

# The UU Update

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa  
Volume 63 • Issue 1

January 2019



January Service Theme:

*grace*

JANUARY 6

GRACE FOR BEGINNERS

Anne Lamott writes, "I do not understand the mystery of grace -- only that it meets us where we are and does not leave us where it found us." What is grace anyway? From whence does it come? All are welcome for this service exploring skepticism, doubt and the mystery of grace.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Joe Gabaeff  
Music by: John Ray & some musical UUs, MUUGS,  
Roger Corman Share the Basket: MLK Day  
Celebration Committee*

JANUARY 13

GRANTING AND YIELDING POWER

It is a form of grace to empower others. It also takes a lot of grace to yield power, as the poor people of the state of Wisconsin have recently discovered. The biblical story of David and Jonathan may provide some insight as we consider the relationship between power and grace.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Veronica Jordan,  
Judy Withee, Rev. Dara Olandt Music by: Sadie  
Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman Share the  
Basket: Habitat For Humanity of Sonoma County*

JANUARY 20

GRACE AT THE END

The greatest of all existential crises comes when we are facing the end of our own lives, the end of the life of a loved one, or even the potential end of life on Earth as we know it, if recent news and findings of the scientific community are any indication. How can we seek grace and abide with it under these challenging circumstances?

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas  
Music by: Susan Panttaja & some musical UUs,  
Roger Corman Share the Basket: Entrepreneurs of  
Tomorrow Foundation*

JANUARY 27

EVERYTHING BELONGS

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:15

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 11:00

In the ancient Book of Isaiah (45:7) we read: "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord **do all these things.**" And yet **its author still affirmed God's goodness.** Similarly, our UU faith helps us affirm the goodness of life and of humanity, in spite of how much darkness and evil are so frequently included herein.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff  
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman  
Special Music by: Anna Harriett and Carolyn Foshee  
Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors*

FEBRUARY 3

YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT YOUR CHILDREN  
NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

The theme for February is Surrender and Letting Go. **We'll begin our explorations by considering the many ways we must practice surrendering to, and letting go of, the next generations.**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Judy Withee, Rev.  
Dara Olandt Music by: Mary Chapot & some  
musical UUs, Roger Corman Share the Basket:  
The Media Freedom Foundation*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURES STUDY

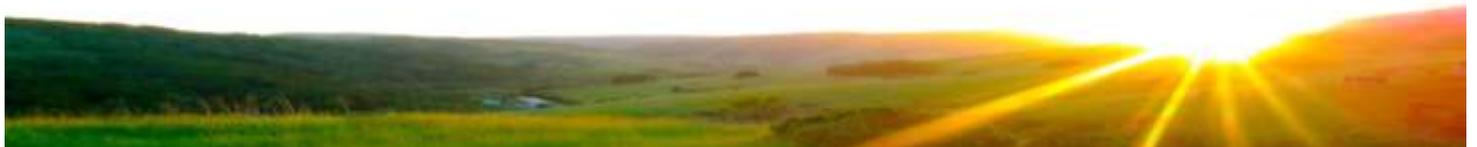
8:30-9:30am & 5:30-6:30pm

January 22 - February 12:

*The Tao Te Ching*

Led By Rev Chris Bell.

See page 9 for more information.





Grace is one of the loveliest words in the English language. The mere sound appeals to the ear, its many definitions sweetly positive.

Originally from the Latin *gratia* (which is also the basis of "**gratitude**"), we now use **grace** to mean the simple beauty of movement or form; the charming

quality of being polite and pleasant; a willingness to be fair and to forgive: a prayer of thanks that is said at mealtime; and the unmerited love, approval, favor, or protection given by God. Every student or debtor loves a *grace period*, added amount of time allowed before something must be done or paid, and in music a *grace note* is "an embellishment not essential to the melody or harmony." (Jerry played a lot of grace notes.)

The only negative connotation is that of addressing non-royal dukes and duchesses and **archbishops as "Your Grace." That's a little much.** I suppose I could *try* to get used to it if anyone **wanted to start addressing UU ministers this way...**

We experience grace in anything special in our lives that is added, extra or unexpected, and in the gratitude that arises from our awareness of such offerings. Whatever our beliefs, there is something spiritual for most of us in these moments of grace, whether it be the fluid movements of a dancer, skillful verbal repartee, a random act of kindness, the awareness of how much work it takes just to put a grapefruit on your plate, or living well for three years when the doctor told you six months.

The most palpable form of grace is the wide-open generosity and compassion that human beings so regularly display when times are really tough. We are pretty lousy at solving what David Von Drehle of **the Washington Post, calls our "forever problems"** such as the distribution of wealth or climate change, but we are frequently amazing when the proverbial fan is getting hit. Von Drehle observes that **"as forever problems push us apart, right-now problems tend to bring us together. These are the human-scaled, ground-level vicissitudes of life, and though we cannot erase them, we routinely pitch in to soften their edges without a moment's thought about political differences. We may not be able to agree on the future of health care, but give us a family down the street with cancer in their midst, and we'll figure out how to get meals to them during chemo."**

When the fires struck last year, so many people in Sonoma County became such agents of grace. Shelters and food-collection sites had to turn folks away because so many volunteers stepped forward. Healers gave away massage, acupuncture, vitamins and herbs. Musicians and artists held many benefits. Tom Schwedhelm and Julie Combs were nice to each other. Grace abounded!

Our congregation also rose up to take care of our own in unprecedented ways. People freely gave of their time and their possessions. Homes were

opened up for friends and strangers alike. And we simply gave each other cash. The Fire Fund was established even as the smoke was still clearing. Within a few weeks we raised over \$65,000, approximately 35% of which was given from beyond our walls, from UU congregations around the country, and from known and unknown friends and neighbors of UUCSR. Thanks again to all our donors.

I distributed funds in two waves, one very shortly after the fires stopped burning, another in the following March to help with ongoing expenses. The most vulnerable persons received \$6000, the least vulnerable \$1000. Some refused the second gift because of their personal resources, which enabled me to give more to those in greatest need.

It has not been an easy road for our fire survivors. Today, only one of those who lost their home has gotten back to her original spot. One person was forced to move away. A few folks have **used the tragedy as the "opportunity" to move into senior living.** Others gave up their land and are buying or renting new homes elsewhere in the area. A handful are engaged in the long and difficult process of rebuilding, and discovering that grace and gracious are words rarely used in the insurance industry or the permitting process. All of them live with PTSD.

This year, when the fires struck Paradise, it was clear that we had to write a new chapter in our story of grace. I am happy to report that we have raised over \$6000 for the UU congregation in Chico, led by our former intern Rev. Bryan Plude, who will distribute it to those in need. More than \$2500 has been additionally pledged but not yet received. Well done, friends, well done.

Still, how *do* we find the grace that pours so readily from us during disasters and apply it to the daily catastrophe that is modern life?

Perhaps, by refusing to overlook the grace all around us. We look to those whom Von Drehle calls **"the bell-ringers, the child comforters, the feeders of the hungry, the soothers of the sick. They aren't the noisy ones, but you can find them on every boulevard and in every burg. Ad hoc and undirected, they face the right-now problems with a unifying resolve. They are the glue, and the glory, of our persistently imperfect human society, the better angels of our nature taking wing."**

In other words, we look to each other. Together we work a little toward the good every day. We pray, we hope, we sing. We tune in to the Divine. We trust the Universe. We have faith in the power of Love. **Anne Lamott says, "The grace of this world is so hilariously huge, and the mercy of this world is so all-pervasive, that our general awfulness is just a drop in the bucket; so let's just get on with it."**

Do let's. See you soon, O gracious ones.

**Reverend Chris Bell**

## President's Column

For years, I've used the changing of the year as an opportunity to complete the past year and to set a context for the upcoming year.

2018 was, in many ways, a year of getting down to fundamentals, rebuilding, and strengthening. The fires of 2017 forced many of us, not just those who lost their homes, to confront what is truly important to us, and reawakened a commitment to live true to that.

I have had to ask myself, "What is most important here?" And time and again, I have let go of something that I THOUGHT was vital...only to find out it wasn't. In many subtle and wondrous ways, we have each been changed. We are ALL rebuilding, and that rebuilding process is taking us back to what is most important to us, and having us grow in new and unexpected ways. For me personally, I have a new job that I love, and that I think I was born to do – and that I never would have even considered at the beginning of 2018.

We are stronger because of that re-examining and rebuilding. Stronger in our sense of ourselves, in our values, in what is essential to us. I find that I look at situations and circumstances differently now. I am more compassionate. My heart is more open. I accept help more easily. It's (a bit!) more easy to not have control. I'm definitely more aware that the power of a team is vastly greater than the efforts of an individual could ever be. I think that re-examining and rebuilding is probably true for most of us.

This year, as a community we took on expanding our ability to deliver on our values and our mission in our larger community. In ways large

and small, we are "increasing our footprint" in the Santa Rosa and Sonoma County communities. I'm so proud of us for taking that on!

One of the things I'm always telling my clients is "Context is decisive." Just as water (the content) always takes the shape of the container (the context) it's in, so too does the context we create around something determine what can and does happen. For instance, if your context is "life is grand", you'll see (and make happen) great things. But if your context is "life is hard", guess what? All of a sudden, life seems really difficult. Same circumstances! Different context. So what's a context for us as a community that's worth holding us for 2019?

We're at a tipping point in our life as a congregation. We're either going to grow, or we're going to shrink. I vote for growth! In the right way – a way that is inclusive, and doesn't lose us any of the personal connections that make this such a rich, strong community. That doesn't lose us any of OUR fundamentals!

So how about "Forward to the Future!"? Whether we like it or not, the future's coming. Whether we like it or not, we're gonna move forward. How about we be excited about it? How about we engage with it – so our values, so what is of fundamental importance to us – shapes that future? So we can look back and be happy and proud of what we have and what we've created?

I'm all for that! Come join me in looking AND leaping – into a future that is rife with possibilities and wonderment!

-Natalie Brundred,  
President, Board of Trustees



## What Your Board Is Up To - November 2018

We had a very full, productive meeting! We really dug in and addressed some important issues facing our Congregation.

The process for hiring a permanent Administrative Manager is underway! We posted the job on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and have already started receiving applications. We plan to have the new person start by mid-February to allow for a 2½ week training period with Damilia, our interim Administrative Manager.

Michael, our Treasurer, went over the state of the budget with us. Our expenses to date are under budget, but looking ahead, we can see that they will be coming in. Additional pledge income is still needed to fill the gap in this year's budget. Erin Howseman, our Stewardship Team Chair, visited the meeting to inform us of plans to fulfill our Initiative.

It turns out that only about 25% of us have raised our pledge! That additional income will enable us to do the things that are so important to us – pastoral care, reaching out to the college students and young adults in our community, and relieving some of the pressure on Chris's time. Fortunately, fulfilling the mission and vision we have for our community takes money!

We're looking ahead to January, and though our next Congregational Meeting isn't until January 27<sup>th</sup> (do you have it marked in your calendar?!), we approved the agenda and topics of discussion at this meeting.

Your board welcomes your observations and suggestions. Please talk to a board member on Sundays (under the sign!) or email or call one of us – or even visit a board meeting! Our next one is January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Board Room.

Our very best wishes for your year to come,

- Natalie

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

Jen Freese, Director of Religious Education

### January in RE:

#### Chalice Children (Pre-K-K)

Preschoolers will explore how it feels to wonder about nature, thinking about the stars and the moon.

#### Love Surrounds Us (K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

Kindergarten and first graders will talk about the concept of the divine and our search for truth. They will practice the fourth principle by asking, "Where does The Great Big Thing live?" and later, "How does the Goddess listen?"

#### Love Will Guide Us (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades)

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will begin the month by reviewing the UU Sources they have learned, placing them on a giant UU Source Constellation in their classroom. Later, they will critically examine gender roles through the lens of love and acceptance.

#### Bibleodeon (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades)

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be introduced to Moses and the Ten Commandments, with a special guest appearance early in the month. Later, they will learn about Passover, and then courage through the story of David and Goliath.

#### Crossing Paths (MUUGs)

Our middle schoolers will explore Quakerism in January with a visit to a Quaker Sunday Worship at the end of the month.



### Spotlight on Children's Chapel:

First Sundays are for Faith and Fun

The first (and occasional fifth) Sunday of each month is reserved for **Children's Chapel**. This is a special time when children ages 4-13 come together for group worship, a lesson and an activity.

Multi-age settings are incredibly beneficial to all involved, as young ones learn a great deal from older children. Most months, we explore a UU-related topic that is connected to the Touchstones congregational theme for the month. On the first Sunday of December, participants learned about connections between winter traditions, including Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Winter Solstice. They then moved to a series of "stations" where they not only made various holiday crafts with the help of adult volunteers, but were also taught how to play the dreidel game by two volunteer MUUGs (middle school youth), who learned this game earlier in the year as part of the Crossing Paths curriculum.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of December, they focused on the Touchstones theme of peace, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of January will examine grace.

In these settings, participants have the opportunity to worship together in a child-friendly circle format. We light a chalice together with a reading, sing songs with the help of guitarist Mac Freeman, and share joys & sorrows by placing stones in water.

Children and youth share that these early introductions to ritual and community are some of their favorite moments at UUCSR.

### Mystery Pals at UUCSR!

Sign up January 6 or 13

We will be pairing each participating child/youth with one older adult in January and February for a series of a letter exchanges as a way of making connections across generations. Each mystery partnership will write four letters to each other over a six week period, with a fun "reveal" on Sunday, February 17 in-between services. Participants will enjoy a treat and a craft together, along with a new UU connection! Sign up at the RE Table in the Social Hall on Sunday, January 6 or 13.

*2nd Annual*  
**COMMUNITY RAFFLE AND POTLUCK**  
 Saturday, January 12, 2019  
**5:00 pm onward...**  
*Featuring pianist John Simon*

Raffle: Nancy Fitzpatrick has once again gathered about 2 dozen gift certificates and theater tickets generously donated by area businesses to raffle off. Some examples are La Gare Restaurant, 6th Street Playhouse, Santa Rosa Symphony, and Riviera Ristorante. Grand prize worth \$100.

You can buy tickets after services starting Nov. 25 and going through December as well as the night of the event. You do not need to be present to win.

*TIP: Plan on purchasing tickets? Bring address labels from home to avoid writing your contact*

*information many times.*

Potluck: The evening starts with Happy Hour at 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share, beverage of choice.

Music: Before and during dinner, we will be graced with music by John Simon, well-known as one of the best jazz pianists in the Bay area. He is a professional musician whose talents include composition, jazz improvisation, classical and acoustic pop music, dance music and teaching. Hear a sample of his classical and pop songs at <http://www.johnsimon.net/classical.html>.

~ Dee Ray

RAFFLE TIX On Sale NOW!  
 (Sundays in Social Hall)

*Diversity Project NEWS*  
**THE MAKING OF**  
**A UUCSR STORY QUILT**

*Our Next Photo-Shoot Sundays will be: January 6 & 20, between and after services*  
 You are invited to participate in a project that will create a visual and story portrait of our community. Here's what we plan:

Banners of cloth with photographs and brief origin stories of each of us transferred onto the cloth, hung throughout our space:

A patchwork quilt that will tell a story of our community here at UUCSR.

We will begin by taking photos and gathering stories from 30 of us. Several of us on the committee have already done this and we think the result is lovely. Our first photo shoot was on Sunday, December 16, between services and after the 11 AM service. Leslie Norinsky is our photographer. We have edited the classic poem, "I Am From" by George Ella Lyon, and will ask you each to complete the poem to accompany your photo. We will work our way through the congregation, inviting all to participate. Our first 30 folks will make up our first panel, the second 30, our second panel, and so on.

Please see us in the social hall between and after services for the story, the personal poem that we are asking you to complete.  
*Tamara, Cheri, Carol K., Leslie, Jeanie*

*Benefit for Camp-Fire Survivors*

Saturday, January 12

6:30 pm—9 pm

At Brew Coffee House

Join Robin Rogers and his phenomenal tribe of performers for a benefit performance at Brew Coffee & Beer House (behind the church, across from the parking garage, at 555 Healdsburg Ave). It's all happening Saturday, January 12th. 6:30 to 9 pm, and it's free. Donations accepted for the families / survivors of the Camp fire.

--Robin Rogers

*(re) NAMING 545*

**"The Ancestors Room" and "The Founders Room" have been suggested as names for Room 545.** The UUCSR Board would like to encourage anyone who wishes to nominate other names. Submit to Gretchen Vap or Cathie Wiese soon. We may be able to vote at the Congregational Meeting in January.

*UU Update Newsletter Editor Retires*

**Susan "Rabbit" Williamson, Editor of the UUCSR newsletter,** is stepping down from this position, as of this issue.

*"Dear UUCSR members and Friends -I have relished this amazing and challenging service to our congregation since the August 2014 edition. I am ready to pass the baton forward. Thank you to all who submit items to the newsletter, my proofreaders, and to all those appreciative and constructive readers and supporters. I have loved getting to know so many of you through this medium, this cog in our congregational wheel.*

**Love, Rabbit"**

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.*

Jan. 6 The Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration takes place on Sunday, Jan.20, the day before MLK Jr. Day. Organized by the Community Baptist Church, UUCSR has helped sponsor this important event for many years.

Jan. 13 Habitat For Humanity of Sonoma County improves lives by building modest, affordable homes in partnership with our communities and families in need. Habitat for Humanity collaborates with volunteers and partner families to build affordable housing with affordable mortgages.

Jan. 20 Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow Foundation, an affiliate of North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce, provides financial support to local youth programs, volunteer mentors for young people, and scholarships for underfunded high school and college students to further their educational goals.

Jan. 27 Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday Breakfast program which provides a nutritious breakfast in a friendly atmosphere every Saturday morning for our neighbors in need.

Feb. 3 Project Censored funded by the non-profit Media Freedom Foundation, each year releases a book which features the top 25 independent news stories which corporate media have ignored. They educate students and the public about the crucial role of a free press for democratic self-



NOVEMBER  
HOT TOPIC



*Habitat for Humanity*

Sunday, January 13

12:30 in Board Room

Presented by David Irvine

Habitat for Humanity Faith Liaison

As if affordable housing in Sonoma County was not scarce enough, the 2017 fires made it even worse! But Habitat for Humanity has launched amazing projects to help meet the need. On Sunday, January 13th, after the 11 am service, come hear what is happening from David Irvine, Habitat's faith liaison, and a woman survivor of the catastrophe who, with Habitat's help, is rebuilding home and life.

*Learn how members of UUCSR can help in this vital enterprise.*

*The A4SJ Film Project presents our  
Care in Community Film Series:*



**POWER AND CONTROL:**  
*Domestic Violence in America*  
New Day Films, Peter Cohn, Filmmaker

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

Following the 11 AM service in the Board Room

Your Film Project has chosen to make the subject of domestic violence the focus of the fourth film of our current series on health and well being. This 2010 documentary explores the causes of domestic violence and the solutions that have evolved to stop it, celebrating the activists who demanded change in the 1980's and examining new alternative approaches that are now being advocated. This film introduces us to the "Duluth Model" and looks at the challenges from outside critics of this approach.

We are reminded of the prevalence of domestic violence, whether it manifests in physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse and the silence that often surrounds it. An important subject and a well crafted exploration of it in this 50 minute film.

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

*Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Dorris, Jeanie*

**WANTED:** *New Editor for The UU Update*

A UU, with good working sense of our purpose and principles, wanted for taking over the editorship of the monthly UUCSR newsletter, the UU Update. Must be a skilled computer user, both written and graphical, an able communicator by email and in person, a gentle editor, good proof-reader, able to meet deadlines, and to encourage others. Patience, kindness, good judgment and sense of humor are musts.

About 10 - 19 hours /mo. Training offered. *Contact Reverend Chris Bell.*

## UUCSR Circle Dinners Are Back!

Sign-ups Feb 3 + 10 in Narthex

*Like to get together with friendly and fascinating people and eat good food? Newcomers, want to make new friends in an informal low-key atmosphere? Long-term attendees, let's renew old friendships and get to know some newcomers.*

Sign-ups for the Spring 2019 Round of Circle Dinners will take place in the narthex on February 3 and 10 between the two services.

Participants are assigned to small groups of six to eight people who then take turns hosting a pot luck dinner for the group. Groups meet in both the evening and afternoon. Usually, the host furnishes the entree and the guests bring an appetizer, salads, dessert, wine, etc. (your group decides).

**Note: if you're interested, but can't host, talk to us.** We may have a workaround. See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> -- Sharon and Wayne Smith

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. "A Day On, Not A Day Off"

January 21, 2019, Sonoma County  
Community Baptist Church (CBC) hosts Dr. King's  
"A Day On, Not A Day Off" Celebration.

This yearly celebration of Dr. King's legacy is a time for neighbors to engage and work together to serve our communities.

This holiday offers a great opportunity to give back by serving. Some past service projects included cleaning up public spaces, gathering and distributing goods to those in need, offering repairs/yardwork for people who needed assistance—and more!

One of our T.I.E. groups helped people write to their elected officials, which was a great success! A service project can be developed to meet any need in our community.

One suggestion was for volunteers to clear brush/debris around homes for those who are unable to.

A simple way to be involved is to help set up for the event on Sunday, January 18th at 1:30 at CBC. There is also a CBC clean-up crew that would start at about 2:00 p.m. on January 19. Please contact Sibyl Day or Carol Kraemer to volunteer or for more information. Thanks in advance to our beloved community!

### DRAWING GROUP Wednesdays 2-4 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, ideas, and art supplies you need. No fee or obligation.

## Light is Returning

Light is returning,  
Even though this is the darkest hour  
No one can hold back the dawn  
Let's keep it burning;  
Let's keep the light of hope alive  
Make safe our journey through the storm.  
One planet is turning  
Circles on her path around the sun:  
Earth Mother is calling her children home.



*Words and Music © Charlie Murphy  
Recorded on Canticles of Light*

## I Hear the Voices of the Grandmothers

I hear the voices of the grandmothers calling me  
I hear the voices of the grandmothers calling me  
Wake up, wake up, they say; wake up, wake up  
Listen, listen; listen, listen  
May the rivers all run clear  
May the mountains be unspoiled  
May the trees grow tall  
May the air be pure  
May the earth be shared by all  
May the earth be shared by all

*By Sandy Vaughn of Tonasket, WA*

## Caring Connections Committee

connects members in need with members who are able to lend helping hands.

Our committee is looking for volunteers who can occasionally be a chaperone to someone on Sunday mornings. As a chaperone, you would meet your friend at the door, sit with her/him during the service and the social time after the service, and accompany her/him to the door when ready to depart. No driving is required.

If you want to volunteer to be a chaperone, please stop at the Caring Connections Committee table on Sunday morning.

Also, please remember that we loan items such as wheelchairs, walkers, portable toilets and shower chairs.

For more information, contact committee chair Mac Freeman.



*[Artist unknown]*

# Nuestra Fiesta 2019



OUR ANNUAL AUCTION PARTY!

**MARCH 2, 2019**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**FOR THIS EXCITING ANNUAL EVENT**

The New Year is here! 2019 lies ahead...and, Nuestra Fiesta is just around the corner. In two months we will gather for the party of the year: Auction, Live Music, Food and Friendship.

Now, imagine such a party. Think of your Mexican-Latin Holiday during the cold season. Think warm, delicious food prepared by someone else. Think Ri-

cardo Montalban, Carlos Santana, Jennifer Lopez and Antonio Jobim. Picture yourself dancing to the rhythms of Xavier Cugat and his little yelping dog. Got the picture? Ok, think about what you are planning to donate to make this a raving success.

Now all we need are your donations. What did you get for Christmas that someone else will enjoy more? What businesses did you visit that might offer a gift card? Now, you can think with clear, post-holiday thoughts about that special event you will host or make happen. We are accepting items NOW...just check with Dee Ray.

Can you volunteer? New this year! An online Volunteer sheet at [https://uucsr.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?start\\_over&id=33760](https://uucsr.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?start_over&id=33760).

*Thanks, Linda Lambert*



## Maintenance Team WORK DAY

Saturday, January 5  
9:00 AM - Noon

Come help with gardening, outdoor maintenance, and building maintenance. Skilled and unskilled help are both welcome and appreciated!

## OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

January 14, and 28, 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 a ride? Please call well ahead of meeting date. Questions? Call: Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White.

## FAITH AND FITNESS

2 January Hikes!

Two hikes in January: Due to the possibility of rain canceling at least one hike, we're planning two! We'll be watching the weather forecasts as the hikes get closer. Contact Gretchen P for info or to sign up.

First Hike  
Saturday, January 12  
9:30 am - until about 2 pm

The first, on January 12 is in North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park, 5297 Sonoma Mountain Road, where we will take the shorter but sweet Umbrella Tree Trail heading up through a mixed oak woodland to a spectacular view of Bennett Valley. On our return we will go through a lovely redwood grove along

the South Fork of Matanzas Creek where there are picnic tables. About 2 miles total. We'll meet at the trail head at 10:00, bring water, snacks; layers and mud-friendly shoes recommended. Carpool from Santa Rosa can be arranged.

## Second Hike

Saturday, January 26  
9:30 am - until about 2 pm

Second hike, January 26, Taylor Mountain Regional Park starting at the Kawana Terrace entrance at 10:00. Less than 3 miles total, a few shorter climbs, mud-friendly shoes water, snacks, minimal picnic area at the parking lot. We'll be watching the weather forecasts as the hikes get closer. Contact Gretchen P. for info or to sign up.

## Lay Chaplains

The Lay Chaplain group is seeking new members to help us in our mission to support the pastoral needs of our ever-growing UUCSR community. If you are compassionate, a good listener and interested in joining us, please contact Rev. Chris for an application.  
*Thanks, Paula Hammett*

## "Spirit Moves Body Moves"

Wednesday, January 2 & 16

1:00-2:30 in Room 545

Join us on the 1st. & 3rd. Wednesdays of the month. Contact Bertha Jean.

*"Ride the energy of your own unique spirit"*

Gabrielle Roth



## Adult Religious Education

The Adult RE Team, Guided by UU Principles, Rooted in UU Sources, and Our Congregation's Mission and Vision, strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth by offering classes, activities, and programs. *Committee: Nadine Carroll, Carol Daeley, Helga Lemke, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck, Clare Whitfield and Rev. Chris.*

### THE THEOLOGY OF REV. CHRIS

Once per month: Saturdays, 10:00am-12:00pm  
 Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm

- 11/24 (Saturday) Reason & Revelation
- 12/22 (Saturday) Nature of God, Pt. 1
- 1/23 (Wednesday) Messiahs & Angels, Buddhas & Bodhisattvas
- 2/09 (Saturday) The Problem of Evil
- 3/09 (Saturday) Human Nature
- 4/13 (Saturday) Sacred & Profane
- 5/11 (Saturday) Life, Death and Afterlife
- 6/12 (Wednesday) Nature of God, Pt. 2

### SCRIPTURE STUDY 2018-2019 (Led by Rev. Chris)

- Tuesdays: Morning: 8:30-9:30am Evening: 5:30pm - 6:30pm*
- 1/22 - 2/12 Tao Te Ching 4 sessions
  - 2/26 - 3/12 The Wisdom Books: *Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes* 3 sess.
  - 3/26 - 4/09 Teachings of Jesus pt. 1: *Parables, stories* 3 sess.
  - 4/23 - 5/07 Teachings of Jesus pt. 2: *Ethics, prayer* 3 sess.
  - 5/28 - 6/11 Rev. Hosea Ballou: *A Treatise on Atonement* 3 sess.

### EINSTEIN'S MONSTERS:

(Almost) Everything you want to know about Black Holes  
*presented by Phil Harriman*

Tuesday, Jan. 15 (2:00-3:30pm)  
 repeated Wednesday, Jan. 30 (6:30-8pm)  
 In Board Room

What is a black hole? Are there limits on their sizes? What's the evidence for a black hole at the center of our galaxy? How was collision of two black holes detected? How can black holes be formed when stars run out of fuel? Do black holes ever die? Did the movie, "The Black Hole", really place Hell in the center of a black hole? Come hear the current thinking about these mysterious entities. *Sign up at Adult RE Table.*

### SUPPORTING AGING SENIORS

Wednesdays: March 6, March 13  
 and March 20 (6:30-8:30pm)

This program addresses a time when someone you love may no longer be able to safely live independently. The focus will be on concerns for caring for loved ones, resources for supportive aging, developing a plan in consultation with your loved ones and strategies for critical conversations.

Cost: \$15 for all 3 sessions.

*Class limited to 30 participants. Register at the Adult RE Table.*



### GETTING TO KNOW UU CLASS

Saturday, January 12  
 9:30 am-12:30 pm  
 in the RE Wing

Considering membership at UUCSR? Just curious about UU history? Welcome to the next Getting to Know UU class presented by Rev. Chris Bell. Hear an overview of Unitarian Universalist history, the roots of our congregation and explore the sacred in theory and practice. Class is open to everyone, required for UUCSR membership. Sign up at the Visitor/Welcome table before the class date. Our next New Member Ceremony will be held on February 3rd during the 11am service. Interested in joining? You can complete your application at the class.

### RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIES DIALOGUES FOR 2019

2nd Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm  
 Racial Justice 2019 Dialogues will be happening the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Glaser (UU) Center from 6:30-8:30PM.

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

Thursday, January 10  
 2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm  
 The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, January 10th, 7-9 pm at 547 Mendocino, in the RE wing. The January selection is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Visitors and newcomers welcome. In February we are reading *The Heart* by Maylis de Kerangal.



## Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

November is one of those months whereby we have three payroll periods instead of two, since we moved to a bi-weekly payroll beginning this Fiscal Year. Net Income for the month shows a deficit of (\$6,600) from both Operations and Glaser Center. This shortfall was predicted and we very close to our budget. Year-to-date over the first 5 months of the year, we are showing a deficit of approximately (\$4,900). In comparison to our budget, we are below estimated revenue, principally in the area of pledges, but have held expenses in check.

Of note, the Finance Committee will be reviewing our budget mid-year, as there have been a number of staffing changes that were unanticipated at the beginning of the year. We need to see how those changes have affected this year's budget. More news



on this front, when the next newsletter article comes out.

We are getting closer to our pledge goals for the year, but as I stated last month, members don't need to increase their personal commitments by a large amount to make a big difference. We can receive a big bang to our revenue, if we receive a greater participation by all members with modest contributions.

*Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer*

## Greetings from Your Stewardship Team



*Sometimes only straight talk will do.*

No inspirational preamble, no clever metaphors, no beating about the bush (which actually *is* a metaphor, come to think of it, though not very clever).

**And here's the straight talk: not enough members of UUCSR have increased their pledges – only about 25% so far. So we're looking for wider support because, both financially and spiritually, this should be a whole community effort.**

Those of you at the congregational meeting a while back will recall voting overwhelmingly to include the hire of an assistant minister in the budget, knowing that it would require an increased financial commitment.

Now Rev. Dara has joined our staff, and

everyone has warmly welcomed her. She'll be able to give Rev. Chris needed assistance as our congregation grows, and she's already working on ideas for campus ministries at SRJC and Sonoma State U.

Many of us have heeded the call to fully fund her salary, but just not quite enough of us to close the budget gap.

**If you've seen the tree graphic at the Stewardship table on Sundays, you will note that lots of leaves have been "greened in," as it were, but several still remain uncolored. Won't you help make the tree fully green? (I know, I know, it's another metaphor. Sometimes you just can't help it.)**

**With gratitude and best wishes for a Happy New Year,**

**Alan Bell**

Becoming Independent	\$820.47
California Alliance for Retired Americans Education Fund	\$450.21
Shasta Regional Community Foundation	\$659.89
Breakfast For Our Neighbors	\$858.18

### 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 October Recipients.

*Thanks for Your Generosity!*



## Campus Ministry Connections!

By Reverend Dara Olandt



**"We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out."**

— Ray Bradbury

In the New Year, I look forward to getting together with a group of UUs over at Santa Rosa JC and at Sonoma State! We are gearing up to connecting and gathering UUs together to support and inspire each other. Know someone who is interested? Are you

interested? Please reach out to connect about ways to be involved. Get in touch to find out when the groups will be meeting!

And, are you interested in learning more about larger trends and tips in UU campus ministry? If you are on Facebook, you may **check out and 'like' Campus UUs**. This a resource from the larger national body of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It has great ideas and resources which may also inspire efforts here in Santa Rosa!

This new year, I wonder: how can you help unleash beauty in this world?

May you be filled up with what inspires you and compels you to keep bringing forth more beauty into this world.

With care,  
Rev. Dara



## Civil Rights Talk

Sunday Feb 17, 12:30 pm in Room 545  
**Tom Bond's son, Mike Bond, will be giving a slide presentation on the trip the two of them recently**

took to Alabama to visit civil rights sites in Birmingham, Selma and especially Montgomery which included the new Monument to Peace and Justice. Light refreshments provided.



## Musical Notes

*"Those who hear not the music, think the dancers mad."*

This is a quote from Friedrich Nietzsche's 1883 book, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. I'm sure there are many who don't hear our music the way we hear it, and think us mad. But with the kind of music we hear at UUCSR, we know better.

In December we heard Mary and Susan sing "The Sweetest Gift" and "The Ghosts We Knew" on the theme of Peace through hard times and recovery. Then came Hanukkah and the Choir performed the Dreidel song, "S'vivon". Next Robin Rogers guided us through resistance and persistence to find Peace with "All Through The Night", "Don't Let Nobody Turn You Round", and "Prayers of Freedom". Friday the 21st was the Solstice service with singing and dancing, and

drumming! The Peace theme continued on the 23rd with choir performances of Sadie's original composition "Peace In The Land", and on Christmas Eve with "Dixit Maria". Music for the fifth Sunday in December was led by Alan with "In My Life" and reflections on Milestones.

The New Year has begun and music is getting lined up along the theme of Grace. Grace for beginners is John Ray's Sunday. Yielding of Power is the choir's theme next. Then Susan will explore Healing. The choir returns on the last Sunday of January to show how Everything Belongs.

If any of this marvelous musical ministry inspires you, talk to a Music Coordinator or Choir Director Sadie to find out how to lend your voice or musical instrument to the mix.

Respectfully submitted,  
--Randy Jones



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa  
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5241

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*UUCSR MISSION:*

To Celebrate Life,  
Empower People,  
Care for Each Other,  
and Build A Better  
World

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JANUARY 2018

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

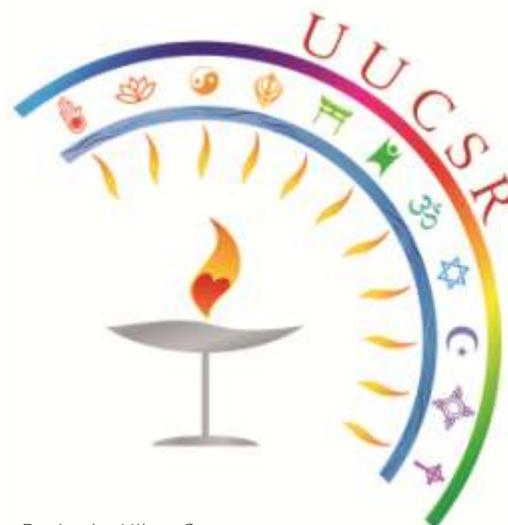
*Love is the doctrine of this church, The quest of truth is its sacrament, Service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, To seek knowledge in freedom, To serve human need, To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine.*

*Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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Administrator: Damilia Loupy, [administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:administrator@uusantarosa.org)  
Bookkeeper: Laura Blum [bookkeeper@uusantarosa.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uusantarosa.org) Choir  
Director: Sadie Sonntag [choir@uusantarosa.org](mailto:choir@uusantarosa.org) Pianist: Roger Corman  
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Design by Hilary Sowers

*UU Update Editor: Susan "Rabbit" Williamson. UUCSR Monthly Newsletter Deadline: By noon on the Monday following the 3rd Sunday, for the following month. See elsewhere on this website for address. Include topic and month in subject line. Order-of Service Announcements (OOS). Send submissions to elsewhere on this website. OOS Deadline: Noon on the Wednesday prior to Sunday Service.*