
The UU Update

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa
Volume 62 • Issue 6

JUNE 2018



June Theme:

WISDOM

Two Sunday Services at 9:15 am & 11:00 am

JUNE 3

SOPHIA, GODDESS OF WISDOM

Two services at 9:15 and 11:00.

"Blessed are those who find Sophia, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver, and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed." Proverbs 3:13

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Aphrodite Bellochio Music by: **Robin Rogers & this week's UUCSR band, Roger Corman** Share the Basket: Sonoma County Vet Connect

ecstatic feeling of liberty. Play is not always accompanied by smiles and laughter, nor are smiles and laughter always signs of play; but play is always accompanied by a feeling of "Yes, this is what I want to do right now." - Dr. Peter Gray

"In India, the world is not seen as an artifact, but as a drama. And therefore God is not the maker and architect of the universe but the actor of it, and is playing all the parts at once."
- Alan Watts.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff
Music by: **Alan Bell & this week's UUCSR band, Roger Corman** Share the Basket: The Arlene Francis Center

JUNE 10

AGING: EVERYONE'S DOING IT!

One service at 9:15

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 11:00

We are all getting older, no matter what our current age. And, some of us are a lot older than others! What advantages come with accumulating many years? What wisdom of the aged is part of the wisdom of the ages? What should our children know? **We'll hear the voices of a number of congregational elders today at our single service, held at 9:15.**

At 11:00, please plan on sticking around for one of our mandatory thrice-yearly congregational meetings. Democracy requires ritual observances to survive. This is ours.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Sharon McCarty
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: California Rural Legal Assistance

JUNE 24

WHAT'S WISDOM GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Today we explore sources of wisdom in our lives. From the "mouths of babes" to ancient stories, where does wisdom "come from"? How does wisdom shape your daily life and interactions especially in a fast paced, post-modern world?

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Veronica Jordon Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman Share the Basket: Breakfast for Our Neighbors

JULY 1

ON JUGGLING

Understanding juggling as a metaphor for life, which Russ Powell will physically demonstrate today, will bring you lasting peace and contentment.

Service Leaders: Russ Powell (guest preacher), Izzy Fischer, Jen Freese Music by: Robert Howseman & the UUsual Suspects, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Live Music Lantern

JUNE 17

ON THE SACRED ACT OF PLAY / FATHER'S DAY

Summer schedule begins!

One service only at 10:00

"Play is, first and foremost, an expression of freedom. It is what one wants to do as opposed to what one is obliged to do. The joy of play is the

أنتم هنا
في أمان
You are safe here
Maryah Converse



“Gathering the Heart-Mind”

It's late at night, on the last possible night and at the last possible hour that I might write my newsletter column, and I'm sitting in the kitchen in Lydia House at St. Dorothy's Rest, one of my favorite places in the world. The giant Wolf stove is radiating just a bit of heat, to warm the room against the chilly May evening air. I'm getting ready to enter a 7-day traditional Zen retreat, called a *sesshin* in Japanese, which means “gathering the heart-mind.” For the Japanese, your heart and your mind are just different aspects of the same thing. My Zen name is *Shoshin*, which means “Preacher of the Heart-Mind.”

There are 16 of us here, including five members of UUCSR, who will spend 9 hours a day meditating, and another 6 cooking and cleaning in silence, in order to uncover just what that “thing,” that “heart-mind,” really is.

I feel so blessed by this opportunity to reconnect with the “Inconceivable Source that can neither be faced, nor turned away from,” as one Buddhist Sutra puts it, and to reawaken to the true nature of my (and your) mind: creative, alive, wide open space.

With all the turmoil of daily life and work, and all the craziness in the national and international news, it feels like a remarkable gift to be able to put it all down completely, just for one week, to let the world take care of itself, and to rediscover how much there is to learn and see by sitting still and breathing with full attention. It feels a little crazy to be taking this week in the midst of the creation of the annual budget and a bold stewardship campaign, of hiring our new staff and bidding Deborah farewell, of trying to sell a house and putting on a rock concert on June 16th. But it is precisely at such overflowing times that a full break from it all can be so nourishing. It's good to be reminded again; I'm not my worries, I'm not my stress, I'm not my ambitions, I'm not my thoughts, I'm not my obsessions or addictions or my stories about myself, or other people's stories about me. I'm this body, this room, this stove, this temperature, this breath, and this breath, and this breath.

This week I'm taking on a new job here, too. I have served in nearly every leadership capacity in our Zen community (except official teacher), but next year I will take my most important role yet, as I assume the duties of the Tenzo, the cook. You would be surprised by just how precious and significant a tasty meal is for a bunch of people who have had no entertainment beyond the flickering dreamscape of our active minds. It's my goal to make everything as simple, healthy and delicious as possible, and to cook it with complete attention and love. Cooking here is different. It's like I'm seeing

and tasting carrots, lettuce, shallots, all for the first time.

Now, I know this practice might not be for everyone. Some people claim that they “can't sit still.” Others are frightened by the idea of not being able to speak to anyone for a week. (For me, the break from small talk is like a glorious vacation.) Others are not thrilled about who they might find there in their heart-minds if they actually sit still long enough to observe what arises inside when you have NOTHING TO DO. Proust said the world was doomed because there are so many people who can't spend even five minutes with themselves. I'm inclined to agree.

Fortunately, the practice of *sesshin* is literally thousands of years of old, and has been finely honed to make it as easy as possible to slow down and put all one's focus on an appreciative inquiry of the present moment. I genuinely invite you to try it sometime!

I wonder, what would a UU spiritual practice intensive look like? Could we create something like a *sesshin* for ourselves? If we did, would anyone come? It's a little hard to envision, because our theological and philosophical diversity makes it somewhat difficult to settle on uniform spiritual practices. I have to describe our time of silence in the service, for example, which is just silence after all, as being for meditation, contemplation, reflection and prayer. One of my first callings to ministry was to bring meditation to our movement. It's a lot easier to love everybody if you learn to be less attached to your own opinions and preferences, I've found, and meditation really helps with that. If nothing else, facing your own chattering mind and its repetitive thoughts and attachments will eventually bore you into non-attachment. Once I thought that if I had one more “baseball victory fantasy,” or “preaching at G.A. fantasy” here on the cushion, I might scream. Now, I simply watch them rise and fall like the shadows of clouds on the hills around St. Dots.

If I have inspired you to consider your own spiritual practice, or made you curious about Zen, please know that CityZen meets in Room 545 every Monday at 6:45, and all are welcome. If I don't see you there, I hope I'll see you at the Gay Pride Parade and Festival on June 2, or at the Men's Retreat on June 9, or at the Congregational Meeting on June 10, or at the Unisurfalists concert on June 16, or perhaps just at a simple Sunday worship service.

Most of all, I hope you and your heart-mind are friends. (If you're not, come talk to me.) I know I'm glad that I'm so close to mine, since we're going to be spending a LOT of time together over the next week!

Many bows to you. ***Reverend Chris Bell***

President's Column

A lot's going on these days!

Externally, spring has been springing out all over and the pace of life has been quickening. I'm walking and getting more fit. As your President, I've been deep in planning our latest board meeting and our upcoming Congregational Meeting (please don't forget to come on June 10th – we've got A LOT of items to vote on!), and starting to getting ready for next year's board. I've also been looking at, now that we have our Assistant Minister and new Director of Religious Education, what's our next "growing edge"? What do we want to take on next?

Personally, I've been doing a lot of studying for my new job about ADHD, different ways it presents, and solutions to the problems it causes.

Sometimes I feel like I've been kneading my brain, not some bread dough!

And for us all, we have an election coming up that will determine some pretty critical things for the future of our larger Santa Rosa/Sonoma County community.

Frankly, I like all this activity! From experience, **it's way better for my psyche than not having much to do. I'm loving my life and engaged in it in a way I haven't been for a long time.**

*But as I get busier, I need to make sure I'm taking time for my inner world. Am I taking time to **think, to explore, to contemplate?** Otherwise, I'm just another one of those chickens with its head cut off.*

When I stop to think about that, I thank heavens for my friends. Without them, I WOULD

be that chicken! I know I've told you my saying, "It takes a village to raise a human being." Being in conversation where we explore and ask each other questions that force us to think deeply are a major way I get "raised."



And that brings me to you. I so appreciate who you are for me and who we are for each other. We can make mistakes and own up to them...and be forgiven. Truly forgiven. That is an amazing gift, and I find we tend to give it freely around here.

We're creating an amazing, bright future for our UU community here in Santa Rosa. I am so excited by the possibilities – partly, because I know that together, we can realize them. We may have different ideas of how to go about it, but truly listening to each other allows something so much **better than just one person's idea (mine!) to be embraced and realized.**

Let's keep bringing our strengths to UUCSR – the best of ourselves. Sometimes it takes a stretch, and can be a bit uncomfortable. (Have you raised your pledge yet?!) But I find that if I take that as an opportunity to grow and discover something about myself, it turns out well.

I ask you: What's YOUR growing edge?

Are you willing to step into the possible uncomfortableness, into the unknown? I invite you to jump in – **the water's fine!**

In busy-ness and in stillness...but always in community,

-Natalie

What Your Board Is Up To—MAY 2018

It was a fat, juicy board meeting this month! We approved the budget for next year, and came to consensus on what we recommend the Endowment Fund distribution be used for and how to structure the proposed Bylaws revisions. We approved the **agenda for June's Congregational Meeting, looked at who we want to appreciate for their service, identified two areas we want to explore at our board retreat in August...AND conducted our "normal" business!**

Linda Stabler, the head of our HR Consulting Group, updated us on where our new Assistant Minister, Director of Religious Education and Coffee Hour person are in their hiring processes. I'm frankly astounded at the quality of every person we've hired this year. Linda deserves every kudo there is for the immense amount of outstanding work she's done.

Michael Randolph, our Treasurer, also deserves

our gratitude for the work he has done to create **next year's budget. This was an unusual year** because so many things are so fluid. He did a complete budget work-up for **February's meeting**, but things have changed so much that he pretty much had to start over with more current, more **accurate actuals. And even then, as he's continued to dig in to it, things have been changing!**

He and the board are confident that what is in your Congregational Meeting packet is as accurate and up-to-date as is possible to get. And this was his first year putting together a budget for us!

Michael and Linda, thank you, thank you, thank you. We are truly blessed to have you.

One change to note for all of you who just LIVE to attend board meetings (!): Our June meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, June 20th. Still at 6:30, still in the Board Room. We'd love to see you!

*Natalie Brundred,
President UUCSR Board of Trustees*

Welcome
Aboard,
Jen

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Director of Religious Education, Jennifer Freese

Summer Program Highlights

Sundays, June 3 & 10, at 9:15 am

Sundays, June 17 — Sept 9, at 10:00 am.

K-6 from June 3—mid-September

The Summer RE Program begins June 3rd! We keep the summer fun and active! Over the summer the children engage in simple lessons that reflect UU values combined **with an activity related to the morning's theme.**

All the children grades K-6 meet together for **Children's Chapel and summer fun. We begin at 9:15 on June 3rd and 10th**, then the summer schedule of one service and RE at 10am initiates on June 17th and goes through mid September.

Preschoolers and babies continue to be cared for by Sophie and Emily every Sunday.

Sr High and Middle School from June—mid-August

Sr. High Youth Group and Middle School Group (MUUGs) on hiatus from June through mid-August.

We have a beautiful crew of volunteer teachers from the congregation who will make it the best summer ever in RE. Please join us!

A Thank You From Deborah Mason

Thanks so much for my beautiful send-off on Sunday. What a beautiful event! I felt so filled up with love and gratitude. It has been my pleasure to serve this congregation these 10 years and Sunday was the perfect culmination of a truly amazing journey. UUCSR is the best!

I want to give a special shout-out to Jen Freese who took the lead in planning, and to Susan Miller, the new chair for the RE steering committee, for all of her help through the transition. Thanks go to Caroline Hobbs, Susan Dickey, Brian Checuti, Natalie Atchison, Emily Heinzelman, Michele Murphy and others who worked behind the scenes to make my retirement party so special.

More thanks go out to Kitty & Brian Wells who invited the RE families to their beach at the river for a barbecue on Sunday afternoon. The celebration was so much fun!!

I am working this week and next training the

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THEME/ACTIVITY</u>
6/3 @ 9:15	Meditation and Mandalas Coloring Mandalas
6/10 @ 9:15	Honoring Our Elders Making Memory Cards
6/17 <u>Begin</u> <u>10:00 am</u>	Making Peace Role Playing
6/24 10:00	Radical Hospitality Love Collages
7/1 10:00	Building Beloved Community Game - Jelly Bean Trade
7/8 10:00	What is Real & What is Fake Cooperative Games
7/15 10:00	Your Divine Spark A Bubble Party
7/22 10:00	Blessings of the Earth Making bird feeders
7/29 10:00	Choose Your Attitude Cooperative Games
8/5 10:00	Defining Peace Peace Balloons
8/12 10:00	It Matters How We Treat Each Other
8/19 10:00	Walking With Waldo Emerson & Nature Pressed flower art
8/26 10:00	Theme TBA

amazing Jen to take the reins of RE. You will be in very good hands!

Michele and I will be off on our 3 month journey beginning June 1st. And I will be back among you and a fellow member in a year. I look forward to seeing everyone upon my return.

*Blessings, Deborah
Former DRE*

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

COMING IN JUNE

Introduction to Ho'oponopono

Sunday, June 10th, 12:30 - 2:00
In Board Room

UUCSR's own Kitty Wells introduces us to Ho'oponopono, an ancient Hawaiian practice of forgiveness and reconciliation. (Feel free to bring a bag lunch.)

Ho'oponopono is one of the approaches that Kitty uses in her marriage and family therapy practice to help clients deal with anxiety, relationship issues, trauma and PTSD.

No sign up necessary - just come.

STARTING IN JULY

Seniors in Transition

Thursdays, 2-4 pm
July 19—August 30
In Board Room

The Seniors in Transition program offers a safe and supportive environment where older adults can look ahead to a time when they may no longer be able to live safely in complete independence. The program provides a forum where participants can explore options and make informed choices for life transitions including future alternative living situations and/or in-home care. Having a choice is always important. It is especially important during this time of life.

The program includes small group discussions, speakers and tours of senior communities and is offered in 7 - 8 weekly 2-hour sessions.

Program Objectives

In a supportive environment, participants will:

- Explore stereotypes of aging as well as challenges and concerns
- Identify values, hopes and dreams going forward
- Increase knowledge of available resources, care levels and care facilities in the local areas
- Develop personalized transition plans
- Enable conversations with families & loved ones

Time and Place

Sessions are scheduled in the Board Room on Thursdays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm starting on July 19th and ending August 30th. An additional session may be scheduled within that timeframe to facilitate visits to senior living facilities.

Sign up at RE table. \$25. Class limited to 15

LOOKING AHEAD

Bill Stayton's Human

Sexuality Class Comes Again

Stay tuned for another of Bill Stayton's fascinating classes on Human Sexuality this fall.

Being Mortal

Death and Dying Book Discussion Revived

Linda Lampson and Sarita Hazen will co-facilitate a discussion of the acclaimed book, **Being Mortal**.

Stay Tuned for More Offerings!

ONGOING

DRAWING GROUP

Wednesdays 1-3 pm

Artists of all levels are encouraged to join Bill Brewster and Patrice Le Pera to find inspiration and encouragement, and to explore techniques through sharing as a group.

We meet Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Bring your projects and ideas, and the art supplies you need. No fee or obligation.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

JUNE 14 (2nd Thursdays)
6:00 - 9 pm in the RE Wing
(note earlier start time)

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday June 14th at 6:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. This is a finger food potluck. Bring a snack or beverage to share. Also bring recommendations of books for us to read in the coming year (September to May). We do not meet in July and August.

The group will select the books for the following year based on the suggestions presented at the June meeting. Members alternate presenting the books to the group. We read across all genres and make sure books are widely available, i.e. published in paperback by the time of the meeting and available through our library system.

Contact Linda Lampson with questions.

Spirit Moves ~ Body Moves

June 6 & 20

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1:00 pm—2:30 pm in Room 545 at UUCSR
Together We Access Our Vital Life Forces through movement and dance, and keep our bodies resilient as we age. A Collaborative Group that is Designed for Everyone. Space held by Bertha Jean. Call or email for details. No Fee.

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.

June 3: Sonoma County Vet Connect provides outreach to all former military service members and their families, to assist them in obtaining access to services and benefits due them for their service to our country. Part of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care program to eliminate veteran homelessness in Sonoma County.

June 10: California Rural Legal Assistance provides legal assistance to rural residents of California. Offers services for workers' rights, housing, educational rights, environmental health and welfare rights. They have to prioritize cases due to limited staff and resources.

June 17: The Arlene Francis Center, located at the corner of 6th and Wilson Streets in Santa Rosa, is a cultural, educational, social, ethical and environmental organization with the aim of helping to create a better world.

June 24: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own breakfast program to provide a hearty breakfast every Saturday for our neighbors in need in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

July 1: Live Music Lantern provides self care in the form of live music to educators and social service providers, & organizes musicians who volunteer to play at local social service orgs. Live music inspires, educates and helps people heal from compassion-fatigue and secondary trauma.

JUNE
HOT
TOPIC

THE STATE OF TENANT PROTECTIONS IN SONOMA COUNTY

TENANTS ALLIANCE OF WEST COUNTY/
NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

after 10:00 AM service in the Board Room

Presenters: Tamara Murrell, Jeanie Bates, Davin Cardenas

Undeniably the typical tenant in Sonoma County is in a precarious situation. There are little meaningful legal protections from ever-rising rents and/or capricious eviction. The threat of displacement, and, too often, a slide into homelessness, is ever present, resulting either from inability to pay the increasing rent or from a decision taken by the landlord to evict.

Join us to discuss the realities as they stand currently and the efforts to create an equitable set of protections for tenants as well as insure that landlords receive a reasonable return on their investments. Rent stabilization and just-cause eviction ordinances have been enacted widely and have proven to be workable. We will discuss the recent history of efforts to enact such protections locally and highlight our current efforts as we place a measure on the November ballot in Santa Rosa. As always we welcome your questions, comments and stories.

Jeanie Bates, for Advocates for Social Justice.

The A4SJ Film Project presents:

TOMORROW

Filmmakers: Melanie Laurent and Cyril Dion

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

after 11 AM service in Room 545

*Grand Finale for the Environmental Justice/
Climate Change Film Project Series for 2017-2018*

We've covered so many areas of concern and what we need now are more Solutions! This 2015 film, *"Tomorrow: take concrete steps to a sustainable future"* is an inspiring documentary that presents already existing solutions. Even better, these are really effective ways that thousands of local people are making themselves and their towns **more sustainable and more resilient to global changes we're seeing** now and those ahead. Filmmakers Melanie Laurent and Cyril Dion travel to 10 countries throughout the world to highlight people who are making a difference in the fields of food, energy, finance, democracy, and education. Their ideas and examples make *Tomorrow* one of the most essential and unexpectedly inspirational experiences of our time.

Discussion follows viewing of the film. Please bring whatever you wish to eat. We provide snacks, not lunch. - Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Jeanie



UUCSR Members To Participate in Pride

Sonoma County Pride Celebration
Saturday, June 2

UUCSR's to Meet-Up Pre-parade at 11:00 am
At Fremont Park
(860 5th St, between E St and Brookwood)

Hello my friends,

The Sonoma County Pride Parade is back in Santa Rosa on June 2nd 2018. We have a contingent marching from Fremont Park on 4th street to Old Court House Square where there will be a festival. Bill & Becky Montgomery will have their VW convertible. If wish join us we are meeting at 11am at Fremont Park. Please wear a Hawaiiin shirt, bring rainbow flags, and we will have our Rainbow banner to carry.

Any questions please contact me, Andy Levine

Love & light, Andy

Sonoma County's
LGBTQI Pride Parade &
Festival 2018 is Back
in Santa Rosa
Old Court House Square,
Saturday, June 2
Noon-8:00 pm

*Calling UUCSR Jewish Members & Friends,
and All Others Interested in Judaism*

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 pm
Glaser Center

UUCSR members and friends who are Jewish, or of Jewish heritage, or just really into Judaism, are invited to a meeting on Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 pm, held here at the Glaser Center.

We will get to know one another, discuss Jewish holiday observances at UUCSR, (particularly our hopes for a Seder next year), and see what else folks might envision for the future.

I love that our congregation already embraces multiple Buddhist groups and a pagan circle, and observes key Christian holidays, and I look forward to further weaving the tapestry of diversity in this way!



Thanks to Shayna Billings and Al Liner for getting this ball rolling.

Peace, Rev. Chris

Get Your Party Invitation!!
Endowment Committee to Throw Party
for Legacy Circle Members on June 23

Hi everybody,

The Endowment Committee wants to let you know about a fun event coming up on June 23 – a celebration for Legacy Circle members at the lovely home of Pam Tennant!

The Legacy Circle is a group of people, nearing 100 at this point, who have included UUCSR in their wills or have otherwise made provisions to include UUCSR as a beneficiary after they pass away.

This is the main way that the Endowment Fund increases its assets, through contributions from Legacy Circle members. There are many ways of joining the Legacy Circle, including one as simple as including UUCSR as one of the beneficiaries in your IRA. It took me all of ten

minutes to do this in one of **my IRA's. Easy as pie... if I** can do it, you can do it! And there is no minimum amount; all gifts are appreciated.

So how do you actually join the Legacy Circle? Becoming a member is entirely self-reported – we trust you!

Make the appropriate arrangements, tell us **you have done that, and you're in!! We hope that if you haven't already joined, you will** strongly consider it very soon. When you make your arrangements, please let me know via email (reidstinnett@gmail.com), **and we'll send** you an invitation for the June 23 party! Hope to see you there!

With gratitude,

Reid Stinnett
Chair, Endowment Committee



Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)

COSM, the Committee on Shared Ministry is the UUCSR committee charged with addressing conflicts by facilitating mindful discussion. COSM and its individual members may be called on in a myriad of **different ways. Sometimes we're involved in** facilitating group discussions involving Rev. Chris, Board members, congregants and non-members.

On the other hand, many more of our cases involve simple one-on-one informal discussions of a single COSM member with anyone with a concern. These cases are frequently solved prior to a COSM meeting and are therefore considered successfully finished

business. Other situations need followup and a fresh approach.

So, keep in mind that not all COSM cases are a big deal. In fact, most are not! We are here to discuss your concerns.

COSM members are Lucia Milburn, Alan Bell, Bob Anderson, Kitty Wells, Susan Bartholome, Frances Corman, and Rev. Chris Bell

ALL-UU SUMMER CAMP

August 31– September 2
at Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma

Because of the October Firestorm, the All-UU Summer Camp will be held at a different venue this year only, on Labor Day weekend, Friday-Sunday, Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

We're excited about Walker Creek Ranch!

There is a wading creek with a small sandy area for kids with pails & shovels, a huge reservoir for swimming, and space for tent camping. **The prices are a bit over last year's** but the tent prices are very low. Come and join us for a fun weekend!

15 miles west of Petaluma, it's a beautiful

spot in the hills. There are hiking trails, gardens, and it even has a natural history museum! Come relax, jam to some music and

enjoy the hearty laughter-filled entertainment of the annual UU Variety Show. If you have little ones, childcare is provided at certain times, so you can participate in workshops and relax.

Please consider joining us!



Photo from <http://www.walkercreekranch.org/>

Share-The-Basket

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

Following are the APRIL Recipients

Enchanted Hills	\$847.40
Lime Foundation	\$620.92
Restorative Resources	\$740.78
Breakfast for our Neighbors	\$534.43

Thank You for Your Generosity!

CUUPS DRUM CIRCLES

(Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

Ongoing Drum Circles: June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21. *(December 21 is the Solstice so drumming happens with the potluck and celebration of the end of the dark.)*

For information contact: Lucia Kasulis, Aphrodite Bellochio or email cuups at uusantarosa.org Blessed Be!

Some Important UUCSR Congregational and Ministerial Dates	
<i>Submitted by Rev. Chris Bell</i>	
June 1	New DRE Jen Freese's Official Start Date. Yay!
June 2	Sonoma Gay Pride. <i>We've promised the organizers 50 attendees. Let's be there in force, in our T-shirts.</i>
June 9	Men's Gathering 10:00 - 3:00. <i>All male-identified folk are welcome.</i>
June 10	One Service Only at 9:15. Congregational Meeting at 11:00, with VERY IMPORTANT VOTING ITEMS, like the budget, the naming policy, the number of congregational meetings, and more.
June 16	The Unisurfalists live in concert! https://unisurfalists.brownpapertickets.com
June 17	Summer Service Schedule Starts - <i>one service only at 10:00 until September 9.</i>
June 25-July 15	REV. CHRIS ON VACATION/ STAYCATION. <i>Rumors of a short tour with Dead and Company, along with some Harvard Divinity School friends and UU colleagues, are true.</i>
July 16-22	Rev Chris Working, <i>including two weddings within families of the congregation. Yay!</i>
July 28	Nancy Hayashibara Fundraiser. <i>That's right, Nancy in all her glory: brilliant piano, comedy, commentary and charm.</i>
July 23-29	A LITTLE MORE REV. CHRIS VACATION, <i>on or near the beach.</i>
August 1	Reverend Dara Olandt Starts. Yay!
August 5	Rev. Chris and Rev. Darla first service together. Also yay!
August 17-18	UUCSR Board Retreat.
Aug 31-Sept 3	UUCSR Family Camp at Walker Creek Ranch.
September 9	Ingathering - <i>back to two services at 9:15 and 11:00.</i>
December 25	Christmas. <i>Only 227 more shopping days, people. Stay focused.</i>

WONDERING WHAT TO DO THIS SUMMER?

Regional Assembly Must-See Videos

I just got the following email saying videos of the three wonderful women who graced us with their presence and their profound messages at Regional Assembly. I highly recommend that you watch one, two, or all of the videos. The 2nd video on the "regional-assembly" website is our president hosting an update on the activities and goals of the UUA. It is rather academic in nature and important information, but the last video contains President Frederick-Gray's address at the opening ceremony. Her address starts at about an hour in and is well-worth listening to.

Videos are now available of our opening Friday evening worship, our Saturday morning keynote address by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, our Sunday morning worship service with Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, and a Saturday afternoon workshop on the future of the UUA by President Frederick-Gray. You can watch these videos on the PWR site at <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly>.

~ And Other Events of Interest ~

CANDLE CREW: Candles lit during the Sunday Services are replaced weekly. Take a turn with our candle crew. Call: Pat/Jen Russell or Shirley White

Office Volunteers Needed:

What a great problem to have! The Glaser Center rentals are increasing so Janis, our Rental Coordinator, needs help for just a few hours once or twice a week for organizational tasks and entering information into a spreadsheet. If you are interested, please contact Janis at administrator@uusantarosa.org or Jan Hess.

June 10

Insist on Kindness Ramadan Celebration
Dawn through Sunset
(or as much as you are able)

A Countywide Day of Fasting and Kind Acts in Honor of Ramadan presented by Of One Soul. Culminating in a Festive Dinner Meetup at 8:45 PM at King Falafel in Sebastopol

Saturday Work Day

Saturday, JUNE 2

8:30 am—10:30 am

Special time to accomodate Sonoma County Gay Pride March

This is to remind you that our regular first Saturday of the month work day is Saturday, June 2.

Since this Saturday is also the Gay Pride Parade in Santa Rosa, I propose that we meet at 8:30 am, put in two hours of gardening and minor repairs, and break at 10:30 am to go to Fremont Park to join the parade. Bring a change of clothes and your Hawaiian shirt!

Faith And Fitness

Saturday, JUNE 9

10:00 am-2:00 pm

Trione/Annadel State Park
Trione/Annadel state park is a favorite of leader Roz. Our plans include meeting at the Park Trail entrance, no fee, parking on street, for a moderate hike up to and around Spring lake in the reopened park, for a total of about 3 miles.. We'll meet at 9:30, be done by 2:00 pm. Bring lunches, water, but sorry, no dogs. Please join us, sign up to Gretchen P. Include your cell # so we'll be sure not to miss you on the day!

OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

2nd & 4th Mondays
JUNE 11 & 25

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
Shirley White

End of Year Women's Pot Luck Lunch!

Saturday, June 16, noon—2 pm

All UU women are invited to a festive garden party pot luck lunch on Saturday, June 16th from noon to 2 pm. Get together with new friends you made at our Retreat and reconnect with old ones! Elaine Wellin has offered her lovely home and garden at 3625 Lurline Way in Santa Rosa. Please bring a lunch dish to share.

Hope to see you then! Women Together

THE NEW MEN'S-MEETING MEETINGS

The New Men's Meeting, which has been meeting every Wednesday at 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Lunch Room at UUCSR for the past 9 years begin their yearly dinner meetings every other week starting this June 20th at Carmen's Burger Bar. Our dinner meetings at local restaurants begin ½ hour earlier at 6:00 PM.

The New Men's Group continues to meet in the Youth Room at the UUCSR the alternate weeks. There will be no meeting Wednesday July 4th. Our schedule is as follows:

- June 20: Carmen's Burger Bar 6:00 PM**
- June 27: Youth Room UUCSR 6:30 PM
- July 4: No Meeting
- July 11: Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM restaurant TBA
- July 18 Youth Room UUCSR 6:30 PM
- July 25: Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM restaurant TBA
- August 1: Youth Room UUCSR 6:30 PM
- August 8: Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM restaurant TBA
- August 15 Youth Room UUCSR 6:30 PM
- August 22 Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM restaurant TBA
- August 29 Youth Room UUCSR 6:30 PM
- September 5 Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM restaurant TBA.

The men of the New Men's Meeting invites UUCSR men to join us for our dinner meetings. A formal invitation is not required. Join us this summer Contact Roger DeBeers for details

Faith Of The Heart

by Russell Watson

*It's been a long road
Getting from there to here
It's been a long time
But my time is finally near*

*I will see my dream come alive at last
I will touch the sky
And they're not gonna hold me down no more*

No they're not gonna change my mind

*Cause I've got faith of the heart
I'm going where my heart will take me
I've got faith to believe
I can do anything
I've got strength of the soul
no one's gonna bend or break me
I can reach any star
I've got faith
I've got faith
Faith of the heart*

[https:// www.lyricsondemand.com/tvthemes/startrekenterprise/lyrics.html](https://www.lyricsondemand.com/tvthemes/startrekenterprise/lyrics.html)

A Message from Your Stewardship Team



June was always a magical month for me. I remember gazing out of the large dirty windows of my high school classroom, not listening to the teacher or anything else around me. The air outside was warm. The grass,

freshly mowed, was pungent with life. The change in the weather is dramatic back east where I grew up and it seemed that anything might be possible now that the snow had given way to green growth. I was filled with optimism and bliss.

Here and now, in our beautiful Sonoma County, the new growth, the ability of nature to revitalize itself, especially after the wildfire devastation, is truly breathtaking. Walking through Shiloh Regional Park I am delighted to see the trees sprouting greenery from black branches and starting anew. This too fills me with optimism and bliss.

We have some pretty awesome growth planned here at UUCSR too. Our initiative this spring is to bring on board a part-time Assistant Minister to develop a campus ministry and assist Rev. Chris with pastoral care. That, as well as other expense increases, requires us to raise our sustaining pledges by about \$60,000. Since Rev. Chris and our Board have faith

that we will all come through with this increase, our new Assistant Minister, Rev Dara Olandt has been hired – yay!! and will start in August.

To serve our mission, and to have a greater impact in our larger community, we must continue to *Strive for Five*, to work toward pledging at least 5% of our income to UUCSR. Since January 2018 we have received increases and new pledges of \$27,000. *We are close – we can do it!* There is still time to make a **difference and increase your pledge. If you haven't raised your pledge in a while, this would be a great time to do so.**

As I reflect on the Sunday social hours of 20 or 30 years ago at our old Stony Point location, I am inspired by those, some now departed, who worked and played so hard to get us to where we are today.

I close my eyes and hear the laughter of those friends and feel the warmth of their love. I open my eyes and see the faces of my friends here at UUCSR, working hard and playing hard and continuing to move us forward always with love and in accordance with our mission.

This too fills me with optimism and bliss.

*Linda Balabanian
Stewardship Team*

Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

As April ends, we are 10 months into our current Fiscal Year. April is showing about a \$20,000 loss, but that is almost entirely due to lower received pledges for the month. We expect to receive those pledges in May and June, as many members pay quarterly, not monthly. Otherwise, YTD we are running near break-even. We always run a deficit in Operations and an offsetting surplus in Glaser Center.

By now, you should have received the FINAL Budget for 2018-19. Numerous changes were incurred over the last six months to change our Draft Budget and the drive to Hire a New Assistant Minister from \$60,000 to \$65,000. Of note, that amount needed to fund next year was not only for the new Assistant, but also rising benefit costs, merit increases, and numerous increases to expenses. Also of note,

there has been a change in how UUA calculates our dues for next year. Moving forward UUA and PCD dues are combined into one payment, which means we will be paying our full PCD dues next year in order to be in good standing.

As of the date of this report, members have increased their pledges by \$39,000. A new line item in the budget called Anticipated Current Year Pledges, represents the difference between our goal and what we have raised. We expect to close that gap, as members raise their pledges, and our Congregation continues to grow in new members. The Stewardship Committee will work to close that gap of \$26,000 over the ensuing months.

If you haven't done so, please consider increasing your pledge to the best of your ability.

*Fiscally yours,
Michael Randolph, Treasurer*



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JUNE 2018

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 707-568-5381

Office at uusantarosa.org fax: 707-568-5387 <http://www.uusantarosa.org>

Unitarian Universalist 7 Principles

*The inherent worth and
 dignity of every person*

*Justice, equity and compassion
 in human relations*

*Acceptance of one another and
 encouragement to spiritual growth
 in our congregations*

*A free and responsible search
 for truth and meaning*

*The right of conscience and the use of the
 democratic process within our
 congregations and in society at large*

*The goal of world community with peace,
 liberty, and justice for all*

*Respect for the interdependent web of all
 existence of which we are a part.*

BLACK LIVES MATTER