July 1
JUGGLING AND SPIRITUALITY
Join Russ Powell (former Jesuit novice and retired professional juggler) as he uses the art and practice of juggling as a springboard for examining our lives and taking next steps along our spiritual paths. We'll explore themes of trusting yourself, letting go, and listening to your heart, even when the way seems dark or uncertain. And, yes, there will be juggling!

Service leaders: Russ Powell, Izzy Fischer
Share the basket: Live Music Lantern

July 8
SCIENCE AND FAITH
Science is often seen as incompatible with religion and faith, yet our UU tradition embraces science and reason. On topics as diverse as sexuality, gender, global climate change, and our relationships with each other and the cosmos, our UU principles and activism are informed by the latest scientific thought. This morning, we hear from our own congregants how science informs their search for truth and meaning.

Service Leaders: Susan Panttaja, Phil Harriman, Rob Carlisle, and Erica Mikesh
Music: Mary Chapot, John Ray, Eric Skagerberg, Robert Howseman; Roger Corman
Share the Offering: Housing Connection

July 15
LIBERATION IN MUSICAL COMMUNITY
Music as a shared human experience is, for many of us, a peak human experience—the joining of our very pulses with those of hundreds or thousands of others lifts the illusion of our separateness and returns us to our common humanity. Through history, those interested in human liberty have used the power of shared music to teach these lessons. Join the musical ministers of UUCSR in a meditative-through-song exploration of these themes. The lessons this exploration can teach us will give us clues about how to do lasting, powerful spiritual work in these troubled times.

Service Leaders: Robert Howseman, Scott Miller, and John Ray
Music: The Musical Ministers of the UUsual Suspects

July 22
SPIRITUALITY OF BLACK HOLES
One can hardly throw a stone in spirituality without hitting the exultation of light as divine force. Let there be light! Go forward with the light! The light in me, sees the light in you! But maybe light only illuminates a truer divine force: gravity. The most powerful sources of gravity, Black Holes, are the ultimate mystery of our Universe, holding This all together. Join us in exploring, intellectually and spiritually, the truly unknowable.

Service Leaders: Joe Gabaeff, Eric Fischer, Jen Freese
Music Associates: Natalie Brundred with the UUsual Suspects, and Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Breakfast for our Neighbors

July 29
THE BEST OF TIMES, THE WORST OF TIMES
Charles Dickens kicked off "The Tale of Two Cities" with those lines in 1859. The part he left out was all the time in between, the regular times, where most humans spend most of their lives. In this service, we'll recruit various artists and thinkers from across the centuries to help us explore ecstasy, misery and mundanity as a kind of "immortal continuum" that gives shape to the human experience.

Service Leaders: Andrew Hidas, Sharon McCarty, Jen Freese
Music by: Alan Bell and the UU Usual Suspects
Share the Basket: Alianza for Equity Fund

August 5th Service Description on page 9
“Slow down, you move too fast. Gotta make the moment last!”

Here at UUCSR, we have a tradition of slowing down and easing up on our schedule during the summer. School is out. Many people take vacations and or enjoy some travel. I usually take a break from preaching, and all of our committees, including the Board, take a break from meetings in the month of July. We go down to one service at 10:00, which turns out to be enough to keep everybody feeling connected to each other and the Great Big Happening, and lets the loyal attendees of both services get to see each other again. Holding only one service also gives our worship associates, sound crew, and musicians a lighter load. Unusual or fun topics frequently appear in worship. As I told the worship associates, Liberation is the perfect theme for July, because they are free to pick any topics they want!

We still take care of the essentials, of course. We worship and serve our Saturday breakfast, and we host all our 12-step and other support groups, and the lay chaplains and I visit people, but other than that, no official business.

July is our freedom month. Our Sabbath month.

There are so many positive effects to an occasional intentional relaxation of our duties, whether for a month or a even for a moment. Freedom from the usual tasks can give space for new thoughts and ideas, a healthy reconnection with the body, and a reminder that we are not singly responsible for the well-being of the world. It’s good to remember that the Universe/God has its own momentum, which is trustworthy and irresistible. Just try to stop summer. Go ahead, try!

In the Jewish tradition, this wisdom is manifested in observing the Sabbath, which is absolutely central to family and temple practice. According to the book of Genesis, the Sabbath was woven into the weekly calendar from the very creation of the world. We plainly need periods of rejuvenation in order to thrive, but the mandate to obey the Sabbath is about so much more than mere rest. It is the time when we are turn our thoughts to the sacred, to experience gratitude for our blessings, and to re-root ourselves in home, family, and faith. It is a time to remember that we ought not take our freedom for granted, but appreciate it and give thanks for it.

You can have a little Sabbath right now, if you want. Choose to take a deep breath in and expel it all the way out.

Choose to simply aware of what is, right now.

Wow! You are a living being with free will. How awesome is that?

Now, I am very aware that vacations and retreats are a very luxurious form of freedom. The world is filled with people who are not able to escape their outward or daily circumstances. Poverty, powerlessness, ill health, restricted mobility, political or cultural oppression, and the threat of violence keep far too many humans from enjoying their natural state of freedom. I try hard to not take the freedom I enjoy for granted. People fought and died for it. Still do.

Freedom, as a goal and a guiding principle, has forever been of central concern to the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Our Principles call us to pursue a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning” and a goal of “peace, liberty and justice for all.” We count among our ancestors many people who fought for religious liberty, for freedom of conscience, for autonomous congregations, who fought for the end of slavery and racial injustice. Early Unitarian and Universalist pioneers of liberal religious ideas were frequently persecuted or killed for beliefs that we now take for granted, as in some places they still are today. We are a faith that continually strives to speak and act in favor of freedom for all.

As important as the work of creating a free and just society is, however, I do not forget that the true purpose of a religious community like ours is to cultivate spiritual freedom, which can be found even in the darkest hour, and even in the heart of a prisoner or a slave.

Viktor Frankl, Holocaust survivor, wrote, “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way. Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom. When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

I figure, if a concentration camp survivor can understand that he was still free in his essence and still choose love even while imprisoned, then I’ve got no excuses to do otherwise.

The power and possibility gained from becoming aware – through stillness, through reflection – of the God-given freedom of our minds and souls is exactly what empowers us to act in the world for justice and liberty. We find that we are freer to act appropriately and to respond to what is before us with creativity and compassion if we just take a little time.

We all know that taking a deep breath is a good strategy to keep from saying or doing something rash or harmful. Just that is a Sabbath moment, too. We are always better off when we are free from our obstacles, defense mechanisms, addictions, blind habits, uncontrolled passions or obsessive thoughts. The primary spiritual task is to be free from anything that might cloud our experience of the present and our loving response to it, and so frequently we discover that place in rest and stillness and calm. Soon enough we shall return to the many tasks at hand.

For now, enjoy your Sabbath, dear friends!
President’s Column

And What A Year It Was!
I’ve been thinking back over the past year, and what we’ve accomplished. Here are just some of the highlights:

As a board, we re-grounded ourselves in the congregation-wide visioning process we completed in 2015, and chose to orient ourselves around “Opportunities to Interact with New People”. We started a Welcoming Friends team to support our new members, and a Member Engagement team to engage them in our volunteer opportunities. We focused on creating and expanding a culture of generosity.

We looked at glass ceilings to our growth, and determined two major areas: an Assistant Minister and a Communications Director. Seeing that the Assistant Minister was the more critical need at this point, we started a congregation-wide conversation about the need and the vision of what that person could do, and determined to undertake it. We created an Initiative to hire an Assistant Minister, linking it with the intention to have members tithe 5% or more of their income. In October, we acknowledged those who were tithing 5% or more with a “Five to Thrive” party.

Then we found out that our bookkeeper was leaving us. And THEN, we found out that our beloved Deborah Mason was planning to retire in January!

We knew our people needed to be outstanding, and that’s what we set out to look for, in all three positions. And we found them! Each person we hired is perfect for their position. Dara Olandt, our new Assistant Minister, has been working at Mills College, creating a campus ministry there for 3 years, and Jen Freese, our new Director of Religious Education, is already brimming with new ideas for Religious Education. Our new Bookkeeper, Laura Blum, is a gem. We are so lucky to have our amazing staff.

And then there were the fires... As a community, we sprang into action to support each other. From keeping the church open and available, serving lunch and camaraderie the entire week of the fires, to contributing clothes and other immediately needed essentials, to contributing $75,000 to our Fire Fund, to creating a Fire Support Group that is still ongoing, we have risen to the challenge and supported each other’s physical, mental and emotional needs.

In December, the board realized that doing a preliminary budget in February and having three Congregational Meetings each year really no longer worked. We brought the idea to February’s Congregational Meeting, got feedback from the congregation, formed a Task Force, and came up with something that I think will really serve us – in many different ways – in the future.

And we FINALLY approved a Naming Policy, for rooms, programs, scholarships, etc. It only took almost two years to get it right!

Looking to the future, we determined what it will take to make our upstairs fully usable, including an elevator and front and back staircases. That and a Communications Director are “waiting in the wings” until we’ve completed our Initiative to hire an Assistant Minister...but we haven’t forgotten them!

And that’s just the big stuff! There is so much more that happens, day in and day out, to make this complex “organism” work so well. Mostly, it’s taken because of our partnership. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

And here’s to another amazing year to come!

-Natalie

What Your Board Is Up To—JUNE 2018

We welcomed our 3 new board members: Joe Como, Karen Simmons and Cathie Wiese, and elected our officers for next year. I will continue as President, Sean Freese will be Vice President, Michael Randolph will continue as Treasurer, and Cathie Wiese will be Corporate Secretary. Cathie and Sean also committed to updating and gathering all our various charters, policies and procedures into one “electronic” place. Eventually, we want to find a way to have them available to all our members.

We discussed our August board retreat, where we will get to know each other, form a new working body, and do some visioning of our future, and set our goals for the coming year.

We discussed the launching of our first Town Hall meeting in October. We couldn’t stop coming up with ideas and topics to address! We’re hoping to have a quick, simple meal be available between the service and the Town Hall.

It’s been an amazing year of growth for our Congregation. We’re about to embark on new goals together, dedicated to greater service within and beyond our walls.

Your board aims to strengthen our congregation to better serve our members and to expand our outreach in the community. We welcome your ideas and feedback. Please contact us individually, or attend the Board’s meetings (third Thursday of each month). Complete minutes from the most recent Board meeting are posted on the UUCSR website and on bulletin boards at the church. The next board meeting will be August 16 at 6:30, in the Board Room.

Natalie Brundred,
President UUCSR Board of Trustees
Religious Education for Children & Youth
Director of Religious Education, Jen Freese

Coming from a teaching background, I love summer as a time for reflection and rest. When I was teaching, I loved July as a “dreaming time” – a chance to dream big about the upcoming school year while knowing still I had several weeks before I would need to actually write anything on my task list. As a parent, I love watching my children slow down in the summer, as well: spending hours on an art project or fort, lying in the grass after riding bikes, their cheeks pink and flushed. I hope that you and your families are experiencing the beautiful dreaminess of July.

During these summer months, RE continues to be offered and we have been delighted to see so many new and visiting families bringing their children in to join us! In June, July and August, we change our Sunday morning time together and hold Children’s Chapel at 10:00 am in lieu of our typical RE programming. Children’s Chapel is a wonderful and relaxing way for all of the children, regardless of grade level, to come together for worship, learning and play.

We always begin by lighting the chalice and sharing our joys and sorrows. We may read a story or learn about a topic through discussion, and then play a game or create something. As your new DRE, I’m thoroughly enjoying using this special time to get to know the children and adult volunteers better.

Although I’m no longer a teacher in the traditional sense, I’m finding that July in this new role is still a dreaming time.

Our RE program at UUCSR is here to serve the families and youth, and I’m finding myself already looking ahead to the Fall to think of all the ways we can sustain our children’s spiritual growth while supporting each other in the blessed, and often challenging, work of parenting.

Here are a few items to look out for --- but don’t worry, you still have plenty of time to enjoy that bike ride first.

In peace, Jen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1/10:00 am</td>
<td>Building Beloved Community</td>
<td>Game: Trading Jelly Beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8/10:00 am</td>
<td>What is real and what is fake?</td>
<td>Game: Two Truths and a Lie</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15/10:00 am</td>
<td>Your Divine Spark</td>
<td>Craft: Tissue Paper Candles</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22/10:00 am</td>
<td>Blessings of the Earth</td>
<td>Activity: Easy Bagel Bird Feeders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29/10:00 am</td>
<td>Choose Your Attitude</td>
<td>Game: Cooperation Tag</td>
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</table>

Pressed Flower Help Needed
Hello All!
RE will be making pressed flower pictures on August 19 with Jean Smith (thank you, Jean!) We are in need of a few more volunteers who are willing to make pressed flowers. It’s quite simple, and needs to be done 6-8 weeks in advance. Here’s how:

Just use a nice big phone book or atlas, and rose petals, hydrangea petals, daisies, small colorful leaves, ferns, small wild flowers, vinca, zinnia, pansies. Leave in a dry place with a weighted book on top, should be ready to use in 6-8 weeks.

Please let me know if you can make some pressed flowers that you can bring with you to the 9:15 am service on August 19.

Thank you! Jen

UUCSR Parents Facebook Group

Please note that the UUCSR Parents Facebook Group contains announcements and polls to help your family fully engage with the UUCSR community.

Email Jen Freese at dre@uusantarosa.org to be added.
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.

**STARTING IN JULY**

**SENIORS IN TRANSITION**

**Thursdays, July 19 - August 23**

2-4 pm in the Board Room

The Seniors in Transition program, facilitated by Linda Proulx, offers a safe and supportive environment where older adults can look ahead to a time when they may no longer be able to live safely in complete independence. The program provides a forum where participants can explore options and make informed choices for life transitions including future alternative living situations and/or in-home care. Having a choice is always important and it is especially important during this time of life.

The program includes small group discussions, speakers and tours of senior communities and is offered in seven 2-hour sessions. (An additional session may be scheduled within that time frame to visit senior living facilities). July 19 - August 23, 2-4. Board Room. Limited to 15. Sign up at RE table; please pay at time of signup. Cost: $25.

**Program Objectives**

In a supportive environment participants will:

- Explore stereotypes of aging as well as challenges and concerns
- Identify values, hopes and dreams going forward
- Increase knowledge of available resources, care levels and care facilities in the local areas
- Develop personalized transition plans
- Enable conversations with families and loved ones

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**4-WEEK BOOK DISCUSSION**

**BEING MORTAL**

**Wednesdays, September 5-26**

3-5 pm in Board Room

Linda Lampson and Sarita Hazen will facilitate a 4 week discussion of Being Mortal. This deeply moving book asks hard questions about how we as a culture and the medical profession in particular treat the old and terminally ill. Wednesdays, 3-5 pm, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26. Board Room. Sign up at RE table; class limited to 15.

**EVOlUTION AND THE ORIGINS OF RELIGION**

**Wednesdays, September 5-26**

7-9 pm in Board Room

Bill Stayton will presenting a different kind of class this fall: one that focuses on the origin of religions. As he puts it, "It is a safe assumption that our pre-human ancestors were not religious, that religious thoughts and practices are an emergent property of the human brain. Most interesting questions, therefore, are how, when and why, during the course of human evolution, did morality and religions emerge and change? (Wednesdays: 9/5, 9/12, 9/19 and 9/26 from 7-9pm in the Board Room).

**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**

The Evening Book Group is on vacation for July and August. Meetings will begin again in September. We have selected the books for the 2018-2019 year. We welcome new members as well as visitors.

**Next Year’s Book Selections:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>Timescape</td>
<td>Gregory Benford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>Manhattan Beach</td>
<td>Jennifer Egan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Killers of the Flower Moon</td>
<td>David Grann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>Andrew Sean Greer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>To Kill a Mockingbird</td>
<td>Harper Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>The Heart</td>
<td>Maylis de Kerangal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>Salt Houses</td>
<td>Hala Alyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>The Underground Railroad</td>
<td>Colson Whitehead</td>
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</table>

Please join us if any of the selections are of interest to you.

**Questions? Contact Linda Lampson**
Share the Offering

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

**July 1 Live Music Lantern**
provides tickets to social workers and educators to help light up their lives with live music.

**July 8 Housing Connections**
provides housing for people with mentally health needs. Lewis House, a supported independent living home, provides a four bedroom house for four women, and in-home support services. Nine staff, including volunteers, provide ongoing support. They want to expand their housing.

**July 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day On, Not a Day Off Fund**
provides resources for the activities at Community Baptist Church on MLK Day in January.

**July 22 Breakfast For Our Neighbors**
is our own Saturday breakfast program which provides nutritious meals in a friendly atmosphere for our neighbors in need.

**July 29 Alianza For Equity Fund**
is a scholarship fund for Latino/Latina students at Sonoma State University.

**August 5 The Interlink Self-Help Center**
provides a safe environment in which people facing mental health challenges can improve their quality of life through self-help, mutual support and empowerment.

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**Summer schedule for Advocates for Social Justice**

**Regular A4SJ meetings:** No meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 13, at 10 am in the youth room.

**Hot Topics:** No Hot Topics in July and August. Hot Topics will be resuming in September. Watch for more information about the date and what the topic will be.

**A4SJ Film Project:** No films in July and August. We will be starting with our new theme in September.

*Mary Louise Jaffray for Advocates for Social Justice.*

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**School Supplies for Farmworkers' Children**

Collection at Glaser Center July 16th - 26th

This year we'll be collecting school supplies for farmworkers' children again.

*Here is what is requested and needed:*

- Backpacks (always in great need; no red or bright blue, no military/camo, no corporate logos/promotions)
- Spiral notebooks (College and Wide-Rule, 1-subject, 70 – 120 sheets)
- Composition Books (College and Wide-Rule)
- Glue Sticks (small)
- 2-pocket folders (students)
- Highlighters (standard)
- Mechanical Pencils
- Pencil Pouches (Zip Bags) that fit into 3-hole notebooks
- Pencils
- Standard Ballpoint Pens (blue, black)
- Large Erasers and Pencil Caps Pencil Sharpeners
- Rulers
- Crayons (24-pack)
- Colored Markers (regular tip, 8 or 10 pack)
- 3-Ring Binders (1 or 2 inch)
- White lined 3-hole filler paper (College and wide rule, 200-sheet packs)
- Basic Handheld Calculators
CUUPS (covenant of unitarian universalists)

Lammas Celebration

Sunday, July 29 after 10:00 am Service

Lammas or Lughnasadh traditionally begins around August 1 and it marks the beginning of the grain harvest. The first bread made from this harvest celebrated the Summer's plenty and gave thanks to the Earth's bounty for another year.

Celebrate the symbolic 'first loaf' of the 2018 harvest cycle with us on July 29th after the one 10 am service. In our modern day of supermarkets, bakeries, and year round abundance we forget the importance of a plentiful harvest. In ancient times if you ran out of grain before the time of Lammas or Lughnasadh, your family could starve.

Lughnasadh (LOO-nah-sah or Loo-NAS-ah) honors the Celtic Sun King and God of Light Lugh. Without the energy of Lugh, the grain would not grow and ripen. It celebrates the capture of the Sun's energy into the grain plant.

Lammas is an Anglo-Saxon word that comes from 'loaf or half mass' and exemplifies the important of the first grain and first loaf of the harvest cycle.

Lammas also honors the goddess as Grain Mother, bearer of the sustainer of life. She harvests the mature grain for flour (death) or replants the seeds for next years crop (rebirth). Our reminder of our own mortality but acknowledgement of the immortality of all organic life. We wither and die, compost into the soil, and thereby feed new life. Life in all forms changes into soil or heat energy. So continues the circle.

CUUPS will have various breads for you to enjoy on Sunday, July 29 after the 10:00 service in the Social Hall. If you would like to bring your own favorite bread to share it would be a further blessing. For more information: cuups@uusantarosa.org or call Lucia Kasulis.

CUUPS would like to dedicate Lammas this year to honor and celebrate the life of Clement Boylan, our departed Pagan and incredible baker of all things delicious. He has been gone a year now. Blessed Be!

INVITATION TO WOMEN SINGERS

Can you carry a tune? I am putting together a women's choir to sing a few special hymns for the August 19th all music service. Simple three and four-part hymns; 4-6 rehearsals beginning in mid-July; times and dates TBD. Please join us. Contact Mary Chapot at mary.chapot@trustandgrace.com

Blooming Vale
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gs9DpofW6eI
Invitation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmA3qb6F2kA
Shall We Gather at the River
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ht9OKMV_ZU
ALL-UU SUMMER CAMP
August 31–September 2
at Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma

The All UU Summer Camp will be held Aug. 31–Sept. 2 at Walker Creek Ranch, west of Petaluma.

This retreat is for everyone in the congregation!
Come spend the weekend with your UU family relaxing and talking with old friends and making some new ones in a beautiful setting!

Please see our flyer in this newsletter for more information.

The prices on the flyer include meals for Saturday and brunch on Sunday. There will be a potluck Friday night (to keep the prices as low as possible).

SAVE THE DATE!!!

“Traveling Nan”
A Brilliant Nancy Hayashibara Comedy Musical Event
Saturday, July 28, 2018
7:00pm — At The Glaser Center
Advance Reservations Recommended

The fabulous Nancy Hayashibara is "coming home" to do her hilarious one-woman show as a fundraiser for our own UUCSR!!

Don't make any plans for that evening as you won't want to miss this hysterical evening of fun.

Advance tickets will be $20 ($10 for students) and $25 at the door.

Advance tickets will be sold after each service in July, at brownpapertickets.com, and at the door the night of the event.
Musical Notes

Music lovers in our UU Congregation will love July! One of the highlights will be the All Music Program on the 15th. The broad theme for the month is Liberation, and this program will treat music as an avenue toward liberation.

The rest of July examines various aspects of Liberation. The 1st will deal with Juggling! the 8th will investigate Science, the 22nd will peer into Black Holes, and the 29th will be the Best of Times, the Worst of Times, and those Middle Times which seem to dilute and dominate. Various permutations and combinations of Music Coordinators, aka the UUsual Suspects, will be our guides, as Sadie and the choir will be taking the month off.

Come be a part of CUUPs in 2018! (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

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

For information contact: Lucia Kasulis, Aphrodite Bellochio or email cuups@uusantarosa.org

Blessed Be!

Besides all this wonderful anticipation, get ready for a special night of music by the fabulous Nancy Hayashibara on Saturday, July 28. Nancy is well-known at UUCSR and will be performing a one-woman show as a fundraiser for UUCSR. Watch the Announcements for time and admission price information.

August 5

E PLURIBUS UNUM

We are one and yet we are many. This true not just of the human family, but of everything in the Universe. It has always been true and always will be. Discovering and praising what unites us while honoring and celebrating our beautiful differences is the heart of the spiritual path in general, and of this community in particular. It matters a lot. The future of the nation and the species hinges upon understanding how these seemingly paradoxical qualities of Life are integrated through Love.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Dara Olandt, Aphrodite Bellochio

Music by: Anna Harriette Foshee (piano) and Caroline Foshee (oboe); Roger Corman (piano)

Share the Basket: Interlink Self Help Center

~ And Other Events of Interest ~

Jewell Ford Memorial

We will celebrate Jewell Ford’s life on Saturday, August 4, 2018
1:00pm

Invitation to Women Singers

Can you carry a tune? I am putting together a women’s choir to sing a few special hymns for the August 19th all music service. Simple three and four-part hymns; 4-6 rehearsals beginning in mid-July; times and dates TBD. Please join us. Contact Mary Chapot

Blooming Vale

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gs9DpofW6eI

Invitation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmA3qb6F2kA

Shall We Gather at the River

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht9OKMV_2U

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.

Following are the MAY Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planned Parenthood</td>
<td>$955.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive Images</td>
<td>$606.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Living Room</td>
<td>$421.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast for our Neighbors</td>
<td>$564.82</td>
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Thank You for Your Generosity!
A Quick Reminder to Everyone

Anyone wishing to donate items to the congregation must talk to our Administrator, Janis Brewster first. We have a protocol to follow when accepting items. Space at the Congregation is very limited.

PWR Congregations in the News

Transgender women in migrant caravan face new struggles seeking asylum in U.S. - AZ Central

The transgender women did not feel safe returning to the shelter, Ramos said. After the transgender women made an appeal on Facebook that they would have to spend the night on the streets, members of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego stepped in and helped them find a secure location to stay in Tijuana, Ramos said.

Personal growth in the world of make-believe - Santa Fe New Mexican

"It is like a practice, like sitting zen," John Cullinan said. "You're flexing some mental muscle." Cullinan, pastor at the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, joined Santa Fe Improv seeking a creative outlet. He said he never expected the class to transform his daily interactions and serve as a type of therapy. "It really opens me up to how I'm open to people and receiving them," he said. "It's a chance to let loose."

TRUU Reverend arrested at Poor People's Campaign in D.C. - The Sopris Sun

Reverend Shawna Foster had prepared an impassioned sermon for the Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist on Sunday in case she couldn't be there to deliver it in person. She knew she would likely be arrested at the Poor People's Campaign launch on Monday, May 14 in Washington, D.C. It wouldn't be her first time in handcuffs because of civil disobedience, and she wanted to be prepared.

The UU Church in La Crescenta opens a monthly ‘hootenanny,’ the Verdugo HUUT - Glendale News Free Press

The congregation slowly filled the dim Universalist Unitarian Church of the Verdugo Hills in La Crescenta last Friday night, taking their seats to face a small wood-brimmed stage decorated with a single stained-glass window. On the stage were a piano, a red chair and two microphones. However, it wasn't for a worship service. The group was attending the church's monthly Verdugo HUUT (pronounced "hoot"), a night where comedians, singers and musicians perform, and they can bring tears to audience members' eyes — either from laughter or a compelling experience.

Block party! Three churches team up to hold a block party to celebrate life and community - The Union

"For many years, Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains has had a tradition of holding its own outdoor service in a park this time of year," said the church's minister Kevin Tarsa. "I love that this interfaith block party offers a playful chance to model some of the bridge building we long to see in our nation."
Greetings from Your Stewardship Team
Welcome: Next-Jen

Jen Freese, UUCSR’s new Director of Religious Education (DRE), grew up near Santa Barbara. She majored in English at UC Berkeley, and later moved to New Orleans with her soon-to-be husband, Sean. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and badly damaged their home. That disaster triggered Jen’s decision to go to grad school, and the couple moved to New York, where she enrolled in Teachers College at Columbia University. Jen taught in public schools in NYC for 6 years. With the threat of a layoff looming for Jen, Sean obtained a new position at Sonoma Academy in Santa Rosa.

So in 2013, Sean and Jen, now pregnant with their son Owen, settled in Coffey Park. Jen initially tutored middle and high school students before being hired to teach at The Healdsburg School. There she enjoyed the freedom to engage her students in social and emotional learning, including meditation. But over time, her desire to impact a wider community grew stronger.

The October fires were a critical turning point in the Freese family’s life. After fleeing the flames, and losing their home, Jen had to ask herself, “Where do I want my path to lead?” Her heart told her that this was the time to make that impact in the community and to “explore my faith and identity as a Unitarian Universalist.” She knew that the position of DRE was open, and after much consideration and the encouragement of Deborah Mason, our recently retired DRE, she applied and was chosen for the leadership role.

As a parent of Rory and Owen, Jen brings a parent’s perspective to her role as Director, as well as her experience as a member of the RE Committee, which provides support to the Director. She takes the helm of a thriving program currently supporting about 40 children and their parents. For now, her plan is to follow the curriculum developed by Deborah. Over time, Jen hopes to develop more intergenerational worship, which may include activities outside of Sunday services, and to expand the online presence of the Youth Group. We are so fortunate to welcome Jen to this key leadership role in our congregation, and wish her every success!

The Stewardship Team wishes to remind us that some 60% of our revenue goes to support our staff including our minister, our DRE, and operations staff. These folks keep our congregation humming and growing our mission. Our revenue comes mostly from sustaining pledges, and expenses will be rising with our new Assistant Minister position. If you haven’t yet done so, please consider raising your pledge for this fiscal year to help meet our goal of increasing pledges by $65,000.

With gratitude,
Erin Howseman, Stewardship Team

As May ends, we are now 11 months into our current Fiscal Year. May is becoming a turn around month for YTD figures as pledges are being paid in May. We are showing a total surplus YTD of approximately $28,500, and we are running about $20,000 over budget. Much of this surplus is due to early renewals of pledges for the next Fiscal Year, but we are still positive which is good news, if we take these pledges out of this year’s budget.

The Budget for 2018-19 was approved at the Congregational meeting in June (hooray). We made some changes to the final budget, as we gained more actual data over the previous 12-months. We had to raise our goal to $65,000 for the 2018-19 Initiative to Hire a new Assistant Minister, and make an adjustment of the current status to reflect $33,000 raised so far. We’re over the half way mark to meeting our goals.

If you have not done so, please review your pledge commitment for 2018-19 and see if you can increase your present amount. We’re still $32,000 short of our goal, which represents a need to increase our revenue by almost 5% to pay for the Assistant Minister.

Special thanks to Willow Creek Wealth Management for managing our Endowment Fund over the years as a pro bono client. Returns for 2018 we up almost 15%, enabling the UU Endowment Fund to allow $12,300 as a distribution this coming year. In case you missed the Congregational meeting, the Board approved $10,000 for ceiling tiles to dampen the noise in the social hall and $2,300 seed money for Dara Olandt, our new Assistant Minister for Campus Ministry and Adult RE funding.

Fiscally yours,
Michael Randolph, Treasurer