
The UU Update

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa

Volume 62 • Issue 8

AUGUST 2018



August Theme:

UNITY / DIVERSITY

*** One Summer-Sunday Service at 10:00 am ***

Summer schedule continues through September 2th.

On September 9 we go back to two services, at 9:15 and 11:00 am

AUGUST 5

E PLURIBUS UNUM

We are one and yet we are many. Not just the human family, but everything in the Universe. Discovering and praising what unites us while honoring and celebrating our beautiful differences is the heart of the spiritual path, and of this community. The future of the nation and the species hinges upon our understanding of how these seemingly paradoxical qualities of our existence are integrated through Love.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Dara Olandt, Aphrodite Bellocchio Music by: Anna Harriette Foshee (piano) and Caroline Foshee (oboe); Roger Corman (piano) Share the Basket: Interlink Self-Help Center

AUGUST 12

UNIVERSALISM THEN & NOW

Wise people of all traditions have figured out that we are all of equal value from the perspective of divine love. Christian Universalism in America, from which our contemporary Unitarian Universalism was born, preached this, and gave us the phrase "**the inherent worth and dignity of all people.**" Learn more about this wonderfully open-minded and open-hearted side of our faith, and how its teachings are needed more now than ever in our painfully divided world.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir; Roger Corman Share the Basket: RECOURSE mediation services

AUGUST 19

ON HARMONY

Harmony is an often-stated goal for living together, in community. How do we create harmony, when we all have different sensibilities, backgrounds, and dreams? How do we find our place in the choir? Today, we will explore the idea that we need not sing alike to sing together.

Service Leaders: Susan Panttaja, Mary Chapot Music by: Susan Panttaja & Mary Chapot and many others; Roger Corman Share the Basket: Disability Services & Legal Center

AUGUST 26

AUCTION WINNER:

"ALIENS AMONG US"

At the March 2018 Service Auction one of the prize-winning sermon topics was: "What if an extraterrestrial wanted to join UUCSR?" There's no suspense to this one, actually; as long as we could work with the alien's currency to secure a 5-10% pledge, of course they would be welcome! All joking aside, the notion of welcoming "aliens" is a timely one in the light of recent events in our nation, which is what we'll really be talking about.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir; Roger Corman Share the Basket: Breakfast for our Neighbors

SEPTEMBER 2

LABOR DAY

To be human is to work – at something. Work comes in many forms – paid, unpaid, visible, invisible, inner, outer, formal, informal. Work can delight, frustrate, reward, humiliate, exhilarate, exhaust... **This Labor Day weekend, we'll explore** how our work binds us to each other and our planet.

Rev. Sue Magidson, a community minister affiliated with the UU Church of Berkeley, serves as spiritual care coordinator and hospital chaplain at San Leandro Hospital. Her essays are published in **Skinner House book's Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism** and in *Faithful Practices*.

Service Leaders: Rev. Sue Magidson, Susan Panttaja Music by: Robert Howseman & this week's UUCSR band; Roger Corman Share the Basket: Social Advocates for Youth

SEPTEMBER 9

INGATHERING/WATER COMMUNION

**RETURN TO TWO SERVICES AT 9:15 and 11:00 **

Collect some special water to share in the common bowl!



Unity and Diversity

The day I first encountered our faith tradition at the West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, Ohio, I was totally unaware of what a UU church did or believed, other than that it was **“very progressive and the music is great.”** Then I found that little brown card with the Principles and the Sources on it in the hymnal rack on the pew in front of me. This was a revelation of the highest order. Who knew that the very church I might have designed for myself already existed? I was an instant convert. I soon memorized the language, and have carried those words in my mind ever since.

Now, I know that I am clearly in a distinct minority in having memorized the Principles, although our Do-Re-Mi version seems to be changing that. The exception, though, seems to be the First Principle. Almost every UU appears to know and understand the phrase, **“the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”**

This is as it should be. Whatever one may know, or not know, about our historical and theological history, this brief but profound statement of faith captures the essence of our tradition. We proclaim that whatever a person may believe about God or Buddha or Jesus, whatever their sexual orientation or race or economic status or politics (oh, wait, what?!), they are all capable of love, healing and wholeness and thus are all worthy of protection and care. Yes, even the mean and selfish ones.

When in doubt about what to say, or how to act, we try to remember that every imperfect and impermanent being is a slice of the perfect and permanent ground of all being. We assert that the Spirit of Life, by definition, is within every person, however deluded or short-sighted or wounded we/they/all of us may be. Speaking theistically, God is in every one of us, surrounding and sharing in the suffering of every one of us, and yes, actively loving every single one of us.

That is the very heart of the Universalist message, which is the side of our tradition that gave birth to our memorable First Principle. The *Bond of Fellowship* that was adopted by the Universalist Churches of America in 1935 to describe their common beliefs avowed faith in (among other things), **“God as Eternal and All-conquering Love,”** and **“the supreme worth of every human personality.”** At the time of merger of Unitarianism and Universalism in 1961 this became **“the supreme worth of every human personality and the dignity of man,”** and the current, less sexist, language was adopted in 1985.

We are all capable of noble living, but we are also all imperfect. Thus, we also assert that no one person or religion or philosophy has the complete truth. With the notable exceptions of awakened ones trying to describe completely non-dual nature of reality in its mysterious **“not-two-ness,”** ANY human being’s description of what is going on here is limited. We are forever constrained by the limitations of our language, our upbringing, our education, our place in time and space. And that’s OK.

Such limitation needn’t prevent our connection in relationship, though. Indeed, it much more deeply invites it, if we can embrace our differences with curiosity and appreciation and open-mindedness.

Thus, rooted in the First Principle, our UUCSR Covenant calls us to seek **“unity in our diversity.”** This quest to find unity in our diversity is needed more than ever, not just in our congregation or denomination, but in the whole wide world.

This quest guides the work of our Diversity Project here at UUCSR, where we hope to see increasing numbers of white people recognizing the realities of privilege, and we hope to see increasing numbers of people of color and other traditionally excluded groups expressing themselves freely, claiming leadership, and bringing the wisdom that comes from having lived life on the margins.

That quest is behind our denomination’s commitment to examining and eliminating the white supremacy culture that has defined the United States of America since its inception, and to removing its lingering influence on UU practices and polity.

And that quest is behind our willingness to stand in the public realm as religious people and resist the current administration in Washington, D.C., because faith **in the inherent worth and dignity of every person isn’t** just a religious assertion. It is at the heart of the American political experiment, too, even and in spite of efforts made from the very beginning to ignore or distort **this truth. Today’s politics is only the latest, painful** reminder of this. The tortuous separation of immigrant families, the mockery of Mexican-Americans and the disabled, the assertion that those who disagree are traitors, are just some examples of how the glorious **truth of “E Pluribus, Unum” is under attack, yet again.**

We need a major revival of affirming, proclaiming and defending the First Principle, both in America and around the world. Our survival and our salvation demand it.

In his essay, **“Liberal Religion in the 21st Century,”** the former president of the UUA, William F. Schulz, **“Every race or nation—with their divergent appearances, customs, and interests—is a challenge to the self-sufficiency of every other, and in the face of such challenges, we forget our common roots and common tribulations. Surely one of the things about religion is to remind us not just that we are free but that we each will die, not just that we are different, but that we each are subject to grace and capable of praise... If we are to overcome nationalism, economic exploitation, and the accumulative mentality, we require a religious proclamation of that which binds us to one another, to the earth, and to the Holy.”**

Such a proclamation is very simple: **“We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all beings.”** May we all live accordingly, so that the whole world will someday come to know that it is true.

Reverend Chris Bell

President's Column

Hi there from the midst of summertime! The weather is warm (sometimes inching up into HOT), the days are sunny, and everything has slowed down. Gives me time to think and to ponder.

I've been slowly savoring my way through the UU World magazine, and one article caught me. In it, author Rev. Seth Fisher posits the question "what are we inviting potential new members TO?"

Here at UUCSR, I think we're inviting people into many things, and that's a big reason why our congregation is growing and vibrant and healthy. We invite people into services, definitely. And many need that – that time to pause, think deeply, meditate, listen to some great music, and connect – with ourselves, with each other, with the Divine. Services are a unique time for us in the busyness of our daily lives.

But we invite people into so much more. We invite them into a community of people who want to live a life of meaning, and who want to make a difference – and who want to be a part of a community that supports each other in that. We invite them into a community of people who are continually striving and failing, and striving and succeeding, and **striving and... to be their best, to treat each other with dignity and respect, to come from love, to forgive (themselves and others), to LIVE that deep connection.**

And since good intentions mean nothing without **action, we get busy!** We march (I think I've been to just about every rally and march since January of last year, and I've ALWAYS seen a pretty large contingent of fellow UUCSR'ers), we educate ourselves and make changes, we put our money where our mouth is, we reach out.

And we invite newcomers into ownership of this community and this congregation. By tithing, by volunteering, by participating. We have so many different ways to be a part of this community! And I will say, the more I participate, the more I put MYSELF into this community, the more I get out of it. What we value, what we stand for, comes to life in many and varied ways as I put my energy, **my treasure and my talents into UUCSR. I've said this several times before – I LOVE being your President! But you may not know that I'm also really selfish. I get SO MUCH out of it. (Could I be President for life?!)**



And so, I invite you to consider, what are YOU inviting people to here at UUCSR? What do you value about this place and this community? What is important to you? How does UUCSR enrich you? How is it helping you live a life of meaning? How is it helping you make a difference in yourself, your communities and the world? And how could you contribute to making us even stronger, richer, and more vital?

For me, all the work I do as your President is to have us realize our covenant, to have us live our UU Principles. We have an amazing gift to contribute to the world. My work, our work, is to see that we do it to the best of our ability.

Let's get to work!

Natalie

-Natalie

What Your Board Is Up To—JULY 2018

What were we up to in July? We were enjoying our summer! The board didn't meet in July – we took some well-deserved time off. But we're also looking forward to our Board Retreat in August, where we'll determine our goals for the year. And we'll be handling the "business" of the Congregation at our regularly-scheduled board meeting, on Thursday, August 16th, at 6:30 pm in the Board Room. We'd love to see you there!

And, as always, we'd love to hear from you. What we're doing right, what we're doing wrong,

suggestions, ideas, appreciations, etc. Look for a **board member, look for the "Talk to a Board Member" sign at Sunday Social Hours, email us (my email is president@uusantarosa.org), call us, snag us any time you see us...you get the picture!**

And now...I'm going to get a nice, cold glass of lemonade!

Natalie Brundred,
President UUCSR Board of Trustees

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Jen Freese



As we prepare for a new year of Religious Education classes for our children and youth, I am reminded of the often-used saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Parents have long been recognized as the primary religious educators of children, but

Jeanne Nieuwejaar, in her book, *The Gift of Faith: Tending to the Spiritual Lives of Children*, reminds us that children need to be **"companioned in their religious thinking by their parents and by a wider circle of caring others."**

In what ways are we companioning children and youth in their religious and spiritual journeys at UUCSR? How can we grow in this mission together? How can we widen the circle of caring for our children and youth?

There are many ways to become a part of this journey. Here are some ways to get involved in RE this year, no matter your age or schedule:

Attend the next Work Day on Saturday, August 4, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm to help clean and organize the RE Wing (childcare will be provided for families with young children).

Volunteer to lead or assist in RE classes this year – sign-ups begin Sunday, August 12 after service.

What's happening in RE this month?

Join us at All-UU Summer Camp from August 31-September 2.

Register your children for RE classes and make the commitment to bring them as often as is possible for your family. A link for registration will be shared soon!

Families of all ages, shapes and sizes are invited to attend the Family BBQ Potluck and Chalk Festival on Saturday, August 25 from 4:00-7:00 pm.

Check out the RE curriculum on the UUCSR website, updated for the 2018-19 year, at <https://web.uusantarosa.org/>, to get a sense of how our children grow in the UU faith.

Come to Worship for All Ages on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning in September, at 5:30 pm. A potluck dinner will follow.

Volunteer to become a Coming of Age mentor for a participating high school youth group member.

In peace,
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.

Date/Time	Theme	Activity
8/5 at 10:00 am	Defining Peace	Peace Balloons/Meditation on Peace
8/12 at 10:00 am	Chalices	"Stained Glass" UU Chalices
8/19 at 10:00 am	Walking with Waldo – Emerson & Nature	Pressed Flower Art
8/26 at 10:00 am	It Matters How We Treat Each Other	Charades

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

4-WEEK BOOK DISCUSSION *BEING MORTAL*

Wednesdays, September 5-26
3-5 pm in Board Room

Because we couldn't accommodate everyone interested in attending the first discussion group, we are offering another round of this deeply moving book which considers 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 discussion of this book which 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 and Sarita Hazen.

Wednesdays: September 5, 12, 19 and 26, 3-5pm.

EVOLUTION AND *THE ORIGINS OF RELIGION*

Wednesdays, September 5-26
7-9 pm in Board Room

Join us for another fascinating class by Bill Stayton. In his words: "It's 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? From this it is immediately apparent that to answer our questions we must cross a dividing line between the sciences and the humanities, or more narrowly, between the biological and cultural aspects of the evolution of the mind and of religions." Facilitated by Rev. Dr. William Stayton.

Wednesdays: September 5, 12, 19 and 26, 7-9pm.

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 2:00 to 4:00 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:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sept. 13 | <i>Timescape</i> | Gregory Benford |
| Oct. 11 | <i>Manhattan Beach</i> | Jennifer Egan |
| Nov. 8 | <i>Killers of the Flower Moon</i> | David Grann |
| Dec. 13 | <i>Less</i> | Andrew Sean Greer |
| Jan. 10 | <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> | Harper Lee |
| Feb. 14 | <i>The Heart</i> | Maylis de Kerangal |
| Mar. 14 | <i>Salt Houses</i> | Hala Alyan |
| Apr. 11 | <i>The Underground Railroad</i> | Colson Whitehead |

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

Questions? Contact Linda Lampson

Spirit Moves ~ Body Moves

August 1 & 15

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, keeping our bodies resilient as we age. A Collaborative Group that is Designed for Everyone. Space held by Bertha Jean. Call for details.

No Fee.

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.

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.

August 12: Recourse Mediation Services. RECURSE, So Co's leader in conflict resolution services, started by community members committed to the principles of peaceful, mutual resolution of conflict as a way to build safer and healthier communities, is committed to the vision of empowering people to resolve their own disputes.

August 19: Disability Services & Legal Center (DSLCL). One of California's 28 Centers for Independent Living (CIL/ILC), which promotes the Independent Living philosophy through education, community partnerships, and advocacy, has the mission to advance rights of people with disabilities to equal justice, access, opportunity, and participation in our communities. People with any type of disability, and/or their families are eligible to receive free help at DSLCL. Legal fees contingent upon winning your case.

August 26: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday breakfast program, providing nutritious meals in a friendly atmosphere 4 neighbors in need.

September 2: Social Advocates for Youth's began 45 + years ago with a mission to keep teens out of jail and off the streets. Today, they provide housing, counseling and career services to youth & families.

Summer schedule for Advocates for Social Justice

Regular A4SJ meetings: Our next meeting will be August 13, at 10 am in the youth room.

Hot Topics: No Hot Topics in 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 August. We will be starting with our new theme in September.

Mary Louise Jaffray for Advocates for Social Justice.

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; times and dates TBD. Please join us. Contact Mary Chapot

Blooming Vale
www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9DpofW6eI

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

Shall We Gather at the River
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht9OKMV_2U



CUUPS (*Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans*)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 5-6:30 pm at UUCSR

CUUPS celebrates Mother Earth's life cycles along with some Celtic, Native People, and Wiccan traditions.

In addition to the 3rd Friday Drum Circle, we organize these all-congregational celebrations throughout the Wheel of the Year; Lammas/Lughnasadh (bread from the first grain harvest), Samhain (ancestor remembrance), Winter Solstice (welcoming the Sun), Beltane (welcoming Spring with the May Pole) and a Croning (recognizing the knowledge and experience of our wise women).

We are presently researching different Pagan curriculums in preparation for presenting an Adult RE program for the Congregation next year. If you have a suggestion or request, we would like to hear it. You can email us at [cuups at uusantarosa.org](mailto:cuups@uusantarosa.org) or come by one of our meeting times and share your ideas in person.

Blessed Be!

Aphrodite, Stacy, Shirley, Loretta, and Lucia

Ongoing CUUPS Drum Circles: 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 at uusantarosa.org](mailto:cuups@uusantarosa.org) *Blessed Be!*

PWR Congregations in the News

Immigration rally draws hundreds to Old Town Square - *Coloradoan*

Among a lineup of numerous speakers, Rabbi Hillel Katzir and Islamic Center of Fort Collins spokesman Shakir Muhammed spoke about how their faith traditions teach them to stand up against injustice and to take action whether through their votes, talking to elected representatives or other ways of making their voices heard. Foothills Unitarian Church's Rev. Gretchen Haley led the group in prayer, referencing the trauma and grief everyone at the event shares with those in immigration detention centers.

San Diego Pride & St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral 'Light the Cathedral' for Pride - *SDGLN.com*
Numerous faith-based organizations will also join in on the Pride celebration with music, dance, poetry, Psalms, and inspirational words. The First Unitarian

Universalist Church of San Diego will be this year's "Light of Pride" award recipient.

Bordering on faith: San Diego spiritual leaders wrestle with the morality of immigration - *San Diego Union-Tribune*

If Safe Harbor is "Sanctuary Lite," the First Unitarian Universalist Church is ready to be a full-fledged sanctuary. The Hillcrest church prepared living quarters for immigrants, when and if needed. "We haven't been called upon to take anyone in from the community," said Angela Fujii, the church's social justice ministry team coordinator. While waiting for sanctuary-seekers, the church is actively protesting the Trump administration's actions — and words. "We have to challenge the rhetoric that comes out, because it is the demonization of human beings," said the Rev. Beth Johnson of Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Vista. "Our immigrant siblings and refugee siblings need to be treated with respect."

See also this video from the San Diego Union-Tribune and Hundreds call for ICE to be Abolished And Protest Operation Streamline from La Prensa San Diego.

Boulder's Unitarian church welcomes new preschool following dust-up over offering sanctuary - *Daily Camera*

The Unitarian Universalist of Church of Boulder has leased space to a local preschool which will replace the school that left last year after the congregation voted to outfit the church as a sanctuary for an undocumented immigrant.

Helping to solve food insecurity on the Palouse - *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*

Caoilinn Phoenix, 10, discovered she absolutely loves kale chips Monday during the first Food Not Bombs feeding held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse in Moscow.

Religious leaders denounce separation of migrant families outside ICE center in Richmond - *Fox - KTVU*

In Richmond, California, people rallied outside the West Contra Costa Detention Facility to protest the separation of migrant families at the U.S./Mexico border. "There is no spiritual law that justifies separating children from their parents," said the Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae, minister of First Unitarian



Announcing:

DUST OFF YOUR DANCIN' SHOES!

3rd annual New Horizons Swing Dance

When?

September 15

Swing dance lesson at 6:00 PM

Dance from 7:00 to 9:30

Where?

THE GLASER CENTER

At UUCSR

Why?

Benefit the Saturday “Breakfast for Our Neighbors”

Enjoy the greatest hits from the swing band era of the 1930s and 40s

Learn how to swing dance—FREE!

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). Tent camping is available for a reasonable price. Hope you can join us for a fun weekend!

MUSICAL NOTES

You've heard it said by those of ancient times, "There is the Choir and there are the UUsual Suspects." But times change and there's room now for much more participation in the music ministry of our congregation. So we've retired the name UUsual Suspects and expanded our dragnet into a talent search. The Music Coordinators would like to hear from you if you like to sing or play an instrument or both! Contact a Music Coordinator for more information. If choral singing is your love, contact Sadie Sonntag [choir at uusantarosa.org](mailto:choir@uusantarosa.org).

The theme for services in August will be "Unity/Diversity". A archetypal example of unity-diversity is, of course, harmony, where different voices and instruments blend to create beauty. And this yields a marvelous array of musical possibilities.

The Choir, under the direction of Sadie Sonntag will be back on their usual 2nd/4th Sunday schedule, and for the other Sundays, a Music Coordinator will be coordinating the music. There will be an all-music service on August 19. You won't want to miss these uplifting services.



YOUR CARING COMMITTEE

Your Caring Committee representatives want to talk with you after the service on Sundays. You can find our committee table as you exit the sanctuary after the service - just past the minister to the left.

We need you to let us know whenever a congregation member or friend has emergency needs, so that we can figure out how we can best help. We would also like to talk with you if you would like to donate odd bits of time to help with rides, visits or whatever is needed to help out in an emergency

Phyllis Clement, for the Caring Committee.

OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

2nd & 4th Mondays

August 13 and August 27

10:30 a.m. in UUCSR Green Room

A Group For Women Congregants 80 and over.

Are you one of us? We are meeting in the Green Room 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

*Sometime in
early August...*

... the security/alarm system at the Glaser Center will be activated.

Announcements will be made on the Focus email list, and the Order of Service Announcement insert.

Please be on the lookout for details

as they become available

on this important change to improve

our building security.

Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

We haven't completed the June financials, nor closed the books for the year, but should have results in our next newsletter.

If you have not done so, please raise your pledge commitment for 2018-19. We have raised approximately \$40,000 toward our goal of \$65,000 for the new Assistant Minister, increased operating costs to this year's budget and merit increases for staff.

2018 will be a taxing year for many Americans. Tax cuts approved by Congress will negatively impact charitable deductions. For single individuals the standard deduction increased to \$12,000, and for married couples it is now \$24,000. If you are over 65, add another \$1,600 to the standard deduction if you are single, or \$1,300 if you are married. As you probably know, you can reduce your taxes by using itemized deductions, but only if those deductions exceed the standard deduction. As a result of these new tax law changes it will be a high hurdle for most individuals who itemize their deductions to lower taxes from their charitable contributions. The new law limits property taxes to \$10,000, mortgage interest is capped to a \$750,000 loan and the miscellaneous expenses are eliminated.

One solution to this problem is to bunch-up your charitable deductions into a donor-advised fund. For example, if you donate \$5,000 per year to charities or hint, hint, the UU, you could open up a donor-advised fund for \$30,000, and add this one time deduction to your other itemized deductions and thus exceed the new standard deduction. Now you can spread your \$5,000 donation per year over the next 6 years from your donor-advised fund saving you on taxes. A number of financial institutions have these types of funds (Schwab, Fidelity, our own Community Foundation).

*Fiscally yours,
Michael Randolph, Treasurer*

*Saturday Work Day
Saturday, AUGUST 4
9 am—Noon*

Maintenance Team meets Saturday, August 4, 9 am to 12 Noon. We garden and do small repair or maintenance tasks to keep our facility looking good and working well. Please come help!



Committee on Shared Ministry

August 2018

MINISTER (*verb*): to attend to the needs of (someone); provide (something necessary or helpful)

SHARE (*verb*): have a portion of (something) with another or others; give a portion of (something) to another or others; use, occupy, or enjoy (something) jointly with another or others

Committee on Shared Ministry — Put those two definitions together and you have what COSM does. While Rev. Chris ministers, i.e., attends to the needs of the congregation, the Committee on Shared Ministry enjoys a portion of that ministry.

Should you have a need that could use attending by a minister, remember that there are some folks beyond the good rev who may be able to, as noted above, **"provide something necessary or helpful."** COSM is part of the 3-legged stool that also includes the Lay Chaplains and the Caring Committee.

We are: Bob Anderson, Susan Bartholome, Alan Bell, Frances Corman, Lucia Milburn (Chair), and Kitty Wells.

Summer Greetings from Your Stewardship Team



Over the past few weeks I have been so inspired by the wonderful sermons and gracious presence of our new assistant minister, Rev. Dara Olandt. She is clearly a great fit for UUCSR. Rev. Dara officially begins her new job with us on August 1. What an exciting time for our congregation – new horizons are opening up!

Our congregation has increased our numbers and energy to the point that we're ready to push out our "growing edges." A key initiative of Rev. Dara's will be to organize a campus ministry at Santa Rosa Junior College. What a golden opportunity to reach out to young adults right on our doorstep. She will also expand pastoral care, which will be a

huge help to Rev. Chris and the lay chaplains.

Growth is not the end in itself – rather, a congregation that is vibrant and welcoming and increasing its outreach will naturally tend to grow. Growth is most successful when we plan for it and put infrastructure in place to support it, especially where staffing is concerned. In the business world that's often referred to as "staffing for growth" whereas in a religious community we'd more likely describe it as expanding our ministry.

We took a bold step hiring a new assistant minister this year, and not waiting until our pledge income would fully provide the additional revenue needed to fund the position. The congregation chose to jump-start expanding ministry and vision by investing our 'seed money' now. One might say we took the "If you build it, they will come!" approach. As Rev. Dara establishes herself, and with the broad support you've all shown for the decision to hire her, we know that where the spirit has led, the money will follow.

The Stewardship Team would like to extend a big thank you to all of you who have already raised your pledge! Your generosity has put us past the halfway mark of our goal of a \$60,000 increase in pledge income. Raising my pledge for such a worthwhile goal makes me happy to be part of this effort. It nourishes my soul. I hope the same is true for you.

If you haven't yet raised your pledge, please join the effort if you possibly can. Help us expand our future.

- John Mason, for the Stewardship Team

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 JULY Recipients

Arlene Francis Center	\$540.76
CA Rural Legal Assistance	\$420.96
Vet Connect	\$461.13
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$451.97

Thank You for Your Generosity!



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
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AUGUST 2018

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
office at uusantarosa.org <http://www.uusantarosa.org>

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

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.

BLACK LIVES MATTER