MAY 5
NOT KNOWING IS MOST INTIMATE
Sometimes admitting that we don’t know or understand something is the smartest or wisest thing we can do. Today we’ll consider how to achieve this humble “Beginner’s Mind” as we approach people, ideas and situations, and the benefits to doing so.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Judy Withee, Lou Gwendolyn
Music by: Robin Rogers & some musical UUs, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: CASA

MAY 12
SOMETHING FROM NOTHING
MOTHER’S DAY
Theologians call it “Creatio ex Nihilo.” Once there wasn’t a Universe. Now there is. Once there wasn’t a congregation here. Now there is. Once you weren’t. Now you are. Today we will celebrate this wonderful and terrifying mystery of life, and the hope it offers as we face the serious and real challenges before us in these times.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the UUCSR Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Caritas Village / Catholic Charities

MAY 19
ON MAGIC
Humans have believed in magic for most of our existence, as a convenient explanation for things we don’t, or can’t understand. The insights of science and the achievements of technology have tempered that belief, but magical thinking is still very common. Why do we still fall for it? And why do we so love falling for it?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Aphrodite Bellochio
Music by: Susan Panttaja & some musical UUs, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

MAY 26
MYSTERY, AWE AND PRESENCE
High School Youth Service
This morning we lift up the awe and the mystery of being alive. Featuring voices and wisdom from the UUCSR High School Youth Group we pause to ask: where is wonder found? Join us for this service of exploration!

Service Leaders: The UU High School Youth Group, Rev. Dara Olandt, Jen Freese, and Eric Fischer
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the UUCSR Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Breakfast for Our Neighbors

JUNE 2
MANY MOUNTAINS, MANY PATHS
Middle School Youth Service
Today we explore and celebrate the year in religious education and featuring insights of our middle school youth! These emerging leaders will reflect upon their experience of visiting and learning about neighboring faith traditions and communities. All are welcome for this celebratory service!

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Jen Freese, MUUGS
Music by: Alan Bell & some musical UUs, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: TBD

JUNE 9
ONE SERVICE AT 9:15
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 11:00

JUNE 15
SUMMER SERVICES START!
One service only at 10 am until 9/15

CAKE AUCTION Sunday, May 19: Between Services
Cake! Frosting! Intergenerational Connections! What more could you ask for? Bring your appetite, a sense of humor and your checkbook to help support
Confession time: I watch a good amount of sports on TV. I know, I know – sports are exploitive, injurious, and barbaric, just another example of the appeasement and disempowerment of the people with “bread and circuses,” as Juvenal first observed of ancient Rome. But I love to witness the heights of human physical and mental prowess in a great game. How can you not shake your head in wonder when Steph Curry connects with a no-look behind-the-back pass, or hits a game-winning three pointer from the corner while falling out of bounds?

The unfortunate price of watching sports, however, is being subjected to many commercials. Most of these, it seems to me, are for beer, credit cards and investments, and automobiles, promising guaranteed good times, guaranteed financial security, and guaranteed safety. Many of the car ads, in particular, evoke an almost warlike posture against outside threats. With their automatic sensors and powerful engines, they are shown deftly evading traffic, accidents, rockslides and scary urban alleys where one might get lost and killed. I’m honestly surprised that cars aren’t sold with roof-mounted machine guns yet.

Our urge for safety and security is perfectly normal and fine. But I can’t help feeling like these products, not to mention the secret cameras you can hide around your house and watch from your cellphone, or the GPS locaters you can hide in your child’s backpack or shoes, are seeking to defy a fundamental truth of reality, which is that life is inherently unsafe, and we can’t really know what’s going to happen next. The unfolding energies of being are too complex, there are too many actors, and there is an element of chance and chaos built in to the system that keeps it alive and moving. We still get sick. The house burns down. Donald Trump gets “elected.”

I’m not saying we shouldn’t lock our doors, nor save our money, nor guard our children nor develop lifesaving medicines and technologies. Of course we should. I’m just saying we should have a healthy respect for the mystery of existence. We don’t really know how it came to be. We don’t know how it will end. Instead of trying to control the mystery so much, maybe the skill is rolling with it. The Tao Te Ching suggests that approach. So does the Bible when it tells us everything is in God’s hands. The people I most admire are willing to embrace this unsettling fact. They take some risks, they play, they dare to fail, or even to get hurt or die in order to live meaningful lives, usually in service to some higher, unselfish goal other than self.

We lead and grow our congregation in this spirit. Of course we want it to serve us now. But we also want it to serve the unknown future. We have no idea who will be leading worship here in 50 years. We can’t know whether there will be 500 members or 50, or perhaps 5000, although I am aiming for the latter. All we can know for sure is that there will be potlucks.

We can throw the ball in the direction we think best, but someone unknown to us will catch it and carry it further down the field. Or, uncertain of what inning it is, or how many outs there are, our job is just to keep the line moving. The joy is not in winning, it is in the play. (Oh, I’m loving these sports metaphors!) Even though we can’t know exactly what form the future of the congregation will take, we are still called to move in the direction of our vision, still called to open the doors to more people, still called to open our hearts to greater love and service, even when it’s risky or threatens our preconceptions. Perhaps especially then...

To that end, our congregational leaders are currently drafting the budget necessary to fulfill our mission and expand our vision next year. As always, it is ambitious. Because well over 90% of our funds come from our pledges, we encourage ourselves to tithe 5% or more of our income. The greater our generosity, the greater the possibilities and power we have as a congregation. Since not everyone can tithe, those of us who can must. In earlier years I would never have thought such tithing was possible for me, but as I’ve grown up (over the last couple months), I’ve discovered that tithing actually strengthens my own financial discipline and security.

I am committed to practice what I preach, and refuse to ask you to do anything I wouldn’t do myself. Last year I put just under $90,000 in actual income into my checking account, mostly from the salary that you provide me. 5% of that is $4500/year or $86/week. I like round numbers, so I now pledge $90/week. It takes some sacrifice to achieve this goal, but the gifts our community offers to me, and our UU children, and you (I hope), as well as our larger community, makes it all worthwhile. I invite you to join me in this ancient practice.

The future may be uncertain, and the source of life a great mystery, but together we do have the tools to respond with grace. We have amazing volunteer leadership. We have a devoted and hard-working staff. We have a wonderfully flexible and useful building. We have art and music. We have each other. And we have love, perhaps the greatest mystery of all, this feeling or thought or idea or experience or power, or whatever it is, that keeps calling us, saying “Open up. Give and receive all you can. Embrace the whole world, sorrows and joys alike, and be free.”

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your minister.

And, go Warriors!

Reverend Chris Bell
This beautiful thing called by the hostility of words, soul, trembles and wells up buoyant in ways that no materiality can contain, it is the longing of meeting the open face of sky with the parted lips of possibility.

Shoots of wet green and brown life are now hazarding a chance at existence, unconfined and exuberant, smiling into a still swerving air.

It is spring.

People rise and wake like the unfolding buds of irresistible winter-worn shoots steadily opening and embracing the new because spring can teach the soul to return, and remember all that has been hot-ironed out, can resource the parched heart, can teach again the delicate and tender fierceness of a love that dares to try.

This is a time for rising together, in a great sea of creative strength for the principles and values we cherish, guided by love’s persistent call. This is not a new call, it is rather an ancient one.

Calling us out of our smallness and narrowness, calling us to be bigger and braver, remembering that as we do this — together — we remember that essential truth that we are connected, and that any positive changes will come from our connection rather than our dislocation and isolation.

Now is a time for us to call forth our greatness — the greatness within, and the greatness we are when we call out, rise up and champion love.

People can continue to rise together, like water, answering love’s demand and call.

With care and hope for a beautiful spring, Rev. Dara

What is CUUPS?

UUCSR is lucky to have an active and thriving Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, or CUUPS group. We are a group of spiritual seekers who feel drawn to Earth-centered traditions, be they Pagan, tribal, or Goddess-based spiritual paths. We host celebrations such as the Honoring Ancestors Samhain (pronounced Sow-en) Celebration near Halloween, the Solstice Yule Celebration in December, the Maypole Beltane celebration recently held on April 28, and the Lammas/Lughnasadh Bread Celebration in August.

Our congregation has had a CUUPS group since 2012. Our mission is to 1. Educate ourselves and others about Earth-based spirituality, 2. Encourage Earth-based celebrations and themes in services, and 3. To connect to other pagan groups in the community. In the 1970’s as the woman’s movement was gathering momentum, UU women (but not only women), were growing unhappy with the blatantly sexist language of the original UU by-laws adopted in 1960, as well as the heritage of unexamined patriarchal norms used throughout the Association.

In 1977 the UUA General Assembly unanimously passed the Women and Religion Resolution. It called on leaders to examine and avoid sexist assumptions and language. It also noted that there were few women ministers.

In 1980 the earliest known UU Pagan worship took place at the UU Continental Feminist Theology Convocation. In 1985 the 7th Principle was adopted: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. In the same year, at the UU General Assembly, people interested in Goddesses, paganism, or ancient religions gathered to create an organization that became the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. The acronym CUUPS was a wordplay on the UU religious symbol of a flaming chalice.

1995 brought the adoption of the 6th Source: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. According to our own retired Rev. Shirley Ranck the 6th Source was originally introduced with the word “Pagan-centered traditions”. There was much discussion but few would vote for it. As soon as Minister Paul L’Herrou suggested changing the word “Pagan” to “earth-centered” 99% voted to approve.

Contemporary Paganism entered the consciousness of the Unitarian Universalist community mostly through its women members and their explorations of Women’s Spirituality. Their ground-breaking work paved the way for contemporary Paganism as an active spiritual path for both men and women in the UUA. We are grateful for their work, and proud to carry on the spiritual expression of Earth-based traditions within our congregation.
President’s Column

Three thoughts pinging around in my head from reading I’ve done lately (as I sit here just having had a root canal!):

Thing 1: From Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, a black UU minister and historian: “An emphasis on relationship will sustain Unitarian Universalism.”

Finally! Someone who’s looking behind the anger, recrimination and hair shirts! Last month I said that I thought the issue the UUA is confronting really an issue of “otherness” – relating to people who aren’t just like me as “other”, and therefore suspect, dangerous in some way, and less than me. Emphasizing relationship gives us a pathway out of this dark and depressing place we seem to have found ourselves in. And that gives me hope.

If there’s one thing we UU’s excel in, it’s relationship. Being open to and welcoming right relationship with others, whether they are just like me or not. And I think that’s even more true of our UUCSR community. It’s why we’re a growing, thriving congregation. It’s why we were voted Best Church and why Rev. Chris was voted Best Minister two years in a row in the Bohemian! Yes, of course we have room to grow and be more inclusive, and discover our own blind spots and privilege, and move beyond them. But we do relationship really well.

As we grow, that’s something that needs to – and will – stay at the forefront of all our decisions and actions. How do we protect what’s most important and valuable about us, rather than dilute it? How do we open our minds, hearts and hands to welcome new people into this circle of caring, empowerment and love? I don’t have the answers, but I’m open to being surprised by them – and excited by the prospect!

Thing 2: From Nancy McDonald Ladd, UU minister: “A universalist God for a tragic era is not a gauzy, hymn-singing force of personal devotion that draws us endlessly toward itself, but a fierce and compelling power that grips us by the collar amid our rebellious descent and calls us to choose the will to mutuality all over again, even when that choice is so risky that it could utterly remake us.”

Well, hallelujah! I WANT to be challenged. I WANT to confront those places in myself where I’m not being true to my highest and best self. I WANT to be remade. And if I can’t get that in my religion, where can I? I depend on us living our Principles, and on people who know me for how big I am to gently point out when I’m not being great – and to show me a pathway toward it. I depend on this community to hold me as I strive and fail and strive and succeed and strive and... to be my best. It doesn’t take a village to raise a child, it takes a village to raise a HUMAN BEING! I would be nowhere without you.

And lastly, Thing 3: From Bryan Stevenson, 2017 Ware Lecturer at GA and author of Just Mercy: “...there is a power in brokenness. It is the broken among us who can teach us the way compassion works. It is the broken who understand the power of mercy. It is the broken who understand the power of justice. It is the broken that yearn for redemption. It is the broken who yearn for reconciliation. It is the broken who need to teach us how we love despite our brokenness. And it’s in brokenness that I realize I’m not just fighting for the condemned. I’m fighting for myself.”

That just says it all. May we all recognize the power of our brokenness, and fight for a better world...and a better self.

With so much love,

-Natalie Brundred
President, Board of Trustees

What Your Board Has Been Up to Lately...

We’ve whittled the nominations for a new name for Room 545 down to one clear winner! We’ll present it at June’s Congregational Meeting for a vote, so be sure to attend!

We got an update on the Sabbatical Committee. Deb Mason, who was on the last Sabbatical Committee, has agreed to be chair. Also, Rev. Bonnie Dlott has said she would love to be our Sabbatical Minister. The Committee had previously said she would be great, so we’re in VERY good shape!

We spent most of our meeting looking at next year’s budget and determining what we want to recommend to the congregation. Michael presented us with two options that the staff, he and the Finance Committee had drawn up and recommended.

One option requires a whole lot of belt-tightening. The other option is innovative and visionary – and was suggested by a member! The board unanimously voted to recommend the visionary budget. We will be holding two Forums about the budget in early May. Be sure to attend one to get your questions answered!

If you want to know more, come to a board meeting. The next one is Thursday, May 16th at 6:30. You can also talk with us at Social Hour, email or call us. We’d love to hear from you!

Natalie
Spotlight on Youth Group: 9th-12th Grade
Jen Freese, Director of Religious Education

On the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4-6 pm, you can follow the smell of freshly baked pizza to find the UUCSR youth group in the Youth Room. If you stay for a few minutes, we may invite you to come up with your Martian name (that’s your name spelled entirely backwards).

Youth Group is for youth in grades 9-12 and contains a mix of goofiness, games, authentic check-ins, deep reflection, worship and friendship. Any teen who joins us is warmly welcomed and asked to choose their Martian name, which is then added to the bulletin board in the Youth Room. We light a chalice and share a reading or prayer, and check-in is also a major part of the meeting. There is a special feeling of trust and connection amongst the youth that they don’t regularly get outside of youth group. As one regular member described it, youth group is “a place to retreat from the outside, talk about what’s happening, a little shelter.”

Following check-in and worship, we do any number of relaxed, cultured or wildly silly things. In the past year, we have carved jack-o-lanterns, visited the Sonoma County Art Museum, learned to play poker (with fake money), had tea and hot chocolate at Brew, played crazy games in Room 545, and supported a youth group member by attending the musical production in which he played a role.

In the past month, we started planning the annual youth-led worship service, which will take place on May 26 during both services. The service, which will focus on Wonder as an element of mystery in Unitarian Universalism, will be planned and led by the youth and Reverend Dara Olandt. We will break for the months of June and July and will return in August with a welcome event and a new regular meeting day and time that will be announced in May.

Youth Group is facilitated by Jen Freese, DRE, Reverend Chris Bell, and volunteer Melissa Neufer, a new and much-loved addition to the youth ministry team this year.
Share the Offering

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

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-long friend.

May 12: Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa and Burbank Housing are partnering to create Caritas Village, which will include a housing-focused service center, emergency family shelter, and 128 units of permanent affordable housing for those in need. Caritas Village will replace Catholic Charities’ aging facilities on Morgan and A Streets which currently serve 2,000 people a year. It will help get twice as many people off the streets and into permanent housing each year.

May 19: The Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence is a charitable organization that makes grants to underfunded charities that help people in need in the Russian River area.

May 26: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday breakfast for our neighbors in need, which provides a hearty breakfast every Saturday in a friendly atmosphere.

June 2: Redwood Empire Food Bank, with a wide range of programs, provides food for children and seniors in need and supplies hundreds of local agencies, including our own Saturday Breakfast.

DIVERSITY PROJECT SAYS THANKS
On behalf of the A4SJ Diversity Project and the Sonoma County Junior Commission on Human Rights, a heartfelt thank you to all for donations to the Backpack Drive for Survivors of Human Trafficking. Your generosity and caring helped make the Drive a success and provided support to vulnerable youth in our community.

Tamara Murrell, Jeanie Bates, Cheri Fedele, Leslie Norinsky, Paul Brockman, Carol Kraemer
Rev. Chris

The A4SJ Film Project presents our Care in Community Film Series
NOTE: We will not offer a film in May in order to avoid conflicts with other programs being offered.

“UNNATURAL CAUSES...is inequality making us sick?”
A 4-part series
Part 4: In Sickness and In Wealth
Produced by Christine Herbes-Sommers, Llewellyn M. Smith
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019
Following the 11 AM service in the Board Room

Unnatural Causes... is inequality making us sick?

Our final film of this year’s series, “In Sickness and in Wealth”, illuminates the role of social determinants of health in creating health inequalities/health disparities in the United States. This documentary, which first aired on PBS in 2008, examines the links between health and illness and underlying patterns of class and racial inequities.

From the description of this episode: “The lives of a CEO, a lab supervisor, a janitor and an unemployed mother illustrate how class shapes opportunities for good health. Those on the top have the most access to power, resources and opportunity-and thus the best health. Those on the bottom are faced with more stressors-unpaid bills, jobs that don’t pay enough, unsafe living conditions, exposure to environmental hazards, lack of control over work and schedule, worries over children-and the fewest resources available to help them cope.”

The role of chronic stress in the development of illness is explored as this film leads us to conclude that if we, as a nation, want to change our health outcomes we are called to focus not on more pills but on more equitable social policies. An important film, well documented.

Discussion, as always, follows viewing of this 56 minute film. Please bring whatever you wish to eat. We will offer a snack, not lunch.

– Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Dorris, Jeanie
They are here: our first round of story and photo panels...hanging in the narthex! We think they are wonderful and we look forward to including more of you. We will be taking photos and receiving stories on Sunday, May 19, between the services and following the 11 AM service. Here is the poem that you will be asked to complete:

I’m from [family tradition] and [family trait], from [name of family member] and [another family member].

I’m from the [Representation of religion or lack thereof, with further description].

I’m from [Place of birth and family ancestry] and [two food items that represent your family].

We would love to have more hearts and minds involved in crafting our offerings. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 10:30 to noon. If you would like more information please connect with any of us. See our Mission and Vision below to learn of our vision and intentions. COME JOIN US!

**Diversity Project Mission and Vision**

The Mission of the Diversity Project is to offer programs, activities and communications to the UU Congregation, Santa Rosa that:
- Celebrate UUCSR’s diversity, and educate its members and friends about the diverse experiences of all people;
-Compassionately face and actively transform the unjust privilege and unjust marginalization that our society imposes on us;
- Encourage changes of culture and behavior as necessary to realize the vision of a truly welcoming, diverse, and ever-growing UUCSR.

The Vision of the Diversity Project is of a truly welcoming, diverse, and ever-growing congregation:
- Whose multi-cultural membership mirrors the demographics of our city and county;
- Where all people feel able and willing to express themselves authentically;
- Which is actively engaged in the pursuit of a just and equal society within and beyond its walls;
- Which faces the emotional and spiritual costs of oppression and inequality with open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

**Thoughts from Your Stewardship Team**

“*We are building a new way, feeling stronger ev’ry day*” - Martha Sandefer

I am absorbed these days in the building of our new home which will replace the one that burned in the Tubbs fire. Since groundbreaking in October of 2018, our almost-house has morphed from schematic plans into a real life structure. Along this journey I have acquired a smattering of builder’s lingo. I no longer confuse “sump” with “slump”, and I know the difference between a “mullion” and a “muntin.” Builder’s language is quirky but practical. Its aim is to get the job done.

Language also helps the Stewardship Team do our work: to foster an environment of generosity within UUCSR. I’ve noticed a striking similarity in the vocabulary of house-building and of congregation-building. In sermons and committee meetings, we talk about building a better world. We say our congregation is built on the foundation of our principles. Builders are required to build more sustainably, and as members, we are called to make sustaining pledges to meet the financial needs of our community.

Building a congregation, like building a house demands flexibility, patience, perseverance, and creativity. At UUCSR we are the architects with a vision, and we are the builders. We are the frame which supports the structure. If a frame is strong, it will provide the necessary support for everything that follows. Let’s all do our part to make it so.

*With gratitude, Erin Howseman*
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.

2019 UUCSR Summer Camp
IT’S FOR EVERYBODY!
September 6-8, 2019 Enchanted Hills, Napa

Enchanted Hills Camp, Napa September 6-8, 2019 Ever wanted to ask newly-met breakfast companions what is the Meaning of Life? Hold a newborn, listen to some great jammin’ music, or drink wine under the redwoods with old and new friends? If you answered Yes! consider joining a wonderful group of UUs and their friends from the UUCSR congregation in our annual social/peaceful/connecting adventure called All UU Summer Camp at the Enchanted Hills campground. We’ll have our annual "Variety Show" (no talent required), puzzles, games, workshops, a great pool, nice sleeping quarters, and really good food. It’s handicapped friendly. Childcare is available during certain times of the day. Enchanted Hills is a wonderful place, run by Lighthouse for the Blind, an easy beautiful drive 45 minutes from Highway 12 and Calistoga road, on the border of Napa and Sonoma counties. If you’ve never been before, this may be the year to try it out! Come make some new friends! Introvert accessible!

Tentative prices as we are still working out the cost:

**Prices: Upper Camp:** Adult $195; Teen/Tweens (11-17 years old) $165; Student (5-10 years old) $115; Children under 5 are free!

**Lower Camp** (which is much closer—right by the pool and playground now that it’s been re-built after the fire): Adult $160; Teen/Tweens $145; Student $90, Children under 5 are free!

Stay tuned for more info!
OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES
MAY 13 and 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 a ride? Please call well ahead of meeting date. Questions? Call: Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White.

FAITH AND FITNESS
Saturday, MAY 25

Faith and fitness: Saturday May 25: Helen Putnam Regional Park, Petaluma. Smaller park with some steady climbs to great views, open grassland, oak woodlands, and a pond. Meet at Santa Rosa carpool at 9:30 or at the main entrance on Chileno Valley Road at 10am. Bring snacks/lunches and water.

EVENING BOOK GROUP
Thursday, MAY 14
2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm

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, MAY 25th, 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.

WORK DAY

Building Maintenance and Landscaping will be having an important work day Saturday, 5/3 9 am to Noon. The will be many tasks, large and small, indoors and out, including planting bed work and weeding. Please come help!

UUCSR MEN’S GATHERING
Saturday, May 25
10 am—4 pm, Rm 545

The topic is our First Principle, "The inherent worth and dignity of every person." If you want, please bring a reading or song related to this Principle that is meaningful for you. For more info, contact Mac Freeman, Andy Levine, or Mark Sowers. Mark your calendar now!

ART AT UUCSR

“Off The Wall/On The Wall”

Our ongoing UU Congregational art exhibit needs more poets & writers. ‘Off The Wall/On The Wall’ will continue to grace the narthex, foyer and board room walls. Contact Bertha Jean to offer your submission. Thank you!

PRIDE PARADE
Saturday, June 1

Sonoma County Pride Parade UUCSR will again have a contingent in the Sonoma County Pride Parade. The parade and festival is Saturday June 1st. The parade starts at noon on 4th street In Santa Rosa and we march to Courthouse Square where there will be a festival. Becky and Bill Montgomery will have their VW convertible and we will have our rainbow banner! Come join us! For more information contact Becky and Bill Montgomery or Andy Levine. We hope to have a large group.
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 Dailey, Helga Lemke, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck, Clare Whitfield and Rev. Chris Bell.

THEOLOGY WORKSHOPS
with Rev. Chris
Saturday, May 11, 10:00—12:00
Life, Death and Afterlife
Wednesday, June 12, 6:30—8:30
Nature of God, Pt. 2

SCRIPTURE STUDY with Rev. Chris
Tuesday Mornings: 8:30-9:30am
Tuesday Evenings: 5:15–6:15pm
May 14, May 28, June 11
Rev. Hose Ballou:
A Treatise on Atonement

Let’s Talk Endowment…. Over Lunch
Sunday, May 19
After the 11:00 am service in Room 545

There are many ways to leave a gift to the UUCSR Endowment Fund. Come and learn more about how you can become a part of our environment of abundance and generosity.

Come to a seminar sponsored by the Endowment Committee, to be held after the 11 AM service on Sunday, May 19, in room 545. 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 fulfill a desire to help our liberal religion, to help our values endure to serve future generations. When we commit financial resources to our religious values, great things radiate, inwardly and outwardly, strengthening our connection to the community we cherish. You can become a member of the Legacy Circle regardless of your income level. A homemade lunch will be provided during the seminar.

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.
We have financial data through February, as staff is deeply involved in preparing the first rough draft budget for next year in April and will present this draft to the Finance Committee. For the first eight months of the Fiscal year ending in February, 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 $3,300. One caveat, we aren’t finished with the year and pledges remain below budget by about $23,000. Heading into the final months of the year, pledges are historically below average and expenses are higher, as we make principal member note payoffs.

If your committee hasn’t done so, please submit your budgets to Laura Blum, our bookkeeper Laura along with Dawn, the new Administrator, Jen our head of RE and Chris prepare the rough draft budget for next year. The April Board meeting will go over the recommendations from both the first draft of staff and Finance and the great balancing act will begin.

We are also scheduling a preview of the Budget sometime in early May following Sunday services. All will be welcome to hear from the final board approved budget. We will be making announcements later.

Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer

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Musical Notes

‘To me there is no picture so beautiful as smiling, bright-eyed, happy children; no music so sweet as their clear and ringing laughter.’

-- P T Barnum.

April’s theme was Salvation/Wholeness, and children played a big part. On the 7th, Mary Chapot and Sally Jones sang 'Ángel' by Sarah McLachlan and brought many in the audience to tears. On the 14th, Sadie Sonntag and the Choir presented 'I Have A Voice' for the topic of children’s rights. Again, there were tears. The special Good Friday music was again led by Mary C whom Sally J, Pam T, and Jack R assisted to sing ‘Ubi Caritas’ in Latin. The translation is ‘Where there is caring and love, God is there.’ Easter and Flower Communion music was provided by our children and the Choir who, with the addition of 2 high school chorus students, performed ‘A Million Dreams’ from the musical The Greatest Showman, the story of P T Barnum. The month was closed out by Alan Bell and 3/4 of the Unisurfalists with ‘La Jaula de Oro’ (The Cage of Gold, sung in Spanish).

May will be another music-filled month with contributions by Robin Rogers and his group, the Choir, and Susan Panttaja. If any of this marvelous musical ministry inspires you, 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 or Choir Director Sadie to find out how to let your musical talent bring sweet beauty to the world.

Randy Jones

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlene Francis Foundation/Blue Coast Films/Andy Lopez Film</td>
<td>$913.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIDAS</td>
<td>$754.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital Cancer Support Group</td>
<td>$558.26</td>
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<td>Russian River Alliance Workforce Flood Relief (100%)</td>
<td>$1,561.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Breakfast</td>
<td>$785.20</td>
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We pledge to seek unity in our diversity,
To honor and respect divergent opinions and beliefs,
to listen to one another with open hearts and minds,
To acknowledge our short-comings and be quick to forgive them in others, and
To keep our focus on our Mission:
Celebrating Life, Empowering People, Caring for Each Other, and Helping to Build a Better World.