI published his encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* (i.e., *Charity in Truth*). He was concerned with the common good, which he believed **was served through "effective love" and "practical charity."** For him, practical charity required both **justice and charity.** He noted that, "To desire the *common good* and strive to-towards it is a *requirement of justice and charity.*" **Charity without justice might make us feel good, but it cannot secure the common good. He also wrote that, "The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors, the more effectively we love them."**

*Touchstones Consulting is committed to the work of articulating a liberal theology. This journal is supported by subscriptions from Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the world. Eds: Rev. Nancy Bowen & Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland*

*CUUPS:*

*Want to Learn about Goddesses?*

Leaders wanted for course

**"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven"**

Ever taken the course, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven?" **There's growing interest in hosting this course again at UUCSR.** It's a RE curriculum about the ancient goddesses. This empowering course relates a historical perspective of worship of the feminine divine, to the current day and to our experiences as women in a patriarchal culture. Written by our own Dr. Shirley Ann Ranck, this course has been taught for decades in UU congregations.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is looking for one or two women interested in becoming facilitators for the course. There might even be an exciting opportunity to meet with Shirley Ranck for advice about teaching her course.

Previous experience with the course is needed. Interested in being a leader? Simply want to help this course become a reality?

Please contact Loretta Smith



## Greetings From Your Stewardship Team!

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times, but certainly, these are *exciting* times at UUCSR. This year your Stewardship Team will launch the congregation's first "Annual Initiative" to focus on a major growth goal – a goal that you all have told us is important to you – the hiring of a part-time assistant minister. Our numbers have been increasing as new members seek to join our progressive spiritual community. We see the potential for more diversity and new outreach. **We're ready. We are thinking bigger. It's time to make it happen.**



**We hope you've responded to the survey recently sent by Rev. Chris asking you to share your thoughts on the greatest priorities for the new assistant minister.** With your input, we will find the right person for our congregation. The position has been put into the budget for 2018-2019. **That means we're committing to it, and to fund it we'll need an increase in total revenue of about thirteen percent, with most of that coming from pledges.**

As a pledge guideline, we encourage the spiritual practice of tithing – giving a percentage of our income to the congregation as an expression of gratitude for all it gives to us and of our commitment to our values. **We hope most members will eventually be tithing 5% or more. Some are already at that level. But let's say you're only tithing two percent at the moment. Could you possibly increase it to four percent? If so, that would be an increase of a hundred percent - wow!** Please think along these lines, examine your situation, and do what you can.

**We're confident that, collectively, we'll rise up to accomplish the goal of hiring an assistant minister. If we all help each other, we can do this. Let's go for it – together!**

The stewardship committee thanks you, as always, for your generosity.

## Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

In summary, we're halfway into this fiscal year; we ended December with a healthy surplus, and under budget.

**On another note, we've had a change in staffing with the recent resignation of our bookkeeper, who is moving on to further develop her own business.** We wish Rachel well with her future endeavors. In the interim, we have hired Laura Blum on a temporary basis, who has over 30-years experience in working with non-profits.

Soon you will be receiving in the mail the DRAFT budget for 2018-19. It will consist of a traditional approach to finances (i.e., revenue vs expenses), and a mission-based goal budget. We propose this new **approach to our finances to speak to 'what is our mission.'** In economics, much of business is geared toward productivity, which translates into higher profits. Our goals are embedded in the spirit of our Unitarian/Universalist principals, and are focused not on building cheaper widgets, but in building character. One way we build character is through our ministry, which is why so much of our budget is **devoted to this purpose. The Board of Trustees and COSM is concerned about the number of hours our Minister commits to UUCSR. As we are a growing community, we don't want to over capitalize on our Minister, but provide him with much needed assistance.**

With the unanimous approval of the Board, we have included an Assistant Minister into the DRAFT budget. The financial commitment to add new personnel on the surface appears large, but compared to the size of our Congregation, the actual commitment per pledging unit is modest. The Congregation has recently donated generously to the fire victims within our Congregation, and, the additional pledge dollars **to balance the budget is less than what we raised over the last few months. Let's embrace this challenge wholeheartedly, which will not only help the Minister, but also the entire mission of UUCSR.**

*Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer*

Blessed are you who suffer the attacks of others to stand up for what is right;  
*you will not be alone, for your courage will inspire others to rise*

*Blessing by Rev. Lindi Ramsden*



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*The Unitarian Universalist  
 Seven Principles*

*The inherent worth and  
 dignity of every person*

*Justice, equity and compassion  
 in human relations*

*Acceptance of one another and  
 encouragement to spiritual growth  
 in our congregations*

*A free and responsible search  
 for truth and meaning*

*The right of conscience and the use of  
 the democratic process within our  
 congregations and in society at large*

*The goal of world community with  
 peace, liberty, and justice for all*

*Respect for the interdependent web of  
 all existence of which we are a part.*

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**