
The UU Update

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa
Volume 62 • Issue 5

MAY 2018



May Theme:

BELOVED COMMUNITY

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

MAY 6

Youth Group Service!

TRANSCENDING INDIVIDUALISM (BUT NOT INDIVIDUALITY)

In his Berry Street Essay of 2012, Rev. Fred Muir **warned against a "Trinity of Errors" that keeps UUism from appealing to the masses.** The 1st is "a persistent, pervasive, disturbing and disruptive commitment to individualism that misguides our **ability to engage the changing times.**" Today our youth respond, sharing their experiences of creating a beloved community of UU young people.

Service Leaders: THE UUCSR YOUTH GROUP, with Rev. Chris Bell & Deb Mason Music by: Roger Corman, All of Us Share the Basket: Positive Images

*May 6 Bylaws Revision Forum
After 2nd Service in Sanctuary*

MAY 13

Mother's Day

TRANSCENDING EXCEPTIONALISM

In his Berry Street Essay of 2012, Rev. Fred Muir **warned against a "Trinity of Errors" that keeps UUism from appealing to the masses.** The 2nd is that **"we cling to a Unitarian Universalist exceptionalism that is often insulting to others and undermines our good news."** Not all exceptionalism is bad, though. For example, my mother is the greatest mother of all time. Maybe yours is too? Bring her to services on Sunday!

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Planned Parenthood

*May 13 Bylaws Revision Forum
Between Services in Sanctuary*

MAY 20

Deborah Mason's Last Day!

TRANSCENDING OUR ALLERGY TO LEADERSHIP

In his Berry Street Essay of 2012, Rev. Fred Muir **warned against a "Trinity of Errors" that keeps UUism from appealing to the masses.** The 3rd is that **"we refuse to acknowledge and treat our allergy to authority and power, although all the symptoms**

compromise a healthy future." UUCSR has generally avoided this allergy. We trust and empower leaders like our departing Director of Religious Education, Deb Mason, whose final Sunday is today. All are invited to a celebratory potluck brunch, which will follow the early service at 10:15. The 11:00 service will begin in the courtyard so we can all be together for some speeches. That service may run a little late today.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Panttaja Music by: Tom Rough & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman Share the Basket: The Living Room

MAY 27

GRADUATES OF EDEN

TRANSCENDING OUR HUMAN NATURE

Was homo sapiens designed or evolved? Either way, human beings function splendidly in some environments, and very badly in others. Today Rev. Dr. Chris Schriener will explore the mismatch between human nature and the complicated world we have created – and what we can do to survive and thrive **in spite of our "design defects."** Rev. Dr. Schriener is Minister Emeritus of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont.

Service Leaders: Rev. Dr. Chris Schriener, Eric Fischer Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Breakfast for Our Neighbors

JUNE 3

SOPHIA, GODDESS OF WISDOM

"Blessed are those who find Sophia, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver, and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed." Proverbs 3:13

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Aphrodite Music by: Robin Rogers & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Sonoma County Vet Connect

أنتم هنا
في أمان

You are safe here

Maryah Converse



BELOVED COMMUNITY

In our services this month, we explore the eternal tension between individualism and community by looking at Rev. Fred Muir's lively 2012 Berry Street Essay, "From iChurch to Beloved Community." (<http://www.uuma.org/mpage/BSE2012>)

The term "Beloved Community" is familiar

to most people through the preaching and writing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but it was actually first coined and promoted by the American philosopher and historian Josiah Royce. In response to Ralph Waldo Emerson and William James and Frederick Nietzsche and their philosophies of heroic individualism, Royce argued for the preeminence of community in providing human beings with meaning and identity.

The tension between the needs of the individual and the vision of the group has been a major component of the story of Unitarian Universalism. We count the Transcendentalists, Emerson foremost among them, as noble ancestors of this tradition. Their writings did much to elevate the sanctity of the self, to promote free-thinking and non-conformity, and to proclaim the equality of people regardless of their social class. As UU scholar Benjamin Anastas observed, Emerson's teaching of *Self-Reliance*, "ordained [us] with an authority to speak what had been reserved for only the powerful, and bowed to no greater human laws, social customs or dictates from the pulpit."

"Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string," he said, and "No law can be sacred to me but that of my nature." Our First Source, which urges us toward "direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder," and says that every person can directly access the divine, is rooted in their teachings.

Thoughtful critics of the UU path, however, it's really hard to organize and lead congregations if your ultimate religious practice is a personal insight that comes from a solitary walk in the woods, as Emerson argued.

We need congregations in this world. Following Royce, and King, and many others, I would say that congregations, institutions, communities, are essential for human evolution. I believe in the collective power that comes from human community. I think we need to be in intimate communion with one another in order to discover our blind spots and growing edges, and in order to discover the deep happiness that comes from living for others. Organized spiritual community allows us to hang on to what works from the past, not reinventing the wheel of moral living.

Thus, we sing old hymns and we organize our congregations the way the Puritan churches from whence we came did, and we tell stories of our ancestors, even if they are sometimes critical. These are the roots that hold us close. Community lets us

strive for goals that would be impossible to reach alone. "What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen when one lifetime is joined to another," Harold Kushner observed. Just look at the way we give life the shape of justice through our activism and our community organizing and the Breakfast.

Community also allows us grow wings and fly in new ways as individuals. Consider the story of Deborah Mason.

Over 10 years ago, Deb moved here from Ventura to pursue her dream of serving UUism. The UU faith had been, and remains, at the center of Deb's life. (It is central to her partner Michele's too; just look at those new chalice tattoos on their arms!) In answering her calling, which was a totally new career move for her, she has since given hundreds of children and parents a deep sense of what the life of principled open-minded and open-hearted faith looks like. She has been an institution builder, and not just at UUCSR. Deb led the local chapter of the LREDA, she has hosted youth and young adult gatherings, and she has served on the ministry team of the MUUGS program.

Most importantly, Deb boldly claims the distinctly religious dimension of what we are giving our children. They can learn about friendship, community, giving, and loving the environment in a variety of places. But there is only one place that they are going to learn the source of hope, and the love-power that never dies. That is in a spiritual community like ours. Deb has taught our children to know, serve, and love the Spirit of Life. What a gift!

For over a decade, Deb has been at the very center of our shared ministry at UUCSR for over a decade. I have relied upon her as a trusted colleague and friend. Yet all things must pass. On May 20th, Deborah will ride into the glorious sunset of retirement. There will be a celebratory potluck brunch at 10:15 on that Sunday, with grand oratory in her honor at 11:00 so folks from both services can be present.

I am deeply indebted to Deborah and I shall miss her. The good news is that our institution transcends any single one of us. We will soon welcome a new DRE, Jen Freese, and a new Assistant Minister, Rev. Dara Olandt. Who knows how far two such unique individuals will advance us in the cause of creating beloved community? We are about to find out.

One of Josiah Royce's biographers, Kelly A. Parker, has written, "What matters in the end...is the process of communicating and understanding one another in actual, imperfect, finite communities of grace bound together by loyalty and striving toward the ultimate and ideal Beloved Community." That project is for each of us and for all of us. Won't you come on down and join in the good, fun, sacred work of building a tight and coherent group of free-thinking and loving individuals? I sure hope so. See you at the Glaser Center!

Reverend Chris Bell

President's Column

As I sit at my desk writing this, spring is springing out all over – both externally and internally. The grass and the trees are brilliant emerald. My shamrock sprouts like crazy – and **flowering! I've got more energy, and am (finally!) getting out and walking.** I feel excited – for no particular reason.

Spring is a time of intense transformation. **New birth, new life, new growth.** I'm experiencing it myself: in my exercise, my eating, my awareness of myself and life. I even just got a new job this **morning! Most importantly, a feeling of "anything's possible – and it's just around the corner."**

I feel that way about our congregation, too. **ANYTHING'S possible – and it's just around the corner.** We're inches away from hiring two new staff – an amazing Assistant Minister, and an outstanding Director of Religious Education. Our initiative to fund the Assistant Minister position is **going gangbusters (if you haven't yet raised your pledge, please do so soon!)** Chris's Wednesday night class on important UU figures and their message is well-attended. When we hit bumps (need I say Sunday Social Hour?), we pull together **as a community.** We're just about to commission our first group of Lay Chaplains. And welcome our **2nd set of new members this year.** We're a **happenin' place!**

And the future looks great from here, too. Next

on my "President's horizon" is a part-time Communications Director. And renovations to the upstairs (an elevator!) so ALL the rooms are usable. Even a pre-school at some point! I look forward to seeing our building bursting at the seams, used to its full capacity, with people and groups and teams and committees and rentals out to make wonderful things happen, our outreach into the greater community expanding, through campus ministry, social media, NBOP, etc. We are strong, **and we are a presence in Santa Rosa.** Let's be even more so.



I'm well aware of my tendency to "over-dream" and get overly excited by possibilities. I'm so grateful for my fellow board members, for Rev Chris, and for you for keeping me grounded, while at the same time encouraging me to rise into a **great future.** I think that's one of the strengths of this community – **we keep each other's feet on the ground,** but at the same time encourage each other to reach for what is possible and make it happen – with joy and camaraderie, with humor and love – and with a kick in the behind when required, too.

Here's to unimagined futures...and to making them happen – together!

Happy sunshine,

-Natalie

What Your Board Is Up To—April 2018

This was a voting meeting! First, GREAT NEWS!!! The hiring committees for our Assistant Minister AND our new Director of Religious Education (DRE) finished their work and presented two outstanding candidates to the board. And the board unanimously approved hiring them!

Our new Assistant Minister will be the Rev. Dara Olandt, who is the Chaplain and Director of Spiritual and Religious Life at Mills College – focusing on developing a campus ministry there! **She's very excited to start campus and young adult ministries here, and she loves to preach and provide pastoral care. She'll be starting August 1.**

We had many applicants for our DRE position, from across the country. Many of them were outstanding, but there was one person who stood **head and shoulders above the rest...and she's right here in our congregation!** Jen Freese will be our **new DRE.** She's an educator, has extensive professional training and experience, and is also a **parent of two boys in our RE program.** She'll be beginning in July/August.

We are a really attractive congregation to work for, and the quality of all the candidates for both positions reflects that. And we got two people who are perfect for us – now and to help us grow into our future. The heavens are surely smiling on us!

The board also unanimously approved proposed Bylaws revisions. The Task Force (Ellen Skagerberg, Mary Louise Jaffray, John Mason and me) took all the feedback the congregation gave at our February meeting and revised the Bylaws accordingly. We will be having two forums **to inform the congregation of what we're proposing** and get your feedback. They will be on May 6th, after the second service, and on May 13th, between services. PLEASE COME!

For more information about what we discuss in our board meetings, please see the minutes (both draft and final) that are posted on the website and **our bulletin boards.** You're also welcome at our meetings! Our next one will be May 17th, 6:30 pm in the Board Room.

Natalie Brundred,
President UUCSR Board of Trustees

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

How do I say good bye?

This congregation, especially the children and youth of the congregation, has been at the center of my life for 10 years. It is hard to begin to imagine not being among you.

Such richness in being part of the lives of young people - I have been honored to bear witness to amazing growth - physical, spiritual and intellectual - of our children. I carry away precious memories of moments of discovery, times of deep distress and of hilarious joy.

I will never forget the youth group service trips where hard work was done and deep connections were made deeper. Teaching Our Whole Lives to middle schoolers was a challenge for all concerned and one of the most worthwhile things I have ever done. Monthly Children's Chapel where all elementary age kids worship, learn and play together has become a way to solidify a community of children. R.E. has become a safe space where children can share the significant joys and sorrows of their lives and receive encouragement and support. Together we celebrate the joys and lament the sorrows in the spirit of love.

I could recount pages of wonderful experiences at UUCSR over 10 years. But I won't. The memories are mine to keep. I am so very grateful for the opportunity to serve Unitarian Universalism as your DRE. I was called to teach children about love and faith and I feel that I have fulfilled this calling. It has been my mission to give chil-

dren a respite from the daily stresses and challenges of life in the 21st century, to show them that even in dark times we find hope, that even when we are challenged by injustice the struggle for the good prevails, and there is a community of love and care that awaits them every Sunday. The work has been creative and joyful, the process has been one of abiding love. Yes, I am so grateful!

Another has been called to step in after me. I am thrilled Jen Freese will be your DRE going forward. She brings a profound love of UUism, vast experience in education and a huge, loving heart. She has the advantage that she knows and loves this community already. She will bring fresh eyes to the program; and expertise that will enhance the curriculum. Please welcome her in this role and honor the work by volunteering to teach on Sunday mornings.

I will be away from the congregation for a year following my retirement. But Michele and I are not leaving Santa Rosa. I will be back as a member of the congregation before you know it. Meanwhile, I carry this community in my heart with great love.

*In Faith,
Deborah*

Goodbye Party for DRE Deborah Mason
Sunday May 20, 2018, between 9:15 and 11am Services
UUCSR Courtyard
See page 7 for details

MAY	<u>Grades K-1</u>	<u>Grades 2-4</u>	<u>Grades 5-7</u>
MAY 6	Children's Chapel - All Ages Together Theme: <i>Building Community - We Need One Another</i>		
MAY 13	<i>Enemy Pie</i> by Derek Munson	Signs of Our Faith - Gratitude	The Power of Persistence
MAY 20	Children's Chapel - All Ages Together Theme: <i>Comings & Goings and Deborah's last Sunday</i>		
MAY 27	End of the year celebration	<i>End of the year celebration</i>	End of the year celebration

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 and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Please note: Youth Group will be on summer hiatus from June to August. The regular schedule will re-commence on August 23.

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 Bell

SPRING SERIES

What Moves Us - UU Theology

by Rev. Chris

Ongoing: May 2, 9, 30, and June 6th.
6:30 - 8:30

We explore the life experiences of both historic and contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith. These workshops offer participants a chance to engage with and bring personal experiences to bear on the very questions explored by each theologian in turn. The program offers a pathway for developing not only one's own personal theology but also one's deep understanding of our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist theological heritage. What Moves Us consists of ten 90-120 minute workshops. Each workshop begins with a simple story of a Unitarian, Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist forebear, naming the emotion—the change of heart—that moved them to new theological understanding in their liberal religious faith. The selections represent some major theological streams of our faith tradition and display our racial, ethnic, gender, and class diversity.

ARE submitted by Helga Lemke

ONGOING

DRAWING GROUP

Wednesdays 1-3 pm

Artists of all levels are encouraged to join Bill Brewster and Patrice Le Pera to find inspiration and encouragement, and to explore techniques through sharing as a group.

We meet Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Bring your projects and ideas, and the art supplies you need. No fee or obligation.

Evening Book Group

MAY 10 (2nd Thursdays)

7 –9 pm in the RE Wing

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The May selection is *A Gentlemen from Moscow* by Amor Towles (rescheduled from February). Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

In June we will have our annual pot luck when we

select books to read for the coming year (September 2018-May 2019) Questions? Contact Linda Lampson

Spirit Moves ~ Body Moves

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1:00 pm—2:30 pm in Room 545 at UUCSR
Together We Access Our Vital Life Forces through movement and dance, and keep our bodies resilient as we age. A Collaborative Group that is Designed for Everyone. No previous movement experience is necessary. Space held by Bertha Jean. Call for details. No Fee.

Morning Glory

By Cynthia Stebbins

I woke up this morning in darkness and silence with a dream-induced new found freedom. It was a beautiful dream featuring some family, some friends and some unknown (and symbolic) individuals. No soaring, nothing mystic – all tangible, seemingly real and openly possible. It was dark...very dark with crisp cool air engulfing my person through the opened windows of my room. First I pondered, then I cried followed with clear meditation. The first break of stillness and silence..... feathered creatures in the foliage of the open outdoor space of my abode. I knew at that moment I was fully awake. I realized that the Hokey Pokey IS NOT what it is all about. Nothing matters and nothing changes until you decide. And that I did...not completely... just largely and with choice. I go forward on this beautiful and blessed day with intention - embracing mind, body and spirit. Awareness presents itself at unexpected - yet gifted and grateful - times.

© 2016

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.

May 6: Positive Images provides support and advocacy to Sonoma County's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, and intersex youth and young adults, ages 12-24, and educates the greater community. They envision a Sonoma County where all youth are valued, compassionate community members, creating a just society.

May 13: Planned Parenthood Northern California is our local branch of Planned Parenthood, America's most trusted provider of reproductive health care and education, offering high-quality, affordable medical care to men, women and teens.

May 20: The Living Room, located on Cleveland Avenue near College, welcomes homeless at-risk women and kids into a warm and safe environment during the day. Caring staff offer lifelines during times of crisis.

May 27: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own breakfast program to provide a hearty breakfast every Saturday for our neighbors in need in a friendly atmosphere.

June 3: Sonoma County Vet Connect provides outreach to all former military service members and their families, to assist them in obtaining access to services and benefits due them for their service to our country. Part of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care program to eliminate veteran homelessness in Sonoma County.

MAY
HOT
TOPIC

POSITIVE IMAGES

SUNDAY, MAY 6
after 11 AM service in the Board Room

Positive Images provides support and advocacy to Sonoma County's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, and intersex youth and young adults, ages 12-24, and educates the greater community. We envision a Sonoma County where all youth are valued, compassionate community members, creating a just society.

Many at UUCSR are familiar with Positive Images, but it has been awhile since we've had an update about this organization. Our Speaker will be Jessica Carroll, the new Director of Programs, who will tell us about services and programs that Positive Images provides. She will bring some special guests who will share their stories and will be available to answer your questions about themselves and the role Positive Images has in their lives.

Please join us in the Board Room after the 11 am service. Mary Louise Jaffray, for Advocates for Social Justice.



The A4SJ Film Project presents :

The Growing Edge

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018
after 11 AM service in Room 545

About the worldwide Permaculture movement, The Growing Edge is an antidote to environmental despair, a hopeful and practical look at a path to a viable, flourishing future.

The film introduces us to inspiring examples of projects, including a visit to David Holmgren's own homestead, tracking deer with naturalist Jon Young, sheet mulching an inner-city garden with Hunters Point Family, transforming an intersection into a gathering place with City Repair, and joining mycologist Paul Stamets as he cleans up an oil spill in San Francisco Bay with mushrooms.

With interviews of key figures in the Permaculture movement, and beautiful visions of an alternative future alive in today's world, The Growing Edge (and June's film entitled Tomorrow), continue to focus on the most viable answers to our environmental dilemmas.

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



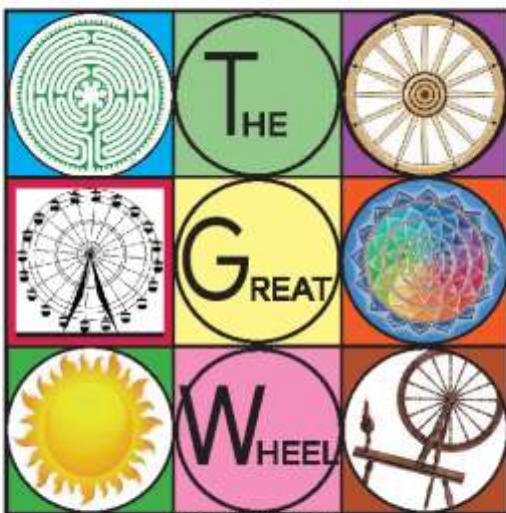
*Thank you, Deborah Mason,
our Religious Education Director!*

Celebratory Potluck Brunch And Grand Oratory
Sunday, May 20
10:15 am—11:15

**Let's Celebrate and Honor Deborah's 10 + Years of
Excellent Service to our Congregation!**

Please join us for a farewell celebration honoring our longtime Director of Education, Deborah Mason, on May 20th. The celebration will begin immediately after the 9:15 am service and extend past 11:00 am for an unusual opening to the second service. Please bring a brunch potluck dish to share. Call Rev Chris for More info

Occidental Community Choir
Sarah Saulsbury, Director



SPRING CONCERTS, 2018

SATURDAY, MAY 5 @ 8 pm
Community First Night - Tickets \$10
Occidental Center for the Arts
2850 Donie Murphy Ct, Occidental

SUNDAY, MAY 6 @ 3 pm
Occidental Center for the Arts

FRIDAY, MAY 11 @ 8 pm
Occidental Center for the Arts

SATURDAY, MAY 12 @ 8 pm
Occidental Center for the Arts

SUNDAY, MAY 13 @ 8 pm
Occidental Center, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa

TICKETS AT
OccidentalChoir.org
or at the door

ADULTS \$15, KIDS 12 and under FREE
Advance tickets recommended

BONNIE BROOKS,
Artist in Residence,
sings on these dates!

UUCSR CENTER for the ARTS



Sonoma County's LGBTQI Pride
Parade and Festival 2018
is Back in Santa Rosa
(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer/Questioning, and Intersex)
Old Court House Square, June 1 - 3

Occidental Community Choir
To Perform at UUCSR Glaser Center
May 13 at 3:00 pm

Creative, quirky and consistently melodious for almost 40 years, OCC's community of singers and songwriters, under the inspired direction of alumna Sarah Saulsbury, presents a Spring concert sure to delight! This program of eclectic and (mostly) original works and spoken word with instrumental accompaniment celebrates the seasons, cycles, and all things that spin.

Artist-in-Residence Bonnie Brooks will join us.

*UUCSR Members To Participate in Sonoma
County Pride Celebration*

Saturday, June 2, meet at 11 am
Andy Levine invites all congregants to join:
"We will meet at Fourth street with Bill and Becky Montgomery's VW Dub Convertible, and our wild Hawaiian shirts and rainbow flags and march in the parade with the LBGT community. More info to follow"
- love and light. Andy Levine

ALL-UU SUMMER CAMP

August 31– September 2
at Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma

Newsflash! Because of the October Firestorm, the All-UU Summer Camp will be held at a different venue this year on Labor Day weekend, Friday-Sunday, Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

Our committee had considered skipping the 2018 retreat while Enchanted Hills, our beloved location for the last several years, is rebuilding from the devastation it sustained during the October fires.

But due to the requests of several congregational members, especially parents who feel the retreat is a very important bonding experience, we decided there will be a 2018 retreat!

So after searching different locations we settled on Walker Creek Ranch, located 15 miles west of **Petaluma. It's a beautiful property, with a pond for swimming, a great fire pit for camp sing-along, and stupendous hiking trails. There are gardens and even a natural history museum which will be the focus of a workshop!** Come relax, jam to some



music and enjoy the dazzling entertainment of the annual UU Variety Show.

If you have little ones, childcare is provided at certain times, so you can participate in workshops and relax!

While we are still working on the costs for this retreat, it looks like it is more expensive than Enchanted Hills. Partial scholarships will available on a first come, first serve basis. Camping, a lower cost option, will be available. As the time grows closer, a website will be set up to make signing up much easier. Watch for details!

Photo from <http://www.walkercreekranch.org/>

"Wakanda will no longer watch from the shadows. We cannot. We must not. We will work to be an example of how we as brothers and sisters on this Earth should treat each other. Now, more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence. We all know the truth: more connects us than separates us. But in times of crisis the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another as if we were one single tribe."

Chadwick Boseman, as **King T'Challa in Black Panther**

*Black Panther (2018) By Ryan Coogler, Joe Robert Cole
<https://hellogiggles.com/news/black-panther-post-credit-scenes-trump/>*

Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)

Last month, a couple of COSM members reported to the committee what they had seen on a recent tour of Heaven. There, sitting around a table with coffee cups in hand, were a group of UUs, arguing about whether or not they were really there.

Some of the other topics discussed in our meetings are how we have or may need to provide conflict resolution and boundary clarification for congregants, staff and/or the minister; ways we might support Rev. Chris; the method to use for his yearly evaluation; and the results of that evaluation. The Rev. also gives us a detailed and incredibly lengthy report of his monthly activities. Our goal is to

help care for the relational health of the congregation. You help us when you bring to light conflicts within the congregation due to communication or boundary problems. You are encouraged to reach out to any of the COSM members for help and, if you choose, to ask that an issue be brought to the committee. COSM will always hold your information in confidence. On a Sunday, look for someone with a COSM badge, ask a Board member to point one of us out, or call during the week.

The latest directory does not indicate the current members. We are Lucia Milburn (Chair), Robert Anderson, Susan Bartholome, Alan Bell, Frances Corman, and Kitty Wells.

Musical Notes

The deadline for submissions to the Newsletter never gets earlier than it did this month, so I need to say up front that the actual information content of this blurb will be completely overshadowed by the loquacious multisyllabic ramblings of yours truly. But, be that as it may, there is truly some predictive predilection as to what the music will be like in May.

On May 6, the youth of the RE department, led by Deborah Mason, will conduct the service. There'll be hymns from the hymnal and songs with the words printed out or projected. On May 13, Mother's Day, the choir, led by Sadie Sonntag, will perform "O

Magnum Mysterium" by Lauridson. There will also, of course, be hymns or songs with page numbers or printed/projected words. On May 20, the aforementioned Deb will say goodbye to her RE Director duties, and will have some say in picking the music that the UUsual Suspects, rounded up by Tom Rough, will perform. On May 27, the choir will be back with something special and moving as usual, but which is currently lost in the mists of uncertainty.



Hurriedly submitted by Randy Jones

"Those who hear not the music, think the dancers mad!"

Come be a part of CUUPs in 2018!

(Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

We celebrate Beltane with a May Pole in the courtyard, Lammass/Lughnasadh with bread for the entire congregation, Samhain with a potluck and remembrance of our departed loved ones, Winter Solstice with a potluck, drumming, and a welcome to the Sun, and a Croning to honor our wise women. Come join the group that celebrates our Mother Earth's yearly cycle.

We meet the second and fourth Tuesday at 5:00-6:30 pm. Our meetings consist of a short ceremony with a discussion of pagan rituals. We also do celebration planning, sharing snacks, and plain old socializing. ALL are welcome.

We host the Drum Circle the THIRD Friday of the month from 7-9 pm. All levels of skill are invited. Our style is wherever the beat takes us in that moment of time!

For information contact: Lucia Kasulis, Aphrodite Bellochio or email cuups at uusantarosa dot org Blessed Be!

Ongoing Drum Circles: May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21. (December 21 is the Solstice so drumming happens with a potluck and celebration of the end of the dark.)

Women Together Complementary Historic Walking Tour Sunday, May 20

On Sunday, May 20th, all UU women and friends are invited to explore close to home. Bill Montgomery, a local historian, will lead a gentle walk to enjoy the McDonald Street area and learn the history of some of the lovely homes there. *More details to follow but save the date!*

~ And Other Events of Interest ~

Submitted by Liz Larew

May 1, 2-5 pm

International Workers Day Rally & March Walk Out

Gather at 2 pm at Roseland Dollar Tree, 777 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa. 3:30 march to Downtown Santa Rosa. Bring Signs. [Facebook.com/May1stCoalitionSC](https://www.facebook.com/May1stCoalitionSC)

May 9, 6-8 pm

Can We Bring Sanctuary to Sonoma County?

First United Methodist Church

2150 Giffen Ave. — Santa Rosa

A Workshop on Sanctuary – come together and learn. With Reverend Deborah Lee, Director, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity.

Info? davidh@interfaithsonoma.org

June 10

Insist on Kindness Ramadan Honoring

Dawn through Sunset

(or as much as you are able)

A Countywide Day of Fasting and Kind Acts in Honor of Ramadan presented by Of One Soul. Culminating in a Festive Dinner Meetup at 8:45 PM at King Falafel in Sebastopol

Share-The-Basket

We split our Weekly Offering. Our social action committee, Advocates for Social Justice selects a program, with congregational input, to receive a special donation from our Congregation. The following are the March Recipients

Peace & Justice Center	\$587.53
CA Physicians Alliance	\$531.03
Black Lives of UU	\$924.24
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$541.37

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Saturday Work Day

Saturday, MAY 5

9 am—Noon

Please come to our regular monthly Work Day, Saturday May 5, 9 AM to Noon, to help keep our building and grounds beautiful and functional!

Faith And Fitness



Saturday, MAY 19

10 am-1 pm

Hike at Sugar Loaf State Park returning to Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, Hillside and Meadow trail loop,, 2-3 miles, one stretch of uphill, otherwise mostly flat, lovely views & later-blooming wildflowers. Meet 9:30 at the Fourth and Farmers Lane carpool or 10 am at the main day use parking lot. RSVP Gretchen Paradis

OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

2nd & 4th Mondays

MAY 14 & 28

10:30 a.m. in UUCSR Green 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 a.m.

Need transportation? Please call well ahead of meeting date.

Questions? Call:

Phyllis Clement
Dorris Lee
Shirley White

[Editor's Note: This Caring Committee Article was inadvertently hidden in April's Newsletter. Our apologies. Here it is again]

Our Revived Caring Committee

Our UU Caring committee, which thrived under Gail Alford's chairmanship, has now been revived and stands ready to help members who need visits, transportation, special foods and medical equipment. Perhaps even advice, who knows?

We need to have you or your representative fill out a form so that we can discuss with you whether - or how - we can help to meet these needs. The best way to reach us is to stop by the Caring Committee table outside the door to the sanctuary. However, if your need doesn't conveniently occur on a Sunday, please call or email me whenever you need to.

Also, to the many members without current medical needs I hope you will look at your capabilities and availabilities and sign up to help if we need you and it works for you.

Phyllis Clement, Chair

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SEXTON

"I have made a change which will help insure that all messages to me as the Sexton of our congregation are read and attended to with haste. As of today I have unmerged my work email from my private email. This will decrease the likelihood that messages to my sexton address will be lost or overlooked.

All requests for my assistance should be sent to Janis, our administrator, and to me, at the following two email addresses: Janis Brewster: administrator at uusantarosa dot org, and to Peter Wilson: sexton at uusantarosa dot org. Please make these changes to your address book immediately to insure this information is not lost.

I do not work Thursdays and Fridays but expect replies to my sexton address within a day or two at the most. If you do not receive a reply within two of my working days it would be good to follow up with a call to make sure the email did not get lost.

Cheers, Peter

Forums on Bylaws Revisions

Sundays, May 6 and 13

The UUCSR Board of Trustees has approved revisions of our Bylaws. We are having two forums regarding this; one after the second service on May 6, and one between services on May 13. All congregants are encouraged to attend.

Interlude: Grains

*I am grateful that you never cease to amaze me the way you love me
From the flicker of an eyelash to the furthest star
From the pyramids to the beat of my heart
From a woman in Somalia to a child in Harlem
We're created from the same things
I'm grateful that you created me from the same grains from the same things
I'm grateful that you never cease to amaze me the way you loved me*

By India Arie / Branden Burch

A Message from Your Stewardship Team

This little article is going to be in the form of a reflection, I suppose. When I grew up, my family was part of a religious denomination that was kind of a cousin to the Mormons. When we moved to Santa Rosa in the summer of 1957, the local congregation (called a "branch" in those days) met in a house on Tupper Street. But it was growing, and pretty soon construction began on a new building.

By the early '60s I had gone off to college and eventually built a life and family elsewhere. In the meantime, the branch had begun to wither. Each time my own family came back to visit my parents in Santa Rosa, I noticed that fewer and fewer people were attending services. The denomination itself was holding its own nationally and worldwide, apparently, but locally, it was dying.

Today, my mother still attends services and even plays piano (she's 98!), but on a *good* day, the congregation numbers about 12. So what happened?

To put it succinctly, they lost their young people. There had been a fairly active youth group in my high school days, but it got neglected, *and there was no outreach beyond the families who were already members*. It's the hoariest of old clichés: the youth are our future, and eventually there weren't any.

There's certainly no *immediate* danger of that happening at UUCSR. Our youth are well served by a first rate religious education program which goes through high school.

But unfortunately, many UU youth drop off the map after bridging. We have not had a means to reach out to college-age young adults, a special kind of ministry. As Rev. Chris once said, "You can't expect these young adults to come to us, to our services; you have to go to them, (and you have to feed them!)" As many of you have noted—especially in the survey regarding the duties of the incoming Assistant Minister—a campus ministry is a critical component of a vibrant and growing religious community.

There are now UU campus ministries in San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland and Davis. With SRJC as a near neighbor and Sonoma State a few miles down 101, it's a natural fit for UUCSR. The Assistant Minister will be taking a lead role in developing that ministry. And we need to step up to make sure he or she is supported.



"Five to Thrive" isn't just a slogan. It's a call to action: 5% or more of your income to, among other things, expand our outreach to the generation that is—and here it comes—our future.

~ Alan Bell
Stewardship Team

Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

March is now 75% of the way through the year with only 3 more months before we close out our books.

Monthly figures are always volatile and ebb and flow widely. I always try to emphasize the year-to-date figures, which smooths out the closer we get to the end of the year.

As of the end of March, our finances are showing a surplus of approximately \$18,600; however we are \$16,000 below budget from pledges. This gap in our revenue should be met by year-end in June. We also have a number of large expenses to be paid in the next 3 months, including principal note payments to members, insurance payments and organizational dues.

Noting those differences in revenue and expenses should put us on track toward meeting our budget this year.

Just a note regarding our "2018 initiative to hire an assistant minister" for the 2018-19 budget year; although our Balance Sheet shows enough cash to support a new assistant minister, as well as increases for the coming new fiscal year, those amounts held in our checking account are the reserves for working capital, as well as replacement funds for any emergencies and building repairs and replacements.

Increasing your pledge for the upcoming fiscal year is meant to 'sustain' the future changes to next year's budget, hopefully far out into the future, not to deplete capital reserves. The distinction is not always clear.

Almost 80% of budget is devoted to personnel and we are committed to maintaining the purchasing power of staff through inflation adjustments to payroll, as well as changes in benefit increases, and merit-based increases.

*Fiscally yours,
Michael Randolph, Treasurer*



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MAY 2018

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Office at [uusantarosa dot org](http://uusantarosa.org)

<http://www.uusantarosa.org>

Unitarian Universalist 7 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.