



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• November 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 11 •

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

### November 2nd

#### LOS DIAS DE LOS MUERTOS - THE DAY OF THE DEAD

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason DRE

Worship Associates: Ellen Skagerberg, Brian Wells

Those we love stay with us even when they are gone. In our service today, adults and children will travel through story with Gabby, and her grandfather Gamez, as they prepare for a journey to honor Gabby's departed parents. A colorful altar will honor our own family members, friends, and pets who have died -- please bring photos, drawings, or small mementos of your departed loved ones (which you will take back home with you afterwards). This is an intergenerational service for all ages.

### November 9th

#### OLD-TIME REVIVAL

LUNCH AVAILABLE AFTER THE SERVICE

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Bonnie Dlott,

Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, Rev. Lisa Presley

Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

Today we will be joined by the UU congregations from San Rafael, Petaluma, Lake County and Napa for a post-election celebration of our hopeful vision of the world, and the inclusive, unifying faith that sustains it. Regardless of whether you experience triumph or despair on November 4<sup>th</sup>, this music-filled service with our UU brothers and sisters from the North Bay will renew your faith in the good, the sacred, and each other! Come early, for it will likely be standing-room (perhaps dancing-room?) only.

### November 16th

#### FOOLISH CONVERSIONS

Service Leaders: Denis Letourneau Paul, Outreach Minister

and Melissa Fafarman, Volunteer—Faithful Fools

Worship Associate: Joe Como

Evangelical, Pentecostal and other conservative Christians speak of the experience of being born again. Religious liberals, such as the Bay Area's Anne Lamott, speak openly about their own conversion experiences. But where is there room in Unitarian Universalism for what are often described as "come to Jesus" moments? The Way of the Fool may provide some insights.

### November 23rd

#### GRACE AND GRATITUDE

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

Much of what we receive from the Great Big Thing - birth, food, water, air, beauty, consciousness - we did nothing to earn. We can say such things are given by grace. There seems to be a profound link between gratefully acknowledging our own blessings and the call to extend them to others. Sometimes our gratitude for our good fortune drives us to serve the less fortunate, and at others we might need to share with others first, in order to discover what we have forgotten we have. This service is a big "thanks!" to Life, and includes a New Member Recognition Ceremony.

### November 30th

#### THE THIRD PRINCIPLE: ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Andy Levine, Scott Miller

The great UU historian Conrad Wright wrote, "How much diversity a church can tolerate without losing its sense of direction is a delicate question, not to be decided by abstract analysis. But consensus does not have to mean conformity; nor need diversity mean surrender to the arrogance of those who insist that tolerance means that others must tolerate them, no matter how rigid and dogmatic they may be. There is much ground between these extremes." Today we'll explore that ground, and the fruitful tensions between acceptance, encouragement, and growth.

### **Our 9:00am Service**

Gathered in a circle, 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 at 887-9810.

## Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

Looking outside my office window, our long-delayed autumn seems to finally be arriving. The skies are grey, hoods are up on sweatshirts, and there is a moist chill in the air. Given the drought we have been enduring, the possibility of rain is a welcome sight.

Inside, however, I must confess, it feels more like a desert. All the important items on my "to-do" list shimmer and wobble in the distance like a mirage. I feel like I'm wandering around aimlessly, and the well of inspiration feels dry as a bone. Perfect time to write a newsletter column...

Ah, grief. I've certainly felt it before, but not in quite this way. My mother was...well, she was my mother. I was blessed with a good one: a bulwark of love and confidence in me, and a smart, fun lady. She had a spirit of discovery and open-mindedness that I'm proud to have inherited, and a burning desire for neatness that I've also claimed, much to my children's annoyance. Because Reeling from the suddenness of her loss, I don't think I've even really begun to miss her yet. I can't say I'm looking forward to that new level of sadness.

If this is self-indulgent, I apologize. I know I'm not alone in having lost a parent, or even two. "I'm discovering that I've joined a very large club," I told a fellow member. "And growing all the time," she said. I had to laugh.

What a strange thing losing a parent is. It is simultaneously one of the most universal experiences, yet because each person and relationship is so different, also one of the most unique and private.

All we can do to bridge the gap is tell our stories and listen. I've been touched by the open sharing of many of you of your own experiences of loss. There is something about the connections that we forge through our hardship and sorrow that makes them more significant than any other kind. It's not that joyful celebrations, or social action, or productive work don't bind us and nourish us, but when we encounter each other in our pain or struggle we are closest to what really matters to us in our daily lives.

I am delighted when I discover another person who has discovered God in the stars or painting, or has had their little ego-self blown away once or twice in meditation, gardening, love-making or song. But, as impactful and transforming as such moments are, few of

us live there much of the time. Instead we're mostly chugging along in the daily grind, bombarded by too much information and too many demands on our time, trying to navigate our relationships, or the lack thereof, and managing our jobs and finances and aging bodies. It doesn't take a death in the family to make us feel like we're lost in the desert.

The good news is, we're not alone. If we reach out and open up, we can find that we've got a lot of company out here. And, if the old stories carry any truth, the desert is never the final resting spot. Moses and the Israelites were lost for 40 years in the wilderness, but they finally made the promised land. Elijah fasted in the desert for 40 days before encountering "the still small voice" on Mt. Horeb, and Jesus also spent 40 days in the boondocks struggling with temptation and doubt before awakening to his mission and identity. The Koran was revealed to Mohammed in a desert cave.

These images confirm what the wise ones of the world all teach: we have to know thirst to know what it means to be quenched. St. John of the Cross spoke of enduring "the dark night of the soul" to know the presence of God. Hakuin Zenji spoke of the need to have great faith in order to pass through the great doubt into a great awakening. A passage in one version of Aeschylus' Agamemnon reads "And even in our sleep, the pain which we cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despite, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of the gods." Thanks a lot, gods...

So I know there must be an oasis around here somewhere, and it's only a matter of time before I find it. I suspect that in the long run this loss will make me a kinder person and a better minister, more sensitive to the grieving and desert wanderings of others, and that's not a bad thing at all.

And life really does go on. At my mom's memorial we all laughed at a fart joke. I know she would have approved, and that she, like I, would still agree with God's assessment in Genesis 1: Life is good. Far from perfect, perhaps, but still very good indeed.

Blessings and bows to you all!

*Rev. Chris*

## Splinters from the Board

For those of you who missed our highly engaging Congregational Meeting October 26 (thanks to all you stalwart attendees; what a group!), I'm going to share here the 2008-09 Board of Trustees goals that I briefly reviewed at the meeting.

We've spent these first few months of our Board year doing a lot of "ing" activities: identifying, naming, interacting, establishing, and retreating. A Labor Day weekend retreat at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County got us about 75 percent toward the establishment of our goals for the congregational year, and after a subsequent Board meeting at UUCSR on October 16, we gathered again in the Board Room the very next afternoon for a mini-retreat that completed the process.

So with a huge thanks for the energy, commitment and unfailing good cheer of my fellow Boardies, I will list our unanimously approved goals, comprised of one top and two secondary priority goals, and an additional three goals with a long-term time horizon of three years. I'll follow up in coming months with elaborations on these goals, since space precludes doing so here.

### *Top Priority Goal:*

- Complete the transition to our new Governance structure, with particular emphasis on establishment of a strong Stewardship Council that will oversee a year-round

Canvassing effort and other fundraising activities. Accomplishment of this goal will give our congregation the financial strength and security that are the foundation for pursuit of multiple other goals in this and subsequent years.

### *Secondary Priority Goals:*

- Support the development and sustainability of an Adult Religious Education Program.
- Work with the minister and relevant Council to begin a process for recruiting a ministerial intern.

### *Long-Term Goals:*

- Take steps toward securing a professional grant-writer who can assist us in seeking available grants for congregational programs.
- Accomplish (or make significant progress toward) the hiring of a part-time Membership Coordinator.
- Investigate the needs, potential, regulatory requirements and financial feasibility of an upstairs area remodel.

*All of these goals are to be supported by ongoing attention to nurturing our own, each other's, and our members' spiritual lives, in recognition of our unique organizational identity as a religious community.*

—Andrew Hidas, Board President

## This N That From the Ops Council

Tony Crevelli, our Sexton/Custodian just recently had surgery on his foot and is planning to return to work on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We all wish him a speedy recovery. Thank you to Bud Willis who has stepped in to help out during his absence.

In recent months, Tony's workload has increased. We as a congregation, all need to keep in mind that his regular work week consists of 24 hours with only six of those hours being on Sunday. He is responsible for:

Security of the building

Preparing Facility for Services and Meetings (set-up and breakdown)

General Janitorial duties: Empty trash, wet mop kitchen and bathrooms, vacuum carpets, wash windows, and replenish restroom supplies.

Light Building maintenance and grounds keeping duties as needed

**Please remember:** *All requests for his help on specific jobs or projects needs to go through Janis Brewster, our Administrator. She can be reached at 568-5381 x106 or*

[Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Administrator@uusantarosa.org).

### Building Security

It is the responsibility of the last group to leave the building to secure the building. This includes locking the RE wing, Sanctuary doors, Office doors, Patio doors, Kitchen door, and the door to Upstairs. Because the front door has not been repaired, we must continue to use the combination lock. If you don't know the procedure and think you might be in this position, please call Janis Brewster or David Templeton at 568-5381 for details.

### UUCSR/Glaser Center Calendar

If you need to book a meeting or event, please contact Janis Brewster or David Templeton. You can complete a room request form, send an email or call them directly. Please let them know if your meeting or event is cancelled or moved so they can update the calendar. If you need to use the TV, Laptop or Projector, Janis or David can reserve them for you. If you do not reserve these items they may not be available for your meeting or event. Your help following these guidelines is greatly appreciated.

## Treasurer's Report

Your treasurers understand that members and friends of UUCSR have been buffeted about in the past few weeks by changing economic conditions. Your Board of Trustees and Finance Committee have also been dealing with uncertainty in that the Congregation may owe Sonoma County a considerable amount in property tax. By this time, all of you should have received a letter explaining this situation.

In the interim, the Board and Finance Committee want you to know that we continue to be concerned about a possible reduction of revenues due to the revised building use policy that we must put into place by January of 2009 to prevent further property tax problems. We are also concerned that some members and friends may need to reduce pledges and gifts due to their own changing financial situation.

To deal with the issues above, the Board has engaged a lawyer to help rework our building use policy and work out our property tax issues with the county, with as little revenue loss as possible. We are reinstating a year round canvass to assure that all new members and friends are promptly visited and encouraged to make a healthy pledge. We have put our budgeted Membership Coordinator position on hold to keep funds for that position in reserve.

Because last year was a strong financial year, we do have reserve funds available to meet our financial obligations to the county. All reserve funds are in FDIC insured accounts. Reserve funds are not in the stock market. And we will pay member-held notes that are due in January 2009. However, depending on what amount we are assessed, we may need more from you. We may need to ask for congregational approval to move some funds from the endowment account to the operations account and/or further approval to raise even more funds through rolling over or issuing new member notes.

What else can you do? You can keep up and pay your pledges in a timely manner. You can make an extra gift before the end of the year that will be tax deductible for 2008. You can support and attend fundraising activities like the Service Auction with donations and by buying services offered. You can step up and volunteer to help in a continuing canvass committee or in new committees formed to put on fundraising events. And of course, you can support your hard working Board and Finance Committee as they continue to work through these difficult financial situations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Daines, Co-Treasurer

## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

On November 2nd, one half of the money in the collection will go to our neighbor The Living Room. As many of you know, TLR is the only daytime drop-in center in Santa Rosa, providing a safe haven for homeless women and their children. Since April, TLR has had a unique program called Transitions. This program offers personalized, comprehensive case management services, parenting and childcare support - essential to secure long-term solutions - with a constant, consistent network of caring and support. The goal of these services is to assist and equip clients to secure and maintain their own housing. Because of budget problems, one of the main sources of support for the Transitions program has been severely cut. As a member of TLR's Circle of Support, our generosity can help them keep

this program alive. So when the basket comes your way, please help all you can!

The Advocates for Social Justice also wants to thank you for your generosity last month ~ our half of the basket was \$538 which went to sustain our Saturday Breakfast!

Also of interest is the program *Remembering Our Manongs*, a documentary film about the 100 or so Filipinos who made their home in Sonoma County following the Philippine-American War in the early 1900s. There will be a showing of this film with a reception and panel discussion on Saturday, November 1st at the Rohnert Park Community Center, 5401 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. The same program will be presented on Saturday, November 15th. For information about the time, and dates of other showings, call 294-3784.

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

As I write this article I am preparing for the arrival of 42 teenagers from several congregations in our district to descend upon UUCSR for the first of three Coming of Age retreats. This is the "Threshold Retreat" where our youth will participate in a Ropes Course to test their endurance, and teach them about relying on each other to get through a challenge. What better lesson for a group of kids embarking on a rite of passage from the life of a child to the life of an adolescent!

In our culture kids (and adults) get so many messages about the value of *what you have* or *what you do*. Competition is key - "gotta get the best grades, gotta be popular, gotta live up to media driven images of what is most cool". Alienation is a natural consequence. Kids of all ages need a place where they are accepted for *who they are*. Especially in early adolescence, when the quest for identity is intense and pressure is high, kids need a place where they can explore their world and how they fit into it in a safe non-judgmental place.

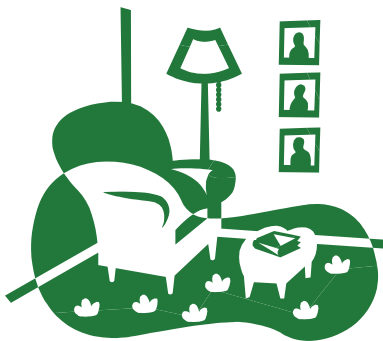
Our youth group here at UUCSR has been in flux for awhile. Over the past several years we have seen many graduate and move on, we have seen transitions in leadership, we had OWL last year which spread thin the kid's energy for attendance. The time has come to breathe new life into our youth program. With 10 kids participating in Coming of Age and three others who graduated from the program we have the critical mass to make a vibrant group. So, Rev. Chris and I are initiating something new. We will facilitate a youth group that meets after school twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 4:00 - 6:00. Our aim is to supplement the Coming of Age program by providing

additional time and space to explore and connect. The youth group is open to all UUCSR youth grades 8 to 12 **and** we encourage them to bring friends. We will have food to munch on and we have some interesting ideas for things to do. The first step will be a group effort to create a unique space for the group to meet. Please encourage your kids to join in!

In faith,  
Deborah

### What's happening in RE this month.....

11/2/08	Intergenerational Service - Day of the Dead
11/9/08	Preschool: Chalice Children Grades K-2: Lots of Churches Grades 3-5: 7 <sup>th</sup> Principle - Doggy Treats and Henry Bergh UU founder of ASPCA Grades 6-7: What is a Soul: "Bart Sells His Soul"
11/16/08	Preschool: Chalice Children Grades K-2: A Fall Walk Around Grades 3-5: 7 <sup>th</sup> A visitor from the Saturday Morning Breakfast Grades 6-7: Simpsons Bible Stories
11/23/08	Intergenerational Service - Thanksgiving theme
11/30/08	Children's Chapel - UU Second Principle



## TIE Groups Up and Running!

The new TIE groups started meeting in October and have met twice so far. Eight groups were formed, with about 80 members and friends taking part. Each group has two facilitators -- thirteen continuing from last year, and three new facilitators -- Michael Walsh, Carole Czujko and Joanie Reid.

Here's how it works: Each group will meet until December and then each person will be asked to decide whether they wish to continue with their group until next May. This means there may be a few who drop out, so there will be a few spaces available in January for people who were unable to attend the fall ses-

sions. If you are not in a TIE group and would like to be in one from January to May, contact a member of the Togetherness in Exploration Steering Committee: Bonnie Daines (Chair), Carolyn McLeese, Dorris Lee and Marie Fox. You may also contact any one of them if you have questions about this program.

## Guest At Your Table 2008-2009

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE 2008-2009 will kick off on **Sunday, November 23**, shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday. This fund-raising event supports the Unitarian Universalist Service committee, and we participate enthusiastically every year.

At our worship celebration that day we will distribute GAYT (Guest at Your Table) boxes for you to take home and fill with donations. With the boxes will

be a booklet, *Stories of Hope*, telling us how the UUSC puts our shared principles into action around the world by promoting economic rights and environmental justice, defending civil liberties and preserving the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis. You will return the boxes to us in early January. If you have any questions regarding GAYT or UUSC please call Phyllis Clement, UUSC representative, at 823-0925.

## Women Together

### Elder Tales

On Saturday, November 22nd, from 2 to 4 pm, Marley Fein, intrepid traveler and mother of a Buddhist nun, will tell us about her amazing life. We will get together in the Lake Room at the Congregation. Please bring

finger-food to share.



### Women Together Holiday Party

**Save the date ~ Saturday December 13th**, Women Together will have our annual Holiday Party from 12 to 3 at Helga Lemke's lovely home, 1983 Grosse Avenue, Santa Rosa. This is an opportunity to relax with old friends and make

new ones before the craziness of the season sets in. Please bring a lunch dish to share, and feel free to bring any friends who you think will enjoy getting to know us!



## UUCSR Men's Retreat Action Team

I just spent the weekend at the Pacific Central Districts Men's Retreat.

I have come away very excited about doing a Men's Retreat here at UUCSR.

I would like to schedule a meeting after the service on November 16th at 12:30 to start the planning.

Those interested please contact Andy Levine 887-9810 or email [bartlev@sonic.net](mailto:bartlev@sonic.net).

## Membership News

**Please Welcome Our New Members:** Jaime Holloway, Judy Hutchinson, JoAnn Robson and Diane Vidmar

**Jaime Holloway** was born & raised in San Bruno, CA until age 10, when her family relocated to Windsor. Except for a couple of years in Vacaville, she has been in Sonoma County ever since. She is a single mother & has 2 daughters: Aly (13) & Mia (2). Jaime's family did not observe any religious traditions. Her mother was a "recovering Jehovah's Witness" who had a general mistrust of organized religion. When Jaime lived in Vacaville, she discovered our denomination online & attended the Davis UU Church occasionally. After Mia was born, she returned to Sonoma County. She found UUCSR while searching for a location for her father's Celebration of Life after he passed away in January, 2007. Jaime & her girls are active in the RE program; she has recently joined the RE Committee. They also attend Under-the-Hill & Women Together activities. Jaime has been in 2 TIE Groups. Aly is excited about the upcoming Teen Group. Jaime is a Program Assistant at Family Service Agency, a non-profit providing counseling to low-income families. She is also studying for a college degree in Journalism. She currently writes about parenting issues & maintains a website for single parents at <http://singleparent.pnn.com>. She hopes to start a single parent group at UUCSR.

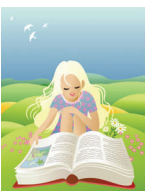
**Judy Hutchinson** moved to Santa Rosa in 2008 from Long Island, NY, with the Big Island of Hawaii as her other home. Her first experience of Unitarianism was in her grandfather's congregation in West Newton, MA. From the age of five, she felt more comfortable there, even though she was raised as a Catholic by her parents. Although she enjoyed singing a capella in Latin during high mass, Catholicism did not "stick," but the UU experience did. Since joining our congregation, Judy is already enjoying serving on the flower committee, helping with Glaser Center events, making cookies for Sun-

day morning, as well as participating in TIE groups and bridge groups. As many artists have done, Judy has worked at a variety of day jobs in the past, but she considers herself fortunate now to be able to work exclusively as a sculptor. She has three grown children, all of whom live with their families within an hour of Santa Rosa.

**JoAnn Robson** moved from Los Angeles to Sebastopol a year and a half ago in order to take advantage of low cost housing at Burbank Heights and Orchards. She was born in Chicago and lived all of her life previously in either the Chicago area or the L.A. area. Although JoAnn identifies as culturally Jewish, she attended the First UU Church in L.A. as a child. She was an LRY member there as a teenager. She also attended the Second UU Church in Chicago when she lived there as an adult. Although she recently joined our congregation, she is already a co-facilitator of a TIE group. JoAnn's other interests include making stone sculptures, taking art classes at SRJC, reading and travel. She has one son who lives in the Chicago area.

**Dianne Vidmar** grew up in San Francisco, then moved to Kansas, where she was a member of the UU Fellowship of Topeka, and later the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence (KS). A year ago, she moved to Santa Rosa, began attending our congregation, and then recently became a member. She has already joined a TIE group, and has participated in some hikes with the UUCSR hiking group. Dianne also hikes with the Sierra Club. Another primary interest is in live music of all varieties, and she often attends music performances and festivals in the Bay Area. Dianne is a medical social worker in a dialysis clinic in Santa Rosa. She has three grown children, including a son who is a graduate student at UC Berkeley, as well as one grandchild.

## Book News



The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

New members and visitors are welcome. The selection for December is *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway.

Linda Lampson

## Notes from the Music Committee

### Defining Music, part I

A few years ago a fellow asked me what music was. He had thought that it was the piece of paper from which many musicians read in performance of their craft, but he seemed suspicious of this idea. It was a surprise to me. I had never considered that paper was music--but it is true, we call some paper "music." Having confirmed his suspicions with me that paper isn't music anymore than it is poetry, biology or mathematics, my friend was curious to know what music actually is. I told him what I could honestly say based on my experience and consideration: music is human-created patterns of sound. For all the beautiful descriptions of music given throughout the centuries, wonderful poetry and pithy phrases capturing the essence of music, my offering sounds ghastly clinical!

But consider for a moment that every description you've likely heard of music speaks to its effect. Like the 14th century Italian sentiment (which they picked up from the Greeks): music comforts the afflicted, increases the joy of the happy, and in appeasing the heavenly powers and persuading the gods, opens a way to the stars. Shelley perhaps came closest to actually describing music itself in poetry, saying it "vibrates in the memory", for sound is vibration. And many honest people have ultimately put the definition of music beyond our means, as did Louis Armstrong when asked what jazz is. If you have to ask, you'll never know.

I feel that this attempt to describe the mechanics of music is secondary to the activity of music. It is true that there is an ineffable quality here that both delights and intrigues. (And I could really go on for days about it!) But this special thing is really a tool for our shared experience as humans. Music is always

shared. We play and sing together, the music a vehicle for our sharing. The solo artist plays for an audience. And even the person who sings to their self alone--they share the song with their self! The great joy of music is in this sharing.

### Sharing

Consider for a moment how you have enjoyed the music offered by your fellow congregants here at UUCSR. You've shared in a musical experience with someone. Our musicians routinely express to me that it feels good to share something of themselves (their talent, preparation, interpretation, and so on) with the congregation. If you would like to have that good feeling too, we all have an interest in seeing that happen. Whether you play an instrument or would like to sing, whether you want to play or sing solo or with a group, whether you play from the page or from the heart, we want you to share with us. Please always feel free to give me a call: 291-0131. We'll talk about how you can share some music with the congregation.

### Our Choir: a fun way to share

Our UUCSR choir provides a regular opportunity to share in music with a bunch of great people. Joining is as easy as showing up on any *Sunday, 9am, in the boardroom*. We rehearse for about an hour and a half, take a break, then sing in the 11am service. Rehearsals are welcoming, lighthearted and fun. Our choir also occasionally sings in the greater Sonoma County community to benefit just causes and even in the greater Bay Area UU community. If you have questions about our choir, please give me a call: 291-0131.

In gratitude for all the sharing,  
Ben Taylor, Music Director



## The Service Auction Is Almost here!

**Come join us on  
Saturday, November 8th**

**For our biggest fundraiser of the year**



## Musings from the Caring Committee

Transportation is one area where your Caring Committee tries to assist members who are unable to drive.

Dolores Miller is the section chief for Transportation and does her best to assist when called. We want to assist those who need rides to church or medical care or other important trips. Ample notice is needed (at least 3-4 days) for this. We do have transportation needs that are unfilled. Dolores put out a request on Focus without response for 2 members who are in Sunrise (a care facility). Some of our more frail members who do not drive require a little reminding as well. If

you can provide transportation for our two members in Sunrise, call Dolores. We do have a pool of helpers, but can always use more. And know that if you commit to assisting, you yourself can ask for a substitute if needed or just take a time out if needed. Anything you give helps others. Dolores can be reached at 837-0933. Or contact me at 568-3290

Gretchen Vap  
Chair, Caring Committee



## The Endowment Fund

What a terrible time to ask members to consider setting aside assets for the Endowment Fund. If you are like us, you aren't sure exactly what assets you still have, or exactly when you will be able to retire, if ever! But now more than ever we need to guarantee the future of our beloved UUCSR. We are inspired and blessed by the generosity of those who came before us, those who planned and worked and gave their hard-earned dollars to build this church and to build its Endowment Fund. That fund was a key piece in making the

move to downtown Santa Rosa a reality. Now it is our turn to emulate those generous souls. We want the children and grandchildren of our Congregation to inherit a church with a solid financial base that makes it possible to dream future dreams, such as the dreams that moved us here from Stony Point. We have made plans for a portion of our assets to go to the UUCSR Endowment Fund. Won't you join us?

From Lucia Milburn and Joe Come

## eScrip News

Once a year, we are all required to renew our Grocery Cards for our continued donations to UUCSR through eScrip. Our Administrator, Janis Brewster will automatically

renew the Grocery Cards for you. If you would like to **decline** this service, please send an email to administrator @uusantarosa.org or call 568-5381 x106 and let her know. If you are

not signed up for eScrip, would like to be, or would like additional information about how eScrip works, don't hesitate to give her a call at 568-5381 x106.

## Are You Called?

Pacific School of Religion (PSR), a multi-denominational Christian seminary preparing bold leaders for historic and emerging faith communities, invites you to participate in our **Ministry as Vocation Conference, November 7-9, 2008** on the PSR campus in Berkeley, CA. If you're considering seminary or theological education, this conference is for you! On Friday afternoon meet our President and Dean, have dinner with current students and experience an interactive and reflective call and discernment workshop. Saturday introduces you to PSR faculty, staff, students, academic programs, and community life.

The **Exploring Ministry Luncheon** is a post-conference discussion for prospective students of color and takes place **Sunday, November 9 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Bade Museum on the PSR campus. Exploring Ministry and MAV events stand alone in the programs they offer; students who attend both events find them helpful in different ways. These events are free and you do need to register. Please contact Joellynn Monahan at 510/849-8253 or [admissions@psr.edu](mailto:admissions@psr.edu) to register or for more information. Visit [www.psr.edu](http://www.psr.edu) to register on line and learn more about these exciting events.



***Interfaith Service:***  
***Live Equally, Love Equally***  
**November 2nd, 2008 at 7:00pm**  
**Center for Spiritual Living,**  
**2075 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa**



**Religious Leaders Join Together to Affirm Family Values by Supporting Marriage of Same-Sex Couples at Interfaith Service**

*Interfaith Service: Live Equally, Love Equally* will be held on Sunday, November 2nd, 2008. The 7:00 pm event will bring together religious leaders and musicians from diverse religious traditions within Sonoma County who will join together to affirm family values by supporting marriage of same-sex couples.

The service will be held at the Center For Spiritual Living at 2075 Occidental Road in Santa Rosa. For more information: [interfaith@sonomacountypride.org](mailto:interfaith@sonomacountypride.org)

**Speakers Include:**

**Rev. Kimberly Willis**, Christ Church United Methodist  
**Rabbi George Gittleman**, Congregation Shomrei Torah  
**Rev. Elizabeth Middelberg**, Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwood Empire  
**Rev. Blythe Sawyer**, Petaluma United Church of Christ  
**Rev. Joyce Duffala**, Center For Spiritual Living

A special Children's Sermon will be provided for kids in the audience by **Rev. Jean Lebbert** of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church.

Choirs, song groups, and other religious leaders in our community will also be actively participating through music, prayer, affirmations, and call & response readings during the Interfaith Service.

**These other participants include (alphabetical order):**

**Rev. Chris Bell**, Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
**Rev. R. Timothy Carnahan**, Faith Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Carol Carter**, Forestville United Methodist Church  
**Rev. Susan Fleenor**, Knox Presbyterian Church  
**Rev. Leanna Hamilton**, Metropolitan Community Church of Santa Rosa  
**Rev. Amy Seymour Haney**, Windsor Presbyterian Church  
**Rev. Tim Kellgren**, Elim Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Matthew Lawrence**, Church of the Incarnation  
**Rev. David Parks-Ramage**, First Congregational United Church of Christ



## News, Crews and Thank You's

### A Letter From David Templeton

First, the news. Those of you who satisfy their appetite for entertainment and social involvement by taking advantage of our congregation's many arts and culture activities will want to know of a few changes in the Winter Glaser Center schedule. The Big Fat Year End Comedy Show, which had been scheduled for December 29, will not be held here this year after all, as the comedy show was lured away to Sebastopol. Oh well. On the positive side, the wonderful Occidental Community Choir has just elected to have their winter concert here, on the afternoon of December 7. Additionally, continuing our unofficial series of Forgotten Cold War Movies, we will be hosting two screenings, afternoon and evening, of 1964's charmingly strange fantasy *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*, one of my personal favorite old movies, in which the children of Mars have become unhappy, leading the Martians to kidnap Santa so he can cheer up the kids. It's silly, and it's sweet, and very funny (in a *Mystery Science Theatre* way), as Santa finds a way to foil the bad guys, give the Martians a Santa of their own, and still get back to Earth in time for Christmas Eve. We'll have a matinee and an evening screening, so please spread the word. This will be a lot of fun.

On another note, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our various events. We have fun, get to meet new people from the community, and participate in raising important revenues for the congregation. Currently, we need

more folks to be on our list of event volunteers, and are still looking to recruit folks who can help me with regular publicity duties. I would love to hear from anyone with publicity, marketing, or internet experience.

Finally, since we are talking about helping out, I'd like to heartily and gratefully say thank you to all of those who help out with events and rentals on a regular basis. Marley Fein, the tireless and creative Events Committee Chair, and our committee members, and "sub-members": Michael Walsh (a man of thoughtful ideas and an excellent House Manager), Hillevi Wyman (contributing experience and wisdom in matters of promotion and fundraising), Barbara Leahy (who now coordinates our volunteers, and is doing a wonderful job), Lois Bell (who helps out with office tasks and teases me mercilessly), and Laura Jean Hageman (who takes care of our mailing list operations). Thank you to our many Event Volunteers including Bill and Becky Montgomery, Linda Marie Stubblebine, Bud Willis, Karen Lillard, Linda Harlow,

Daniel Read, who often helps with sound for events, and who built the portable stage we use in the courtyard and social hall, and Carol Weisker, who has outdone herself by single-handedly sewing the new black curtain for the Social Hall. Phil Butterfield for his unflagging support and energy with events. And everyone else I've failed to mention.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Without you, we would not be doing so well, or having so much fun!



**THE UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS ARE  
LOVELY THIS YEAR!!**

We will start selling them as soon as we can get them, hopefully by early November.

Please be on the lookout for our table and don't buy others until you see these.

Last year we sold out right away.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008**  
**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail submissions Greatly  
Appreciated!**



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
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November 2008

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

**Mailing Address: 547Mendocino 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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**Order of Service Announcements:**

Send submissions to Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org  
**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.

**Staff**

Minister Rev. Chris Bell, Ext. 108, Minister@uusantarosa.org  
Director, Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 101 DLRE@uusantarosa.org  
Administrator: Janis Brewster, Ext. 106, Administrator@uusantarosa.org  
Music Director: Ben Taylor, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org  
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org  
Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious**

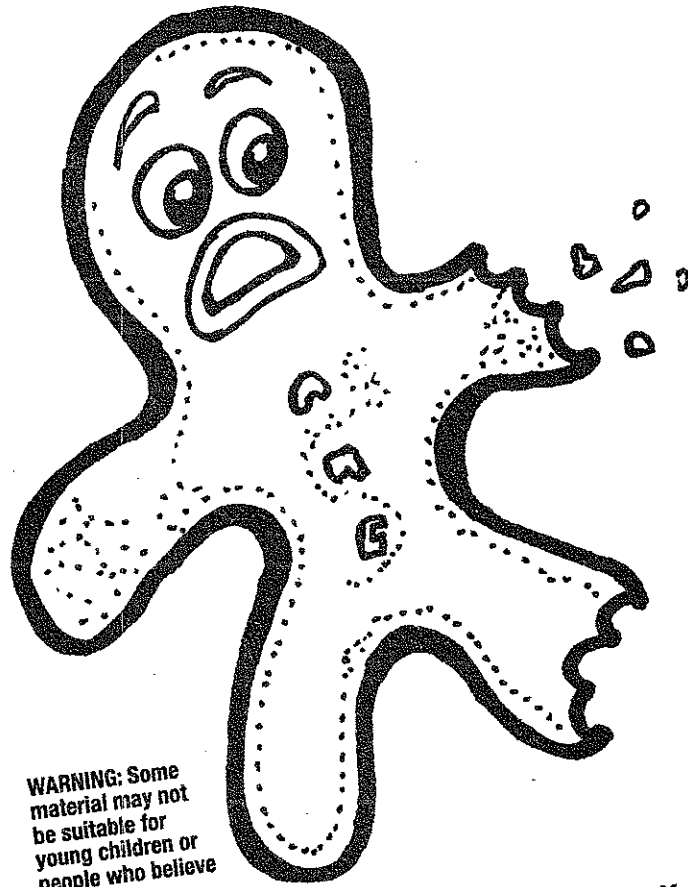
**Education Staff**

Anne Blevins  
Sonja Flores  
Kim Bringhamst

DAVID TEMPLETON'S

# TWISTED CHRISTMAS LIVE!

An evening of offbeat holiday tales read aloud by a wild assortment of the Bay Area's funniest people



WARNING: Some material may not be suitable for young children or people who believe in Santa Claus

Satirist **Will Durst**  
Reading *Crumbs at Midnight*

comic **Marga Gomez**  
*The Snow Men*

Musician **Roy Rogers**  
*Christmas With Louise*

comedienne **Debi Durst**  
*The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus*

Reduced Shakespeare Co.'s

**Reed Martin**  
*Mr. Spock's First Christmas*

and more to be named

Also with Danielle Cain, Tim Kniffin, Elliot Finstushel, and John Moran plus a quartet of short films by Daedalus Howell, John Harden and Jeffrey Weisman

## SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 7:30 P.M.

GLASER CENTER 547 MENDOCINO AVE., SANTA ROSA

Tickets available at all Sonoma County Copperfields Book Stores, Back Door Disc (in Cotati), The Last Record Store (in Santa Rosa), and on-line at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

SPONSORED BY the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa, Out to Lunch Fine Catering, Heebe Jeebe General Store, Copperfields Used Books (in Petaluma), the North Bay Bohemian

**\$20** IN ADVANCE

**\$25** AT THE DOOR

TWISTED CHRISTMAS IS A BENEFIT FOR THE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOOD BANK & THE UUCSR