



March Service Theme:

# Truth

## MARCH 3 A DEEPER TRUTH

What can we hold onto when lies break our world apart? Under collapsed structures of shared understanding, is there a deeper truth? When all seems to be chaos, how can we take the broken pieces and make something beautiful and new?

Service Leaders: Richard Senghas & Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, a former ecologist, called to help our society make the spiritual transformation we need in order to live on our beautiful, blue-green planet sustainably, with love and justice for all. You can find her community ministry online at [www.viriditasministries.org](http://www.viriditasministries.org).

Music by: Susan Panttaja & some musical UUs, Roger Corman  
Share the Basket: Three Seconds in October (the Andy Lopez story)

## MARCH 10 THE PERENNIAL PHILOSOPHY

According to Aldous Huxley, there are some core truths about existence that transcend time and culture, which mystics and philosophers of all stripes **have agreed upon. We'll look at them today and see** if his argument holds.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Dara Olandt, Joe Gabaeff, Bev Spears

Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the UUCSR Choir, Roger Corman

Share the Basket: Vital Immigration Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS)

## MARCH 17 THE 5 SMOOTH STONES

The great Unitarian theologian and social ethicist James Luther Adams used an image from the story of David and Goliath to describe the essence of **liberal religion. These "five smooth stones" are the** beautiful ideas that can vanquish the imposing giant of superstitious and dogmatic religion. What are they? Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Dara Olandt, Eric Fischer, Dylan Graham

Music by: Sally Jones & some musical UUs, Roger Corman

Share the Basket: Sutter Health Cancer Support groups

## MARCH 24 ON TRUSTING

The Tao Te Ching says, "The Master trusts people who are trustworthy. She also trusts people who aren't trustworthy. **This is true trust.**" What does that mean? Is such trust realistic or desirable? What about when our trust has been broken?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Cathy Read, Lou Gwendolyn

Music by: John Ray & some musical UUs, Roger Corman

Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors

## MARCH 31 BIG "T" OR LITTLE "t"

What do you make of "truth"? What does Unitarian Universalism have to say about truth? Is it all **"relative"**? What about the **"truths of our relatives"**? All are welcome for this service of inquiry and hope.

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Judy Withee

Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the UUCSR Choir, Roger Corman

Share the Basket: The Adrienne Swenson Award

## APRIL 7 Heaven and Hell

People love to divide the world. They also love to **divide the world to come. We'll consider the history** of the concepts of heaven and hell and whether they have any use to us today.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rose St. John, Bev Spears

Music by: Mary Chapot & some musical UUs, Roger Corman

Share the Basket: The Parkinson's Support Group of Sonoma County



## To Be Announced

Here's a true story that Jules Glaser told me once. A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The

following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with **my sermon on the sin of lying.**" **I'm not going to preach about lying, per se, this month, but I will be preaching about *truth*, our theme of the month. It almost feels ironic to preach this topic when we're living in what many writers have named the "post-truth" era. ("Post-truth" was the Oxford Dictionary's word of the year in 2016.) This is the age of constant and seemingly effortless lying by many civic leaders and media figures, Indeed, the President of the United States has taken prevarication, misrepresentation and plain old speaking out of his rear-end to new heights or, more appropriately, new lows. It really is quite shocking how boldly and unapologetically that man can lie, and how so many will try to cover for him, isn't it?**

Stephen Colbert anticipated this era when he first began to play the right-wing talk show version of himself. He coined the phrase "**truthiness,**" to express the appeal to one's own gut as sufficient to prove any point. Superstition is a cousin to this phenomenon, where we can believe things just because we really want them to be true, no matter the lack of proof. Says the guy who has great faith in a loving, personal God... **But, of course, I actually think there's plenty proof for Her existence. (More on that in my theology series; drop by the Adult RE table for a schedule!)** Our tradition calls us to utilize the power of reason and science and to seek evidence for our decision-making. We acknowledge that our interpretations of what we discover may differ, but no matter how much spin you put on things, there are some facts that are just facts. The Sun fuels all life on Earth. We must have oxygen to survive. If you fall off of a high roof, you will be injured. You are having an actual experience reading these words. People all die. Tom Brady is the greatest quarterback of all time. These are all actual truths that cannot be denied.

Ever the optimist, I still hold that the truth wins out in the end. (Voltaire would have had a field day making fun of me, I'm sure.) **In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." I agree. In the program I work to stay sober and find serenity in my life, we**

**pursue a path of "rigorous honesty" that leads to spiritual awakening, and I see the proof of it around me constantly.**

In the human arena, of course, it can take much longer than falling off of a roof to prove the facts. I know that at many points in history giant, shameful lies have been perpetrated upon humanity, but as a general rule the truth gets out *eventually*.

**The Nazi's final solution was brought to trial. The architects of apartheid had to face the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The evils of slavery can no longer plausibly be denied. The sexual abuses of the Church are finally being revealed.**

And so, too, the era of Trump shall end, and history shall condemn him and those in power who covered for him as the liars that they are. Trust me! That said, the revelation of truth cannot be taken for granted. It definitely takes work and rigor on the part of journalists and noble politicians and you and me. We also have a role to play here at UUCSR as **we engage in our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," and teach our kids to use their big God-given brains to try to discover and serve the common good.**

And now for a sudden subject change!

Before I sign off, I want to offer my great thanks to Damilia Loupy, who has served as our temporary administrator since October. Damilia inherited a rather messy situation in the office, and received very little training. It was not unlike being given a set of Legos and told that it's supposed to construct a giant castle, but, oh sorry, we lost the instruction manual a long time ago! Nevertheless, Damilia ably kept the congregational ship afloat and did her best to codify and clarify many of our procedures, and to clean up the files, all at only 25 hours per week. **She's also doing a very fine job of training her replacement.** Damilia will be gone from her post by the time you read this, getting ready to teach English as a second language in Italy (how cool is that?) but our debt of gratitude to her will not fade.

Next, please welcome Dawn Silveira, our new full-time Administrative Manager, who comes to us after years as the Shelter Services Manager at the YWCA, and who also served as retreat registrar at Spirit Rock Meditation Center. Dawn is already showing the curiosity and problem-solving instincts we need in the office as we get ready for our next big growth spurt as a community, which I predict will grow us by 50 - 100 members over the next several years. We are just doing things too cooperatively and authentically *not* to invite more people into our circle of love. And that, my friends, is a fact!

See you on Sunday.

**Reverend Chris Bell**

## Love without Borders



### *A dispatch from the Border:*

Greetings All! There is much to share from my recent experience at the Nogales AZ/MX border. I look forward to sharing with you over the weeks ahead. While there, I had an opportunity to visit with the group No More Deaths/No Más

Muertes. Originally a ministry of the UU congregation of Tucson, it is now a broader organization which was recently in national news because their volunteers were charged with crimes for providing humanitarian aid to people who are migrating. (Can you imagine facing charges because you give water, food and support to people in desperate need?!) I asked the group what was the single most important message to share. They said:

Humanitarian aid is not a crime.

We also visited with Borderlands UU Congregation in Amado, the Green Valley Samaritans, and stayed in a dorm run by Borderlinks, a group that runs educational programs and housing for border volunteers. These are only some of the organizations that are part of a fierce ecosystem of care and aid on the front-lines of this crisis. One very small but deeply important way to start making a difference is to begin telling the story of what is actually **happening at the borders. So, here is a story to share...**

This is Louise. Louise is in her 80s. She volunteers several hours a day at the *criminal* proceedings at the 9th Circuit Court in Tucson. She observes and takes detailed notes on what is called Operation Streamline, the way in which migrants are being criminalized in mass criminal proceedings (not immigration proceedings!) and being denied asylum rights. Louise graciously takes time to help others understand it, folks like myself and several UU colleagues who are trying to understand the humanitarian crisis occurring at the border and meaningful ways to help.

What is *Operation Streamline*? Louise tells it this way: In 2005, Border Patrol, which is overseen by the Office of Homeland Security, asked the local Tucson courts to "streamline" the way migrants crossing the border move through the legal system. At the time, Border Patrol sector was apprehending nearly 1500 people each day. Since *individual* immigration proceedings typically take weeks or months, the Tucson courts initially balked, saying **basically: "we can't handle the number of people". So, this** bizarre and inhumane system developed to criminalize folks who are migrating. *Wait! What is it, again?*

It is a way of streamlining people through the courts to **impede people's ability to seek asylum. Friends, I saw it in action:** this is an assembly line approach to denying human rights and asylum pathways to those who are migrating across the border. Operation Streamline means "en mass" criminal proceedings, when

people are lined up before a judge and given minutes to enter a plea agreement that is a trade for their rights. And, **it's one of the main ways that people trying to come to the US are being coded as "criminal".**

Here is what I saw:

Groups of 20 people called upon to rise before the judge, each person was wearing chains, positioned before several microphones, with criminal lawyers stationed behind them... The judge asked 5 questions of each "defendant". **The mass, vulgar nature of the proceedings** was actually not dramatic... the air conditioner hummed, the room was controlled and quiet, lawyers waiting flipped magazines, yet the mundane and bureaucratic system was *completely at odds with the horror of what was occurring*. The streamlining was incredibly difficult to watch, for it is the way that people are being processed, without asylum rights, into detention centers, for profit.

It brought home to me what Hannah Arendt calls **"the banality of evil."**

Despite the horrors and heart-break, I came back from the trip motivated and inspired. We can turn despair into action by linking with humanitarian workers, the UUs in the local area, and folks like Louise, who want to increase public awareness of what is occurring. There is a deep a network of care and support to help stem the humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis manufactured by hatred, fear and bigotry, but the human impacts are real and detrimental.

Here in Santa Rosa, we can be people who say **"love has no borders". Immigration justice and fairness,** helping fellow humans find their families and make a better life are issues alive right where we are. *Operation Streamline* is occurring without many people watching. **That's why Louise, and others like her who are actively** working to challenge this obscene and degrading process are doing vital work. And we can help them, because from Honduras to Mexico to Tucson to Santa Rosa — Love needs know no border.

**And walls can't hold back love.**

**Let's get exploring** this more together!

Want to do something immediately?

Check out this petition and statement of support:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-border-patrol-humanitarian-aid-is-a-right?>

<http://forms.nomoredeaths.org/public-statement-of-support>



Rev. Dara Olandt

## President's Column

My new-ish job has been taking up almost all my time, energy and attention these past few months, but when I lift my head up to see what is happening in the larger world, frankly, I get very discouraged. Rev. Dara sent the board an article she recently wrote about her trip to the border, and my heart just broke at the stories she told. I read news articles about that and I just sink. I think, **"Don't people get that we're all people? That we're all the same underneath our differences?"** And I despair. I think we here in Sonoma County are so lucky. We live in one of the most wonderful places in our country. The countryside is gorgeous, the weather is spectacular, and the people are great. **And, to tell the truth, I'm white, from a solid middle-class background.** I can tune in and tune out. If I feel discouraged, I can back away from it. I can put my head down and focus on my problems. A phrase **I've been telling myself a lot lately when things don't go well is "First World problem."** (It actually does help a bit to put things in perspective!)

But I am seeing and grappling more and more with my privilege. Really, up until the controversy over racism in the Unitarian Universalist Association blew up about 2 years ago, I was completely unconscious that I even had any implicit bias; that **I did live in a world of white privilege.** (And...that's really embarrassing to admit.)

So living in this place of beauty, in this welcoming, strong community, we have the luxury of stepping back, or turning our attention away

from some of these big problems, of **focusing on our own "First World problems."** Particularly since reading Rev. Dara's article about what is actually happening at the border, to real people, and how other real people are stepping up to help them, **I have been asking myself, "How can I help? What action can I take? How can I make a difference with something that is so far away?"** I don't have any answers yet. It's easy to feel bad. It's easy to give money, sign online petitions, call my Congresspersons and Senators. But what can I **do beyond that? I haven't taken the time to explore that; to really dig in and find out. I'm not going to go to the extreme of turning my entire life over to a cause, but there has to be a happy medium somewhere!**



I think becoming "woke", to use a phrase that's making the rounds these days, is a process. I've moved from unaware to aware, and now I'm at that point where I know being aware isn't enough, so I feel bad that I'm not doing anything more. But I don't know what "more" is. I have a feeling that a lot of us may be at this point. I've changed the saying to **"It takes a village to raise a human being".** I invite us all to share our ideas of what "more" may look like. And we'll all grow further into our better selves for it!

In love & partnership,

-Natalie Brundred,  
President, Board of Trustees

## What Your Board Is Up To

- March 2019

The Board voted unanimously in favor of adding Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday for our staff. Giving the staff this day off is in line with our UU values and Principles.

We are continuing to explore ways to make sure our budget is balanced this year and next. Michael Randolph and the Finance Committee are going to further explore some interesting ideas that just may work!

There are two leadership positions that need to be filled soon: co-chair of our Fundraising Advisory Committee, to work with our fabulous Dee Ray, and someone to manage the kitchen.

**Ellen O'Hare has done an amazing job, but is stepping down. If you'd like to help out with one of these vital jobs, contact me!**

**We've received about 11 nominations for renaming Room 545 so far.** If you have a suggestion, email Gretchen Vap your nomination and rationale for it by March 31<sup>st</sup> -

even if you think someone else has already sent it in! Make YOUR voice heard. It will help the Board know how much consensus there is for one name over another.

Our building is used heavily; not just for congregation-related activities, but also for rentals and for Saturday Breakfast, and things like tables, chairs and the walls periodically need to be replaced or refurbished. The Glaser Center Committee requested we conduct a Reserve Study so we know how soon things will need to be replaced or updated, and establish a Reserve Fund so we will have the resources to do so. The Board requested Joe Como assemble a team to conduct the study.

The Board invites you to share thoughts, suggestions, and concerns about the UUCSR. You can find a Board member during Social Hour on Sundays (carrying a big sign!), send us an email, or even attend our next Board meeting on March 21, 2019 at 6:30 in the Board Room. **You'll be most welcome!**

- Natalie

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

*Jen Freese, Director of Religious Education*

### *March in Religious Education:*

#### *Chalice Children (Preschool)*

In March, our three and four-year-olds will explore their dreams and imagination through creativity and art. At the end of the month, they will celebrate the coming of spring by thinking about flowers. Please be sure to thank Carol Kraemer for her work leading this class, and welcome Elizabeth Olsen as the lead teacher in the third quarter.

#### *Love Will Guide Us (2nd-3rd Grades)*

Children in second and third grade will be thinking about anger and kindness, and how to respond to frustrating situations with love. They will hear Buddhist and Sufi stories that will help them consider these ways of responding to life. Please thank Sean Freese for his work volunteering with the second and third grades during the second quarter, and offer a warm welcome to Anna Ullerich as the last lead teacher of the year.

#### *Bibleodeon (4th-5th Grades)*

Our Bibleodeon class will begin by exploring Jonah this month, and then start learning about Jesus as a person and as a teacher. Please offer thanks to Larisa Ashley for her hard work leading this class during the second quarter, and welcome Larry Haenel as the third quarter lead teacher.

#### *Crossing Paths (MUUGs)*

In March, our sixth through eighth graders will explore Hinduism and think about the connections between Unitarian Universalism and the Hindu religion. At the end of the month, they will visit an Ashram in Sonoma to experience this tradition firsthand.

### Spotlight on Love Surrounds Us: Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Religious Education



Every Sunday morning, the routine is the same in the kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade religious education classroom. Following the Tapestry of Faith curriculum, *Love Surrounds Us*, the five and six-year-olds gather in their classroom after yoga practice with the other children, pick up their rainbow-ribboned sticks and begin to sing,

*Love surrounds us this I know  
For my spirit tells me so  
All of us to love belong  
Fill our hearts and make us strong.  
Yes, love surrounds us  
Yes, love surrounds us.  
Yes, love surrounds us,  
My spirit tells me so.*

Each ribbon of each rainbow stick represents one of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, and each week, the children focus on a different principle through a combination of story, music, drama, crafts or discussion. The children in this class are especially working on understanding the inherent worth and dignity of each individual, beginning with themselves and widening out in growing circles. They are beginning to see our congregational home as a place of safety and fun and love. Their religious education teachers, Elizabeth Olsen (above, right), Cheri McCord, Alaina Mitchell and Shana Ross (above, left), provide this with a mixture of love, laughter and beloved routines, like the rainbow sticks, lighting the chalice and the sharing of joys and sorrows.

Beginning in March, Anna Ullerich will join this class as the new lead teacher, guiding the children through an exploration of the Seventh Principle, “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” This will be connected with the Spring Equinox and a focus on caring for the Earth.

## 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.*

Mar. 3: Three Seconds in October - the Andy Lopez Documentary. The SF Film Society is receiving funds to help complete the documentary about the shooting death of Andy Lopez in Roseland in 2013.

Mar. 10: Vital Immigration Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS) provides low cost immigration law services, advocacy & community education.

Mar. 17: Sutter Health Cancer Support Groups help patients learn how to manage stress during treatment, heal emotionally and glean new insights and perspectives. Groups are facilitated by healthcare professionals who specialize in counseling people with cancer and their loved ones. They emphasize informality, openness, respect and humor.

Mar. 24: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday Breakfast program which provides a nutritious breakfast in a friendly atmosphere every Saturday morning for our neighbors in need.

Mar. 31: The Adrienne Swenson Award is given annually to a local high school student, who is active in peace and social justice activities. The recipient intends to continue being an activist and is planning to pursue further education or training, either in college, trade school or university.

April 7: The Parkinson's Support Group of Sonoma County provides an atmosphere of counseling, comfort & encouragement to those with Parkinson's & their caregivers. Gathering the latest information & sharing it with their members & promote activities that benefit the PD community & advocating for a cure.

FEBRUARY  
HOT TOPIC



### *Vital Immigrant Defense and Advocacy Services*

Sunday, March 10, 2019

The Board Rm, after the 11 AM service

What can we do about the disaster on our Southern border? Come to the Hot Topic on Sunday, March 10th after the 11 am service when UUCSR congregant and VIDAS board member, Michael Drayton will tell us about VIDAS, a local organization that is working to ameliorate this tragedy. Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year as a nonprofit immigration law firm, VIDAS is experiencing a rise in the number of cases requiring defense against deportation. Some of these are asylum claims, others are the result of increasing activity by ICE; some potential deportees are minors who arrived unaccompanied. The organization has recently hired an additional attorney to meet this growing need. Other services aimed at obtaining permanent residency for our clients continue to be critical as well. Focusing on this, VIDAS has recently opened a second office in Vallejo, serving Napa and Solano counties.

*The A4SJ Film Project presents our Care in Community Film Series:*

### AGING/LONGEVITY

#### **GROWING OLD IN A NEW AGE: MYTHS AND REALITIES OF AGING**



Sunday, March 24, 2019

After 11:00 am Service in the Board Room

#### **GROWING OLD IN A NEW AGE: MYTHS AND REALITIES OF AGING University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center on Aging**

**LET'S END AGEISM  
Ashton Applewhite Ted Talk**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019  
Following the 11 AM service in the Board Room**

Our sixth film program of this year's series treats issues of aging, longevity, and ageism. The 1993 documentary "*Growing Old in a New Age: Myths and Realities of Aging*" and the 2017 Ted Talk by Ashton Applewhite, entitled "*Let's End Ageism*" explore common myths surrounding aging as compared with today's realities. Acknowledging the longevity revolution in modern societies worldwide, experts and elders describe a wide range of issues including our bodies, love and intimacy, learning and memory, mental health, social roles and relationships, family and intergenerational relationships, work and retirement, and others – knowledge that can help us debunk myths. Elder activist Ashton Applewhite is inspiring in skewering the myths, illuminating the effects of ageism and discrimination, and offering a fresh, new perspective for us all.

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

Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Dorris, Jeanie

## A Message from Your Stewardship Team



I recently got into a casual conversation with a salesperson, and somehow our talk turned to religions and their values. She and her husband were looking for a place of worship that was dogma-lite and open-hearted. When I told her I was a UU, she got very animated and with some emotion, shared a story about her family.

She told me about her nephew, who is in his early 20s, and how he was vilified by his family when he recently came out as gay. His evangelical mother wanted to **send him to a deprogramming camp. But he'd somehow heard about the UU church in his town and paid a visit.** His aunt shared with me his astonishment and how heartened he was by our principles - **that he felt like he'd found the safe haven and embracing community he'd lacked before in his life.**

It was the comment he made to her, "I didn't know there was such a church that would welcome me as I am!" that resonated with me. It made me realize several things: that there are likely many young people like him who feel isolated or sad, confused or lonely, and who don't know that UU communities exist; that many such folks likely attend college in their communities, and that an intuitive, non-proselytizing approach to creating a campus/youth ministry could be a major life-affirming discovery for them. The Stewardship tie-in here of course is that Reverend Dara is designing such a program. She is **expanding our ministry to let younger people know we're here** - a place where they will feel welcomed. A recent Adrienne Swenson scholarship recipient also mentioned that she hadn't known we were here.

**To make these folks aware that "such a church exists" depends on our increased financial support:** in two words, *increased pledges.*

If you haven't raised your pledge recently, please consider doing so, and think about the individuals whose lives you may be helping to change in a profound, tangible way.

With gratitude, Robert Howseman

### The Lay Chaplains Are Here For You

Whether you have a sorrow weighing down your heart, a friend or family member going through hard times, or you just need a friendly ear to listen to your concerns, a lay chaplain is available to listen.

### Women Together: "Spring Retreat"

May 3-5 St Dorothy's Rest

*It's almost time for this year's Women Together Weekend Retreat at the beautiful Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other women in the congregation on a deeper level. Put this on your calendar - you're not going to want to miss it! Sign-ups to register for this year's Women Together Weekend retreat will be April 7th and 14th after each service. The cost per person is \$210 for a double room and \$190 if you stay in the dorms. Scholarships of 50% are available at sign-up. More details will be available in the April newsletter.*

Linda Harlow/Women Together

### Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUP's)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 PM

We welcome you to come and get to know us. We wrap Saturday breakfast utensils on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday so it's a great time for conversations. Come tell us about yourself.

### CUUP's 2019 Drum Circle Dates

Our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Drum Circle has a NEW TIME! We will begin at 6:30 and end at 8:30pm. Please join us, you do NOT need to own a drum to come and participate, we have extra drums. Contact Stacy Sincheff for more info.

- ◇ Mar 15 in the Board Room
- ◇ Apr 19
- ◇ May 17 in the Board Room
- ◇ June 21
- ◇ July 19 in the Board Room
- ◇ Aug 16
- ◇ Sept 20
- ◇ Oct 18
- ◇ Nov 15
- ◇ Dec 20

## New Men's Group

Connect with other men in the congregation. **Men's groups** are about building personal support, intellectual stimulation, creative growth, spiritual deepening, and social outreach to the men of the church and community.

As sons, fathers, husbands, brothers, partners and friends living in the modern world, men experience countless joys and challenges. **At Men's groups** we share our joys and challenges in lively, thoughtful yet confidential conversations.

For information contact me Bruce Hope.

## Committee on Shared Ministry

**"I'm sick and tired of hearing things from uptight short sighted narrow minded hypocritics. All I want is the truth, just give me some truth."**

These lyrics by John Lennon from his song, *Gimme Some Truth*, come immediately to mind when I think about our theme this month. TRUTH. But can we really handle the truth?

Is there something on your mind or heart that is true for you, but somehow seems to be at odds with someone else? If you would like exploring ways to resolve issues and get to the **larger truth** you can always give us a call. Or email. Or tap on the shoulder.

The members of COSM, your Committee on Shared Ministry, are here to support you as you work to make this a community where your truth is heard and respected. This is what makes us the strong and healthy congregation that we are.

We look forward to working with you:

Bob Anderson (Chair), Susan Bartholome, Alan Bell, Deb Carter-Hope,

## EcoDesk at UUCSR

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



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

*EcoDesk* is:

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

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

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



## Caring Connections Committee

connects members in need with members who are able to lend helping hands.

Our committee is looking for an Outreach Coordinator. This person will call our volunteers to arrange visits for those in the congregation who need some conversation and cheer. If you are comfortable making phone calls and would like a chance to help our fellow members in need, please stop at the Caring Connections Committee table on Sunday morning.

Also, please remember that we loan items such as wheelchairs, walkers, portable toilets and shower chairs. For more information, contact committee chair Mac Freeman.

*Maintenance Team  
WORK DAYS  
Saturdays, March  
9:00 AM -Noon*

Due to the Annual Auction on March 2, we will be having two Saturday Work Days this month: March 2, focused on helping set up for the Nuestra Fiesta auction that evening, with other miscellaneous tasks fit in as convenient, and a second work day on March 9: March 2nd & 9th, 9 am to Noon. Please come help out one or both days if you can!

*OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES*

March 12 and 26 , 10:30 a.m.  
in UUCSR Green Room

*A Group For Women Congregants 80 and over.* Are you one of us? We are meeting in the Green Room at 10:30 a.m. every second and fourth Monday morning. Coffee service starts at 10:00 a.m. Need a ride? Please call well ahead of meeting date. Questions? Call: Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White.

*FAITH AND FITNESS*

Saturday, March 16

**Our March hike is set for Saturday March 16.** We'll meet at the carpool at 9:30 in Santa Rosa and set off to explore a new side of Annadel with Roz! Two to three miles total, climbing to a hidden pond with views and wildflowers. Bring water, lunch, good hiking shoes. For Info and signup email Roslyn.

*RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIES  
DIALOGUES FOR 2018*

2nd Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm

Unitarian Universalism calls us toward building a just and peaceful world. The events of the past decade—like the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson and the fatal shooting of Andy Lopez by police officer Erick Gelhaus—made it clear that routine policing can be life threatening. From the streets of Ferguson, Missouri to Santa Rosa and New York City, people from all walks of life have been loudly resisting the power of police who, all too often, have proven themselves to be racist, armed and dangerous. We will offer a structured dialog for us to discuss alternatives to calling the police and restoring more safety and peace within black, brown and white neighborhoods.

*UUCSR WRITING GROUP*

Mondays, Mar. 4 & 18, 1:30-3:30 pm

The UUCSR Writing Group invites interested writers and new writers to join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 1:30-3:30PM. All levels of experience welcome. Email Marge Wright with questions or just attend.

*SILENT DRAWING MEDITATION GROUP*

Fridays 2-4 pm

Starting Friday, Feb. 1st, will meet in the Board room from 2 to 4 every Friday afternoon. Bring your own supplies and ideas, a still life set up will be provided. A donation of \$5 for non members and \$2 for members is requested. For more info contact Judy Hutchinson.

*EVENING BOOK GROUP*

Thursday, MARCH 14

2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm

547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The March selection is *Salt Houses* by Hala Al-yan. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In April we are reading *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.

*ELDER TALES*

Saturday, March 23rd, 2pm to 4 pm

Come learn about the girl from a little town in Kansas who became a world renowned author and educator! On Saturday, March 23rd, from 2 to 4 pm in the Youth Room, Linda Lambert will tell us the story of her fascinating, adventurous life. Men are welcome! Please bring finger-food to share.

*Quaker Tea*

**Hello UU's!** Our Quaker Tea tickets are on our website at:

<https://www.friendshouse.org/quaker-tea-tickets>

Warm regards,  
Jet Howell  
Director of Sales and Marketing  
Friends House  
684 Benicia Dr.,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409



**FRIENDS HOUSE**

*A Quaker-Inspired Elder Community*

*Established in 1984*

## Adult Religious Education

*Adult RE, guided by UU Principles, rooted in UU sources, and our Congregation's mission and vision, strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth by offering classes, activities, and programs. Committee members: Nadine Carroll, Carol Daeley, Helga Lemke, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck, Clare Whitfield and Rev. Chris.*

### **SUPPORTING AGING PARENTS (OR FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR YOURSELF)**

**Wednesdays: March 6, March 13 and March 20 (6:30-8:30pm)** This program addresses a time

when someone you love may no longer be able to live independently safely. The focus will be on concerns for caring for loved ones, resources for supportive aging, developing a plan in consultation with your loved ones and strategies for critical conversations.

**Cost: \$15 for all 3 sessions Class limited to 30 participants Please sign up at the Adult RE Table**

### **JUST MERCY**

*Book Discussion Series*

**Thursdays: May 16, 23, & 30, (3:00-4:30pm)**

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

Carol Kraemer and Clare Whitfield will lead a discussion of the widely acclaimed book, "Just Mercy: Making Real the Need for Criminal Justice Reform" by attorney Bryan Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson has been on the front lines of social justice, representing some of the neediest prisoners in the nation. Using stories of his clients, he paints pictures of human beings on the margins of the U.S. legal system. Just Mercy is a compelling narrative on the themes of economic and racial bias.

**Everyone is encouraged to read the book ahead of time.** Copies are available from the Sonoma County Library and as a downloadable ebook. Online booksellers (and second hand book stores) have used copies. Order yours soon!

*THE THEOLOGY OF REV. CHRIS*

Once A month, Saturdays/Wednesdays  
*Saturdays 10am - 12pm*  
*Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:30pm*

Feb. 9 (Sat)	The Problem of Evil
Mar 9 (Sat)	Human Nature
April 13 (Sat)	Sacred & Profane
May 11 (Sat)	Life, Death and Afterlife
June 12 (Wed)	Nature of God, Pt. 2

## SCRIPTURE STUDY 2018-2019

(Led by Rev. Chris)

Tuesdays: Morning: 8:30-9:30am  
 Evening: 5:15-6:15pm

3/12

The Wisdom Books: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes (3 sessions)

3/26 - 4/09

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

4/23 - 4/30

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

5/14, 5/28, 6/11

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

*(re) NAMING 545*

**We're naming Room 545! Get YOUR** nomination in! As per the Naming Policy we approved last year, the Board is officially soliciting nominations for names, accompanied by your rationale supporting your nomination. It can be either a functional or a descriptive name. Please submit your nominations to Gretchen Vap or in her mailbox cubby in the Work Room. Nominations must be submitted by April 1. Then the board will whittle all the nominations down and we will all vote at our June Congregational Meeting. **And we'll have a name for our room!**

## Treasurer's Monthly Ledger

This is another short month for completing our financials as Feb 1st landed on a Friday, so there are no January figures as of the date of this report.

Of note, we have changed the Finance Committee's scheduled meetings for the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm. All are welcome to join in the fun!

Between now and the end of our Fiscal Year on June 30th, Finance and staff will be in the process of preparing next year's budget. The following will be our timeline for completing this project, which is a major change from previous years, as we are no longer preparing an early draft budget:

1. The month of March is when all committees should submit their budgets for the next Fiscal Year. The finance committee will be contacting chairpersons. March is also the month Human Resources will be completing employee performance

evaluations and recommending any salary changes such as cost-of-living, or merit increases for the new year.

2. From the end of March until mid-April, staff will be preparing the budget this year, which will work in concert with the bookkeeper, administrator, treasurer and the minister. Staff will submit the budget to the Finance Committee for review and any changes for the April 16th meeting.
3. The Board of Trustees will review the new budget, which must go out in the first week of May before the May Board meeting. The Board will make final decisions on the budget.
4. Two weeks prior to the June 9th Congregational meeting, the final budget will be sent out to members.

Our challenge this year is to prepare a balanced budget and meet the needs of our growing congregation.

*Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer*



## Musical Notes

"Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the Universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, and life to everything." (Attributed, possibly apocryphally, to Plato.) One thing we got at UUCSR is a lot of good music, and January was no exception.

February was a month for Surrendering and Letting go. On the 3rd the topic was "Your children are not your children" (with a nod to Kahlil Gibran). Mary Chapot, Claire Beery, Susan Panttaja, and Cathy Read performed two lovely pieces: "On Children" and "I Am Willing". The Choir provided the special music on the 10th with "Turn! Turn! Turn!" as requested by Worship Associate Sharon McCarty at whose wedding that song was sung. That Sunday we were also graced by Sadie with a flute prelude. The next Sunday was Robin Rogers's turn to do three beautiful songs: "The Wind", "Into the Mystic", and

"Don't Worry". And the month was closed out with the Choir returning to sing "Music" by David Greenberg.

March is slated to come in like an eagle, instead of a lion or lamb, representing the month's theme of Truth. There are five Sundays in March. Susan Panttaja is coordinating the music for the first Sunday, Sadie Sonntag and the Choir will have the 2nd and 5th, the 3rd will be coordinated by Sally Jones and the 4th by John Ray.

If any of this marvelous musical ministry inspires you, let your soul take wing, and tell us what you like and what you can do. Can you sing with others, go solo, or play an instrument? Talk to a Music Coordinator ([musicians@uusantarosa.org](mailto:musicians@uusantarosa.org)), or Choir Director Sadie ([choir@uusantarosa.org](mailto:choir@uusantarosa.org)) to find out how to let your musical talent give life to everything.

*Respectfully submitted, Randy Jones*



### SHARE-THE-BASKET

Following are the January 2019 Recipients. 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. *Thanks for Your Generosity!*

North Bay Jobs with Justice	\$427.09
Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County	\$725.43
MLK Birthday Celebration	\$577.06
UU Fellowship of Chico (additional funds raised in November/December 2018)	\$120
Saturday Breakfast	\$554



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

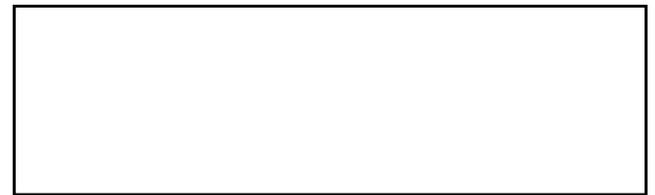
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Santa Rosa, CA  
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*UUCSR MISSION:*  
To Celebrate Life,  
Empower People,  
Care for Each Other,  
and Build A Better  
World

انتم هنا  
في امان  
You are safe here

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL PLS DELIVER PROMPTLY



MARCH 2019

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

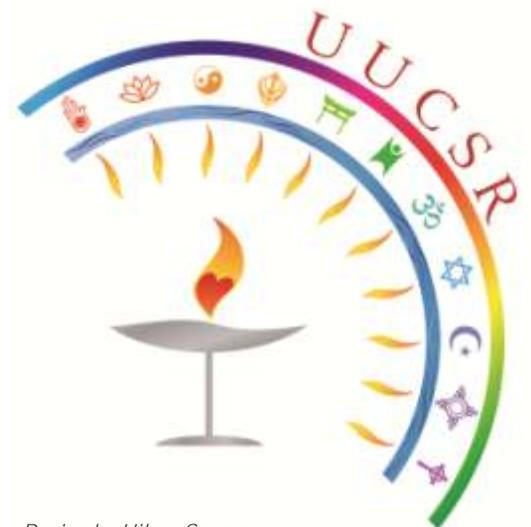
*Love is the doctrine of this church, The quest of truth is its sacrament, Service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, To seek knowledge in freedom, To serve human need, To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine. Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.*

*A rr. by L. Griswold Williams*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa  
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Assistant Minister: Rev. Dara Olandt  
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Director Religious Education: Jennifer Freese, *dre@uusantarosa.org*  
Administrator: Damilia Loupy, *administrator@uusantarosa.org*  
Bookkeeper: Laura Blum *bookkeeper@uusantarosa.org* Choir Director: Sadie Sonntag *choir@uusantarosa.org* Pianist: Roger Corman Sexton: Peter Wilson, *sexton@uusantarosa.org* Sunday Religious Education Staff: Jennifer Freese, Director, Sophie Johnson, Emily Payne



*Design by Hilary Sowers*

*UU Update Editor: Rob Carlisle. UUCSR Monthly Newsletter Deadline: By noon on the Monday following the 3rd Sunday, for the following month. Send to [newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:newsletter@uusantarosa.org). Include topic and month in subject line. Order-of-Service Announcements (OOS). Send submissions to [announcements@uusantarosa.org](mailto:announcements@uusantarosa.org) OOS Deadline: Noon on the Wednesday prior to Sunday Service.*