APRIL 7
HEAVEN & HELL

People love to divide the world into good and evil. They also love to divide the world to come in the same way. Universalists reject this division. Today we’ll consider the history of the concepts of Heaven and Hell and what they teach us anything about ourselves. For those who wish, fire and brimstone will be available for a small donation.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rose St. John, Lou Gwendolyn
Music by: Mary Chapot & some musical UUs, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: The Parkinson’s Support Group of Sonoma County

APRIL 14
THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

The United States remains the only country in the world not to ratify the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The ONLY one. Today, after scowling and shaking our heads about that sorry fact, we’ll consider and affirm the rights of children and renew our commitment to future generations. We’ll also have a New Member Ceremony at 11:00.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Veronica Jordan, Rev. Dara Olandt, Jen Freese
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the UUCSR Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Restorative Resources

APRIL 19
GOOD FRIDAY
6:30 – 7:30 PM

The story of the Passion of Christ will center a guided meditation on suffering and grief, and periods of silence and beautiful music will provide space to discover the presence of the Spirit of Life even in times of death and despair. A necessary reflection before Easter. All are welcome.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty
Music by: Mary Chapot & some musical UUs

APRIL 20
PASSOVER SEDER
6:00 – 8:00 PM

The eight-day festival of Passover is celebrated in early spring, and remembers the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. This occasion becomes a time to retell the story of Exodus, while reflecting upon the power of liberation and the call towards social justice in all times. All are welcome to join Jewish members and friends of UUCSR for an evening of music, story and ritual meal in honor of Passover!

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt & the UU Jewish Circle

APRIL 21
EASTER/FLOWER COMMUNION

Please bring a flower to give away!

The Eternal Turning into Spring once again brings new birth. Even where floods raged, or despair clouded our hearts, blossoms may still yet bloom. Look around! Resurrection is real! We celebrate this miracle of life, manifesting in ALL people, with our Annual Flower Communion. The 9:15 service is all ages and will include the children in a variety of ways.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Aphrodite Bellochio, Jen Freese, Rev. Dara Olandt
Music by: Sadie Sonntag, the UUCSR Choir & Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Redwood Empire Food Bank

APRIL 28
ON THE BORDERLANDS

The humanitarian crisis at the southern border of the U.S. is on all our hearts and minds. How might we, as a congregation and as individuals, faithfully respond? Rev. Dara shares from her recent trip to Arizona visiting UU and other partners on the ground, and Sharon McCarty shares reflections from seasons of life lived in “the borderlands”.

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Sharon McCarty, Jen Freese
Music by: Alan Bell & some musical UUs with Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors
Salvation/Wholeness

“Have you been saved?” she asked. I was about 15, just hanging out at the mall with some friends, when the friendly-looking couple approached us with this strange question and a few Jack Chick comics in hand.

“Huh?” I said, reflecting both my deep natural curiosity and well-developed teenage social skills.

“Have you accepted Jesus as your personal lord and savior?” Forever the good boy, I politely stood and listened as they tried to save my soul. I’m suspect you’ve heard such an oration, too: how angry God was about my sinful nature, the awesome eternal rewards available if I picked Jesus to rescue me, the sorrows that would await me if I didn’t.

I had been raised in the United Church of Christ. I don’t recall hearing anything about getting “saved,” and I don’t remember even one threat of hellfire and brimstone. We were instructed that God loved us, and that we should try to live the way Jesus lived and taught: Love your enemies, judge not, make peace, forgive and forgive and forgive, don’t get angry, give it all away, the Kingdom of God is within you, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you. All the good stuff I still try to do, which is why I can still call myself Christian (among other names.)

“Lord, save me from your followers,” as the bumper sticker says. Jesus might hope to be saved from them too, if what he wants is for people to follow his teachings. That day was the beginning of my departure from the church for many years, after the well-intentioned couple did insist that, unfortunate though it was, all the Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims were indeed going to hell. They had had their chance to read the Bible and accept its truths, and had chosen otherwise, so... I knew even then that no loving God was set up such a preposterous scheme. I threw the whole thing out the window. Baby, bathwater, tub, soap and all. I thank God (literally) that kind people, historical-critical Biblical scholarship and process theology gave so much of it back.

You may wonder why a UU congregation would even take up a theme of salvation, as we are in the month of April. The simple reason is that Touchstones, our theme-based worship resource program, chose this theme and we’re just going along for the ride.

But, this is a great theme because I think our congregation is indeed in the business of saving souls, if not at all in the way that sweet couple in the mall was thinking. Soul is a slippery word, but some definitions I like are “the spiritual principle embodied in human beings or the universe itself,” or “the immaterial essence, animating principle, or actuating cause of an individual life,” or “a person’s total self.” It’s that last one that I’m talking about today.

We’re not trying to rescue souls, we’re trying to awaken them, heal them, and make them whole. So, perhaps, saving souls is a better way to put it. I honestly don’t worry at all about the fate of your eternal essence. I am concerned about your soul in the here and now. Are you at peace? Do you trust the Universe? Can you access the latent power of love and creativity within you? Are you celebrating life, empowering people (including yourself), caring for others and helping build a better world? That’s what salvation means to me. As the famous UU minister and writer Rev. Dr. Forest Church put it, “Salvation is really a state of wholeness, of health. It occurs in this lifetime when we are at peace with ourselves, united with one another, and in harmony with nature.”

It’s not necessarily an easy thing to get there. And people can and do live in hell.

My colleague, the Rev. Suzanne Meyer has observed, “There are many kinds of private hells in which living men and women dwell every day. These are small personal hells of meaninglessness, banality, and loneliness. Hells of shame, hells of guilt, hells of loss, hells of failure. And from some of those hells, we can and do provide a kind of salvation, a release, or, at the very least, a respite. We are in the business of saving souls from those kinds of small, individual hells of despair and disappointment that drive people into exile and isolation, separated from community as well as from their own essential goodness.”

Not to mention the hells of oppression, poverty, political repression, famine and war.

How do we get out of those hells? By loving each other. By loving the world. By loving ourselves. In his lovely little book When Children Ask About God, Rabbi Harold Kushner describes salvation this way, “To find Salvation is to realize all of our potential as human beings and develop those God-like qualities which are latent in each of us; to live in such a way that our influence and our memory will live on beyond our own time; and to leave the world a better, happier, more human place for having been part of it.”

Salvation is not about being rescued, or whisked away, or rewarded for our fealty to a particular messiah or bodhisattva. And it’s not a once and forever thing; it’s an unfolding process of life. It’s about living in a wholesome spirit of love right here and now. “There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now,” as James Baldwin expressed it.

“Have you been saved?” she asked. My answer today is, “A little bit more, every day,” and I thank you, dear friends for helping me along the way.

Reverend Chris Bell
How wide the circle?
What does it mean to say “we?”

Hearts are heavy with news of the humanitarian crisis erupting on the southern US border. Whether families or individuals, people who are coming across the southern border seeking a better life are being met with brutal conditions and a terrorizing experience focused on detention and deportation.

Last month while attending a gathering hosted by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity in San Francisco along with Leslie Norinsky and Cassandra Lista to learn how faith communities in the greater Bay Area are responding. The inspiring news is, while the crisis is massive, there are broad and deep networks now forming to help those detained, gain sponsorship in the U.S. so that individuals and families can get out of detention and fight immigration cases in relative “freedom.” These networks involve local non-profits and faith communities coming together to provide support. There are particular invitations for individuals and faith communities right now to be involved in this expansive ministry!

It is clear that the urgency of the situation at the border is deeply felt by those who are directly impacted. Supporting folks who have been detained and are trying to get free has the power to forge interfaith connection, as well as transform literal human lives. I believe this is why a few weeks ago, the small office that I share with DRE Jen Freese was packed with folks from our congregation who gathered, in an ad hoc fashion, to begin talking about networking together and taking an active role in this process can truly make a difference and even potentially help save the lives of some those most impacted.

Over the past weeks, some of you here at UUCSR have been sharing with me your pain and anguish at the news of the world, including the humanitarian crisis at the border. When I listen to you share, I hear that so much despair comes from feeling impotent in the face of mass-scale hardships. After returning from the border, and from the meeting in San Francisco, I deeply believe hope can be found in people coming together in ways that can make a difference in this area. Networking together and taking an active role in this process can truly make a difference and even potentially help save the lives of some those most vulnerable in this crisis!

Are you interested in this conversation? Moved to learn more about what actions you can take to make a difference? Please join us for two opportunities to learn more and become involved, on Saturday, April 13th, gather for a deep dive into this topic in a workshop from 1-4pm, titled “UUCSR Response to the Border Crisis”, which we will hold in the sanctuary. Join me along with UUCSR members, friends and special guests.

Also, on April 28th our Sunday service “On the Borderlands” will explore this topic. In the service, we’ll lift up stories of those who are making a positive difference in this humanitarian crisis and what we may consider doing as well to join the chorus of faithful response. Throughout this month please reach out to Leslie, Cassandra and myself and also look out for more information in announcements and on the list-serves regarding these efforts.

Marge Piercy’s powerful poem comes to mind. “The Low Road” is at once evocative, beautiful and harsh. She invites us to think about how to face a harsh world, and how to ever widen the ‘circle’ of care and connection. She asks us to consider deeply who “we” think of when “we” say “we”….. and challenges us every day to think of one more person who becomes part of that circle of care and connection.

Towards a springtime of faithful solidarity and hope,

Rev. Dara Olandt
Assistant Minister

Part of The Low Road reads:

What can they do
to you? Whatever they want.
They can set you up, they can
bust you, they can break your fingers.... they can
take your child, wall up your lover. They can do anything

you can't stop them
doing.

How can you stop them?

Alone, you can fight,
you can refuse, you can
take what revenge you can
but they roll over you.

But two people fighting back to back can cut through a mob, a snake-dancing file can break a cordon...

Two people can keep each other
sane, can give support,
conviction,
love, massage, hope, sex.
Three people... are a delegation,
a committee, a wedge.

With four
you can play bridge and start an organization
With six
you can rent a whole house,
eat pie for dinner... and hold a fund-raising party.

A dozen make a demonstration.
A hundred fill a hall.
A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter;
ten thousand, power and your own paper;

A hundred thousand, your own

and know who you mean, and

And try to get free has the power to forge interfaith connection, as well as transform literal human lives. I believe this is why a few weeks ago, the small office that I share with DRE Jen Freese was packed with folks from our congregation who gathered, in an ad hoc fashion, to begin talking about ways we can collectively respond.

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President’s Column

Ok, what I’m about to say isn’t very pretty, I don’t think it reflects very positively on me, and I probably won’t say things right. But I think it’s important because it may be where a lot of people are.

I’m not fully there with white supremacy/privilege yet, but I AM now aware of privilege I never even realized before. I have the privilege to engage or withdraw. I have the privilege to choose to see people’s skin color or not. Am I overtly prejudiced? Nope. Never have been. But am I unaware and therefore irresponsible for the privilege I live in? Yep!

And then this month’s UUA World came out, with its article and response about the transgender aspect of “LGBT”. For some reason, this is an issue that resonates deeply in me. There is a series of questions that TRUUsT (Transgender Religious Professional UUs Together) has asked congregations to look at (the board did just that at our March board meeting). In looking at the questions, I realized, again, how privileged I am. I’m a white, middle-class, cis woman. The only way I could be more privileged would be if I were male!

I’ve also been reading Janet Mock’s “Redefining Realness”, her autobiography as a transgender woman. Towards the end, she has some rather pointed remarks about cis-gendered people’s demeaning, moralizing and sometimes dangerous reality and relation to transgender people – and again, I had to stop and think. I have been treating the pronouns that people want to use lightly, as though it doesn’t matter. I get way too interested in things that are none of my business (I’ve never let what I’m wondering out my mouth...). I don’t realize how my well-meaning fumbling land over there. I have become aware of a fundamental discomfort around transgender people that causes me to not even talk. Even my anxiety about “did I use the right terminology? Did I say it right?” stops me.

The “convulsions” the UUA has been going through for the past few years about white supremacy have never quite sat right with me, but I couldn’t figure out exactly why I was irritated over the whole thing. I think I have a better idea of why now. I don’t think the issue is racially-based. Or gender-based. I think it’s bigger. I think the issue is “other”-based. They (whoever the “they” of the moment is) aren’t like me, so they must be less than me. In a way, I think the UUA has gone too far over to the other side – we must be fully knowledgeable about the issue and have already walked a mile in their shoes, RIGHT NOW. But that’s just as blind – and inappropriate – as people who are clueless, behaving like bulls in a china shop, and don’t care/don’t learn. I wonder if, on ALL sides, an allowance for a process of growth and awareness isn’t called for. And on our (mostly) white, cis-gendered side, a LOT more striving to see people, be they white, black, brown, gay, straight, transgender, queer, genderfluid, WHATEVER, as people first and foremost, worthy of respect, honoring, reaching out to and loving.

We’re all on a journey, towards a place of love, understanding, compassion, welcoming, oneness. We need every person on that journey with us! It’s not “no child left behind”, it’s no HUMAN BEING left behind. We truly are an interconnected web, and any person who’s “other-ed” out of the web leaves a hole.

Let’s each of us bring more awareness to our speaking and thinking, and do the hard work on ourselves to be more open and inclusive. Let’s try, and fail, and apologize, and pick ourselves up, and try again. Let’s learn and grow. We’re all on a journey, and many of us are at the beginning of it (I would put myself there). Journeys can be exciting, and they can be hard. But one thing I’ve learned is that they’re a lot easier if you reach out and connect with fellow travelers. And I don’t know of anybody I’d rather travel with than you.

With love and hope – always,

-Natalie Brundred,
President, Board of Trustees

What Your Board Is Up To
- March 2019

We’re Top O’ the Charts!: Rev. Chris was again voted “Best Minister” and UUCSR “Best Church” in Sonoma County in the Bohemian! Please extend a friendly and helpful welcome to new folks who visit our congregation.

Welcoming Congregation, cont’d: The Board explored ways to demonstrate UUCSR’s commitment to welcome and include people of color and people who are gender non-conforming. This is a discussion the board will continue to engage in and deepen.

The Sabbatical Committee: The Board has convened a committee to plan for Rev. Chris’ sabbatical, February-May 2020. We unanimously voted to empower the committee to hire a sabbatical minister.

Financial “Bits and Bobs”: People have raised their pledges about $50,000 from our Initiative! The Service Auction raised about $18,000 this year. The process of creating next year’s budget has already begun. There will be two Town Halls in early May to review and discuss it.

We invite you to share thoughts, suggestions, and concerns. Find a Board member during social hour on Sundays (carrying a big sign!), send an email, or attend our next Board meeting on March 21, 2019 at 6:30 in the Board Room. You are most welcome!

-Natalie Brundred,
President, Board of Trustees
Coming up in Religious Education and Family Ministry

Jen Freese, Director of Religious Education

April in Religious Education:

Chalice Children (Preschool)

In April, our three and four-year-olds will explore friendship and collaboration. On Block Sunday, they will experiment with blocks as they build a neighborhood together through play. Later in the month, we will begin Teddy Bear Month, where the children can bring a stuffed animal to RE with them to help them think about how we make friends.

Touchstones (K-3rd grade)

Kindergarten through 3rd grades will explore the congregational theme of Wholeness as they think about the interconnected web of life. They will read books and make art relating to caring for our world, and then think about how we care for each other through prayer on the National Day of Prayer.

Bibleodeon (4th-5th grade)

In the 4th and 5th grade Bibleodeon class, children will begin learning about Jesus – as a teacher and as a rebel. This will lead them toward the end of the year as they view the relationship of Unitarian Universalism to the Christian Bible.

Crossing Paths (MUUGs)

In April, our sixth through eighth graders will explore Buddhism. They will practice meditation together and think about the teachings of Buddha as they relate to Unitarian Universalism. At the end of the month, they will visit City Zen here at the Glaser Center.

Friday, April 12, 5:30-8:00 pm
Parents Night Out

Join with other UU parents and guardians for dinner and fellowship while your children are cared for at the congregation. $5 per child pays for a pizza dinner and snacks. Sign up by emailing Jen Freese at dre@uusantarosa.org.

Sunday, April 21, 9:15-10:15 am
Multigenerational Flower Communion Service

Join us for the wonderful tradition of welcoming spring and honoring beloved community with our Flower Communion Service. Children are invited to stay in the sanctuary with their families today and be a part of the service. We will still have nursery care available, as well as a mid-morning “wiggle break” outside for little ones who need it.

Sunday, May 19, 10:30 am
Team Cake Decorating in RE and UUCSR Cake Auction

The Cake Auction returns this year to help raise money for the scholarship fund at All-UU Camp. Children and youth will be teamed up with adults to imagine up a fantastic cake to be auctioned off by Reverend Chris after the early service. Teams plan the theme of each cake in advance, the adult bakes the cake and brings it in on May 19, and the children provide the decorations. All decorating takes place in the RE Wing during the early service. Sign-ups will be at the RE Table between services on April 7 and 14.

Sunday, May 26, 9:15 and 11:00 am
High School Youth-Led Service

The High School Youth Group will plan and lead both services with Reverend Dara on Sunday, May 26. This annual service is a wonderful opportunity to view faith and wonder through the eyes of our youth!

Sunday, June 2, 9:15 and 11:00 am
Middle School (MUUGs) Youth-Led Service and Honoring RE

6th-8th graders will have a chance to share their journey of the past year with the congregation. They have been exploring other religious traditions through the lens of Unitarian Universalism, and in doing so have thought deeply about their own beliefs and faith, which they are excited to share with everyone. We will also honor and celebrate the year in Religious Education at this service!
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.

April 7: The Parkinson’s Support Group of Sonoma County provides an atmosphere of counseling, comfort and encouragement to those with Parkinson's and their caregivers, gathers the latest information on Parkinson's to share with members, promotes activities that benefit the PD community, & advocates for a cure.

April 14: Restorative Resources works for restorative justice in our justice system, schools, families, and many other community settings. The concept is to restore our natural state of connection and responsibility, follow principles that honor our inherent sacred interconnection with all life, and it includes practices for cultivating authentic relationships and for bringing healing to situations where harmful action causes damage to our relationships, both at an interpersonal and cultural level. Restorative Resources works to integrate this approach within our justice system, schools, families, and many other community settings. Please join us for a stimulating and informative workshop on these principles, sponsored by the UUCSR Advocates for Social Justice.

April 21: The Adrienne Swenson Award is given annually to a local high school student, who is active in peace and social justice activities. The recipient intends to continue being an activist and is planning to pursue further education or training, either in college, trade school or university.

April 28: 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.

May 5: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) serves abused and neglected children by providing a trained volunteer who will be an advocate at Juvenile Court, help navigate the complex child welfare system in a humane way, and be a role model and potential life

Restorative Resources
Presented by
Todd Harper Deputy Director of Restorative Resources,
Sunday, April 14, 12:30
The Board Rm, after the 11 AM service

Restorative justice is an approach to being in community that restores our natural state of connection and responsibility. It is rooted in principles that honor our inherent, sacred interconnection with all life, and it includes practices for cultivating authentic relationships and for bringing healing to situations where harmful action causes damage to our relationships, both at an interpersonal and cultural level. Restorative Resources works to integrate this approach within our justice system, schools, families, and many other community settings. Please join us for a stimulating and informative workshop on these principles, sponsored by the UUCSR Advocates for Social Justice.

Our seventh film of this year's series treats the complex issue of choices in dying. This 2000 documentary, which first aired on PBS, follows three patients, their families, and their doctors as they face some of the hardest end of life decisions, including how to pay for care, what constitutes humane treatment, and how to balance dying and dignity. The patients we come to know attempt to exert some measure of control over where and how they die and their families struggle to support the wishes of their loved ones. We watch all of the parties wrestle with the issues of physician assisted suicide/death and pain relief that may hasten death. This is a powerful, tender, moving film, which invites us to consider the complexity and uncertainty that the end of our lives and those of our loved ones hold.

Within the United States there are seven states plus the District of Columbia which permit physician assisted death/suicide. They are: California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington Hawaii, Montana, Vermont, District of Columbia

Discussion, as always, follows viewing of this 90 minute film. Please bring whatever you wish to eat. We will offer a snack, not lunch.
Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Dorris, Jeanie
A Message from the Endowment Committee

Reid Stinnett, the Endowment Committee Chairperson, will talk about the Legacy Circle, the UUCSR Endowment Fund, and will discuss several ways in which you can give,

You can feel appreciated in the life of the congregation. You can fulfill a desire to help our liberal religion, to help our values endure to serve future generations. You can have the spiritual satisfaction that giving has to offer. When we commit financial resources to our religious values, great things radiate, inwardly and outwardly, strengthening our connection to the community we cherish.

This is not just a message for those in our community who are well-off financially. You can become a member of the Legacy Circle regardless of your income level. A light brunch will be provided during the seminar.

Greetings from Your Stewardship Team

What is essential is invisible to the eye” – from The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

When we give to our congregation we might not always see tangible concrete evidence of every dollar spent. Some of the money, for instance, goes to office staff and administrative systems that may be somewhat invisible to the average congregant. Yet they are essential. Without them, we couldn’t run our organization efficiently, which means we couldn’t prosper or grow.

Meet Dawn Silveira, our new full-time Administrative Manager, who has just started with us after previously working as the Shelter Services Manager at the YWCA, and as retreat registrar at Spirit Rock Meditation Center. Dawn is taking over responsibility for the church’s membership database and online giving system, both of which are critically important and currently in need of improvement. She will start properly documenting the church’s policies and procedures. She supervises three paid staff (one sexton and two event staff) and the “desk angels” – volunteers who work shifts answering the phone, directing visitors, etc. She will also handle Glaser Center rentals (a significant source of income) and is in charge of facilities. She’s hoping to improve efficiency by upgrading the church’s computer and phone systems. Dawn is just the person we need as we get ready for our next planned period of growth. She’s a big-picture thinker very committed to strengthening all the committees and systems needed to support expansion. She would especially like to see more young adults getting involved in the church. She shares our vision, loves our energy, identifies with our values, and is honored to be working for us. Does your current pledge to UUCSR match the depth of your commitment to our congregation and the blessings it provides in your life? Let’s acknowledge the importance of the things that are “essential but invisible to the eye.” If you’ve been thinking of raising your pledge, this would be a great time to do so, to support all of Dawn’s efforts on our behalf.

– John Mason, Stewardship Team
EcoDesk at UUCSR

“...98% of the news about climate change is negative...”
“With action comes hope”

Guided by UU’s 7th principle, and committed to actively participate in the transitions needed to live our lives in balance with the needs and resources of our planet, we are launching EcoDesk at UUCSR.

EcoDesk is:

◊ Interactive: come to the table, learn, do and take something home.
◊ Active: learn about weekly doable actions. Take home a hand-out with suggested actions, bring back a short note of your achievements.
◊ Monthly theme: a different theme will be displayed each month, with information, inspiration and calculation at the end of each month of our collective impact.
◊ Take-home craft activity for kids and the young at heart.

Join our climate mobilization: support, encourage and (re)-awaken our deep relatedness through expanding our ability for respectful, yet inspired living with and on our Beloved Earth.

EcoDesk will be set up twice a month in the R.E. wing and twice a month at the entrance to the sanctuary.

WOMEN TOGETHER SPRING RETREAT
MAY 3-5, 2019
St Dorothy’s Rest
SEE INSERT TO SIGN UP — APRIL 7th AND 14th ONLY!

It's time to register for this year's Women Together Spring Weekend Retreat! We will gather and stay at the beautiful Saint Dorothy’s Rest in Camp Meeker, about 30 miles west of Santa Rosa. Our theme this year is "Success" and the different things it means to us. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other women in the congregation on a deeper level. We will have our popular small group discussions on the theme and a variety of great workshops plus our Silent Auction and the great food!

Registration will begin on Sunday, April 7th for UUCSR members and friends, then open to friends and guests on Sunday, April 14th as space allows. Look for registration forms outside the UUCSR office door, inside this newsletter or on the days of registration. Remember to bring your checkbooks! The cost is $210 for a room and $190 if you stay in the dorms. Scholarships are available at half price.

Sign-ups will be accepted after each service on April 7th and 14th and rooms will be assigned then. Remember, we cannot hold your place without payment at the time of registration so if you’re not able to be there in person, arrange for a friend to sign up for you. If you have mobility issues and need special arrangements, please contact Linda Harlow.

We're looking forward to another wonderful week-end together!
OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES
March 12 and 26, 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
Saturday, April 27
April hike will be Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park, Hills-side and Meadow trails loop. Last year the flowers on this hike were spectacular. Easy to moderate with views and stream-side picnic area. Carpool 9:30, trail head 10:00, main day use parking area. Back to Santa Rosa by 1:30 or so. Sign up to gretchen@sonic.net 707-889-3007.

Save the date!
UU Jewish Seder for Passover
Saturday, April 27th, 6-8 pm
Join Jewish members and friends of UUCSR for an evening of music, story and ritual meal in honor of Passover! The eight-day festival of Passover is celebrated in early spring, and remembers the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. This occasion becomes a time to retell the story of Exodus, while reflecting upon the power of liberation and the call towards social justice in all times. A meal with special foods is part of the Jewish festival of Passover. All are welcome! Please RSVP by calling the UUCSR office or contact Rev. Dara Olandt: assistantminister@uusantarosa.org

EVENING BOOK GROUP
Thursday, APRIL 14
2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm
547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.
The April selection is The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. Newcomers are welcome. In May we are reading. Disobedience by Naomi Alderman.

ELDER TALES
Saturday, April 27th, 2pm to 4 pm
Come learn about the girl from a little town in Kansas who became a world renowned author and educator! On Saturday, April 27th, from 2 to 4 pm in the Youth Room, Linda Lambert will tell us the story of her fascinating, adventurous life. Men are welcome! Please bring finger-food to share.

Save the Date, Campers!
ALL UU SUMMER CAMP September 6-8, 2019
Enchanted Hills, the beloved site of our summer camp retreat, is now open for business after the devastating 2017 fire. We can once again relax under the trees and look out across the camp’s beautiful pond. This is the one retreat of the year designed for everyone in the Congregation – parents, kids, teens, adults, singles and elders. Childcare will be provided so parents can attend some of the workshops. Don’t miss the campfire singing, swimming in the Enchanted Hill pool, interesting workshops, relaxation, and dazzling entertainment with the annual UU talent show. Prices will be announced in May’s newsletter. The retreat will be a peaceful, serene weekend amidst the redwoods, filled with rousing games and entertainment for the whole family. We hope to see you there!

Hooray for the first of May!
CUUPs May Pole Celebration
It is the time of year that makes the leap from Winter’s rainy cold to warm wonderful Spring weather. In other words, Beltane has arrived! It’s time to honor our Mother Earth and her fertility as she wakes all the plants from their long Winter sleep. It is time for the May Pole celebration. We will have May Queen flower hair crowns and Green Man masks for all dancers. Or wear your flower crown or leafy mask from past years if you’d like. And we will need chanters to sing us around the circle. Dancing the May Pole will happen between the services on April 28th. So 11:00 service attendees come EARLY that day so you don’t miss a minute, we begin promptly at 10:30. If you are a parent who attends the 9:15 service, please plan to stay later than normal so you and your child can participate in the May Pole dance. For more information: cuups@uusantarosa.org or telephone Lucia 869-9709
**Adult Religious Education**

Adult RE is guided by UU Principles and rooted in Unitarian Universalism sources, and our Congregation’s mission and vision. The Adult RE Team strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth by offering classes, activities, and programs. Members of the ARE Committee: Nadine Carroll, Carol Daeley, Helga Lemke, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck, Clare Whitfield and Rev. Chris Bell.

**JUST MERCY**

**Thursdays: May 16, 23 & 30 M (3-4:30pm)**

*(co-sponsored by Advocates for Social Justice and Adult RE)*

Carol Kraemer and Clare Whitfield will lead a discussion of the widely acclaimed book, “Just Mercy: Making Real the Need for Criminal Justice Reform” by attorney Bryan Stevenson. He has been on the front lines of social justice, representing some of the neediest prisoners in the nation. Using stories of his clients, he paints pictures of human beings on the margins of the U.S. legal system. Stevenson tells these stories with skill and compassion. Just Mercy is a compelling narrative on the themes of economic and racial bias. The book has received widespread recognition and has been made into a move.

Everyone is encouraged to read the book **ahead of time**. Copies are available from the Sonoma County Library and as a downloadable ebook. Online booksellers such as Amazon, ABEbooks.com, and thriftbooks.com as well as second hand book stores have used copies. Watch, if you can, the PBS NewsHour's last segment tonight. It's about a man freed after 17 years in prison for a crime committed when he was 17 years old. He was given a second chance with parole because of the work that Bryan Stevenson did. Bryan Stephenson went before the supreme court and they decreed that life imprisonment without parole for minors is cruel and unusual punishment and unconstitutional. The result is that young men like the one on PBS get a second chance. There is a brief shot of Bryan Stevenson and he is he is quoted by the newly freed prisoner.

**THE THEOLOGY OF REV. CHRIS**

Once A month, Saturdays/Wednesdays

*Saturdays 10am – 12pm

Wednesdays 6:30pm – 8:30pm*

**April 13 (Sat)**  **Sacred & Profane**

**May 11 (Sat)**  **Life, Death and Afterlife**

**June 12 (Wed)**  **Nature of God, Pt. 2**

**SCRIPTURE STUDY 2018-2019**

*(Led by Rev. Chris)*

**Tuesdays: Morning: 8:30-9:30am**

**Evening: 5:15–6:15pm**

**4/09**

Teachings of Jesus pt. 1: Ethics, prayer (3 sessions)

**4/23 – 4/30**

Teachings of Jesus pt. 2: Parables, stories (2 sessions)

**5/14, 5/28, 6/11**

Rev. Hosea Ballou: A Treatise on Atonement (3 sessions)

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**Committee on Shared Ministry**

We are COSM, the Committee on Shared Ministry. The current committee consists of Bob Anderson (chair), Alan Bell, Susan Bartholome, Deb Carter-Hope, Frances Corman, Kitty Wells and of course, Rev. Chris. We are charged with ensuring the health of the congregation by encouraging communication within the congregation, providing conflict resolution when needed, as well as supporting the minister. This committee also participates in the yearly evaluation of the minister that we have completed and submitted to the Board of Trustees in February. We are here for both the minister and YOU, the congregation. So, talk with us! All communications with COSM are confidential.
Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

We have financial data through January, but will miss February, as the bookkeeper just returned from a week’s vacation. For the first seven months of the Fiscal year, ending in January, we are ahead of budget with combined net income from both Operations and Glaser Center up about $19,000 year-to-date. We were off a little for the month, down about $3,000. Most of the positive news is from pledges almost doubling in December. Although we are ahead of budget, the next several months going forward are normally well below budget, as pledges take a seasonal pre-tax year dip. We also have the headwinds of paying down our membership member notes coming due in the next few months.

If you missed Chris’s announcement from the pulpit a few weeks ago, UUCSR is the proud recipient of a $7,500 grant from the William and Alice Hinckley Fund toward Saturday Breakfast. This will be paid out in quarterly installments over the next 12-months. Much of this is the result from Finance member Mike McGirr. The Hinckley Fund is based in San Francisco. Way to go Mike!

Expect email and calls from Laura regarding next year’s budgets from Committee Chairs - so, please get to work on your budgets. This year will mark a departure in the preparation of the budget, as staff is taking over the first draft, followed by intense review and recommendations by the Finance Committee before being submitted to the Board for approval. We are also scheduling a preview of the Budget sometime in early May following Sunday services. All will be welcome to hear from the Finance Committee. We will be making announcements later.

Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music." — Albert Einstein

March came in like an eagle, representing theme of Truth. On the 4th, the first of five Sundays in March, Susan Panttaja, Sally Jones, Robert Howseman and Ted Dutcher moved us with "By Breath". Then on the 11th, Sadie Sonntag and the Choir performed the difficult and mysterious "Song of Kabir", words by Kabir of the 15th century, music by Elizabeth Alexander of the 21st century. On the 17th, we heard Sally and Randy Jones sing a UU "rewrite" of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" called "Five Smooth Stones". The 24th was John Ray’s Sunday and he got the Little Orchestra together to perform "Oh, Darlin" with Billy Sue Fischer on the vocals. Sadie brought the choir back on the last day of March singing "How Can I Keep From Singing" to usher out the month on a songbird note! Besides all this wonderful music, the Music Coordinators had a table set up after both services on the 24th to talk about UUCSR’s music ministry, answer questions, and recruit musicians. It turned out to be very popular! April will continue the blessings of good music with a theme of Salvation and Wholeness with Mary Chapot coordinating April 7th and the Good Friday service, April 19th. The second Sunday (April 14th) and the third Sunday (Easter) we will be blessed by Sadie and the Choir. And the fourth Sunday (April 28th) belongs to Alan Bell and about 3/4 of the Unisurfalists. If any of this marvelous musical ministry inspires you, and tell us what you like and what you can do. Can you sing with others, go solo, or play an instrument? Talk to a Music Coordinator (musicians@uusantarosa.org), or Choir Director Sadie (choir@uusantarosa.org) to find out how to let your musical talent give life to everything.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jones

SHARE-THE-BASKET
Following are the FEB 2019 Recipients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Censored</td>
<td>$660.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Unlimited</td>
<td>$542.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Immigrant &amp; Refugee Rights Children's Program</td>
<td>$1,158.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Breakfast</td>
<td>$758.96</td>
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</tbody>
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UUCSR MISSION:
To Celebrate Life,  
Empower People,  
Care for Each Other,  
and Build A Better World

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.

Arr. by L. Griswold Williams

April 2019

Black Lives Matter