



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

APRIL 2016 • Volume 60 • Issue 4

## April Service Theme: ART AND MYTH

Sunday Services 9:15 am and 11:00 am

April 3  
HAPPINESS

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas Music by: Paul Gilger and some of the UUsual Suspects Share the Basket: Parkinson's Disease Support Group*

The Dalai Lama says the point of life is to be happy, and the nation of Bhutan uses a national happiness quotient to determine the success of its government. But just what is this often-elusive experience of happiness? And how can we justly generate more of it for everyone?

April 10  
GRIEF

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Cathy Read Music by: Sadie Sonntag & The Choir Share the Basket: Youth Group trip to New Orleans*

Grief is a burden of mental and emotional suffering that each of us is destined to carry in our lives, whether it comes from the loss of a loved one, the loss of our own capacities, the loss of polar bears, or the loss of our democracy. Since there is no avoiding it, learning how live through it, and turn it toward something good is the only way forward. Today we'll look at what our UU faith has to offer us in this process.

April 17  
ANGER: THE TWO-EDGED EMOTION

*Service Leaders: Millie Phillips, Jen Collins Music by: Roger Corman and some of the UUsual Suspects Share the Basket: Parkinson's Disease Support Group*

Anger is a two-edged sword. It is a great motivator: it can slash through denial and cowardice to inspire us to action. But, like a sword, it's dangerous and can be used to hurt people. Many of us fear, avoid, or repress it, including our Intern Minister Millie Phillips, who will challenge herself to sermonize on the value of healthy, holy anger.

May 1  
THE PRACTICE OF JUSTICE

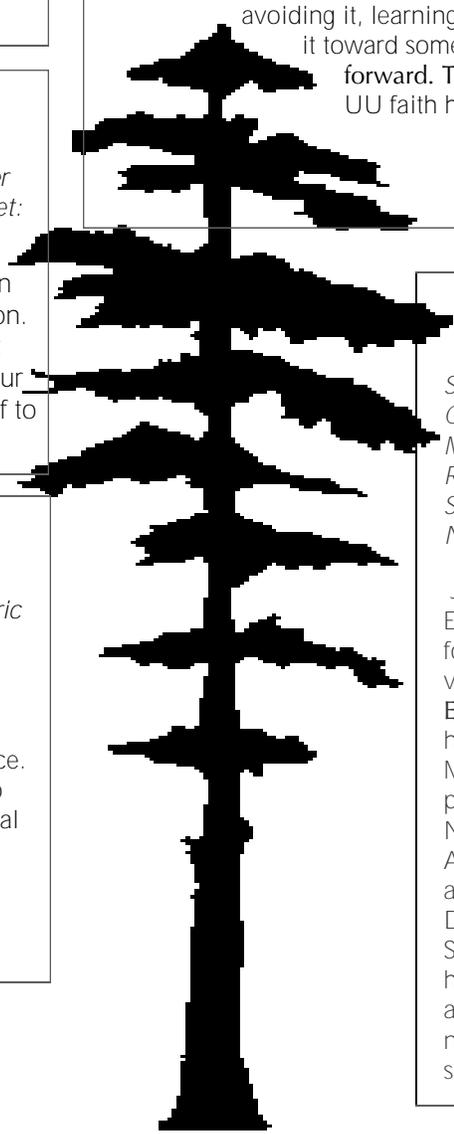
*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, David Hope Music by: Eric Skagerberg and some of the UUsual Suspects Share the Basket: Sonoma County Vet Connect*

We kick off a month looking at spiritual practices by considering one very close to many UUs: working for justice. And, Lord knows, there are plenty of opportunities to do so these days, with anti-LGBT statutes in North Carolina, global terrorism, hate-speech and demagoguery in our politics, **climate change, and attacks on women's rights.** The good news is that the practice of working for social change also changes us, opening our hearts and minds.

April 24  
SEQUOIA

*Service Leaders: Rolland Carlson, Roger Corman Music by: The Choir, and Robin Rogers Share the Basket: Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors*

John Muir and Ralph Waldo Emerson met in Yosemite and forged a close friendship while visiting the Giant Sequoias. **Emerson's Unitarian thinking** had a significant influence on Muir and the campaign to preserve sacred wild places in National Parks, a uniquely American idea. We ponder this appropriate theme close to Earth Day and will include some Sequoia and Yosemite history, plus the story of an amazing man, Sequoia, whose name graces these magnificent species.



*UUCSR MISSION: Celebrate Life, Empower People, Care For Each Other, Help Build a Better World*



## *Destiny, Math, and Ministry...*

*By Reverend Chris Bell*

After my first failed attempt at college way back in 1985, I spent a few years out of school just working, playing, and trying to figure what my destiny was. Or, if not my *destiny*, at least a reasonable career path. It was during those care-free years that I began to read earnestly in religion, including a number of books that related the insights of modern physics to the Eastern traditions of Buddhism, Hinduism and Taoism. Both quantum mechanics and relativity theory opened up a Creation for me that was much more wonderful and mysterious than Euclid and Newton could ever have imagined.

I had enjoyed my science classes in high school, and so it struck me that I should become a physicist. I, too, wanted to penetrate and describe the great wonders of the Universe.

There was one problem, however. Math.

**In my youthful naiveté, I had not recognized just how much technical and numerical mastery would be required to pursue a career in physics.** I just wanted to sit around with brilliant people and talk about the meaning of life and the nature of consciousness. Trigonometry? Calculus? Sure, I **wanted to know them; I just didn't want to take the time to learn them.**

Fortunately, I came to realize that one could just as ably consider the deep questions I had found in *The Tao of Physics* and *The Self-Aware Universe* from the other side, the side of religion, which is how I wound up as a religious studies major, and ultimately in the ministry.

You can imagine my surprise, then, when it turned out there was still plenty of math in the ministry, too. A congregation may be a non-profit, but it has many of the same numerical concerns as a business. Budgets, pledges, donations, accounts receivable and payable, payroll taxes and employee benefits all require a good head for numbers.

Fortunately for me, and you, our beloved Administrator Janis Brewster has been taking care of all this for us for almost a decade, with the able assistance of our Treasurers and Financial Stewards. But as our congregation has grown over that time, her other duties – managing the building, working with rentals and events, coordinating the calendar, record-keeping, overseeing the office and its volunteers, and more – are now demanding more and more of her time. That is why one of the biggest new items in our budget for 2016 – 2017 is a part-time bookkeeper. Our staff is growing, again!

Freeing Janis from the daily grind of number crunching will enable her to offer more support to the Board and our many committees, cultivate more and better relationships with the groups who use the Glaser Center, assist in the integration of new members, and help us take our social media and internet presence to a higher level. This is an important and much-needed step for us, and for her.

A new bookkeeper is just one of the changes in our new budget that are intended to strengthen and grow our capacity to serve one another and the wider community.

For example, if we receive adequate pledges we intend

to offer a notable raise to our staff. A 2.25% COLA raise (the first in a while) will be added to merit raises based on performance to honor their loyal and longstanding **contributions. We're also increasing the hours of both our Sexton and our Choir Director.**

In the next year the Islamic Society will move next door, a fine and positive move for their community. We will need to do some refurbishing of that area to ready it for our use. It is so exciting to be gaining more space at the Glaser Center, as there are already many evenings when this building is full, **and we don't seem to be running out of ideas for ways to fulfill our Mission.** New groups, alliances, and justice initiatives are forming all the time. Indeed, in the long-term view, we are already imagining a major restoration of the second story into new classrooms and meeting rooms.

As we look ahead to future years, hiring an Assistant Minister stands as a very desirable next step. There are a lot of you folks to look after now! We would all benefit from the additional pastoral care, public witness, and professional leadership of committees that such a person could offer us. In a similar vein, over the next few years we would like to see our Intern Minister move from a half-time to a full-time position. Additional support staff may also be required as we continue to grow and thrive.

The world needs Unitarian Universalist congregations, now as much as ever. People are hungry for non-dogmatic, loving spiritual community. They long for hope and purpose and shared effort in troubling times. They want a religious voice for racial equality and the rights of LGBT people, and for the care of our ailing planet. They want Principles to center themselves around, and they want to be with other people who have open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

Every step we take to increase our staff, the capacity of our building, our outreach, and our gifts to other worthy organizations helps to fulfill our Vision. I thank you for your continuing and ever-growing support of our good work. It is thrilling for me to watch you continue to blossom and evolve, and to see how many people contribute such a vast array of skills and such a boundless well of energy to bring our Vision and Mission to life. And for such a serious business as changing and saving the world, we do seem to have a lot of fun.

**If you want to talk about this, or any other matter, I'm in the office every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Give me a call!**

**And finally, don't forget my offer of a home-cooked vegetable lasagna for anyone who regularly attends the 11:00 service that commits to attend at 9:15 for three months.**

- Rev Chris

*UU Update is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, California. E-submissions preferred. Send to newsletter@uusantrosa.org. Due by the Mon. after 3rd Sundays of the month: Paper submissions must be received in the Newsletter mail slot in the office workroom at UUCSR 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. All submissions should have Topic and Month in email subject line. Articles 200-400 words. Ads and Announcements 20-150 words. 707-568-5381, ext. 106, for info. Non-congregational announcements only as furthers the congregation's mission and as space allows.*

## Greetings from the President

As our planet Earth reached its Vernal Equinox on March 20, my thoughts had already been wandering to gardening and wildflower walks, bird watching and yes, maybe a little Spring cleaning, too. (I do think that allowing oneself to succumb to Spring Fever is also a worthy seasonal pastime!)

One of my favorite Springtime rituals is attending the **annual UUCSR Women's Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest** which takes place this year April 29-May 1. What a great time it is for conviviality, connection, frivolity and spiritual deepening all in the beautiful redwoods. The food is great, too!

**I'm also looking forward to participating in Pacific Central District's annual District Assembly** in Fremont April 22-24. I will be joining my fellow delegates Andy Levine, Joe and Sharon McCarty. Among other things, attending DA offers opportunities to meet other UU people from our district, attend workshops, and check in and participate with the greater UU community as representatives of UUCSR. There's still time to register if you wish to attend and/or be a delegate.

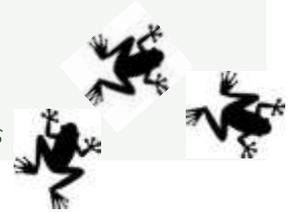
On another note: Our Islamic Society neighbors have notified UUCSR that they will continue to need their rented space for another 6 months as they jump through hoops with county planning and remodel their new place next door. That gives us more time to explore utilizing that area as well as other "undeveloped" space at 547 Mendocino. Our "Space Use" task force is already on the job.

I also wanted to mention that Andy and I attended a **Sonoma County multifaith gathering, "Of One Soul"** on March 13. This event, organized by the Interfaith Council of Sonoma County and hosted by Congregation Ner Shalom was attended by almost 400 people, including UUCSR congregants, standing together "for the rights, dignity and safety of the Muslim Community, so they know they do not face this challenging time alone." I plan to stay in touch with this organization and its interfaith efforts which seem very much in line with our own UUCSR mission.

*Peace and Love, Happy Spring!*

*Susan Bartholome,*

*President UUCSR Board of Trustees*



## Treasurer's Report

*Generosity lies at the heart of spiritual practice. Extending generosity to ourselves and others gladdens our heart, is a direct way of healing division, and brings joy.*

Christina Feldman

What is Pledging All About Anyway?

Every year, all committees and groups, the Board, Rev Chris and several others involved in the administration and activities of our congregation compile their best guess of the expense they will incur to fulfill the priorities of our community for the next fiscal year. Based on the information they provide, the budget elves, better known as financial stewards, assemble a budget. All the different sources of funds to support the budget are estimated based on our experience, expectations and other information. The gap between those other sources of funds, such as rentals, donations, fundraisers, etc. and the budget expenses must be filled by the financial commitments of UUCSR members and friends. Those financial commitments we often call pledges.

In order to provide a reliable budget, it really is necessary to have a close idea of how much financial support our members and friends will give during the year. If we haven't received pledges sufficient to fund the next fiscal year's budget by May when the Board finalizes it, some items may have to be cut. The generous pledges of UUCSR members and friends provide the basis to move forward with the budget that will help make our needs and our dreams for that year attainable.

Since we have gone to sustaining pledges, the pledge you last made will continue until you change it. This

makes it possible for you to change your pledge on a schedule that may be more convenient for you personally and also to make changes when you are so moved or when your circumstances change.

A very cool way to make sure your pledge payment **doesn't fall through the cracks is to set up an automatic payment** from your bank account or credit card so you can feel confident you are fulfilling your commitment while not having to think about it each month. Just click on the green "Donate" button on our website to set up an automatic payment. For those of you still using checks and cash, please remember to label your payment as "Pledge" so it will be accounted for correctly.

During the month of April, members of the Philanthropy Team will have a table outside the sanctuary stocked with pledge cards and other interesting literature and information. You are invited to submit a new pledge card there or on the website. There will be a computer on which you will also be able to set up an automatic payment or change your current payment if you desire.

April, when we used to conduct our pledge drive, will still be a month in which we emphasize Stewardship and Generosity. It is an ideal time to consider increasing your pledge since it is also when we finalize the budget. As I've said before, our budget is a representation of our mission. To support our mission and vision to which we are called to generously give, please consider pledging 5% - 10% of your gross income or as close to that percentage as your circumstances currently allow. Deepest gratitude to all of you who give so generously of your time talent and treasure and make our extraordinary community a beacon for justice and love.

*Linda Balabanian, Treasurer*

### Results of Minister Evaluation

As you no doubt recall, in December the congregation was asked to evaluate our minister and other congregational activities and services. We filled out questionnaires by circling numbers, adding comments, and then popping them into a bright red box. Out of a congregation of nearly 350, we got over 140 returned forms. That's a great response rate. So, you might ask, what happened to them?

Well, the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) compiled the results of the survey and presented them to the Board of Directors. And the winner is....?

All of us. Because, in a nutshell, we really like our minister.

Some selected highlights from the survey: 90% of us gave good or excellent to the Sunday services in general; 92% for sermons and also for music. Interestingly, the highest score of excellent in the survey—78%—went to music. The next highest score of excellent—72%—went to worship associates reflections.

Children's time got 76% good or excellent, but it also got 15% no response or don't know. That was by far the highest in that category for the Sunday service questions, but is probably explained by the fact that many folks attend the early service when there is no children's time. On the question, "Is your participation meeting your spiritual needs?" 77% thought they were doing good or excellent.

Many of the other questions, i.e., adult RE, pastoral care, staff supervision, etc., garnered many "don't knows" or no responses. But of those who did respond, the great majority scored them good or excellent.

However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in the administrative area. On the basis of the interviews with congregation leaders, five areas for growth were identified. These areas involve supervision, administration, and communication. Rev. Chris, members of COSM and congregation leaders have already had extensive discussion about how these areas might be addressed. These conversations will continue as the year progresses.

*Alan Bell, for the Committee on Shared Ministry*

### LGBT Seniors of Santa Rosa Discussion Group

Meets monthly on 4th Tuesdays, 1-3 pm, offering a place to share friendship, ideas, information. Join Us in the Board Room! A warm welcome to everyone interested.

### Evening Book Group

Second Thursdays, 7-9 pm

April 14, 547 Mendocino.

We meet in the RE wing.

The April selection is *A Guide for the Perplexed* by Dara Horn. In May we read *The Care and Management of Lies* by Jacqueline Winspear. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. Questions? Please contact Linda Lampson.

### Drawing Wednesdays!

Open drawing 1-3 pm Green Room

Judy Hutchinson facilitates a group from beginners to experienced artists. Bring your paper & pencils for some meaningful fun! Instructional books, masters' drawings, ideas, encouragement—all available.

Call Judy at 545-7808 for info.

### Faith and Fitness

Saturday, April 9

April hike—Lake Sonoma, South Lake trail. Carpool from Santa Rosa at 9:30, South Lake trail head at 10:15. Out and back up to 4 miles, scenic views of the lake, varied habitats, wildflowers. Occasional gradual climbs, mostly flat with some shady areas. Dogs are allowed. Sturdy shoes, lunches and water recommended. Sign up and/or send questions to [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org) or call Gretchen P. at 707-889-3997.

### ALL UU SUMMER CAMP!

**(NOTE- DATE CHANGE)**

"We all had a wonderful time- thank you!!" "Food was excellent."

"My kids loved it!" "Very nice pool and baseball field."

"Cabins were great... thank you all... we'll be back next year!"

These are just a few of the things campers told us on their evaluation forms after last year's campout! Come meet, greet, and eat with old friends, new friends, and folks of all ages you've never had the time to get to know before. You might eat dinner with a toddler, a grandparent, Deborah- our wonderful Director of Religious Education, or even Reverend Chris! There is wine. There is music. There is a campfire sing-along. There is childcare so parents can go to morning and afternoon workshops.... (or do what I used to do when my daughter was small - read a good murder mystery under the redwoods, then take a nap!!)

I'm talking about the 2016 All UU Summer Camp, **September 2 to 4**. This is Labor Day weekend- so you (and your kids) will have time to recoup on Monday before heading back to school or work. What more could you ask? Oh, a talent show, you say? Yes! We've renamed it "the Variety Show" so no talent is required. And our very talented Emcees will make you laugh!

Bring your bicycles, roller skates, little red wagons- this place has sidewalks! And lots of scenic hiking, along with a guided hike (so you don't get lost).

The majority of the cabins and the lodge are very comfortable with real mattresses and indoor bathrooms. However, the camp does offer very rustic cabins for a lower price.

Interested in receiving a discount? We need helpers for the preschool kids on Saturday morning. Email Carol Kraemer at [uucamp@santarosa.org](mailto:uucamp@santarosa.org). Also, we are setting up some terrific workshops – but have room for a couple more. Have an interesting talent (or even "talent?") that you'd like to share with others? Email Carol about putting on a workshop, and getting a discount. Be sure and mark your calendar! It's very peaceful amidst the redwoods. We hope to see you there!

### Alcoholic Anonymous Meeting For Transgender People

(for 18 yrs or older)

Thursdays 1-2 pm

Arrive at 12:30 pm to set-up coffee.

3400 Chanate Drive, Santa Rosa, CA (Take County Farm Road off Chanate, go around circle to far side)

Contact Neo J.C. 707-703-8918 Or Wellness Center at 707-565-7800.

Gentle Reminder From UUCSR Library Committee:

Books are due back after 30 days

Return them to the library any Sunday or to the office Monday—Friday, 10am-2pm.

*Thank you and happy reading!*

# Advocates for Social Justice

*Come find out what we do!*

We meet 1st Thursdays, 6:30 — 8:30 pm, Room 1

## Share the Offering

UUCSR shares our Sunday offerings with local non-profits which serve greater Sonoma Co., incl. our Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors. Giving is arranged by A4SJ from congregant's suggestions. Request a recipient form at A4SJ table.

April 3: The Parkinson's Support Group of Sonoma County provides an atmosphere of counseling, comfort, and encouragement to those with Parkinson's and their caregivers. The group gathers the latest information on Parkinson's to share with members, promotes activities that benefit the PD community, and advocates for a cure.

April 10: UUCSR Youth Group Service Trip to New Orleans.

April 17: The Research Institute of the Sonoma West Medical Foundation provides major medical information through clinical drug trials. Research programs include Alzheimer's and stroke studies.

April 24: Saturday Breakfast For Our Neighbors, our own Saturday Breakfast program for our needy neighbors, supported primarily by the generosity and volunteer efforts of our congregation.

May 1: Sonoma County Vet Connect: An outreach organization to help veterans connect with the services that they have earned through their military service, and provide assistance & referrals for family, job & housing counseling.

## Social Justice Film Project

APRIL FILM

### CRACKING THE CODES: THE SYSTEM OF RACIAL INEQUITY

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

12:45 PM in the Board Room

This important film by Shakti Butler, Founder and Creative Director of World Trust Educational Services, is the 8th in a series of racial justice films presented by Advocates for Social Justice.

*Cracking the Codes* offers an analysis of the causes and consequences of systemic inequity. The film features moving stories from racial justice leaders, illustrating aspects of this systemic inequality. Shakti Butler has created a thoughtful analysis that comes to life in stories....a rich achievement.

Discussion, as always, follows viewing of the film.

*Jeanie Bates for Social Justice Film Project*

## Hot Topic Hot Topic Hot Topic

MEMORY LOSS AND THE BRAIN

Sunday, April 10, 12:45 PM in the Board Room

Our presenter for this important HOT TOPIC is Allan Bernstein, M.D., a neurologist with decades of experience teaching, conducting research and treating patients. Dr. Bernstein's innovative approaches and drug trials have led to new treatments than can arrest further damage in Alzheimers, Parkinson's, and other memory disorders. Currently focused on Alzheimer's disease in his research, he is able to report that "...the newer diagnostic tools and the newer medicines in trial have created an opportunity to finally see progress in slowing, possible stopping and maybe even reversing the devastation of this illness." Dr. Bernstein discusses how to keep our brains healthy and how to recognize when something is starting to go wrong. "The earlier we can spot the 'first slip' the more likely some of our newer treatments will be effective." This presentation promises to be informative and timely for all of us, either personally or as related to those we know and love. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

## "COLOR OF FEAR" WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 10 AM TO 2 PM

A4SJ Film Project members invite you to attend a showing and extended discussion of "The Color of Fear," the classic film, by Lee Mun Wah, of a group of men in deep exchange on the subject of racism/race relations. Many of you, no doubt, have seen this powerful film and will welcome another opportunity to work with the material presented. If you will be seeing it for the first time we can assure you that you will be stirred by the candor of the group members and touched by their vulnerability. Whether you have seen it previously or not, this promises to be a rich experience for all participants.

Producers, Stirfry Seminars & Consulting, say of the film:  
*The Color of Fear is an insightful, groundbreaking film about the state of race relations in America as seen through the eyes*

*of eight North American men of Asian, European, Latino, and African descent. In a series of intelligent, emotional and dramatic confrontations the men reveal the pain and scars that racism has caused them. What emerges is a deeper sense of understanding and trust. This is the dialogue most of us fear, but hope will happen sometime in our lifetime. (1994, 90 min.)*

Screening on Saturday includes lunch and an extended discussion period, both after the film. To plan for lunch we ask that you tell us you will attend by email or phone to Cassandra Lista, [clista@sonic.net](mailto:clista@sonic.net), 584-4293 or by signing up at the Advocates for Social Justice table by April 6.

*We look forward to sharing this day with you.*

# Adult Religious Education

Submitted by Marilyn Beckerbauer

## Spirit of Practice

*Ongoing Series presented by Rev. Chris Bell*

Spirit of Practice was created to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. Spirit of Practice affirms religious diversity while seeking unity in our communal quest for meaning and wholeness. Whether participants follow a path they identify as Humanist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Theist, Atheist, Agnostic, Mystic, and/or any of the other paths we follow in our diverse congregations, the Spirit of Practice workshops offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich their faith journeys.

Drawing on a model developed by the Zen Mountain Monastery in Mount Tremper, New York, for the training of its students, Spirit of Practice focuses on eight spheres of holistic and wholehearted spiritual practices. The schedule:

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

April 5, 12 Body Practices	April 19, 26 Soul Practices
May 3, 17 Life Practices	May 24 Justice Practices
May 31 Class Review	

## Seniors in Transition Program

(8 sessions) \$25.00 fee for the course.

The Seniors in Transition Program offers a supportive environment to explore options for independent living and alternatives when living on your own is no longer safe or desirable. It helps you make important decisions for yourself while you are able.

The program consists of 8 sessions held on Wednesdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The dates are: 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 and 5/25. Topics covered: open discussion about challenges and opportunities as we age; hopes and dreams of group members regarding their transitions; practical discussion about different living situations and local resources to help manage. There will also be facility visits and speakers. You will review and discuss the facility visits and speakers and develop Plan A/Plan B. Following up you will discuss and refine your plans.

*NOTE: Please see the Seniors In Transition Course Outline which is available at the ARE Table on Sundays for more detailed information.*

## WRITE AND CONNECT WITH OTHER UUS

Wanting to try your hand at writing or looking for inspiration to revive a writing practice? Join the Write and Connect class, meeting on five Monday afternoons in May, from May 2-30, 1:30-3:30 p.m. We meet in the Board Room (except May 9<sup>th</sup>, Green Room) Instructor, Patty Somlo, provides prompts, readings and feedback, while the group provides laughs, encouragement and support. \$50 donation. Questions, call or email Patty Somlo, 595-1613 or patty-somlo@yahoo.com.

## Syria:

*A War-Torn Country, People and Heritage*  
April 6, at 6 pm, Glaser Center

On April 6th at 6:00 here at the Glaser Center, cultural historian Amin Kalaf (who happens to be a friend of mine) will give a lecture and discussion entitled  
*Syria: A War-Torn Country, People and Heritage*

~ ~ ~

## History of the Moors

Wednesday, April 6, 7:00— 9:00 pm  
In the Sanctuary

Instructor Amin Kalaf is a Cultural Historian with expertise in the art and culture of the Middle East since ancient times. An American Arab, born and educated in the Middle East, Amin graduated from the University of Damascus with degrees in physics and fine art. Now retired in Sonoma County after a career in textile design and business, he has been lecturing on culture and art for the last 35 years including recent classes in the Osher and Community Education Programs. (\$10 fee)

## Advocates for Social Justice

REACH OUT TO OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS!

**Like to attend a Muslim service? There's a mosque right next door!** Several of us have attended the Friday afternoon service at the Santa Rosa Islamic Society and were warmly welcomed. The service goes from 1:15 to 1:50 with lunch to follow. Women and men meet in separate rooms (women meet upstairs and will be more comfortable if your head is covered with a simple scarf.) Our contact there is a welcoming and friendly man named Sameh who loves Rev. Chris and is grateful for our help to them over the years. Some of us wondered about facilitating a joint pot-luck lunch for the women (ask Becky Montgomery or Linda Harlow) Gentlemen, interested in same? Contact Sameh.

**LIVING WAGE COALITION (Jobs w/ Justice)** Please read the petition at the Advocates for Social Justice table on April 3rd and 10th. UUCSR is an official member of this coalition so let's put our signatures where our mouths are! If you have questions about this proposal, a knowledgeable person will be at our table to answer it.

## PEACE OFFICER

Watch this powerful documentary on April 17 at 2:30 pm at the Glaser Center. See flyer in this Newsletter.

## VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

Moved since last election? You need to re-register! You can do that at our Advocates table!

# Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education Deborah Mason

## **Enchanted Hills, enchanted childhood experience...**

Is it too early to be writing about an event to be held in September? No! I really want families to save the **date and plan to attend this year's All-Congregation Summer Camp.**

This All-Congregation Retreat is held over Labor Day Weekend. That's Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa.

*Enchanted Hills is an excellent camp for children.* There is nature to explore, an awesome huge play structure, a perfect swimming pool for all ages & good family friendly meals.

*Last year a few families with children attended and they had a great time.* They would like to see more families attend this year. Camp offers time for families to be together with other families and time for parents to enjoy workshops without children in tow. I am always on hand to play with the children, allowing parents

some down time. This year Jen Collins will be doing crafts with kids and we will take them on a nature walk during workshop time.

*The camp committee is working on securing the same fees as last year.* They will know for sure what the costs will be closer to the date. Here are costs from last year:

*Upper Camp, which has indoor plumbing, real mattresses and is very comfortable: Adults \$175; Teens, \$145; Students 6-11, \$100; Children 3-5, \$30; Toddlers \$0.*

*Lower camp, which is very rustic-like, might appeal to those who want a more outdoor-like experience or perhaps to save on cost: Adults \$135; Teen \$125; Student 6-11, \$80; Child 3-5, \$10; Toddler \$0.*

*50% scholarships are available.*

*Please plan ahead and mark your calendars.*

*It will be so much more fun if more attended!*

*In faith, Deborah*

2016	Grades K-1	Grades 2-5	Grades 6-8 (MUUGs)
4/3	Arts Sunday - grades K-5 will spend the morning together doing an art project		
4/10	Wisdom Stories <i>Masai and I</i> by Virginia Kroll & Nancy Carpenter	Famous UUs Clara Barton <i>Founder of the Red Cross</i>	Heeding the Call for Understanding
4/17	Wisdom Stories <i>Farmer Duck</i> by Martin Waddell & Helen Oxenbury	Famous UUs Luther Burbank <i>Celebration of Earth Day</i>	Heeding the Call for Empathy
4/28	Wisdom Stories <i>Click, Clack, Moo</i> by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin		

## Here's What's Happening In RE Classes this Month:

The Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason Ben Ford, Millie Phillips and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah ([debmasonuu@gmail.com](mailto:debmasonuu@gmail.com)) for more information.

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 11:00 service. Children grades K-8 begin in the sanctuary and are excused to their classes after a story and the recitation

of the children's affirmation. First Sunday of the month is Arts Sunday with all elementary grade children together.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays children meet in grade groups, as described below. Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers will be provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Caitlin Fiore during both the 9:15 and the 11:00 services.

*UUs Got Talent  
A Musical Showcase  
Sunday, May 7*

One of our greatest blessings at UUCSR is the cadre of musicians who share their many talents with us during Sunday services. On Saturday, May 7, you will have the privilege of hearing them as their most free and creative selves.

The Music Associates host a ***UU's Got Talent*** concert to benefit the UUCSR general fund. The Music Associates (MAs--9 at last count) will each choose some of their favorite pieces as well as some of their favorite performers to sing and play with them, giving us an evening of entertainment not to miss.

They'll present an eclectic mix of music—from music we've heard at services like the slave spiritual *Oh, Mary, Don't You Weep* (performed in November 2014) and *My Funny Valentine* (last Valentine's Day) to public premieres of music written by individual MAs.

*Starting April 3rd, look for a table in the commons area after services where you can buy your tickets—only \$15 each!*

**Calling All Geeks!**  
*You Can Help Prevent Burnout  
of Frontline UUCSR Geeks!*

The UUCSR Communications Team needs volunteers familiar with HTML to help with web site updates!

*Help prevent burnout of the few who are currently responsible for web site updates— Volunteer!  
We need to train more people for this task.*

Pages are formatted using Wordpress, a content management system, and representatives from the various groups and committees at UUCSR have been or will be trained to update the content on their own group pages.

Can you help maintain the UUCSR web site?  
Please contact John Ray [jzrayjzray@yahoo.com](mailto:jzrayjzray@yahoo.com) or  
Eric Skagerberg [eric@skagerberg.com](mailto:eric@skagerberg.com)  
to make yourself available or to ask any questions.

***Peace Officer***  
***A Documentary***

Screening April 17, 2:30 at UUCSR

Peace Officer is a documentary film addressing the changing patterns in how our police departments use force to protect the community. Our Advocates for Social Justice (A4SJ) in partnership with the group Community for Oversight of Law Enforcement (COLE) will be hosting a showing of Peace Officer here at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Avenue, April 17, Sunday, 2:30 PM.

*The central figure in the film, retired Utah Sheriff, William "Dub" Lawrence, will be on hand to answer questions.* Members of COLE will also be available to lead discussion of how we can best support our new independent law enforcement auditors in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County as well as encourage collaboration between the community and law enforcement for the benefit of all of us.

*COLE is a coalition builder among groups who are concerned about how the community can most effectively have responsible oversight of our law enforcement in an age of increasing militarization of police forces and decreasing transparency in the operations of police forces.*

Our initial planning meetings have included members of the UUCSR, members of the Redwood Forest Friends Meeting, as well as representatives from the Community and Local Law Enforcement Task Force(CALLE), Restorative Resources, Arlene Francis Center, Comite Vida, and others.

*We hope to be able to offer future events that will help keep the community engaged in ensuring that Sonoma County has the highest quality law enforcement in the nation, always worthy of our trust.*

Please join us in viewing Peace Officer on April 17, 2:30 PM, here at the UUCSR.

The Grief Group will continue the third Sundays of April and May, starting at 12:45 and lasting no later than 2:30—in the Green Room. Open to anyone who is living with grief and might benefit by sharing concerns and experiences with others in a safe, supportive environment. Drop-ins are welcome, but facilitator Millie Phillips prefers you called or emailed her in advance so she can go over the group's purpose & guidelines. Call her at 415 272-4152, or email: milliephil-lips@comcast.net

**Women Together  
Spring Weekend Retreat**

**“Bragging Rites—Celebrating Ourselves”**

**April 29, 30, May 1, 2016 at St Dorothy’s Rest, Camp Meeker**

**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 is “Bragging Rites,” celebrating ourselves and all we do! We will have our popular small group discussions on the theme and a variety of great workshops among which to choose, plus our Silent Auction and the great food!

Registration begins on Sunday, April 10th for our UUCSR member women, then open to friends and guests on Sunday, April 17th as space allows. Look for registration forms outside the UUCSR office door or on the days of registration. Remember to bring your checkbooks. Those with physical access issues should contact Kathy Norman, [kcmster@yahoo.com](mailto:kcmster@yahoo.com) or 523-2787 before March 31.

Sign-ups will be accepted after each service on April 10th and 17th, not before. We cannot hold your place without your payment. If you're not able to be there in person, fill out the form, give it and your check to a friend or roommate, if you've already decided on that, and ask her to sign up for you.

The cost is \$175 and \$155 if you stay in the dorms. Scholarships are available at half price; just put 'Request scholarship' on your registration form. Please make your check payable to UUCSR and put Women's Retreat on the memo line.

*This year Saint Dorothy's is providing bedding and towels.  
We're looking forward to a wonderful week-end!*

**Pacific Central District's Regional  
District Assembly (DA)**  
April 22 - 24, 2016, Newark, CA

**General Assembly (GA) 2016**  
**"Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect"**  
June 22 to 26, 2016, Columbus Ohio

Rainbow Interweave Group participants at the March meeting decided to stop the monthly as meetings have been sparsely attended. Instead, we will be setting up Google Docs, to provide contacts, networking, information sharing and access to planning for special projects.



**WEST COUNTY UU WOMEN**

Come meet your UU neighbors! We meet casually for breakfast once a month, at 8 am, in Sebastopol or Graton. Come once a month or once in a great while. Sometimes there are four of us, sometimes twelve or more, it 's always fun. This is a great way to meet other members. Please give us a call if you want to join us - we welcome you.  
Call Phyllis at 823-0925.



*Only two more months...*

*... and I will have finished the first half of my UUCSR internship. During summer, I will do a 3-month Clinical*

Pastoral Education chaplaincy internship at the UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, returning to work with you for the 2016/2017 school year. I will repeat the usual cliché “time flies when you're having fun” - for the most part, I have been having fun being your intern.

Perhaps more accurately, I have been truly enjoying the experience, since there are many serious and even sad tasks involved in ministry. Yet, it's all rewarding. I love my work and, though I valued many aspects of former employment, I can't say I ever truly loved a job before. Almost every day I spend with you confirms that this is what I want to keep on doing. Thanks!

Thanks to those who attended my course on the UUA's Preliminary Report on Class, endured my overly detailed lecture on UU history at Getting to Know UU, and provided valuable feedback to the intern committee. Some aspects of these I can file in the "oh no, not another learning experience" folder, but, after all, learning is what I'm here to do. Thanks to Sadie for letting me sing in the choir. Thanks to our amazing worship and music associates.

Last month I mentioned the grieving group I started. It will continue in April and May on the 3d Sunday at 12:45. If grief is a current struggle for you, please consider attending.

I also enjoy learning from experiences outside the church 1) an excellent community organizing training by NBOP, 2) the Of One Soul interfaith support gathering in solidarity with Sonoma County Muslims, and, 3) being a candidate member of the UU Minister's Association, the Pacific Central District's UUMA retreat. I participated in a discussion about how we might bring the new Class Conversations curriculum to UUCSR next year.

*Millie Phillips, Intern Minister*

## Why give? *Why not?*

It's a demonstrable fact that people who belong to religious communities are more inclined to generosity than those who are not. Religious faith seems to be a common denominator among people who give.

"I appreciate the freedom to practice my faith," said one church member interviewed during a survey focused on the philanthropic tendencies of churchgoers. "I feel it is essential to support it."

It is not surprising that a person drawn to spiritual practice would tend toward generosity in his or her involvement with family, friends and community. It is especially noteworthy that those who attend church and who can articulate the importance of their religious experience usually, and often, give first to support their community of faith.

UUCSR is the beneficiary of such support. Our congregation has grown dramatically during the past decade. The parade of children each Sunday to the chancel, the crowded social hall after our two Sunday services, the proliferation of welcoming tables, the high visibility of our congregation as a supporter of the progressive social and political agendas of our larger community; these are all evidence of UUCSR's growing strength, supported in no small part by the pledges and donations of our congregation's growing membership.

Many of us are very motivated to give to UUCSR. Our congregation's faith in that motivation strongly influenced our decision last year to end the congregation's annual pledge drive. This decision was based on our trust that our members are deeply committed to living our mission and sharing our message of love and social justice, and to do that they will continue their generous financial support.

But a harsh reality is that some people have difficulty giving. And the main reason people give little or nothing is fear: fear of not having enough money, whether tomorrow, next week, next month, next year or later in their lives. Many of us live with financial anxiety every day. Is such fear reasonable? Whether reasonable or not, fear inhibits giving. And not only the giving that supports a congregation but also the giving that engenders love, creates friendships and meaning beyond simply serving ourselves.

It was a profound notion of Franklin Roosevelt's that we really have *nothing to fear but fear itself*. The antidote to our fear, whether it is the fear of financial hardship or even the existential fear of death, is generosity. The practice of giving allows us to share an important part of ourselves with those things we deeply cherish. And in giving to our congregation, it is fair to say that the more we give, the more we have.



Philanthropy Team

Bill Haigwood, UUCSR Philanthropy Team

## 2016 UUCSR Annual Auction November 5



### SAVE the Date!

The Annual Auction fundraiser this year on November 5 will feature music and food from our southern island neighbors. Mark your calendars and start thinking about what you can give. Got volunteer time? Got a service you can share? Got a precious item you can no longer use? Got a fun idea for a gathering? Got wine?

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Dee Ray ([deerayofhope@yahoo.com](mailto:deerayofhope@yahoo.com)).



*We are a Welcoming Congregation:*

*We are committed to being a diverse congregation, fully inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender people.*



## Music Notes

By Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

April 3 Music by: Paul Gilger and some of the UUsual Suspects

April 10 Music by: Sadie Sonntag & The Choir

April 17 Music by: Roger Corman and some of the UUsual

April 24 Music by: The Choir, and Robin Rogers

May 1 Music by: Eric Skagerberg and some of the UUsual Suspects

## Art Hanging at the Glaser Center

by  
Ron Sumner

March 15– June 20

CUUPs 3rd Annual

### Beltane Celebration and May Pole Dance Sunday May 1st!

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

Celebrates The Arrival of Spring with Song, Dance, and Seeds!

Join us in the courtyard immediately after the 2nd service  
To Call in the Four Directions

	<b>North</b>	
	<b>Earth</b>	
West		East
Water		Air
	<b>South</b>	
	<b>Fire</b>	

We will tell the story of the May Queen and Green Man.

There will be Flower Crowns and Leafy Masks to wear for  
Participants Large and Small alike, as they wish.

Our Mother Earth will preside, with new life, dirt and  
seeds to plant and take home.

Best of all, we are engineering a BIGGER and BETTER May Pole,  
one that even our tallest Green Man can stand tall and march around!

Plan on staying less than 45 minutes.

All are welcome—observers and participants, kids and elders.

**Last year was a hoot, let's make this year even more!**

For more information call Lucia Kasulis 707-869-9709.

*Blessed Be!*

### HEADS-UP for GAY PRIDE!

On Sunday June 5th, our congregation will be participating in the Sonoma County Gay Pride Parade! I don't have times, yet but I will send out followups as I get more information. We will have our VW convertible in the parade for people who want to participate but can't walk the five blocks.

Contact me (Becky Montgomery) at (707) 573-0103 or montyb@sonic.net.

Work-Saturday  
Volunteers  
Wanted By  
Maintenance Peeps



We gather once a month to maintain, improve, and beautify our grounds and building.

Next Work Day:

Saturday, Apr. 3  
9 AM to 12 Noon

Share The Basket

**FEBRUARY**  
**Recipients**

Each week we split our offering basket contributions. Our Advocates for Social Justice committee selects a program to receive this special donation from our Congregation.

Thanks for your generous support!



Restorative Resources	\$ 352.13
Catholic Charities Family Support Center	\$ 550.45
West County Health Centers	\$ 472.92
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$ 617.43

### UUCSR COVENANT

*We pledge to seek unity in our diversity, to welcome and respect divergent opinions and beliefs, to listen to one another with open hearts and minds, to acknowledge our shortcomings and be quick to forgive them in others, and to keep our focus on our Mission.*



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

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**APRIL 2016**

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<p><b>Minister Reverend Chris Bell</b>, <i>minister@uusantarosa.org</i>, ext 108  <b>Intern Minister Millie Phillips</b>, <i>internminister@uusantarosa.org</i>, ext 103</p> <p><b>Director Religious Education</b> Deborah Mason, <i>DLRE@uusantarosa.org</i>, Ext. 131  <b>Administrator</b> Janis Brewster, <i>Administrator@uusantarosa.org</i>, Ext. 106  <b>Choir Director</b> Sadie Sonntag, <i>Choir@uusantarosa.org</i>  <b>Pianist</b> Tyler Johnson  <b>Sexton:</b> Peter Wilson, <i>Sexton@uusantarosa.org</i></p>		<p><b>Sunday Religious Education Staff</b>  Deborah Mason, Director  Shawna Hoxsie  Fiona Mackenzie</p>

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**