



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• May 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 5 •

## Sunday Service at 9:00am and 11:00am

### May 4<sup>th</sup>

"On Common Bonds"

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell  
and the Diversity Task Force

Worship Associate: Leslie Giffen

The future of human society depends upon resolving or living within a paradox. On the one hand, we need to celebrate and preserve our human diversity, but we must also learn to transcend our differences and find common bonds with each other. Today the Diversity Task Force will encourage us to do just that. There are perils that come with standing against racism and oppression, and struggling for understanding across the chasm of difference. The rewards can be life-changing.

### May 18<sup>th</sup>

"Hide and Seek"

Service Leader: Orlando Raola  
Worship Associate: Rev. Chris Bell

The practice of removing oneself for a period of time from the demands of society in order to cultivate the spiritual side is as ancient as humanity itself, it seems. This week, while many of the UUCSR women are away for their annual retreat, we'll consider the blessings that come from taking time either far away or far within - including our own peace and faith given to the world afterward. A retreat can last 3 minutes, 3 months or 3 years. Which do you need? And how will you make it happen?

### May 25<sup>th</sup>

"A Healthy Dose of Doubt"

Service Leader: Rev Chris Bell  
Worship Associate: Joe Como

One of the main spiritual gifts of Unitarian Universalism is the freedom to question, to push the boundaries, to allow our thought and reflection to travel as far as our conscience will take us. We have long honored reason and rationality and were among the first traditions to welcome evolutionary science, women's equality, and historical biblical criticism, among other radical notions. Agnostics and atheists have been at home among Unitarians and Universalists for 150 years. Today we'll celebrate the questioning and searching mind, the limits of certainty and the wisdom of doubt.

### May 11<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day

"Like her child, her only child..."

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell  
Worship Associate: Cathy Wiese

Being a family member is not easy. Parents should instill their values and priorities in their children, but must also be guardians of their children's individuality. Children can't help but seek to please their parents, but must also come to terms with the adults' imperfections. And we all inherit family karma - just look at your genes. Making relationships work requires some combination of loving while letting go, for anyone who mentors or guides others. A motherly spirit of compassion goes a long way toward freeing us of the expectations we place on ourselves and others, and lets love flow more generously.

***Stick around for the Cake Auction!***

### June 1<sup>st</sup>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY  
Intergenerational and fun!

### 9:00 AM Service

It is a smaller gathering, we have the same readings and message that are given at the 11AM Service, plus we have time for a discussion of the sermon topic. What UU doesn't like a discussion? There is childcare available. Any questions contact Andy Levine @ 887-9810.

## Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

I've just returned from our Pacific Central District Assembly (D.A.), along with about 12 other members and staff of our congregation. What a treat! We worshipped together in a service led by the district's ministerial interns on Friday night, kicking off the theme of "Simple Gifts" that shaped the whole weekend. The next morning Rev. Robert Latham, a long-time UU minister and consultant with the Alban Institute, gave a keynote address on the simple gift of mission that boldly challenged us to reclaim our religious calling. Then came workshops and seminars and stimulating conversations. On Saturday night the Rev. Victoria Safford delivered a sermon on the heart of Unitarian Universalism that deeply touched those present. "You are beloved and the Universe is glad to see you," she proclaimed, and the tenderness and poignancy of that simple and saving message, our core UU message, had my eyes full of tears.

D.A. also brought the opportunity to feel proud of our congregation. John Dumbrell and Sally Fife received the district's Moral Beacon Award on behalf of all the visionaries and volunteers who sustain our Saturday Breakfast program. They were joined on Sunday by Tom Bond and Laura Jean Hageman in leading a workshop to encourage other UU congregations to build community through social service. By the closing worship I was keenly aware of, and grateful for, the many thoughtful and heartfelt volunteers and the spirit of generosity that makes a community strong.

Perhaps the most nourishing thing for me about such gatherings of larger groups of UUs is the chance to learn from and share with other clergy and lay leaders. There are so many creative, committed and hopeful folks in our movement, and my faith is always strengthened by their example. Who isn't inspired by a scrappy 80-year-old UU activist grandmother with a wicked sense of humor, or a teenager who extemporaneously tells the whole gathering how grateful he is for Unitarian Universalism in his life, or the Fresno congregation, who just built the "greenest" church in California? Connecting with the larger UU world, I had again the delightful and rejuvenating feeling of being at home with my people - as I hope you experience here in Santa Rosa every Sunday. Or on any other day you come by, for that matter.

The whole experience renewed my commitment to the liberal religious tradition of *shared ministry*, which is the leadership philosophy that guides me and the other leaders of this congregation. Accordingly, we have a Committee on Shared Ministry (can't have a good philosophy without a committee!), who provide perspective and sup-

port, connect the congregation to me and vice versa, resolve conflicts and keep the entire congregation focused on its mission. Our COSM currently comprises Heather Lawton, Andy Levine, Elizabeth Marrs, Derek Spiekerman, and Judy Taylor (Chair), and they all have my trust and my ear. Get to know one of them - they're very nice!

The concept of shared ministry is actually one of our oldest and most fundamental religious principles. It started with our Puritan ancestors, albeit in a limited way and with icky theology, but it broadened considerably over the centuries into our core value today. Shared ministry rests on our faith that every person matters and has something to give. I like to call this our *spiritual democracy*. We proclaim that underneath every apparent difference in humankind - culture, language, skin color, sexual orientation - there is a sacred bond, and a common calling.

In this Way, each person has equal access and responsibility to the Great Big Thing. We might train ministers, presidents, religious educators, TIE facilitators and the like and empower them to lead, but always with the understanding that every member is still called to be a co-creator of the life of the congregation, not merely a consumer of its offerings. The very nature of the Interdependent Web guarantees logarithmic gains in power when we serve cooperatively, and trust one another with our religious journey. We can't fulfill our mission alone; nor can we do so unless each member takes individual responsibility, too.

Most of us discover as we mature, often after trying other unsuccessful avenues, that our deepest individual human needs are, ironically and beautifully, met through transcending self and serving something larger. At UUCSR our individual and collective mission - our "something larger" - is to live out the Unitarian Universalist Principles as fully as we are able, and to demonstrate the beauty of our vision through the circles of community that we build and influence with love. We each have a place in that ministry.

I am a UU because I am convinced that the world would be a better place if more people honored the inherent worth and dignity of all beings, lived in right relationship with the interdependent Web, showed a little more humility, and insisted upon justice, equality, peace and compassion in human relations. I intend to holler about that and try to argue it with my actions until the end of my days, but I can't make the argument alone. As our name makes clear, Unitarian Universalism is not an individual undertaking. It is meant to include and embrace all people!

*Cont. on Page 3*

## Splinters from the Board

I was hanging out in the social hall last Sunday after service when a long time member sat down to chat. He thoughtfully thanked me for serving as board president, noting that it can be a thankless job. This week I've been thinking about his remark; he wasn't the first person who had shared such a sentiment and somehow it didn't sit quite right. Now don't get me wrong, I appreciate the appreciation! Serving on the board, especially in an officer's role, does take time and effort. The dissonance came from the word "thankless." After some reflection I realized that the word didn't feel quite right because I have gained so much from serving on the Board these past 4 years. So I'd like to share some thoughts about the benefits that I've experienced and that one might reap from serving on our Board of Trustees.

First is the opportunity to work closely with our minister and many wonderful folks who care deeply about our congregation, Unitarian Universalism, and the larger community. I've always enjoyed working on committed teams around goals that are meant to improve organizations and the people they touch. The Board attracts people who care, people who like to learn and develop, people who like to look at the big picture, and people who are willing to take on challenges.

Second, serving on the board provides an environment where we can develop ourselves as leaders. It calls us to take on challenges and assume roles we may have not imagined. I'm reminded of Suzie McPhee and Bonnie Daines who accepted the challenge of serving as co-treasurers this year. This was not a role that they had imagined for themselves, but they have learned the language of our church finances and done a great job of

keeping us on track. In my own case, I was raised in a family that attended church but never participated as volunteers. Serving as vice-president and now as president has challenged my previously held view of myself and encouraged me to develop a host of new competencies.

Finally, serving on the board provides an opportunity to be involved in the life of the congregation at the "big picture" level. During my time on the board we have formed a ministerial search committee, successfully completed our capital campaign, called a new minister, hired new and wonderful staff members, created an Operations team to improve the way our community functions, supported the initiation and growth of the Saturday breakfast, helped with several successful canvasses, and worked with the growth task force, whose legacy is the new council governance structure that a board team is currently working to implement. Moving into the council structure will place more decision making in the hands of people who are closer to the issues and free the board to do the strategic planning that it is charged with.

This is the time of year when our Nominating Committee seeks volunteers to serve on the Board for a two-year term starting in July. If you get a call, please consider serving in this important role. If you are interested in exploring Board membership, please call Dorris Lee, Nominating Committee Chair. I trust that you will experience board membership not as a thankless job, but as a great opportunity to be thankful for.

Linda Proulx, President  
Board of Trustees

## Continued—Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

*Cont from page 2*

We invite anyone, as their faith calls and their abilities allow, to choose a noble life and find happiness in serving through love the larger, transcendent good. To fulfill our mission the invitation to share in Unitarian Universalism must be steady, hearable, and genuine. Simple gifts such as greeting a new face in the Social Hall, serving up coffee, arranging flowers, ushering and greeting and singing in the choir are all essential parts of our ministry. We minister by

being fully present in a TIE group, visiting an elder, making a meal, pounding a nail, starting a class, befriending Saturday guests, serving as office volunteers or on committees, marching for justice and peace, and a hundred other ways. Every person has a place in our ministry of celebrating life, empowering and caring for people, and helping to build a better world. What's yours?

- Rev. Chris

## Treasurer's Report

The budget process for the 2008-2009 fiscal year is well underway. We received budget requests from all committees. Several committees have new and exciting initiatives for next year. Those with special items presented their requests to the Board of Trustees. The Board, Treasurers and Finance Committee met May 1 to prioritize budget items, review the final results of our successful canvass and prepare a balanced budget. This budget will be presented to the Congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting June 8.

Our current financial status continues to be on track. Pledges are on target, we have been able to handle unexpected expenses (replacing stolen copper pipe) and pay our Fair Share to PCD and UUA. We have done well thanks to everyone in our congregational family. With this year's track record we can only expect more extraordinary success next year for UUCSR.

## Announcements—Mark Your Calendars!!

### MAY 3RD

#### A Night at The Opera

Our end of the year all church fundraiser. See Chris and David for the specifics

### MAY 4TH

#### Congregational Council Meeting

Any and all members are invited to walk through and discuss the proposed 2008-2009 budget.

### JUNE 1ST

#### Workshop on Conflict Resolution and Non-Violent Communication

All members and pledging friends are invited. Please see Chris or the Committee on Shared Ministry for more information.

### JUNE 8TH

#### The 3rd and final Congregational Meeting

We will be electing new Board members, approving our budget for next year, and hearing about several new programs and opportunities in the works for next year.

## News from the Glaser Center's Artistic Director

First of all, I want to thank all of the hard-working volunteers who made the Holly Near concert and the Telephone Show such big successes. You were all committed, professional, creative, and upbeat, important traits since you are, in a very real way, the first impression newcomers have to the Glaser Center/UUCSR. These nights ran smoothly and tightly, and much of the credit goes to you. Thank you so much!

And speaking of volunteers, we're constantly building our Volunteer Team, and can always use fresh faces who enjoy working with people. Events need people to take tickets, work the box office and concessions, run sound, coordinate hospitality for performers, assist with publicity, set up and take down tables and equipment—all kinds of things. If this sounds like fun (and it is!), call me at 568-5381 X103, and I'll add your name to the list. I'd like to welcome Michael Walsh and Hillevi Wyman to

the Events Committee, the group of creative folks who plan and execute our many events. Michael and Hillevi have already proven themselves to be valuable additions to the committee.

And finally, the long delayed UU Group Art Show is now planned to open the second weekend in May, so if you have talked with me about displaying 3-5 of your own art pieces (and even if you haven't), please begin bringing in your paintings, drawings, handcrafts, etc between now and May 6 (at the latest). We'll have a reception for all the artists on Friday, May 9, from 5-7 p.m., just before the big New Horizons Band Concert (featuring several members of our congregation playing music by American composers, including selections from John William's soundtrack to the film *Midway*). *Stop by to have a glass of wine, talk to your fellow UU artists, and celebrate our talented community.*

## Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

I am among the many who believe that children are naturally spiritual beings - even when they don't have the language to express it. Just notice the way young children ask questions about *everything*, and how fascinated they are by the functions of things we adults take for granted. It is in their questioning that they learn about the world they live in and develop a framework for understanding. It is in the wondering that they express awe for the miraculous in everyday life. The sad reality is that as we grow our minds become more and more focused on the functions of our daily lives and we often miss the miracles.

What is the language you use to express your spirituality? How do you teach your children the language of spirituality? In the fall Rev. Chris and I will be teaching a class called Parents as Spiritual Guides. The program is designed to help parents explore their own spiritual journey and to develop meaningful ways to provide spiritual experiences for their children. I hope you

will consider signing up for this class, for religious education happens as much in the home as it does here at church. In the meantime notice your children's wonderment, and join them in their appreciation of the divine things they see in the world around them.

One of the things I want to do as your DRE is to get to know UUCSR families better. The only way I know how to do that is to get together with you. The better I know you, the better I can serve you! So, expect a call from me and an invitation to go to coffee, lunch, for a walk...whatever fits into your schedule.

I have had requests from parents for schedules of our RE classes. So, I have included the schedule with the basic themes of each session. If you want more information about the curricula we are using don't hesitate to ask.

In faith,  
Deborah

Date	Preschool	Grades K to 2	<i>Grades 3 to 5</i>	Grades 6 & 7
M a y 4	Chalice Children  Kara & Anna	<i>Youth Worship:</i> Theme Diversity Deborah &	<i>Youth Worship:</i> Theme Diversity	<i>Youth Worship:</i> Theme Diversity
M a y 11	Mother's Day	Spirit Play  Carina Zona &	Cake decorating for the Cake Auction Heather Lawton & volunteer cake makers	Compassionate Conflict Resolution  Barrie Noe &
M a y 18	Chalice Children	Theme: Gratitude  Victor Cummings	In Our Hands: Local UU Conflict Solvers  Elaine Haas & Katie Parrish	Learning the practice of meditation  Rev. Chris & Randy Blinman
M a y 25	Chalice Children  Kara & Anna	<i>Youth Worship</i>  Deborah & Julie Niehaus	<i>Youth Worship</i> Theme: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Principle  Anna Lisa Wiley	<i>Youth Worship</i> Acceptance of one another... Barrie Noe

## Advocates For Social Justice

### Share the Basket

Many of us are eager to have a more diverse congregation and one way to encourage this is to become allies of groups of different ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds. Therefore, this month we are giving half the collection on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> to help defray the expenses of the May 1<sup>st</sup> Coalitions' March and Rally for Labor and Immigrants. This is one of the largest marches in our city and helps make visible the needs and realities of these people's lives. When the basket comes your way, let's stand with those whose work makes our community prosper, so please be as generous as you can!

### Saturday Breakfast

The hard work of Sally Fife, Mary Louise Jaffray, Millie Tripp and others paid off with a grant of \$2,000 from the Sonoma County Commission on the Homeless to help support our Saturday Breakfast program! We can really use this as the supply of food at the Food Bank has decreased and the costs at Costco are rising and the number of hungry neighbors is not decreasing. It costs us almost \$200 to feed an average of 150 homeless friends each week. You can see this grant helps a lot, but we rely on contributions from members and friends to get us through the rest of the year. We ask for your continuing support,

which has been generous. About 50 people volunteer to keep this program going. Thanks to all of you, and a very special thanks to our grant writers this month!

### Sonoma County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride 2008: "Loving Self, Loving Others"

Advocates for Social Justice and the GLBT Social Group invite you to an afternoon of music, dancing, dining, and laughter in celebration of the diversity of the gay community. The festivities start at noon on May 15th at the Wells Fargo Center. Admission is free. To volunteer for a 1 or 2 hour shift at the UUCSR informational table, please contact Andy Levine (707) 887-9810 or Pat Warner.

## Musings from your Caring Committee

As your new Caring Committee chairperson, I have found thus far, that NO ONE has called me for any form of assistance. The various members of the committee and those in our congregation who are willing to help are feeling some frustration. They would really like some work!

Currently, we have a wonderful new brochure by the office door. We have had a few requests for transportation, ably handled by Dolores Miller, some food has been provided as needed by Anne tenBensel and her team, and some of our Lay Pastoral Associates have made contacts as they have learned quietly of a need.

We want to serve the UUCSR members more fully, and are preparing some methods of outreach. So if you get a call of inquiry, you will know we've begun to seek those who may have a need.

In the meantime, PLEASE feel free to call either Rev. Chris or me if you have any concerns about any member of the congregation. Take a look at our brochure (bright orange) if you need our efforts explained.

In caring and friendship,

Gretchen Vap,  
Caring Committee Chair

## Books For You!

On most Sundays, the UU Bookmobile is open before and after the service, just outside the door to the sanctuary. One of our volunteers is on duty to help you select a book.

We particularly encourage new members, new pledging friends, and inquirers, to stop by, have a chat with the volunteer, browse through the books, and see if we have something tempting for you to buy.

We have books on the history of the denomination, philosophy, copies of our hymnal for your home library, many lovely children's books, and more. The books we carry are from Beacon Press and Skinner House, published under the auspices of the UUA.

Grab a cup of coffee, and head over to the bookmobile. We look forward to meeting you there.

Submitted by Joanie Reid

## Music Committee

Coming up on Mother's Day, I find myself thinking of old stories about the wonder and joy of maternity. One of the easiest to identify in our culture is the story of spirit telling a young lady named Mary that she's miraculously pregnant. And while I'm not personally one for believing the veracity of such things, I do find it a clever metaphor for demonstrating the awesomeness of motherhood, the very wonder of it. Music for centuries has captured the words of the spirit Gabriel as it reveals to Mary her new role as mother, beginning with "Hail Mary," or the familiar Latin phrase: "Ave Maria." Musicians have been approaching these words with very personal idioms for so long that there is a wealth of variety in the title "Ave Maria." I encourage you to enjoy perusing your library, the public library or I-Tunes for this and other music about motherhood. And when you've found or rediscovered music

you like, I encourage you share with me what you've enjoyed during the social hour after the 11am service. I'll be excited to hear what you've enjoyed!

For our Mother's Day service here at UUCSR, we have some wonderful music in store: a lovely opera duet from Jenny Harriman and Cathy Read, in addition to some other delightful surprises. And May 18 will include the choir's rendition of a classic of the choral repertoire, Palestrina's *Sicut Cervus*, the text of which comes from the Song of Songs. In tackling important works like this one, our choir distinguishes itself from the average expectation of a church choir, showing their capacity for and interest in exploring great music of all varieties.

Ben Taylor



### Annual Cake Auction and Lunch Mother's Day May 11<sup>th</sup>

Join the UUCSR community as we eat lunch in fellowship and bid on cakes created by RE 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class. This event raises money for our community and builds relationships of youth and adults. A lite lunch of vegetable soup, salad and bread will be provided by the kitchen crew for a \$3.00 fee to cover costs. Plan to stay after the service on May 11<sup>th</sup> and bid on a cake for dessert or to bring home to mom!

## Dharma Talk: The Power of Love

Ajahn Thanasanti and Ajahn Uppekha will be speaking at our congregation on Monday, May 26 at 7 P.M. Both of these senior Theravadan Nuns have been teaching intensive meditation retreats internationally for many years.

The topic for their dharma talk is The Power of Love. Ajahn Thanasanti is in Santa Rosa visiting her mother, Marley Fein.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008**

**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail submissions Greatly  
Appreciated!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GLASER CENTER

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 6:00 P.M.**

**A GRAND UUCSR FUNDRAISER**

## **A Night at the Opera**

**IL VITTO DI VITA! THE FOOD OF LIFE!  
DINNER! ITALIAN ARIAS! DESSERT! GROUCHO!**

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 7:30 P.M.**

## **The New Horizons Band**

**“No Band has More Fun on Stage than the New Horizons Band!”**

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 8 P.M.**

## **Occidental Community Choir**

**“First and Last,” a benefit for Face to Face**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 3 P.M.**

## **A Far Cry string ensemble**

**Boston’s famous conductorless chamber orchestra**

**MAY 24, 2 PM & 8 PM, MAY 25, 8 PM**

**Narrow Way Stage Company & The Glaser Center present**

## **Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom**

**The award-winning play about freedom, humanity, and survival; taken from real-life transcripts of 4 Guantanamo Bay detainees. Presented in a staged-reading format with a cast of N. Bay All Stars**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 8 P.M.**

## **Kitka**

**The Music of Easter Europe sung with breathtaking harmonies by this all-female vocal ensemble**

**[WWW.GLASERCENTER.COM](http://WWW.GLASERCENTER.COM)**



## UUCSR Aesthetic Committee

Have you noticed the newly redecorated meeting room behind the office? Or the purple pillars in the Board Room? How about the carpet covered bulletin board in the Social Hall? And did you know that when the beautiful redwood burl donated by Don and Jewel Ford became too small to handle all the memorial leaves, a memorial tree which will soon hold all the leaves with room to spare magically appeared on the back wall of the Sanctuary? All these things and more came about with the help and advice of the UUCSR Aesthetic Committee. We are an advisory committee. We work with the hope that, when asked, our voice will be added to

whatever project is contemplated and that weight will be given to our input because our sole charge is to see that our beautiful building remains just that - beautiful and functional!

If you have an eye for design - or color - or just somehow think you might enjoy the process of helping to ensure that all these elements come together when projects are planned, come join our committee.

For further information contact any member of the committee: Elizabeth Marrs, Elsa Torres, Ann Chambers, Sally Fife, Floss Wheeler and Louise Ostlund

## 31st Annual Leadership School

*August 2 - 8, 2008, Camp Tuolumne Trails, Groveland, CA  
www.pcd-ua.org/pcdldrship/pcdleadershipschool.htm*

### WHAT IS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL?

The purpose of the **Pacific Central District's Leadership School** is to assist lay leaders in UU communities, prepare people for new leadership roles, enhance overall leadership capabilities, and expand and deepen our religious faith.

Since 1978, more than 500 people have attended the UUA-PCD Leadership School to:

*broaden their knowledge of our heritage, and  
deepen their appreciation for the religion and  
values of our UU movement.*

*identify personal values and deepen their spiritual  
life*

*learn a variety of leadership styles and develop a  
leadership philosophy.*

Congregational sponsorship is required. Please discuss your attendance and tuition support with your Board President; his/her signature is needed to complete your registration. Total tuition for Leadership School 2008 is \$1000. This amount includes room & board, materials and quality professional instruction. Space is limited to 28 students! For more info contact Barb Zoellin-Malm, Leadership School Registrar at 408-739-0487 or bzm@barbzoellin.com.

## Women Together Events

### Annual Retreat ~ May 16 to 18

#### The theme this year will be

#### Embracing Change.

All UUCSR women and friends are invited to this wonderful weekend, away from the cares and duties of our daily lives, at beautiful and peaceful Saint Dorothy's Rest for two days of reconnecting with old friends, discovering new ones, and exploring and sharing some of our ideas and experiences. Plus wonderful food, singing, games, a Sunday service that we create, a silent auction to raise money for next year's

scholarships, and who knows what else! Some of the workshops already scheduled are Living With Children, Writing, Problem Solving, Drumming, and Sharing Children's Literature. We will also have small-group discussions focusing on different aspects of Change. Sign-ups will be on four Sundays beginning April 13th, the first two Sundays will be for UUCSR members and pledging friends, the following two Sundays for family and others we might want to bring. The price for two nights and 5 meals (Friday dinner through

Sunday breakfast) is \$155. Some partial scholarships will be available. New(er) women are particularly invited as this is such a good way to feel connected to our congregation.

#### **Elder Tales**

Dorris Lee will tell her story on Saturday, April 6 from 2 to 4 in the Lake Room, and it's an fascinating and inspiring story indeed! Please bring finger-food to share.



## General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale

So: now you have (hopefully) experienced the smaller gathering of our UU clan called PCD (Pacific Central District). The national gathering called General Assembly (GA) happens in June; the 19-22. This year it meets in Florida, the place changes every year. But if you want to reach out to other Unitarians, attend great sermons, workshops, etc., this is for you. Check out [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) for more information. The early bird registration starts April 30th. Mary Wolfe, Denominational Affairs Chair [mwolfe@sonic.net](mailto:mwolfe@sonic.net) or 544-3134.

### Calling all TIE GROUP MEMBERS, SAVE THE DATE!!

**What:** Together in Exploration (TIE) Groups May 10, 2008 Potluck

**When:** Saturday, May 10, 2008

**Where:** UUCSR, The Social Hall

**Time:** 12:00 noon to 2:00 P.M.

**Who:** All current and previous TIE Group members

**Why:** To be with other TIE group members to celebrate our 3rd year of fellowship together.

**Bring:** A dish to pass for 8-10 people



## Small Group Ministry Program/Together In Exploration

### Summer session

Are you a new member or visiting friend at UUCSR? Have you been around for a short time or quite a while? Whatever your current situation is with our congregation, please consider joining a Small Group Ministry/Together in Exploration (TIE) group this summer. This will be a good time to find out what being a TIE group member is all about. This "taster TIE" experience will help you decide if you want to be part of the fall TIE group sign-up with the longer commitment of October through May. This is what you need to know now:

Dates: the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays starting June 10 through August

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Where: UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave.

To sign up, call the church office at 568-5381 and leave a message for Janis Brewster saying you want to be added to the TIE group summer session list. Questions? Call Carolyn McLeese, 875-3542 or email me at [McLeeseC@aol.com](mailto:McLeeseC@aol.com). In the subject type "TIE group summer session."

## Membership News

**Please Welcome Our Newest Members:** Benjamin & Erin Hewitt, Judy Love, and Deborah Mason.

**Jeanie Bates**, who joined in February, moved from San Francisco to Sebastopol in 2000. She was raised as a Catholic but did not continue to practice that tradition as an adult. Although she first became acquainted with our denomination by attending services at the First Unitarian Universalist Society in San Francisco, she did not decide to become a UU until she visited our congregation. Jeanie is especially interested in social action issues, and she was seeking a community of like-minded people. She is a practicing psychotherapist. Her other major interest is gardening.

**Joy Lonnes** also became a member in February. She is a relative newcomer to Sonoma County, having moved to Geysersville a year ago, where she lives and works at a small Retreat Center called Isis Oasis. Although Joy is a native of Southern California, most of her adult life was spent in Richmond, VA, where she ran several businesses and was a Hypnotherapist. She is very happy to be back home in California. Joy is returning to UUism with which she became familiar in the early 70's. She was a member of the UU congregation in Ft. Collins, CO, and also in Richmond, VA. She attended a Unity Church for a long time and then began studying and practicing Goddess spirituality in small home based groups and at festivals. Joy is an initiated Wiccan High Priestess and enjoys teaching others about Goddess spirituality. What brought her to UUCSR is a desire to become more deeply involved with an open hearted, liberal minded, green leaning community that has stability, focus, direction and longevity in Sonoma County. She hopes to make

contributions to the life of this community and to be nurtured by it as well. Joy has three adult children and one grandson. Her oldest daughter lives at Isis Oasis with her. Joy's current interests revolve around redeveloping optimum health through following "raw food" eating habits, outdoor exercise, reading, and gardening.

**Judy Love** has lived all over the USA, growing up in Kansas City, Missouri, then living in Moscow, Idaho; Spokane, Seattle, and Olympia, Washington; Portsmouth, Virginia; and San Diego, California. Judy currently lives in Middletown, and works at Harbin Hot Springs in reception. She is "semi-retired" after a 30+ year career in social work, as a parole officer for many years, jail inspector, private practice with sexual and other addictions, as well as counselor for all sorts of mental health challenges faced by people of all ages. She has attended a wide variety of churches, especially Unity Churches, including a few UU churches, and has held leadership and group facilitation positions. She loves to sing in choirs. She is an ordained minister at Harbin, and yet feels her "inner knowing/resonance" that this church "family" will support a wonderful deepening of her spiritual commitment. Judy has a son and daughter, both married, and four grandchildren. She enjoys exploring, reading, discussions, and socializing.

**Margi Nagy**, who joined in February, arrived in Sonoma County with her husband Bob about five years ago. Although she grew up in the Los Angeles area, various and sundry post-college adventures led her to also ex-

perience living in Georgia, Michigan, and Arizona. Raised in a traditional Catholic home with five brothers and five sisters, she realized in her late teens that she longed for a broader view of life. Thus began an intense, ongoing exploration of philosophical thought, spiritual traditions, and metaphysics. Margi is delighted to have discovered UUCSR and especially appreciates the permeating warmth, humor, diversity, social action, and creativity. As an experienced teacher who has a Master's in Counseling Psychology, she is currently hoping to find meaningful work which somehow blends the two fields. Margi's many interests include gardening, reading, writing, drawing, walking, decorating, and listening to music.

**Michael Walsh** also became a member in February. He grew up in Sonoma County where he had some exposure to several religious traditions. Michael is a new UU, and he discovered our congregation because his wife, Elizabeth, attended a service and encouraged him to attend as well. Michael and Elizabeth live on a small farm and have recently built their own home. They are planning to develop the property into a retreat center. Michael is an addiction services counselor, as well as a licensed painting contractor, and a white water rafting guide. He has already become involved in our congregation, first by singing in the choir, and now as a member of the Events Committee and the Caring Committee. Michael's mother lives in Santa Rosa and has been attending our services recently. He also has a brother who lives in Cloverdale.

# Welcome!!



**All Visitors Are Invited to an Inquirer's Meeting May 11.** This is a brief, informal meeting following the 11:00 am Sunday Service. It provides an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders. Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room, located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.

## Outdoor AdventUUers—May and June!

### May 10th Pomo Canyon Meditation Hike

One of our favorites - and still a possibility for wildflowers. We'll leave from Shell Beach, wind our way up and around Red Hill, continue on eastward to have lunch in the redwoods and then amble back to the ocean. Seven miles, mostly moderate elevation gains, covered and exposed areas, lovely views and forests. Let's try to make the first half a silent walking meditation — we can chat on the way back! Meet 9:00 am at 211 Ridgway Ave in Santa Rosa.

### June 14 S.F. North Beach Fair

San Francisco's North Beach, recently selected one of American's Top 10 Neighborhoods, once again celebrates with its annual festival, and urban street fair with live music and entertainment, arts and crafts, World Champion Pizza Toss, and al fresco foods. North Beach is San Francisco's Little Italy and home of the Beat Generation. We'll do some SF street hiking — maybe see the parrots of Telegraph Hill — and spend time at the street fair — no fee for admission. Plan to spend the

whole day. Meet at 9:00 am at 211 Ridgway Ave in Santa Rosa. For further information on both of these adventures please contact Maureen Wallace, 578-7665.



## ATTN: CAMP GUALALA LOVERS!!!

**What:** Annual All-Congregation Retreat

**Where:** The lovely Camp Gualala in Annapolis, CA

**When:** Fri - Sun Aug 1st thru 3rd, 2008

**Who:** All UUCSR Members & Pledging Friends

**Why:** FUN, FUN, FUN!!

**Your Job:** Put the date on your calendar, and watch future newsletters for more info!

**From your friendly Retreat Committee Members:**

- Pat Wilson
- Denese Pender
- LeeAnn Fagan
- Barrie Noe
- Shaun Simmons



**A Proposal: Post 11:00AM Service Discussion Group**

Sunday services, here at UUCSR, are rich in ideas, sights, sounds. We are touched, enlivened, energized.

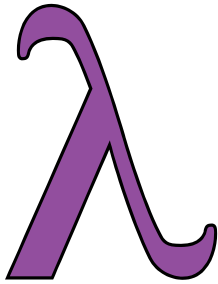
I have often left a service wishing for a chance to chew over what has been stirred. I wonder if there is any interest in sharing experiences after the service.

I have some ideas and would welcome your ideas about the shape of a post service discussion group.

If you have any interest in and/or ideas about such a group please call me at: 829-9883 or email me at [jeaniebmf@yahoo.com](mailto:jeaniebmf@yahoo.com)

Jeanie Bates

**GLBT Social Group**



**GLBT Social Group**

Mark your calendar! GLBT meets after worship on the 3rd Sunday of every month. So enjoy cookies and chat in the social hall, then join us in the Lake Room (religious education wing) for conversation and a movie.

See you on May 18th!

Contacts: Heather French

at [heather.french@sonoma.edu](mailto:heather.french@sonoma.edu) or Carina Zona at [carina@cczona.com](mailto:carina@cczona.com). Mailing list:

<http://groups.google.com/group/uucsr-glbt>

**Pride Interfaith Service: "Loving Self, Loving Others"**

For the first time ever, Pride Interfaith Service: Loving Self, Loving Others will kick-off the Sonoma County Pride Week on June 8th, 2008. The 7:00 pm event will be held at the Center For Spiritual Living at 2075 Occidental Road in Santa Rosa. This special event will bring together religious leaders from throughout the community (including our own Rev. Chris) and musicians from diverse religious traditions within Sonoma county, joining in unity to acknowledge and celebrate the spiritual presence found in every Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex, Questioning and Straight person.

**Miniature Golfing with Under The Hill**

**Miniature Golfing with Under The Hill**

Come tilt at windmills with the Under The Hill gang. Families welcome. Meet on May 3rd, 1:00pm at the entrance to Scandia Funland in Rohnert Park.

Cost is \$7.75 (adult), \$5.00 (age 6-10, or 60+), or free (< age 6). Call 584-1398 for more info about Funland, or contact Carina Zona <[carina@cczona.com](mailto:carina@cczona.com)> for info about the event.



**UU Fiber Artists**



UU Fiber Artists Meet one Sunday afternoon each month to share fellowship as we knit, crochet, quilt, needle-point...All levels welcome to come and

learn or improve skills and create in community. Our May meeting will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> after the service in one of the member's homes. Call Heather Lawton 707 843-9936 to find out more.

**Evening Book Group**

The Evening Book Group has changed its meeting date to Thursday, May 1 at 7 PM at 547 Mendocino.

Gilbert. New members and visitors are welcome.

Our selection this month is Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Judy Taylor



## UUCSR Writers

### UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, May 5, 2008, from 4 - 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

### About the UUCSR Writers

Whatever your creative endeavor: memoirs, letters, history, biography, the Great American novel, short story, poetry, essays, dissertation, Master's thesis, song lyrics, report, term paper, cook book, web pages, blogging, etc., our focus is to provide an atmosphere where serious writers improve and hone their writing skills.

The UUCSR Writers is open to the novice, the more experienced, and the published author. Membership at the

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa (UUCSR) is not required. We meet once a month at UUCSR in Santa Rosa, CA on the First Monday of the month from 4:00-6:00pm.

### UUCSR Online Writers

Can't attend monthly meetings? Live in another City, State or Country? Request an Invitation to join our "Online Writers" Blog. You can learn more about our group, and current "Works-in-Progress", at the UUCSR Writers Blog.

### Information

UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com), <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com> and/or visit the Writers Table in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings.

## Recommendation to Establish a Memorial Garden at UUCSR

To: UUCSR Congregants:

One of the challenges adopted by the Board this year was to establish priorities for use of our outdoor land. That includes any needs of Religious Education, the Rentals Committee, and other possible church needs. The Board established a Land Use Task Force in order to consider, evaluate and make recommendations regarding uses of the outdoor land of the church. I was designated as leader and a team was activated including members of various church committees (buildings, grounds, RE, rentals, operations and Rev. Chris).

In November, a member of UUCSR came to the Board and suggested that a Memorial Garden be established for the purpose of interring ashes of members that wish to be interred there. This became part of the team's consideration. The Task Force met in January.

This letter concerns the proposal for a Memorial Garden. With much discussion, the team evaluated the possibility of sites. The discussion evolved to be positive for the idea of establishing a Memorial Garden.

In its report to the board it recommended that a memorial garden be developed. After reviewing possible sites, it was recommended that the garden area on the north side of the RE wing, inside the entry from the parking garage, be developed as a Memorial Garden, to inter the ashes of members of UUCSR that wish it.

(Ashes only, no canisters). Shaun and Karen Simmons, who are our grounds maintenance team, volunteered to establish the garden. Preliminary ideas suggest that an arbor with climbing vegetation will be built over the area and possibly a chalice will be affixed to the wall, also the names of those interred there. A bench for sitting will likely be placed across the walkway. Cost is estimated to be relatively small, three to six hundred dollars.

The board supported the team's recommendation. The board directed me to meet with the full operations team since the garden would come under its oversight. I attended a meeting of the operations team in May, and presented the proposal. The operations team was in support of the proposal.

The Board accepted and agreed with the proposal. The Board indicated that the proposal now needed to be put before the Full Membership of UUCSR at the June 8th Congregational Meeting. I was instructed to write a letter to inform the membership, prior to the meeting, that this item will be presented for discussion and voting, whether to establish a Memorial Garden.

Anyone with questions can reach me at 538-2612 or [barrows@sonic.net](mailto:barrows@sonic.net).

Bob Barrows, Land Use Task Force Member & Board Member

## A Night At The Opera!!

Join us for an Italian feast, frivolity and a show, at il Vitto di Vita (The Food of Life) on *Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 - 9:00*. We will gather in the courtyard at 6:00, dine at 6:30, listen to Italian opera's most beautiful arias and art songs performed by Michael Van Why and the members of Project Applause in our beautiful sanctuary at 7:30, and finish up with dessert. All are invited to this fundraising event for UUCSR. Tickets are \$50.



## A Poem submitted by the UUCSR Writer's Group

### THE FLAG LAPEL

Beware the heart of darkness  
 Beneath the flag lapel  
 Where the short beat thumps for heaven  
 And the long beat trumps for hell.

Lub-dub, lub- dub,--each fresh new beat  
 Empowers thought for greed;  
 New energy to rob, to kill,  
 To drive imperial need.

Our patriotic predators  
 Have bred a wondrous thing.  
 Behold the Law in business suit:  
 A Presidential King!.

Win or lose, the money flows  
 With each new surge of war;  
 Let's not forget that ruthless men.  
 Pump profit from the gore.

When blatant lies bring tears to eyes  
 We know that all's not well.  
 Beware the cruel heart that beats  
 Beneath the flag lapel.

---John R. Bastone

8 April 2008

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May 2008

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**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

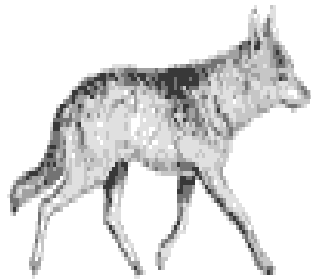
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 Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org  
 Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail address

**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.**  
 Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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 Church Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious Education Staff**  
 Anne Blevins  
 Kara Margolis  
 Erin Stewart





## Save the Date!

BE AMONG THOSE AT UUCSR WHO KNOW  
HOW TO CALM THE JACKAL VOICES AND  
USE THE GIRAFFE VOICES  
FREE WORKSHOP JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 12:30 3:30  
AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE  
TOOLS FOR CHOICE & CHANGE

with Rev. Carol Chase, International Certified Trainer  
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**Learn where your stress comes from and how to:**

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