



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• June 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 6 •

## Sunday Services at 9:00am and 11:00am (One service at 10:00am from 6/22)

### June 1st RE SUNDAY

#### "Old Turtle and the Broken Truth"

Service Leaders: Deborah Mason, DRE & Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Molly Farison, and the  
Old Turtle Players

The search for truth and meaning is a hard one, as the People discover when they try to live by only a piece of the truth. Can Old Turtle and the other Animals help people stop their fighting? You'll have to attend to find out. Dedicated to our Children's Religious Education Program, this story-based service will also honor some of our children who are graduating to new phases of life, and recognize our generous teachers. ALL AGES WORSHIP TOGETHER TODAY!

Everyone is invited to please stay for the *Non-Violent Communication* training after the service.

### June 15th

#### Missing Father?

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Andy Levine

One reason I may be so attracted to Taoism and Buddhism is that, inwardly, embracing the mothering/feminine side has been easier than embracing the fathering/masculine. There must be balance. I know I'm not alone - as Ben Taylor noted to me recently, the whole "Christian world" has lived with a founding story featuring a missing father and a childless man! Time for us to create new archetypes and reclaim old ones, then, as we honor the fathers among us and the father in all of us.

Men interested in coming together for a summer retreat are invited to lunch together, and to a meeting with Rev. Chris at 1:30pm.

### June 8th

#### Jackals and Giraffes

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

According to the Marshall Rosenberg, author of *Non-Violent Communication: A Language of Life*, people behave and communicate as one of two animals in a conflict. One barks and bites, and the other tries to take the higher view. Since humanity's inherent freedom guarantees periodic conflict among all people - even the most politely tolerant - it helps to choose the latter. The Jackals have had the lead recently, as the recent FBI report about torture in our military prisons makes clear, so the world needs all the Giraffes it can muster. Come grow your neck!!

### June 22nd

#### FIRST SUMMER SERVICE - 10:00 am

##### "Let It Be A Dance!"

Service Leaders: Leslie Giffen, Molly Farison

Sacred dance is nearly as universal as sacred music among the cultures of humankind. Long before the Unitarians and Universalists bubbled up in the Protestant stream, Christianity had largely abandoned it. As anyone who attended at 11:00 on May 25<sup>th</sup> knows, it's making a comeback here at UUCSR! Come prepared to befriend the body in a service that celebrates the somatic.

### June 29th - 10:00am

#### "Love Dogs - The Poetry of Rumi"

Service Leader: Maureen Wallace Worship Associate: Erin Howesman

"There are love dogs no one knows the names of. Give your life to be one of them". Come, come whoever you are to explore the mysticism and humanism of Jalal El Din Al Rumi, the thirteenth century Muslim Sufi poet. We may well know Rumi for his expressions of sublime spirituality; however, Rumi's poetry also expresses great regard for human intellect and rationality. Sound a bit like Unitarian Universalism?

## Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

There is a very old, strange, but pleasant tradition in Unitarian Universalist congregations to slow things down in the summer. It may have something to do with the academic calendar or the "Annual May Meetings" of the American Unitarian Association, or the preference of our more well-to-do New England ancestors for taking the summer away at the Cape, or Star Island, or other retreats and resorts.

These days during the summer, some Unitarian Universalists still head to our UUA General Assembly or to UU retreats. Others, particularly with children, head to the park or the beach or the pool, while many of us just keep working away. Here at UUCSR, a new Board will spend time getting up and running after the election at our Congregational Meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, while the rest of us catch our breath and look ahead to the next "church year".

The minister usually takes most of her or his vacation time and study/planning time during the summer, too. This year I'll spend the very end of June and most of July on study leave (there is a book project I must complete), but I'll be right here in town for pastoral situations. In late July the family and I will be in Cleveland to try to do something with the alpaca farm. (Any takers? I have learned they are indeed edible.) Then we'll go on to the Chautauqua Institute in New York where I'll preach and we'll all take in concerts and lectures. I'll be back in the office full-time in early August and start preaching again that month.

Of course, as a broadside called *Advice From Bill Gates* that was put in my hand on Sunday notes, "Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get the summers off." It's true; people don't stop being hungry and living on the streets in the summer, so the Saturday breakfast will go on. People don't stop needed spiritual conversation, so a T.I.E. group will take place. People don't stop needing deep friendship, so the All Church Family Retreat will happen. Our souls need worship and community and hope and connection all the time, so we will still have great services led by guest speakers and members of the Congregation, although we will worship only once per Sunday.

There is one further area of our mutual concern that can not take a break during these summer months, and that is our calling to ensure that discrimination against gay and lesbian people is not enshrined in the State Constitution in November now that same-sex marriage has been rightly deemed constitutional by the State Supreme Court.

As most of you know, Unitarian Universalists have spoken out against discrimination toward homosexual peo-

ple since 1970. Our Association of Congregations "affirms the worth and dignity of every person, and covenants to promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Furthermore, the Association holds that love between two men, two women, or one man and one woman creates deep and caring relationships and families and provides nurturing environments for couples and their children. Thus, the UUA supports civil equality and human rights for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people." You can read more about our collective thinking about the issue at [www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/](http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/)

As any of you might read on the back of our weekly Order of Service, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa is a Welcoming Congregation, pledged to be fully inclusive of GLBT folks. Our witness and outreach on the issue of marriage equality will move that vision of our community even closer toward reality. As your minister I will begin officiating same-sex marriages as soon as I am able, and I have been honored to speak at the Gay Pride Worship Service at the Center for Spiritual Living on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, which I warmly urge you to attend.

As a congregation I hope you will join me in shaping the moral framework of this debate in Santa Rosa. Our prophetic voice, declaring that love far transcends categories of gay or straight, and that expanding the reach of marriage strengthens marriage, must be heard in the newspapers, and outside of the grocery stores, and in the pulpit. We have five months to win the support of another 5% of the population of California to the side of marriage equality and justice.

I guess I was lucky enough to have been given the gift of the one universal antidote to prejudice, and that was the reality of a full-fledged living GLBT human beings in my life. I have known and loved many gay people from my youth, and have struggled to understand Western Culture's concerns about homosexuality, the short-sighted and literal reading of holy books notwithstanding. I could never figure why God would care which skin and parts and fluids got rubbed or mixed together, as long as love was being made. And why should anyone care who has sex with whom, as long as everyone is willing and respectful and kind?

The fear-mongers and sex-fearers and Biblical literalists and homophobes of our nation might not want to believe it, but even a few minutes away from the shouting of protest marches for some real contact reveals that gay people and straight people are the same as everybody else.

Cont. on page 3

## Splinters from the Board

I just finished writing the Board's year end report - the one that will go in UUCSR's Annual Report and be distributed at the Congregational Meeting June 8th. It led me to reflect on our congregation's annual calendar, which works very much like a school year calendar. In the spring we rush to finish up our projects, prepare a budget for the next fiscal year, enjoy an intergenerational worship service, and send representatives off to District Assembly and General Assembly for inspiration and new ideas. In the summer we relax a bit, have one Sunday service earlier in the day, hold our summer camp at Gualala, take some time to vacation, and then have homecoming Sunday in early September when the kids return to school.

I don't know about you, but for me relaxing in the summer - doing nothing or at least not doing so much - is not something I'm particularly adept at. Yet I sense intuitively that resting and relaxing are just as important as focusing on goals. My friend Paul Shin at Thompson's Cleaners writes in his Memorial Day newsletter: "In Korean, the word 'rest' is 'shuim'. 'Shuim' comes from the word 'sum', which means 'to breathe'. Obviously, you can't live without breathing. In the same way, you can't work without resting." For Paul and many like him who typically work 6 days a week, a two-day holiday weekend is a time for much needed rest. Similarly, a break from our busy congregational calendar can give us time to rest in our accomplishments, to breathe and enjoy some spaciousness, and to give ourselves time for recreation and renewal.

As this congregational year nears its end, I am feeling a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction with our work on the Board of Trustees. It's a sense of completion. As consultants Sunny and Gary Yates write in their work

about completion, "Being complete does not mean that there is nothing left to do, nor is it an invitation to complacency. It does not mean that everything is exactly the way we would have it be. Being complete means being at peace with the facts."\*

With the help of so many committees and teams, the Board has accomplished much this year. We have assembled a great staff and have a performance review and planning process for our minister, staff and congregation's ministry. The Board is moving forward with the implementation of a council governance structure that places planning and decision making with the folks who are doing the work. Our financial house is in good order and we have a plan for year-round fundraising. We are thrilled that a large number of our members are taking advantage of leadership development opportunities by attending District Assembly, General Assembly, the UUA's Multi Racial Multi Cultural Future Conference and the PCD's summer leadership school. We have a plan to devote more resources to the development of each and every congregant. For more on the Board and congregation's accomplishments and plans, please attend the Congregational Meeting on June 8th and read our congregation's Annual Report. It's amazing!

We've worked hard this year. So let's relax awhile. Breathe in. Breathe out. Rest in our accomplishments. I'm planning to exercise my rest and relaxation muscles this summer. I hope everyone in the congregation feels good about our past year's work, enjoys the summer, and makes the time for recreation and renewal.

With gratitude,  
Linda Proulx, President, Board of Trustees

## Continued—Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

**Cont. from page 2**

I know that the GLBT folks who attend here won't mind, nor be surprised, if I acknowledge that some of us may have reservations about same-sex marriage, or still be working out issues around our understanding of homosexuality, or our comfort around GLBT folks. Some worry about becoming limited by the identity of "the gay church." Over the next five months I hope we'll make lots of caring space for each other to discuss our feelings openly and overcome our fears. But I also hope we will be uniform and strong in our support for this historic advance in human rights.

It bears remembering, as always, that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another and helping to build a better world this summer doesn't preclude a ball game or a barbecue along the way, or a sleepy afternoon in the hammock. (Why, I've even heard that gay people are also fond of food and sleep!)

I truly hope this summer is a time of renewal for everyone, and for the Spirit of Life in our midst.

Blessings, Rev. Chris

## Treasurer's Report

June is the final month of our congregation's 2007-2008 fiscal year. Consequently there has been a flurry of financial activity over the past month - Board, Finance and Congregational Council meetings, review of current year budgeted and actual expenditures, collection of committee wish lists, estimation of salaries, accounting for increases in utilities, adding up confirmed pledges, predicting rental and events income, and the drafting of trial budgets. All this activity happens because we demand of ourselves, the widest possible participation in the crafting of our UUCSR budget for the coming 2008-2009 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. We practice what we preach - democracy in

action!

Come to the Congregational Meeting on June 8, following the Sunday Service.

You will have an opportunity to review the current fiscal year with the Treasurers. You will also have an opportunity to view and vote on next year's proposed budget presented by the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee. Take advantage of your congregational membership. Get out there and vote!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Daines, Co-treasurer

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—JUNE 8TH**

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.

#### **Lunch Before the Congregational Meeting**

The Advocates for Social Justice will be selling lunch before the Congregational Meeting on June 8th. The proceeds will again go to the Adrienne Swenson Award which will provide a substantial scholarship to the young person at UUCSR who has done the most to further Peace and Social Justice, two goals dear to Adrienne's heart. We're asking between \$5 and \$10 for the lunch, but if you'd like to contribute more to support this new UU project, don't hesitate!

### **News from the Committee on Shared Ministry**

Over the past several months your CoSM has been working hard to realize its top three goals for 2007-2008.

Our first goal was, and is, to build congregational competence in the areas of conflict management, direct communication, and in giving and receiving constructive criticism and feedback. Toward this end, CoSM sponsored a conflict management training using Marshall Rosenberg's system of *Non-Violent Communication* for the Board, CoSM and the Staff on April 12. We will be offering the same training for the entire congregation after the service on June 1, at no cost

other than for lunch if you want it. Please plan to attend.

In addition, the committee will continue to support and provide guidance, when requested by our minister, regarding any conflicts involving congregants or staff, and to mediate such conflicts compassionately and fairly. Also, if you have a concern you would like brought to Rev. Chris and don't feel comfortable doing so directly, (though he really is an approachable fellow) you can always speak to any other member of CoSM.

Look for goal #2 in next month's UU Update!



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

Wow! It's almost summer. June first will be RE Sunday at UUCSR. Rev. Chris and I have put together a special **theatrical** Intergenerational Service which will include honoring our devoted teachers. This will be the culmination of a challenging church year, where so many people combined efforts to keep RE going during the transition in staff leadership. This will be an important opportunity for the children to take part in a ritual of gratitude. Don't miss it!

Kids will soon be out of school and families are planning for summer activities. And that is exactly what I am up to as well. We will have a full RE program every Sunday with a focus on the Seventh Principle.

I am working with three curricula: *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* from the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, *Hands-On Nature* from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and *Journey for the Planet: A Kids Five Week Adventure to Create an*

*Earth-Friendly Life* from Empowerment Institute and provided by the UU Legislative Ministry. Each resource contains activities and stories to help children become more aware and respectful of the world of nature around them. I will be drawing from each resource to create worship with songs and stories and activities to get the kids involved.

I recognize that we have an old UU tradition of summers off from church, but that is changing across the country as Worship Associates and RE Committees work to bring meaningful programs throughout the summer months. Please know that my aim is to provide engaging and fun religious education for our kids every week. I hope your kids will join in!

In faith  
Deborah



## Tracking Pledges and Donations!

### Help Me Keep Track of Your Pledges and Donations!

Hi, I'm Barrie Noe, the Pledge Secretary at UUCSR (along with Rose St. John). My job is to enter the generous checks you write to the UUCSR into the church's accounting system, PowerChurch. This system keeps track of your pledges and other donations. You can help me correctly input your pledges and donations by always specifying what your money is intended for in the memo area of your check.

Many of you already write in the memo area of your checks religiously (sorry, I couldn't resist) and it's a huge help to me. The check memo area is my best friend! By seeing what you intend the money to be used for; I can make sure it is applied to the correct fund so we can maintain an accurate record of your generous donations. We certainly appreciate them!

Our pledge year 2007/2008 is coming to a close at the end of June. Our new pledge year 2008/2009 begins in July. At this time of year (when the fiscal year changes) it's important to write which pledge you intend your money to go toward - the **2007/2008 pledge** (June 2007-July 2008) or the **2008/2009 pledge** (June 2008-July 2009).

You can make prepayments now for 2008/2009 as long as you specify it in the memo area of your check.

Always write something in your check memo area. (Even if it's for a service or an item, such as a book from the book cart, put **book**.) It keeps questions about what your check is for to a minimum.

Here are several funds people write checks for:

**"2007/2008 pledge"** for the current pledge year which is ending soon (July 2007-June 2008)

**"2008/2009 pledge"** for our new pledge year (beginning July 2008-June 2009)

**"Basket"** for any general donation that is not intended to be paid against your pledge

**"Share the Basket"** for those Sundays when our basket money is divided between the UUCSR's general fund and whatever organization has been chosen for the month.

**"Memorial donation for \_\_\_\_\_"** for any memorial donation you make

**"Saturday Breakfast"** for our Saturday Breakfast fund

Again, thank you for all your generous pledges and donations. The UUCSR would not exist without them!

## Advocates For Social Justice

### Share The Basket

Our Saturday Breakfast has become the talk of the PCD with Sally Fife and John Dumbrell receiving their much deserved Award at District Assembly. The number of hungry people keeps growing as does the cost of food. On June 7th, one half of the collection will go to support this wonderful program so please be as generous as you have been in the past!

As we end this fiscal year we can

look back and see what our Share the Basket donations have been. (This does not include our bi-monthly donation to the Saturday Breakfast.)

Children's Village	\$ 676
Heifer Project	\$ 268
May 1st Immigrant and Worker Rights March Rally	\$ 516
Sonoma County Indian Health Project	\$ 225
The Living Room (2 collections)	\$ 1049

We are doing well in living out our principles!!

In the coming year we will follow a new pattern. One month ~ Saturday Breakfast; the next month ~ The Living Room; the third month a cause of our choosing; then back to the Saturday Breakfast. If anyone has an agency or program they'd like us to support, please contact the Advocates for Social Justice. And thank you all for your generosity!

## Musings from your Caring Committee

I would like to acknowledge some special UUs who have assisted in some Caring. Robin Marrs and Anne ten-Bencel, thanks for helping a member of our congregation move from one location to another. And many thanks to the TIE group led by Marlene Kaulum and Mary Wagner who made it their project to provide the Caring Committee with extra food for those who may need it.

Speaking of food: a reminder that we want to provide meals for members in need. We have, in our freezer (back of kitchen and left side), main dishes clearly marked Caring Committee. We replenish this supply as needed. If you are having surgery, take some ahead of time. If you know someone in need, we want to meet that need. If you are experiencing a "bad patch" during

a chronic illness, take some food. Anne tenBencel's team of food suppliers would hate for the food to go to waste. We have mostly casserole type main dishes and soups, home-made by your fellow UUs.

And, my usual plea: please take advantage of the many UUs who want to assist any member who has a caring need, and call on us. I am, personally, so grateful to be a part of such a caring spiritual community.

In caring and friendship,

Gretchen Vap,  
Caring Committee Chair

## Flower Committee

Keeping it simple! Let Joan Thatcher ([jothat@pacbell.net](mailto:jothat@pacbell.net), 544-9130) know whom you wish to honor and when, and for only \$25 there will be a beau-

tiful bouquet in the sanctuary with a notice in the Order of Service.



## General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale

Just last month a number of us experienced the regional gathering of our UU clan, the Pacific Central District (PCD) Assembly, fondly known as D.A. The national gathering called *General Assembly (G.A.)* happens in June; the 19-22. This year it meets in Florida, but the site changes every year. Next year it will be in Salt Lake City. If you want to reach out to other Unitarians, attend great sermons and workshops, and be deeply inspired, this is for you. Check out [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) for

more information. Most of the official business meetings and worships are broadcast over the Internet, as are many seminars. Check it out!

Mary Wolfe,  
Denominational Affairs Chair  
[mwolfe@sonic.net](mailto:mwolfe@sonic.net) or 544-3134.



## TIE Groups/Together In Exploration

Tie Groups complete one Service Project every year where they give their services to the congregation as a whole or to the community at large. This year we had quite a variety of Service Projects from our TIE Groups. For example, Tom Bond and Art Rosenblum's TIE Group hosted a "5<sup>th</sup> Saturday" homeless breakfast in May - providing a well deserved break for some of the regular workers. Kitty Wells' TIE Group made themselves available to set up, clean up, help provide food and join in the conversation of a New Member Orientation meeting - an effort to support the membership committee.

Pete Wilson and Bonnie Daines's TIE Group provided home baked goodies for a Sunday coffee hour after the Sunday Service. Mary Louise Jaffray and Carol Kraemer's TIE Group are assisting our Writer's Group in creating and staffing a UUCSR table for the Sonoma County Book Festival. This TIE Group also made a financial contribution toward the application fee for the Festival. Sally Fife and Brian Wells' TIE Group gathered for lunch on a Saturday before cleaning and painting the upstairs bathroom and replaced ceiling tiles and floor molding - a worthy project.

Marie Fox and Dorris Lee's TIE Group are making home made cookies for the June Congregational meeting - do enjoy their hard work! Mary Wagner and Marlene Kaulum's TIE Group will prepare freezer meals for the Caring Committee to distribute to those in need. Diana Breslich and Frances Corman's TIE Group have written a very impressive new TIE Group topic for use in the coming years. Carolyn McLeese and Barrie Noe's TIE Group stood with the Women in Black in silent vigil for peace and justice on a Friday morning - followed by a lunch and discussion of their experiences.

As of this writing, there are still a few spaces left in the Summer Session of TIE Groups, which will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, beginning on June 10, 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. If you are interested in joining the Summer Session, please call Carolyn McLeese at 875-3542 or Janis Brewster at 568-5381. 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.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2008**

**[Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)**

**E-mail submissions Greatly**

**Appreciated!**

## Membership News

### New Congregational Directories Available in

**June:** New directories will be distributed to all members who attend the June 8 Congregational Meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting, you may request a directory from a Hospitality Team member at the Visitor Table after a Sunday service or from the office staff during the week.

### Please Welcome Our Newest Members:

Marcia Cobble, Tammy Coney, and Jean Smith.

**Marcia Cobble** was born and raised in Oakland. She moved to Sonoma County in 1992. She was not raised in any particular religious tradition, so she is new to both our denomination and our congregation. She recently became acquainted with our congregation through UUCSR members Bob & Marge Ottman. Prior to her retirement, Marcia worked as a medical secretary. She is now engaged in hospice work and other caregiving activities. Other interests include knitting and crocheting. She also belongs to a meditation group in Oakmont.

**Tammy Coney** grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and moved to San Jose in the early 80s where she lived for 10 years. Then she moved to Orlando, Florida, where she lived for the next 10 years. She moved back to California in 2001. Although Tammy and her husband attended high school together and were friends, they did not start dating until their 10th reunion, and they have now been married for 18 years. She has a stepson who just graduated from Georgia Tech. Tammy attended the Church of Christ as a child. Later, she would occasionally visit other churches hoping to find a spiritual home, but she always got turned off by something. When she visited our congregation, she knew immediately it was a fit. Tammy works in human resources/recruitment at Kaiser Permanente. Her past careers involved United Way fund raising and real estate sales. Tammy has already become involved in UUCSR by joining the flower committee. Her other interests include scrapbooking, reading, and travel.



### Inquirer's Meetings

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide 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.

**June 15** (following 11 am service)

**July 13** (following 10 am service)

**August 10** (following 10 am service)

## Men's Summer Retreat

Men interested in coming together for a summer retreat are invited to lunch together, and to a meeting with Rev. Chris at 1:30pm.



## Women Together

Nearly a third of our UUC women went to this year's Retreat which, at this writing, I hope will have been enjoyed by all! To keep those good connections and to offer another chance for those women who couldn't come to get together, Women Together is having a pot-luck lunch at the church on Saturday, June 21st from noon to two. Please bring a lunch dish to share.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Linda Harlow at 526-3528 or [lmh1937@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmh1937@sbcglobal.net). Let's keep the good times rolling!

### Retreat Scholarships

We raised over \$1,100 on the silent auction for next year's scholarships. Thanks to all for your wonderful donations and generous bidding!! Mark your calendars for the third weekend in May, 2009!

## Outdoor AdventUers—June!

### 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 these adventures please contact Maureen Wallace, 578-7665.



## CAMP GUALALA RETREAT!!!

It's time to register for the annual All-Congregation Retreat! We hope you can attend this fun and relaxing weekend Retreat on August 1 - 3. It is held at lovely Camp Gualala, which is on the Gualala River in the town of Annapolis (about 1.5 hours northwest of Santa Rosa). It's the one Retreat of the year that is for every member (or pledging friend) in the congregation - kids, teens, adults, families, singles, grandparents, couples - everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend! We will have workshops, games, swimming and campfire songs if you want a lively and interactive weekend. And you'll be away from the rest of civilization and electronic devices and surrounded by wildlife and redwood trees - which is perfect if you want some quiet time to meditate in peace, acclimate to nature, or alleviate your stress and worries.

Look in this Newsletter for the full-page flyer and registration form. There will be a table set up in the social hall from June 29th thru July 20th with additional forms - so you can stop by and register then. Or if you prefer, you

can fill out a registration form now and mail it to Pat Wilson at 465 Boas Dr, Santa Rosa, 95409-3616. For more info, call Pat Wilson at 537-8562 or Denese Pender at 575-3229. Sunday July 20th is the deadline to register (and when payment is due). Stop by the Retreat table if you have any other questions. We have a lot of new members this year, so it'll be a great chance to get to know your extended UU family in a casual and relaxing atmosphere.

Please consider joining our fun and amiable committee in 2009. We only meet once a month from Feb to Aug, so you get a break over the fall and winter months. Pat Wilson will be stepping down as Chair at the end of this year, so we need someone who is available for the Chairperson position. Pat will continue on the committee next year and will walk the new person through every step. Talk to someone at the Retreat table if you're interested.

## Sonoma County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride 08

### Pride Interfaith Service "Loving Self, Loving Others" - June 8

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 commu-

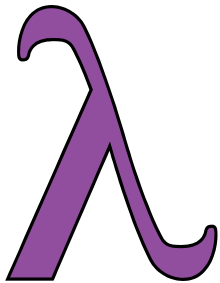
nity (including our own Rev. Chris) and musicians from diverse religious traditions within Sonoma county, joining in unity to acknowledge and celebrate the spiritual presence found in every Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex, Questioning and Straight person.

### Pride Festival — June 15

**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 June

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.

## GLBT Social Group



### GLBT Social Group

GLBT meets after worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month. NOTE: because our usual meeting date coincides with Pride this month, there will not be a meeting in June. Have fun at Pride, and please signup for an hour staffing UUCSR's Pride booth! We'll see everyone again on June 15th, for conversation and a movie. 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-glb>

## New Poetry Lovers Group

If you like poetry, either writing it, reading it, or listening to others reading it, there's a newly formed group of poetry lovers now meeting at 547 Mendocino. We meet on Thursday mornings. The dates and time follow: May 29, 11 to 1, June 12, 11 to 1, June 26, 11 to 1, July 10, 11 to 1. We shall meet in the Green Room. You may bring a poem you have written and/or a poem written by

another poet to share. Depending on the interest of the group, we may continue beyond July 10, 2008. We do not have a chairperson, therefore if you are interested, just come to the Green Room on the dates indicated.



Submitted by Marie L. Fox

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, June 5 for our annual finger food potluck. Bring suggestions for books to read during the next year.

The book group meets from September to June and takes July and August off. Members take turns leading the discussion. The discussion leader also brings a

snack for that meeting. The format of our meetings is a time for check in, first impressions about the book, background on the author and the book, and further discussion. At the June meeting we also exchange books that we are ready to pass on to new owners.

Linda Lampson

## A Toast to Our Largesse: Canvass 2008

A hearty and heartfelt THANK YOU to the entire and extended Congregation for a splendidly successful 2008 Canvass!

Mixing it up from the home canvass visits of recent years, in April we enjoyed Celebration Weekend - eating, drinking, socializing, and flaunting our finery at the Canvass Gala evening party, followed the next day by Celebration Sunday.

The message is simple: What we do here matters to us and to our community. We are growing beyond subsistence budgeting into the bigger vision we knew was possible when we relocated downtown in 2004. No longer content to keep our spiritual community and progressive values to ourselves, we are funding our congregation for expansion, thereby making our care and commitment available to ever more like-minded people.

In this tough economic climate, we didn't know if the Congregation would be able to make up for the financial difficulties that have hit some of us pretty hard. But we saw many of those in stable financial situations pledging more, and those whose conditions were more tenuous continuing to give as much as possible.

Every generous gift keeps our community thriving. With a realistic goal of \$320,000 in member/friend pledges,

we are happy to report that, as of this writing, more than **\$312,000** has been pledged by members and friends toward our operating expenses for the coming year. Anyone who has not yet put a pledge on record, please do send in your pledge card -- or you can simply call the Office at 568-5381 with your intentions.

The Gala was a dazzling revelry, Celebration Sunday was inspirational, and the deep commitment of every member and pledging friend is heartwarmingly apparent in the "time, talent, and treasure" that continue to pour forth.

Warmly,  
*Ellen Skagerberg & Brian Wells*  
Canvass 2008 co-chairs

With gratitude to the entire Canvass Team, and special thanks for exceptional achievement to ...

Nancy Hargis, for envisioning and creating the Canvass Gala party;

Andrew Hidas, for wordsmithing and mailers;

Art Rosenblum, for phone team organization and motivation; and

The Rev. Chris Bell, for Celebration Sunday



## Climate Change and California Water: A Young Adult Road Trip for Justice

**August 2 - 10, 1008;**  
**for UU young adults, ages 18 - 25**  
**Sponsored by the UU Legislative Ministry**  
**and Pacific Southwest District**

The UULM and the PSWD are sponsoring a road trip through northern and central California to learn about water justice and climate change in California. During this time, the questions asked will be: How will climate change affect our water supply? Are big dairies the reason hundreds of small towns in Tulare County can't drink their water? What is paper water? Why are the delta islands lower than the rivers? Is water a commodity, a right, or a sacred trust? We will learn from local activists, experts, and one another during this trip (if you are in college, you may be able to receive credit).

Along the way, we will also worship, play, share music, build community, and enjoy the cool water of California's wonderful rivers. We will bring our voices, concerns, questions, and experiences back to our legislators, and learn how to take action back in our own communities.

Cost: \$460.00 per person (if your congregation sponsors you with a donation of \$75.00 toward your trip, UULM will contribute an additional \$75.00, reducing your fee to \$310.00).

The trip is limited to 24 participants and 6 staff. For further information, contact either the Rev. Lindi Ramsden from UULM, 916-441-0018, X202, [lramsdn@uulmca.org](mailto:lramsdn@uulmca.org)

Or Tera Little from the PSWD, 626-840-5412, [teralittle@att.net](mailto:teralittle@att.net).

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Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**



June 2008

Please Recycle

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**  
**Mailing Address: 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381**  
**Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: http://www.uusantarosa.org**

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**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**UU Update Newsletter:**  
 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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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

presents

# KITKA

World renowned women's vocal ensemble

in concert

at The Glaser Center

547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa

Saturday, June 14th 2008

8:00pm



\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door

Telephone: 707.568.5381

Tickets available from all Copperfields

Stanroy Music Center (Santa Rosa)

Backdoor Disc (Cotati)

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Online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

[www.glascrcenter.com](http://www.glascrcenter.com)

# **UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GLASER CENTER**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 8 P.M.**

## **Kitka**

The world-renowned all-female chorus performing the music of Eastern Europe and beyond

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**SATURDAY, JULY 12, 7:30 P.M.**

## **Peter Tracy & the Left Coast Troubadours**

A courtyard concert celebrating the release of Peter Tracy's brand-new CD Free Thinker

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**SATURDAY, JULY 26, 8 P.M.**

## **Ghost Readers in July**

The annual courtyard performance of spine-tingling ghost stories performed live by Sonoma County's most "spirited" actors—with spooky campfire songs by Steve Pile (of Steve Pile & the Piledrivers)

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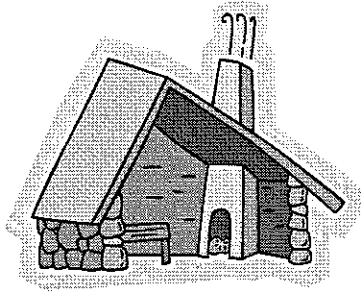
### *Also Upcoming*

Josh Kornbluth's 'Citizen Josh'

All Together Now: Beatles sing-along with Beatlesque  
Ballroom Dancing Workshop & Open Dance

# UUCSR ALL-CONGREGATION RETREAT

*Under the redwoods  
at Camp Gualala  
August 1 - 3, 2008*



Join your  
UU extended family  
for a weekend of  
fun and relaxation

Registration is from June 29<sup>th</sup> - July 20<sup>th</sup>

Visit the "Camp Gualala" table in the Social Hall on these Sundays

*See reverse side for Registration form >>>*



For information contact:  
Pat Wilson at 537-8562 or Denese Pender at 575-3229

# ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT

## REGISTRATION FORM

August 1 - 3, 2008

*The Retreat is open to UUCSR Members, Pledging Friends, and their Guests*

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email Address	
Phone # (Day)	(Eve)
EMERGENCY CONTACT	(Phn #)
INSURANCE COMPANY	
Ins Policy #	Ins Co Phn #:

ATTENDEES	
Name	Age (if under 18)

- 1) UUCSR Status (please circle one): Member / Pledging Friend / Guest\*  
 (\*If Guest, please enter members' name: \_\_\_\_\_)
- 2) Would you prefer: **cabin** or **lodge** accomodations?  
 (Lodge has inside [shared] bathrooms; no small children)  
 (Cabins = 8 people per room max; lodge = 4 people per room max)
- 3) Anticipated arrival time (3pm Friday at the earliest) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Do you require ready access to a restroom, or do you have any other special (or health) requirements? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Do you request / prefer vegetarian meals? \_\_\_\_\_

Category	# of people	Price per person	Total
Adults: Berger Lodge		\$150	
Adults: Cabins (18 or older)		\$140	
Teenager: (12 - 17 yrs)		\$105	
Students: (6 - 11 yrs)		\$75	
Children: (3 - 5 yrs)		\$35	
Toddlers: (0 - 2 yrs)		--	--
Donation to Retreat Fund:			
<b>Grand Total:</b>			

Final payment due by 7/20/08    PAID: CK # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* YOUR CHECK RESERVES YOUR SPACE! \*\***

**REFUND POLICY:**    If notified by July 23, a full refund will be given  
 If notified by July 29, a 50% refund will be given  
 NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 29

**REGISTRATION CUT-OFF: July 20**

*Regrettably, this camp site may present accessibility issues to some persons with physical disabilities.  
 If you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact the Camp Director: Tom @ 886-5351*