



The UU Update

JANUARY 2018

Volume 62 • Issue 1

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

JUSTICE

TWO SUNDAY SERVICES
9:15 am & 11:00 am

January 7 JUSTICE FOR THE EARTH AND HER CREATURES

In November the North Bay Organizing Project, of which our congregation is a prominent member, adopted three issues to focus our local work for a **more just and sustainable society**. Today we'll look at the first of these, the protection and preservation of our natural environment and our collective response to the challenges of a changing climate, and consider what our congregation can do to help **the cause**. And we'll sing love songs to the planet.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff, Deb Mason Music by: John Ray & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Redwood Empire Food Bank

January 14 JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Continuing our series on the local social justice issues that the North Bay Organizing Project will focus on for the next 2-3 years, we'll consider the realities of life as an immigrant in our county and our country. Their stories are often equally harrowing and inspiring. Come hear about the good work already underway to make our community as inclusive, safe, and free as possible for all our residents, and how you can help.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Veronica Jordan, Deb Mason Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Martin Luther King Celebration

"However your heart calls you to manifest love, manifest love. Every little act of goodness accumulates toward the goal. Love as radically, as openly, as boldly as you can. That's the True Activism required of us."

- Reverend Chris Bell

January 21 JUSTICE IS A WARM SAFE BED

The issue that won the greatest support at the North Bay Organizing Project's Issues Assembly was housing. Particularly in the light of the fires, we **must be vigilant in protecting tenant's rights**, advocating for low-income housing, and getting our most vulnerable citizens off the streets. There must be a roof and a bed for everyone who wants one in the Kingdom of Love we are building together.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer, Deb Mason Music by: Robin Rogers & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Vital Immigration Defense Advocacy & Services (VIDAS)

January 28 A CHANGING CLIMATE FOR MINISTRY

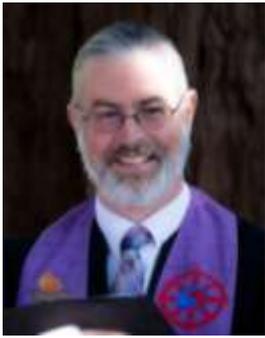
In an era of profound change in so many aspects of our lives, what will our ministry be? How can we cultivate the ground of justice? A good farm builds soil over generations, yet also knows the urgency of the harvest. Justice too, requires the long view, and powerful work in the ripe moment.

Service Leaders: Guest Minister Rev. Lindi Ramsden, Director of Partnerships and Emerging Programs at Starr King School for the Ministry, Susan Panttaja, Deb Mason Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Breakfast With Our Neighbors

February 4 OUR COVENANT, PART 1: SEEKING UNITY IN OUR DIVERSITY

Today we'll begin a month of close examination of our Congregational Covenant as an expression of love and as a tool for becoming spiritually awake.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Fischer Music: TBA Share the Basket: TBA



Does UU = Activist?

"While it's true that UUs have been active in justice movements for decades," write Kenny Wiley and Christopher Walton in the most recent UU World magazine, *"it seems . . . Unitarian Universalist leaders and many congregations have embraced justice work as central*

to our movement in ways not seen in a long time—and in ways some UUs are experiencing as unsettling or disruptive."

*They asked six prominent UU leaders, "Do you have to be an activist to be a UU?" **

One said, "Yes." Another said, "No." Four others said something in between. The variety of answers should not surprise anyone!

What may surprise you, however, as we take on the January's theme of Justice, and spend 3 weeks considering local justice issues in worship, that my answer is unequivocally "No."

To "Be a UU," for me, you must accept only the Seven Principles as your ethical guideposts, and center yourself in one or more of our Sources. All member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association subscribe to the Principles and the Sources. Promoting them is considered the fundamental purpose of this community.

The only other "requirement" to "Be a UU," is to say you are out loud! Of course, making a generous pledge to your local UU Congregation removes all ambiguity!

Beyond that, there can be no compulsory expectations of what it means to be a UU. First, we UUs generally keep our "have tos" to a minimum. Plus, our Principles contain lots of words that people define for themselves very differently, such as dignity, responsibility, truth, meaning, democratic, liberty, and the two biggies, spiritual, and justice.

The Sources also have such words, and even more challenging ones like *good, evil* and *God*. How different people will interpret our guiding language will always vary. (Any Biblical tradition faces this reality, too.)

Each person's ability or willingness to be an "activist" also varies. Some people's life circumstances keep them from acting on anything other than their own immediate needs, or that of their families. Others actively build a better world by making music or art; others by building, selling, inventing, or cleaning things. Still others feel broken or depleted and come to spiritual community seeking the Great Big Thing's peace and comfort, not Her lengthy To-Do-List.

And others just ain't there yet. I think of my current roommate, a sweet 24-year old kid trying to make it on his own. He works constantly, reads in his little bit of spare time and has a super healthy

vegan diet. We watched the Project Runway finale together. Forget activism, he doesn't even pay any attention to the news! None. Today he said, "Did some kind of tax bill just pass?" I had to laugh. I've read every article in the New York Times about the horribly unjust tax bill. Literally, all of them.

Yet, if he asked if he could join my church, would I have to tell him that he was going to have to start reading the newspaper and get busy first? Would I say "You must be an activist" if he asked me, "what is the essence of Unitarian Universalism?"

No, I would say **"Love is God for All / God is Love for All."** That's my Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Robin Bartlett, who also says "No," to the question of necessary activism, puts it this way in the aforementioned article: *"The good news of Universalism, the scandal of Universalism, is that we must continually choose to expand our concept of Love until it is as wasteful, extravagant, and as God-sized as we can make it. We must flex our heart muscles not only to include the least, the last, the lost, but also to include whomever we are currently referring to as "snowflake" or "deplorable" instead of God's name for all of us, which is "Beloved." We must love one another without stopping to inquire whether we are worthy."*

That's radical stuff. That's true non-partisanship, and it takes a very special kind of activist to work that territory. Far too often, to my eyes, my UU colleagues take an approach that perpetuates rather than eliminates the polarizing thinking that is the source of so many of our troubles today. I get it. There is a lot at stake. But as a spiritual tradition we are not trying to win the battle; we are trying to end the war.

Our actions should be in line with our deepest commitments and values, of course. A growing heart of love does call us into ever-deeper engagement with the world. It is obvious that our society could be a lot more fair, generous, playful, decent and safe. The Bible says that the least among us – the poor, the aliens, the grieving, the injured – are to be our top priority. There are many human-generated barriers to overcome, in addition to our brutal and painful evolutionary history, before we truly have peace and harmony. We really can make our immigration policies more humane, our housing policies more fair and inclusive, and our environmental policies more sustainable, right here in our own neighborhood.

Yes! If you've got the time and the calling, we can put you to work making it so, but the Universe loves you even if you don't. He's generous like that.

However your heart calls you to manifest love, manifest love. Every little act of goodness accumulates toward the goal.

Love as radically, as openly, as boldly as you can. That's the True Activism required of us.

Happy New Year, dear ones! **Reverend Chris Bell**

The Law of Participation
The President's Column

I LOVE being your President. I'm having the best time! Yes! It takes a lot of time and conversations and work, but it's worth it. I get as much out of it as the congregation does.

I've done a lot over my years, and I've discovered one important truth: The more I give out, the more I get back. When am a member of a group, yes, I get something from it. But when I volunteer, when I do something that makes the thing I'm participating in happen or be better, wow! It's like strapping a rocket ship on my back. *I* get so much more out of it. The thing I'm doing gets so much more meaningful. The more I put in, the more I get out.

That's the Law of Participation. (I made that up...) The more you contribute your time and your talents, the more you get back. You win, your group wins, the other people in the group win. It's a big old win-win-win!

How can you participate here at UUCSR? There are lots of ways. We have something for everyone here – 1-hour-a-month jobs to lots-of-hours-a-month jobs, places you can contribute your expertise, and places where you can learn new expertise. It's up to you! Experiment. Try different teams/jobs out.

I look for what gives me joy. Where do my interests and the congregation's needs intersect? How can I help make UUCSR better, in a way that works for me, in my life? If you have an hour, give an hour. If you have more, give more.



One of my New Year's Resolutions is that in addition to creating a culture of generosity here, we create a culture of participation. Where we give freely – and responsibly – of our money, our time AND our talents. We'll all be so much richer for it!

I have a deeply held hope for us for this year. May 2018 be a GREAT year – for each of us personally, and for our UUCSR community. May you grow in unexpected ways. May we grow closer in love and friendship. May our relationships with what gives our lives meaning deepen and become more real. May we reach out to our town, county, country and world and create more justice and equity. May we all continue to grow into our highest and best selves, contributing to everyone we come into contact with. Now THAT will be a Year worth living!

Here's to a great year of successes and challenges.

*Natalie Brundred,
 President UUCSR Board of Trustees*

*What Was Your Board Up To
 In December 2017?*

Though we didn't vote on anything this month (we only occasionally do), we discussed a lot.

We will create a team to connect new members into the fabric of our congregation. This team, headed by Sara Jones, will contact people shortly after they join to let them know about all the opportunities to volunteer and to help them choose what will work best for them. We've found that volunteering is one of the best ways to have people feel part of the congregation.

Now that we no longer have an annual pledge drive, we are contemplating changing our budgeting process so the budget can be more accurate. This will require changing our Bylaws, so stay tuned!

Our Fire Fund has raised about \$60,000 (!) from members and outside contributors, including several UU congregations. Initial disbursements have been made, and we still have over half our fund left (as planned). Rev. Chris will explore what support we can give to our fellow congregations in Southern

California who are experiencing severe fires.

Board meetings are always open, held on 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm. You'll always find a board member at Coffee Hour under a sign saying "Talk to a Board Member." Feel free to contact me or any board member at any time. We welcome your ideas about how to make our church a place that serves and inspires our members and welcomes new friends.

Natalie

*"I believe in law.
 At the same time I believe in freedom.
 And I know that each of these things
 may destroy the other.
 But I know too that, without both,
 neither can endure . . . justice too is a
 part of life, of evolution, of man's
 spiritual growth...
 Law, freedom, and justice
 -this trinity is the object of my faith."*

US Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Deborah Mason

Happy New Year ! !

Most of you know that I am staying on in a part-time capacity until June. Sometimes circumstances dictate a change in plans. Flexibility is a virtue!! I think this will be a good change all around. It will give me the chance to ease into retirement and to see the program through to the end of the RE year.

My schedule will be flexible. I will work two 8 hour days and 4 hours on Sundays, and will continue to co-facilitate the youth group on Thursday afternoon and coordinate and teach on Sunday mornings. My primary focus will be on Sunday morning lesson plans, preparing materials for classes

and organizing things for the new DRE to come.

An RE Transition Committee has been formed and I am thrilled by the energy and diversity of the group. Susan Miller has graciously agreed to chair the committee. She will provide the wisdom and leadership of a UU mom dedicated to excellence in our religious education program.

On the team are: Jay Klosevitz, Paul Poling, Brian Checuti, Emily Heinzelman, Caroline Hobbs, Jen Freese, Susan Dickey (all parents of children/youth in the program); Rev. Chris; TK Kittlestrom, member of the youth group, Julie Malm, former DRE and Barbara Kezur, UU Parenting Group facilitator.

The goals of the Transition Committee are to sustain the current program, to prioritize new activities, to increase the connection between RE and the rest of the congregation, to assess the past and look to the future and to help shape the job description of the DRE.

Many thanks to everyone who celebrated my 10th anniversary as your DRE by offering kind words and hugs. It has truly been an amazing 10 years and I am so blessed and privileged to have been able to serve the children, youth and families of UUCSR.

In faith, Deborah

RE Classes this Month:
 9:15 every Sunday: Children grades K-7 begin in the sanctuary for a story for all ages, then go to RE classes.
 Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers will be provided by Sophie Johnson and Emily Payne.
 The Youth Group (grades 8 to 12) is held every Thursday from 4 to 6pm. Deborah Mason, Danny Millspaugh and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah Mason for more information.

JANUARY	<u>Grades K-1</u> Wisdom Stories	<u>Grades 2-4</u> Signs of Our Faith	<u>Grades 5-7</u> Sing to the Power
JAN 7	Children's Chapel - All Ages Together Theme: Justice		
JAN 14	<i>Happy Birthday Martin Luther King</i> by Jean Marsollo	Special Session Honoring Martin Luther King	Special Session Honoring Martin Luther King
JAN 21	Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki	Signs of Welcome Part II	The Power to Shine Part II
JAN 28	<i>Click, Clack Moo</i> By Doreen Cronin	Stewardship	The Power of Passion

Adult Religious Education

Guided by UU Principles, Rooted in Sources of Unitarian Universalism, and the Vision and Mission of Our Congregation, the Adult RE Team strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth by offering classes, activities, programs, training of facilitators and coordination of other UUCSR activities. Members of the ARE Committee: Helga Lemke (Chair), Nadene Carroll, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck and Rev. Chris

HUMAN DNA Past, Present & Future

January 17 & 24
7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
UUCSR Board Room

January 17, 2018: Past and Present: Studies of DNA from current populations and fossils show *Homo sapiens* left Africa and populated the world, mating with distant cousins like *Homo neanderthalensis* along the way. Hear about the latest discoveries in this rapidly advancing area of research.

January 24th : Present and Future: New techniques for efficiently modifying DNA of all organisms have been developed. Experiments genetically modifying human embryos are underway. The ethics of this work are hotly debated. How close are we to GMO humans? UUCSR member Phil Harriman has a PhD in Biophysics from UC Berkeley and was Program Director for Genetics at the National Science Foundation before retiring to Sonoma County. He's taught genetics courses for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at Sonoma State and Dominican University in San Rafael.

Coming Soon—Times and Dates TBA

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande: A Book Discussion

This deeply moving book will be our resource to consider attitudes towards aging and dying in our country. Doctors are trained to keep patients alive as long as possible- but not how to help them prepare them for death.

Join us for a 4 part discussion of this book which compares attitudes toward death and dying in the West and India and asks hard questions about how we as a culture and the medical profession in particular treat the old and the terminally ill.

Moderated by UU members Linda Lampson, UU book club coordinator who was trained by hospital chaplaincy and specialized in estate planning as a CPA, and Helga Lemke, UU book club member. Both are avid readers.

Detective Fiction From Peo to Penny Led by Carol Daeley

Detective fiction appears in 19th-century Europe as part of urbanization, establishment of professional

police forces, and broad popular interest in scientific developments. Class sessions will focus on early forms, the Golden Age, the definition of the detective, and recent developments in detective fiction form and focus. The last class session will be a discussion of Deborah Crombie's *A Finer End*, which class members should read if possible.

Carol Daeley is a retired Professor of English from Austin College in Texas with degrees from Rutgers University and the University of California, Riverside. After starting her career as a specialist in 18th-century British literature and William Blake, she became unruly and pursued teaching interests in such fields as detective fiction, World War I literature, literary and other relations between Asia and Europe, and trade history.

DRAWING GROUP

Wednesday 1-3

Join us every Wednesday from 1 to 3 in the Board Room for meaningful fun. Learn that you can draw, even if you thought you couldn't. Bring a sketch pad, pencil and eraser.

Open to all !

GTKUU or "Getting To Know UU"

Led by Rev. Chris Bell

Saturday, January 13
9:30a –12:30p

Welcome Everyone to the next class of "Getting to Know UU," which includes rich Unitarian history, Universalist history, and the story of how the two denominations joined to become one.

The class is required for new members and is open to all. Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sundays.

Evening Book Group

Thursday, January 11, 7 –9 pm, RE Wing

The Evening Book Group meets January 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The January selection is

Bartleby the Scrivener

by Herman Melville.

In February we are reading
A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome!
Questions? Contact Linda Lampson

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry

January 30, February 13, and February 27
3 Tuesdays, 6 pm - 8 pm, in UUCSR Board Room

"May this be a new beginning, a new paradigm for creating sustainable, multiculturally competent communities of faith... Rev. Mitra Rahnema, April 2017

The book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry*, Edited by Rev. Mitra Rahnema, was chosen as a "Common Read" by the Unitarian Universalist Association for 2017-18. *Centering* deals with race relations, especially within UU congregations. Adult RE and the UUCSR Diversity Project will offer participants the opportunity to practice centering the experiences of UU religious professionals who are also people of color through a three part reading/discussion group. The 3 sessions are meant for ongoing attendance. Co-Facilitated by Carol Kraemer & Reverend Chris Bell.

A4SJ Diversity Project Presents:

Trans 101

Sunday, January 21, 12:30pm-2pm
Room 545 at UUCSR

The Diversity Project of Advocates of Social Justice invites all to a thought provoking and fun dialogue on topics of gender fluidity & transgender/queer identity.

Our dialogue is led by Elis Herman—Health Educator Planned Parenthood of Northern California.

Elis earned BA's in Sociology and Gender Studies, with a minor in music from Salem College in North Carolina. In the South, Elis did organizing and education around queer, feminist & other intersecting justice issues.

Currently, Elis teaches health and sex ed for Planned Parenthood in Sonoma County, is a Certified Family Planning Health Specialist, and is endorsed thru San Francisco Sex Education (SFSI).

Light refreshments provided. Bring a bag lunch if desired.

CUUPS presents:

A Croning Ceremony

Sunday, February 4, 12:30 pm
Room 545 at UUCSR

"There is no greater power in the world than the zest of a postmenopausal woman" - Margaret Mead

The word Crone is derived from the word cronus (time) and it means the wisdom gained through life

long experiences. In other words, a Wise Woman; and you are everywhere!

Cronehood isn't static, a point in time, but rather an ongoing journey along this incredible timeline of life on Mother Earth. If you feel drawn to the wisdom and power of this point in your life, would like to celebrate this moment and share your wisdom with others, come join the Covenant of UU Pagans at their second annual Croning Ceremony on February 4.

Make the word "Crone" a word of power! Share your wisdom with your Sisters!

For more info, contact Cuups at uusantarosa.org

The Endowment Committee Presents:

What Do I Do When Someone Dies?

The Practical and Legal Issues
Sunday, February 18, 12:30 pm
Room 545 at UUCSR

Our own Mary Chapot (financial planner) and her good friend Cynthia Tasker (attorney) will share their expertise, with tips on what to do beforehand, and when the inevitable actually happens.

It will be an educational and informative, "nuts and bolts" type presentation, with handouts to take home. There will be time for Q&A and lunch will be served. Please join us!

TIE GROUPS

TIE groups have openings for new members! TIE groups will meet from January through May, 2018. For more info contact Jo Katon to sign up.

A TIE Group is a small facilitated discussion group, which meets 2 x per month, and provide an opportunity to enhance one's feeling of belonging within our UUCSR community.

SUPPORTIVE DROP-IN GROUP

FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE FIRES

Monday, January 8 (ongoing)
6:30-8:30 pm in the UUCSR Board Room
A place to talk about your fire experiences and feelings. This drop in group meets Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Board Room. All affected by the fires are welcome, no matter the particular loss. Facilitated by Jeanie Bates and Lucia Milburn. Call if you would like more information or just show up.

SPIRIT MOVES BODY MOVES

January 3 & 1, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
1:00 pm—2:30 pm, Rm 545.

A small group of UU women gathers for an activity called "Spirit Moves – Body Moves." This no-fee collaborative is facilitated by Bertha Jean. No dance/movement experience is necessary, only a desire to keep our bodies resilient as we age. **Let's move our energy in this "new normal" time!**

A4SJ

ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We meet 2nd Mondays, 10 am—12 pm, at UUCSR - Join us!
 We welcome your participation! Contact Linda Harlow or visit our table Sundays in the Social Hall.

Share the Offering

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

SHARE THE OFFERING

January 7: The Redwood Empire Food Bank continues to meet the existing need for food assistance in our community, and needs additional financial assistance to continue providing help for our neighbors impacted by the recent fires.

January 14: Martin Luther King Celebration. Half the collection goes to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, January 14. UUCSR has been a vital sponsor of this community event - let's continue to stand with those who support his call for social and economic justice through strong, non-violent action!

January 21: Vital Immigration Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS) provides low cost immigration law services, advocacy and community education.

January 28: Breakfast With Our Neighbors is our own Saturday Breakfast program for our needy neighbors, supported primarily by the generosity and volunteer efforts of our congregation.

February 4: Islamic Society of Santa Rosa. Our good neighbor, the Islamic Society of Santa Rosa, has fallen on difficult times because of the recent fires, which affected many of their members. Please make a contribution to help them.

JANUARY
HOT
TOPIC

Law Enforcement Review and Outreach

Sunday, January 14
 after the 11:00 AM service
Presented by Jerry Threet, Director
 Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO)

IOLERO was established in 2015 by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in response to public demand for greater accountability and transparency in the practice of law enforcement in our area.

Mr. Threet, licensed attorney since 1988 and member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), was chosen to lead this effort. In the first 2 years, with a Community Advisory Council, IOLERO has worked to resolve citizen complaints against the Sheriff's Office and to recommend changes to Sheriff's Office policies, esp. in immigration status and enforcement areas.

Please come learn more about this office works with the public and the Sheriff's Office to build community trust. Questions and concerns are warmly invited!

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/CLIMATE CHANGE FILM SERIES
The Advocates for Social Justice Film Project is pleased to present this important documentary.

THE HUMAN FOOTPRINT
 Produced by National Geographic

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
 Following the 11 AM service in the Board Room

The Human Footprint is the OMG! (Oh My God!) movie of our series. You will never see everyday life in quite the same way **after you view National Geographic's unique phase-by-phase** journey through life to illustrate the enormous imprint every American makes during his or her time on Earth.

Incorporating surprising facts with playful and really memorable visuals, this enlightening 2008 portrait reveals our levels of consumption, suggesting changes we can all make to reduce our negative impact on the world.

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

don't miss!



NBOP ANGELS ORGANIZE
January 22—Save the Date!
 2000 Humboldt St, Santa Rosa

Save Monday, January 22 for North Bay Organizing Project! At 2000 Humboldt Street in Santa Rosa, from 6 to 7:30 PM, the three new Task Forces will be meeting to take action on the issues chosen for the coming year. These issues are

- ◇ **Renter’s Rights and Homelessness**
- ◇ Immigration Defense
- ◇ Environmental Justice.

Please come if you hope to be an agent (angel) for change in one of these areas.

*Interested in becoming involved?
 Please contact Deborah Mason, Sibyl Day, Carol Kraemer,
 Wayne Smith, Jeannie Bates or Ellen O’Hare*

CARING CONNECTIONS

*Part of our UUCSR Mission:
 Taking Care of Each Other*

We help fellow members who are recovering from surgery, may be in the hospital, need meals, transportation or would like a phone call to stay connected with our community.

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you love to cook? Love to talk on the phone? Like to drive? Make deliveries? Think about how much time you are able to give to this great cause of caring for each other.

Please stop by the Caring Connections table on Sunday to sign a card. Let us know how you would like to volunteer. Also talk to us if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns.

Call Gail Alford to make arrangements to volunteer or let us know of a member that has a need for a caring connection. (Please ask at the office for telephone list of members that would like calls)

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls
 Seeking Volunteer Coaches for Training January 10
(An non-UUCSR program listed as a courtesy for our members)



"Do you enjoy working with seniors and facilitating small group discussion? This is a unique volunteer role leading older adults in an eight-session nationally accredited program that offers strategies and resources for managing physical and mental risks and hazards for falls

with the aim of building strength and confidence. Coaches lead simple and safe chair exercise, facilitate discussion and problem-solving that focuses on real-world challenges and effective ways to address them. The ideal coach candidate will possess good communication and interpersonal skills, an enthusiastic and positive attitude, dependability and a genuine interest in working with older adults. Coaches are successfully certified after attending 8 hours of training and co-leading two eight-session programs in the twelve months after their training."

NEXT COACH TRAINING is Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 8:30 am-5:00 pm. Adult & Aging – County of Sonoma, 3725 Westwind Blvd, Santa Rosa. Contact: Dana Jacoby djacoby@schsd.org

UUCSR Monthly
Work Saturday January 6
 9 am—Noon

Help keep our Spiritual Home looking good! We need gardeners, people to do minor repairs and change light bulbs, etc., as well as experienced handy people. Look for announcement on Focus List to confirm date.

DESK ANGELS WANTED!

Are you becoming too isolated?

Come join our desk angels team! The primary task is answering the **telephone. It’s a “piece of cake and gluten-free!”**

A joyful time is guaranteed!
 Contact Bertha Jean at UUCSR office.

Share-The-Basket

We split our Weekly Offering
 Our social action committee, Advocates for Social Justice selects a program to receive a special donation from our Congregation.

NOVEMBER RECIPIENTS

Undocufund	\$1007.05
Just and Resilient Future Fund	\$926.59
UUCSR Fire Fund	\$777.20
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$643.06

Thanks for Your Generosity!

UU Update

February Submission
Deadline: January 22

Why Wait? Submit your items for the February Newsletter **Now** and Earn Gratitude Points.

Send to Newsletter at uusantarosa.org. Questions? Contact the Editor.

Faith And Fitness
Saturday, January 13
10:15 am-1:00 pm

Shollenberger Park, Petaluma
January hike Saturday January 12
on Mt Burdell. Roz will lead us two to
three miles with some sustained
climbs, wonderful views, dogs ok off
leash in some areas. Meet at the
usual carpool, Santa Rosa Safeway
parking lot Fourth and Farmers
10:00 or at trail head at San Antonio
Road (details to follow). Contact
Gretchen P.



**OLD AGE IS NOT
FOR SISSIES**

2nd & 4th Mondays
JANUARY 8 AND 22
10:30 a.m. in UUCSR 545 Room

A Group For Women
Congregants 80 and over.

Are you one of us? Meet in Rm 545
at 10:30 a.m. every second and
fourth Monday morning. Coffee
service starts at 10:00 a.m.
Need transportation? Please call well
ahead of meeting date.

Questions? Call:

Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or
Shirley White

WhaleCoast Alaska 2018

Ever dreamed of visiting Alaska?

WhaleCoast Alaska 2018 is for you!
Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to
experience our eco-cultural and spiritual
program this summer. See Alaska thru
the eyes of local UUs, with friendly home
-stays and unique tour activities. See
wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou,
whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters.
Visit Denali National Park. Experience
Native Alaskan culture. Forget cruise
ships! Our program is the best way to
visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave Frey,
member of the Fairbanks UU congrega.
and Alaska travel expert. Benefits 4 AK
UU congregations. Find out more about
this lifetime trip: www.WhaleCoastAK.org.
Discount for groups of 8 or more. **We'd love**
to share our Alaska with you!

Emergency Training at UUCSR
Or "What is a Knox Box?"

Thursday, Jan 7, 12:30-1:30 pm
Sanctuary at UUCSR

What is a Knox Box? Where are they at UUCSR? In an emergency
can you find a first aid kit or fire extinguisher at UUCSR? Where's
the nearest emergency exit?

Please plan to attend! Open to all members, but highly (and I
mean highly) recommended for our Officers of the Day, Ushers
and Greeters, Worship Associates, Music Coordinators, Glaser
Center on-site staff, Religious Educators, Saturday Breakfast
Crew, Board Members, leaders of groups who meet regularly at
UUCSR, such as TIE groups, Adult Ed, CUUPS, kitchen crews, and
A4SJ.

Thanks to Ops Team (John Jaffray, Bud Willis, Kirsten Olney, Paul
Gilger, Janis Brewster, Peter Wilson, Pam Tennant and Gretchen
Vap) for taking the lead on this important training.

Women Together Movie Night

Friday, January 19, 6pm
at UUCSR

On Friday, January 19th at 6 pm, Women Together invites you to
the film "Queen of Katwe," a powerful and moving story of a
Ugandan girl, Phiona Mutsi, born in a slum in Katwe, who learns
to play chess and becomes a Woman Olympiad Candidate Master
after her victories at the World Chess Olympics.

We will provide coffee and ask you to bring a dessert to share.

COVENANT OF UU PAGANS

January 23, 5:30-7:30 pm, Rm 4
Pagans? Yes!

We learn from and find inspiration in traditions which honor
WOMEN and the EARTH. Join us for our meeting and Happy Hour.
On 4th Tuesdays at 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Room 4.

Speed Diversity Dialogue

Sunday, April 15, 12:30 pm
in UUCSR Sanctuary
*A new approach to our
collective commitment to diversity*

Designed and facilitated by Dr. Elisa Velasquez, Director of
Diversity and Inclusive Excellence at Sonoma State University. By
A4SJ Diversity Project. *Contact Elaine Wellin for info.*

WOMEN TOGETHER SPRING RETREAT

APRIL 27-29, 2018

St Dorothy's Rest

The 2018 UUCSR Women's Retreat is *April 27-29, 2018*. This retreat
is open to members, friends and visitors. Our weekend is a little
earlier than we've had in the past and we wanted to be sure you
all knew. More information will be available in a few months but
for now, please mark your calendars!

Women Together Steering Committee

Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

As many of you know, this is the time of year Fine-Com is in the process of preparing the DRAFT Budget for 2018-19 to be presented at the February, 2018 Congregational Meeting. After some reflection of how we have prepared this process in the past, I would like to propose a change by moving the budget to the June Congregational.

Creating a draft budget 6-7 months prior to the close of the current year is challenging. First, we **don't have any past performance or actual** numbers, especially for expenses, to draw upon. Our previous fiscal year ended June of 2017. The new fiscal budget begins July of 2018. That **leaves us a hefty period of time where we don't** have much historical data to forecast the next

budget. Budget preparation relies on past data to project and adjust future costs or revenue.

Second, the next fiscal year ends June 30 of 2019, which means we are forecasting well into 2019 **using 2017 actual data. Now, if we don't experience** much inflation for the next budget cycle, this much distance between last-year's budget cycle and the next could be no big deal; however if Congress passes the current tax bill, we may be heading into a new economy with unknown consequences, which some believe are inflationary, especially regarding health costs.

This change is something that you as a member of the Congregation should consider.

Your opinions are welcome and can be addressed to Fine-Com or to myself.

Fiscally yours,

Michael Randolph, Treasurer

The Music Showcase

Dear friends,

The Music Showcase...we were almost ready; the work was almost done; the music had been chosen; the groups brought together; hours of practice completed; the show was about to begin. And then, this gem of a world we share, our beloved community, tipped off its axis and crashed into a place I would never have believed we would ever go.

For me what followed were weeks of thoughts like, I'm supposed to be there, what am I doing here? Then I realized that there was no there anymore; there is only here and this is where we are. And again I'm reminded, no time like the present for accepting what's true.

So, the Music Showcase. As planned, the money raised from ticket sales has gone into the UUCSR general fund. And, we will give you the evening of music you were promised. Just not right now. Sometime in early October, 2018, barring further acts of God and nature (and the ever present possibility of human error), the UUCSR Music Coordinators will put on a show. Everyone will be welcome. No more ticket sales, just an open door and beautiful music. Ah, a night to remember.

Mary Chapot, Music Showcase Producer

...from The UUA Touchstone Journal, January 2018

"Robert Samuelson wrote, "We face a choice between a society where people accept modest sacrifices for a common good or a more contentious society where groups selfishly protect their own benefits." While conservatives accept the common good as important, they believe that it can best be served by individuals operating freely in the marketplace. Government's role should be limited to protecting private rights. Liberals believe that justice requires that government play an activist role to protect and extend the common good to those at the margins. Economic justice is not an oxymoron. It is the means of securing the common good."

The Touchstones Journal, described by subscribers as "wonder", "fabulous" and invaluable", is a monthly theme-based ministry resource. The journal offers an in depth exploration of a new theme each month. Writers have developed a 5 year, 60 themes, calendar. In addition to the journal subscribers receive a worship packet and a discussion guide. Touchstones Consulting is committed to the work of articulating a liberal theology. This journal is supported by subscriptions from Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the world. Eds: Rev. Nancy Bowen & Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland

UUCSR now has an annual subscription to The Touchstones Journal, which runs from September through August. Look for it soon in your email inbox or mail! *Questions? Call UU Update Editor Susan R.*

Happy New Year From Your Stewardship Team!

*"The force that through the green fuse drives the flower
Drives my green age; that blasts the roots of trees
Is my destroyer." – Dylan Thomas*

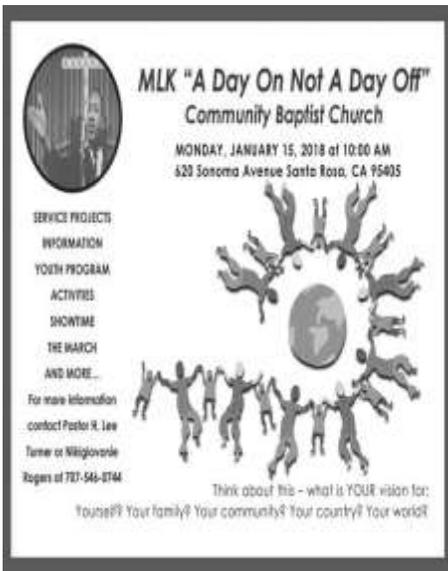


A few weeks ago, when he was doing a last search through the rubble that used to be our home, my husband Robert snapped a picture in our "late" garden. The photo shows my green daylilies innocently but gallantly sprouting up from the ashes, a fresh green hope, a harbinger of the new garden that will someday flourish there.

Destruction followed by renewal has always been the deep story of life. 2017 began with a political firestorm in January, and it ended with a literal firestorm in Northern California. Yet, life insists on renewing itself, sometimes in unexpected ways. Extreme events like these have a way of erasing distinctions between concepts like "family", "friends" and "congregation". All these resolve into one big loving, supportive and hope-inspiring ensemble. Love and hope is "the green fuse" that we can tap into so fully here at UUCSR. In January 2017, Robert and I marched with so many of you in the Women's March, a joyfully defiant response of love. And when the fire hit us in October, UUCSR was a place for us to gather and be comforted. Let us cherish our congregation. Please help us achieve our hopes and dreams for 2018, especially our goal of hiring a new assistant minister to further our ministries, by raising your pledge to UUCSR.

*With warm appreciation,
Erin Howseman and your Stewardship Team*

MLK Day On, Not a Day Off - January 15, 2018!



In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dedication to service, Community Baptist Church, our partner in North Bay Organizing Project, has celebrated the MLK holiday as a day for giving service to our communities. A variety of projects are coordinated by CBC on that day. In the past this has included working at the Living Room, Bayer Farms, the Volunteer Center, Sutter Hospital, and other non-profits, but new ideas from regular people are especially welcome. One of our men's groups did a Fax Your Representatives project! Donations to Community Baptist Church to help with meals and activities for youth on that day are also very appreciated!

Do you have an idea for a service project that could be launched on January 15? Do you have an ongoing service project that you would like to see given a boost on that day? Service projects can be as simple as helping an elderly neighbor clean up their yard or taking food or warm clothing to those who are in need.

Please contact Carol Kraemer with your ideas and hopes for how the UUCSR could participate in being a center of service for the MLK

Day On, Not a Day Off!

Unitarian Universalist Principles

There are seven principles in which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



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JANUARY 2018

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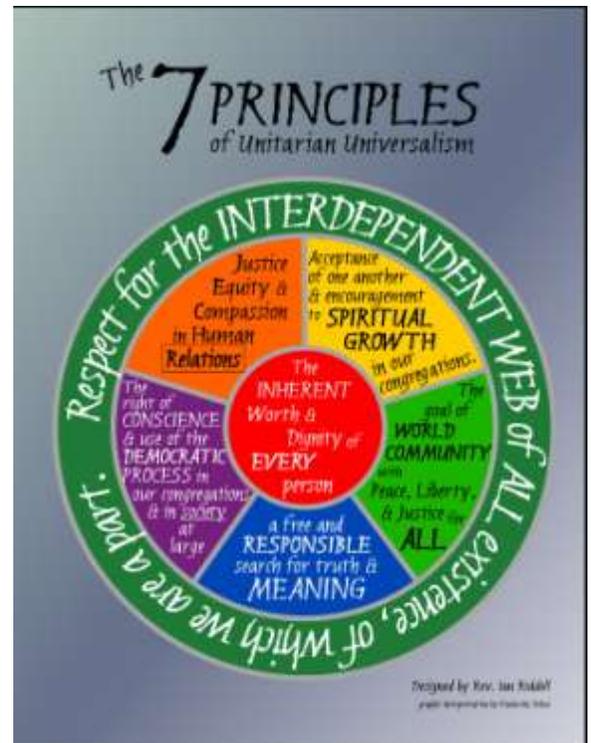
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UU Update, UUCSR Monthly Newsletter. Editor: Susan Williamson. Deadline: For following month: by noon on Monday after 3rd Sunday. Send to newsletter at uusantarosa.org w/topic and month in subject line. To receive newsletter by email, send name and email address to administrator at uusantarosa.org

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



BLACK LIVES MATTER