



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March • Volume 55 • Issue 3 •

Sunday Services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

March 6

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO

the whole point of investing so much in this big, costly institution is the power it gives us, and the support it provides us in leading spiritually rich, loving and authentic lives.

When we put our money where our values are, we live with greater integrity, freedom, generosity and joy, both individually and collectively. What could be more valuable than that?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell,

The Band will perform at 9:15, the Choir at 11:00.

March 20th

THE PATH OF MEDITATION (Vedanta, Pt 4)

There are many reasons to meditate, and many ways to do it. The basic techniques are surprisingly simple. For some the goal is simply relaxation, for others nothing less than enlightenment or union with God. Today we'll take a deeper look at this timeless universal practice as we round up our survey of Vedanta, the path of many paths.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine, Susan Bartholome

The Choir will perform at 9:15, the Band at 11:00.

March 13

THE COOL GREEN HILLS OF EARTH

It makes sense that the green and growing things of the earth provide us with some of our most ancient religious symbolism. Human life is fundamentally dependent upon the plant kingdom. Come here what the seed, the tender shoot, and the vibrant green flanks of Sonoma Mountain have to teach us about our lives, and the Life that maketh all things new.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman

SHARE THE BASKET

March 27, 2011

OUT ON A LIMB: WOMEN SPEAK UP

The bumper sticker says "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History." Today, we will honor well-behaved as well as uppity women who have enriched our history - though all too often, that history has not been recorded or remembered. That is why we celebrate Women's History Month. As the National Women's History Project website says, "Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength... knowing women's stories provides essential role models for everyone." In our service today we will hear from women of our congregation including Louise Ostland, Cathy Read, and Joy Lonnes. There will be poems, music and images to inspire and uplift us.

Service Leaders: UUCSR Women Together

SHARE THE BASKET

April 3rd

THE CITY ON THE HILL

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller

The Choir will perform.

Rational Exuberance



A couple of years ago, I received some feedback after a budget meeting of some kind during which I had, perhaps, made some light of our financial situation, or said "I'm sure it will all work out," regarding an as-yet-unplanned fundraiser that would make up a \$10,000 deficit. A devoted member of our congregation expressed some sensible concern for what she took to be my "irrational exuberance" regarding our financial affairs.

I stand guilty as charged on the exuberant side. But I'm not ready to say that it is irrational to believe that we will achieve our financial goals each year, or that we are fiscally strong even while we long for so much more. I simply recall how you have come up with all the money you need every year for the last decade, in spite of many challenges you have faced. I also know that there is a group of you who make a practice of giving a significant percentage of your income to the congregation. Our most generous givers by percentage (5-10%) often have the most humble means. I also know that there is a group of you whose ability and willingness to give very generously will enable us to balance our budget, and who make extraordinary special gifts when they are needed. (As they always are!) We're growing steadily, too. All of these signs point to health and harmony at UUCSR. It should be obvious to anybody that you believe in the place, value it highly, and hold noble dreams for its future

My natural inclination is living in those future dreams. I always score on the "eagle" or "dreamer" chart when I take those leadership-type tests. I'm good on the big picture, and able to see how the parts go together, but weak on the details. So, after last year's very successful canvass, it seemed natural to me that we should focus our conversations in our upcoming Annual Pledge Drive house meetings on our big ideas like an expanding RE program, a volunteer coordinator, solar power and sound-proofing, decorating the Sanctuary, and the like.

But Unitarian Universalism strives first and foremost to locate us in the real world. This is what reason and the scientific method demand of us, and what the meditative traditions call us to. We say that it's good to mix actual reality into those "noble dreams of the future."

Toward that end, I got a right proper schooling the other evening in a "training" that I conducted for our Annual Pledge Drive house meeting leaders. I was all full of my usual big dreams, when it was pointed out to me that we have to increase our congregational pledges by 18% just to keep the ship moving forward without leaks. (You can see more about that on page 3.)

"I don't want a year of talking about dreams," one wise congregant observed. "We can't afford dreams right now. We're in hard times and we need just to take care to keep what we already have together."

She was right. Pesky old reality.

It has been a hard few years financially for the whole country, and a time of great uncertainty. Some of you have struggled with serious job issues, the loss of retirement funds, and major housing issues. I am not unaware of how hard it is to make ends meet. And that includes making them meet at UUCSR. The costs of many things have gone up. In the case of insurance benefits for our excellent staff, or the costs of maintaining the building, they've gone up a lot.

I don't worry though, because what hasn't gone up at all is the price of being a good Unitarian Universalist congregation, nor that of being a good Unitarian Universalist. Those things are never attached to any number - not to the size of our budget or our membership, or how many years you've been a member, or how much you pledge.

What makes us "good" is that we understand our spiritual vision to live our Principles as fully as possible and to support liberal religious community by celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another and helping to build a better world. Most of that work doesn't take a dime, but it does take sacrifice. We have to open the doors, smile, listen, give up the ego, seek to serve, attend to our souls, work for justice, and get our hands dirty with honest work. The price of being a good UU congregation, or just a good you, is the same as always - as much of your life as you can or will give to it. But the rewards are also without dollar signs: as much love, openness, and transcendence as you want to welcome into your life. In hard times, this is a way of life that is vitally needed.

So we'll grow as UUs, if we can't grow our programs or our staff. That's the most important thing, anyway. It's what our hope relies upon.

I'm keeping my exuberance, thank you very much! I just can't shake the feeling that when people are tuning in to the holy energies of life, listening closely to each other, and trying hard to be kind and decent, they basically can and will achieve their dreams. Oh, yeah, we can definitely go astray, and there are some unpredictable things that can happen to us along the way. But practicing the art of religious community tunes us into the creative power of the Great Big Thing, which we feel as love, and open-mindedness, and forgiveness, and a clear conscience, and courageous hope for the future. That spirit is abundant at UUCSR. I hope you value it as much as I, and will support it with all your heart.

The Great Longing

The danger is not lest the soul should doubt whether there is any bread, but lest, by a lie, it should persuade itself that it is not hungry.

— Simone Weil

As the Buddha let us know, the story of humanity is one long grappling with desire—mostly unfulfilled. This Great Longing projects itself in a million different forms, all of them stand-ins, in fundamental ways, for the eternal life human beings desire as conscious, self-aware creatures whose most painful and challenging awareness is of their own finitude. Our animal friends seek only their next meal, their next night's burrowing into a protected space for their sleep. We see beyond that and exclaim, "Hey, what's the deal here?"

I can remember lying in bed one night as a young boy, maybe 10 years old, dumbstruck at the realization that my parents would one day die. And if my parents, then...my brother and sisters and...*me*, too?

Though I was already beginning to steer clear of the repressive and exclusivist Catholicism that represented my first exposure to religion, I prayed that night with utter, desperate fervor to a sky God whom I entreated to do me a great favor: *Please, please* make my family the exception, and allow us to live forever.

My pleadings seemed to work for quite a few years, but by then I had come to know what the deal *really* was: There would be no getting out of this predicament for anyone I knew—myself, most outrageously, included.

Yet still I long—if not anymore for eternal life, then for its many and varied substitutes: the ultimate great book that finally sets everything in order (the groaning shelves of my home library particularly reflect that longing, not always to the delight of my family), the perfect multi-hued sunrise or sunset in that perfect synapse between dark and light, the perfect poem or lyric or sequence of musical notes that can launch me (however temporarily) to the stars.

Even more acutely: the perfect understanding of and from another, which equates, of course, to perfect love. Our intimates are, in this way, the adult elaboration of the care and nurturance we know from the first moments with our mother, who is the earthly (and time-bound) provider of the love and life we always seek, and which humans have historically ascribed to the notion of God.

To be human and alive is to long to connect with that idea of the eternal. This longing has its everyday

twin in our looking forward to things: the morning's first cup of coffee, the visit with a friend, the coming weekend, the vacation, the retirement. These bits of soul-stirring sanctity (or at least the *idea* and hope of them) beckon us forward, giving us a reason to get up in the morning and greet the day. We need them in a kind of sustained abundance; we can't live with any sense of purpose or meaning absent something to look forward to, something calling us. Depression and even suicide are the tragic results of that lack.

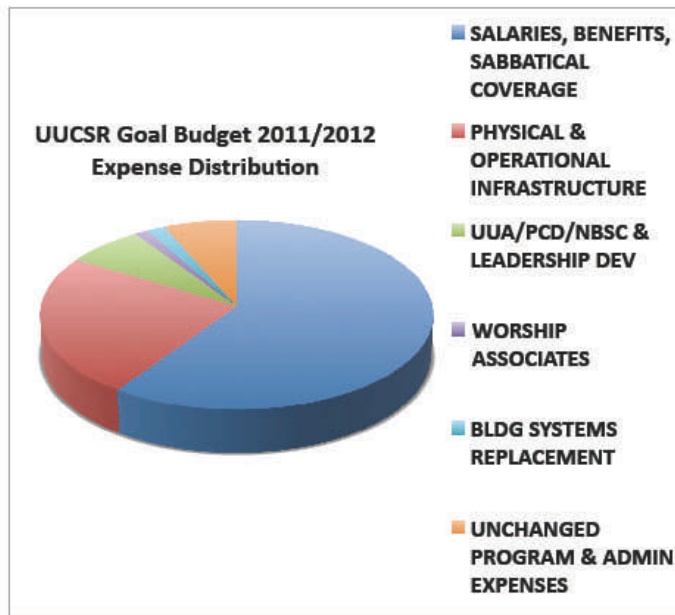
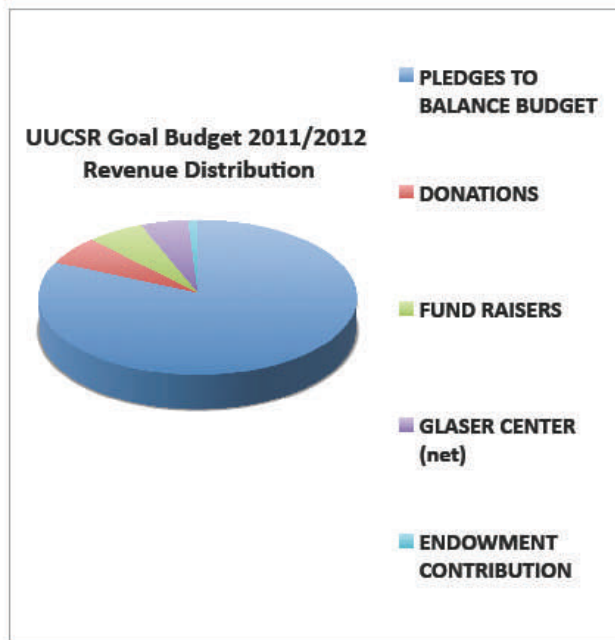
So is the cycle of longing-temporary fulfillment-renewed longing our never-ending plight that expires only with our last breath? Or as the Buddha suggests, is it only the final conquering of our baseline desire for eternal life that gets us off this wheel of ultimately unfillable need? Simone Weil and her Christian mystic brethren see this longing as the simple cry of the soul seeking union with the majesty of a loving God, who is the only sufficient source for our need. The anthropologist Ernest Becker noted with a kind of rueful admiration that, "All historical religions addressed themselves to this same problem of how to bear the end of life. Religions like Hinduism and Buddhism performed the ingenious trick of pretending not to want to be reborn, which is a sort of negative magic: claiming not to want what you really want most."

In a religious community, we seek not only perspective on these matters from our minister and each other, but also a kind of bulwark against the existential loneliness they can entail. We are not so different, in many ways, from the animal herd that huddles closely for protection, warmth, and the solace that they bring. But the solace is in our case spiritual, framing against the gauntlet thrown down by contingent existence our answer: that it is in love for and service to each other that this longing for ultimate relationship is finally fulfilled, that the fear of existential isolation is overcome.

Even the love we explore with our most intimate life partners is not quite the full answer if it is devoid of community. The larger context is what gives texture and completion to individual relationships. In community, in fellowship, we come to know the larger Self, whose existence is precious and always has been, and whose full expression is the answer to whatever longings trouble our souls in the tossings of night.

— Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Trustees

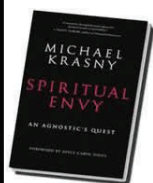
2011/2012 Goal Budget Presented



PLEDGES TO BALANCE BUDGET	\$398,807	82%
DONATIONS	\$30,000	6%
FUND RAISERS	\$30,000	6%
GLASER CENTER (net)	\$25,000	5%
ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTION	\$5,100	1%

SALARIES, BENEFITS, SABBATICAL COVERAGE	\$290,927	60%
PHYSICAL & OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE	\$118,162	24%
UUA/PCD/NBSC & LEADERSHIP DEV	\$33,750	7%
WORSHIP ASSOCIATES	\$6,000	1%
BLDG SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	\$8,000	2%
UNCHANGED PROGRAM & ADMIN EXPENSES	\$32,068	7%

\$398,807 in pledges needed ÷ 326 members = \$1223 per member. That's about \$100/month. If you are able, please consider pledging *at least* this amount for yourself, and even more to extend our ministry to others.



Don't miss this opportunity to hear...

Michael Krasny in Conversation With Rev. Chris Bell!

Saturday, March 5 in the UUCSR Sanctuary!

Join our own Chris Bell as he engages KQED "Forum" host Michael Krasny, author of the recently released *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*, in a special UUCSR fundraiser featuring enriching conversation on matters of religion, spirituality and more...

Proceeds will help ensure the full funding of our UUA dues for 2011!

5 p.m. Saturday, March 5 (Special Benefit Pre-Event Reception in RE Wing at 4 p.m.)

\$100 Benefactor Tickets include premium seating and a champagne reception with Messrs. Krasny and Bell. Please consider being one of 100 members to commit at this level!

\$20 talk only

Tickets on sale at UUCSR, Last Record Store, Brown Paper Tickets and at the door (space permitting)

Religious Education for Children and Youth

This month we will begin Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 4 to 6. *Our Whole Lives* is a lifespan sexuality education program for six age groups: [grades K-1](#), [grades 4-6](#), [grades 7-9](#), [grades 10-12](#), [young adults \(ages 18-35\)](#), and [adults](#). This year UUCSR and UU Petaluma are offering OWL to grades 4-6 and 7-9. Our grades 7-9 program has been in session since the fall with 19 enthusiastic learners. Our Whole Lives was created through the combined efforts of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. I am currently co-teaching the grades 7-9 course and am amazed at the depth of this program. I have heard parents proclaim "Oh, we teach our kids about sexuality at home," and I felt the same way when I was bringing up my children. Once I took the OWL teacher training and began teaching the class I realized that I did not have the capacity, as a parent, to teach sexuality with the broad perspective that OWL does. OWL provides children and youth a safe space to ask the questions they might not otherwise feel comfortable asking (especially of their parents), it demystifies sexuality in a learning context of openness, in a respectful peer community.

Our Whole Lives helps children and youth make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips students with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. What is unique and awesome about the OWL approach is that it is grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but goes beyond what kids learn in public school based programs and helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

The grades 4-6 curriculum has 8 sessions. Which cover a broad range of topics - health and safety, love and family, puberty and growing up, sex and gender, communication and decision making - all in age

appropriate language. Sessions are designed to capture the interest of kids by incorporating games, role plays, and other experiential learning techniques. OWL will be taught by UUCSR members Ben Ford and Cathie Wiese. Ben and Cathie are both educators and long time Unitarian Universalists. Cathie retired as a high school special education teacher in the spring of 2010 after teaching for 30 years. Ben is a professor at Sonoma State University. Both of them are certified Our Whole Lives teachers and have taught the grades 4-6 class in past years. Enrollment in OWL grades 4 to 6 is open beyond the Religious Education programs of UUCSR and UU Petaluma. If you know a family who would like to join the class please invite them to get in touch with me. If you are a UUCSR parent, please contact me to enroll your child as soon as possible. The program will start with a mandatory parent orientation on March 13 after the 11:00 worship service. Classes are scheduled from 1:00 to 2:30 on Sundays with one exception. May 1 will be held from 4:00 to 5:30. Here is the schedule:

03/27/11	Session 1	Values and Sexuality
04/03/11	Session 2	Family Relationships
04/10/11	Session 3	Puberty: Physical and Emotional
04/17/11	Session 4	Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
05/01/11	Session 5	Lovemaking & Reproduction
05/15/11	Session 6	Health & Safety
05/22/11	Session 7	Communication
05/29/11	Session 8	Decision Making

If you are interested in taking the training to become an OWL teacher for children & youth please contact me to apply. Training will take place sometime in the fall of 2011 (TBA) and training costs can be covered by the RE budget.

In Faith,
Deborah



ATTENTION PARENTS OF LITTLE KIDS (in the preschool & K-2 classrooms)

You are invited to a Parent's Night Out!
Saturday, March 12, 2011—5:30—8:30 pm



Join your fellow UUCSR Parents of young children for an evening of getting to know one another. Children will be cared for here at UUCSR by Deborah and our two preschool aides Aly & Jeremy at no charge, while parents enjoy a dinner out in downtown Santa Rosa.

Deborah will coordinate your night out; all you have to do is RSVP, show up and pay your share of dinner!
Please let Deborah know if you can come at: debmasonuu@yahoo.com or by calling 538-5381

Advocates for Social Justice

SHARE THE BASKET

On Sunday, March 13th, one half the collection will go to **The Living Room**, our neighbor across the street that serves homeless women and their children during the day. They provide counseling for the women and children plus classes in money management, nutrition and cooking, job hunting, parenting, and anger management. Each client has a case worker who helps her transition from homelessness to independent living. We are a member of their "Circle of Support" so when the basket comes your way, please be as generous as you can.

On Sunday, March 27th, one half the collection will go to **Worth Our Weight**. Founded by Chef Evelyn

Cheatham, Worth Our Weight supports underserved young people: economically disadvantaged youth who have faced major challenges in their lives, including commitment to the foster care system, difficulties with the law, homelessness or significant family disruption. Their vision is to invite these people into the greater world of food, including farming, professional cooking, restaurant management, and eating high quality food prepared by chefs and other food service professionals, as well as food they have prepared with their own hands. Worth Our Weight provides a home for vocational aspirations, teaching young adults ages 15-24 how to create a better life for themselves and their families.

Hot Topics

The next four Hot Topics will be in response to and in support of the UUA's *Standing on the Side of Love* project. The first of the series will be at 12:30 in the Board Room on **Sunday, March 20th**. It will be an overview of *Standing on the Side of Love* presented by Suzi Spangerberg. Suzi is a student at Starr King and has been a Unitarian Universalist and Social Justice activist for more than 30 years. She has worked with

the Standing on the Side of Love campaign as a videographer, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry as a health care organizer, and most recently accompanied the UUA Board of Trustees to Arizona and Sonora, Mexico as their media person. A light lunch will be available for a donation. The subsequent programs will look at the challenges of living in Sonoma County if you are a Moslem, an African American or a GLBT person.

Women Together

Save the Date ~ This year's weekend retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest will be the weekend of April 29th - May 1st. Our theme is *Beauty*.

More information and registration forms will be in the April Newsletter, but mark your calendars now!

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 10th at 7:00 pm at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *The Devlin Diary* by Christy Phillips.

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Linda Lampson



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

March 23, 2011

Newcomer Welcome . . . Getting to Know UUCSR

Saturday March 12th, 2011
9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Are you considering joining our congregation, interested in getting to know us better, new to UU or to UUCSR? Join us in a morning to explore UU and UUCSR. Topics include: Activities to explore why we are here, A brief history of Unitarian Universalism, How to become involved in congregational activities, Uni-

tarian Universalist diversity and the meaning of membership. A light breakfast will be served before we begin the morning's program. Look for information and registration forms at the VISITOR TABLE in the social hall. Please register by March 9th by completing the registration form at the Visitor Table or contacting CATHIE WIESE at 829-3634 or email cathie@sonic.net.

It's Never Too Early . . . !

That's right! It's never too early to start anticipating UUCSR Family Camp in the summer! This is the first "heads up!" in a series, to urge you to plan now to go to our next great camp gathering *at Valley of the Moon, Friday, July 15 through Sunday, July 17.*

Last year was the first year at this new-to-us camp. After many years of camping at Gualala, some wondered if folks would like the "new" camp as much. Well, hey, it's got a pool, a playing field, sleeping quarters newer and closer-to-the-center-of everything, a central lodge, a separate building for our illustrious talent show and the silent auction, an outdoor stage with permanent benches, a pool, the same kinds of trees we loved at Gualala. Even better, the sleeping quarters are bigger and cleaner, and everything is far more accessible and the walkways are

safer. Moreover, the parking lot is closer to the camp buildings.

Add in great food, games, a sing-a-long around a campfire, and a great schedule of planned activities and workshops your planning committee's been working on, and you've got a grand weekend to enjoy!

The entire weekend only costs \$160.: Saturday alone (including lunch) for adults and those over 12 is \$50. Limited scholarships are available.

Start now to plan to be there!

Questions? Call Barrie Noe, 823-5018 or Pat Wilson at 537-8562.



CROCK-POT COOK-OFF SOCIAL LUNCHEON

Start thinking of your most delicious crock-pot dish (or casserole).

On May 22, Sunday noon, tasting and judging will occur.

Please volunteer to bring a crock (or casserole) and compete for the Crock-Award and Crock Honorable Mentions.

For a mere \$10, the taster/judges get an entire lunch.

Notify the Crooked Committee to volunteer your dish for May 22.

(Lynn Riepenhoff, Stacy Sincheff, Rose Saint John)

Everybody else, plan on staying after the Sunday service to be a taster/judge/diner.

All proceeds are for UUCSR.



Together In Exploration News (TIE)

Our TIE Groups are more than half way through this round. Groups began in September and end in May. Each TIE Groups will do a service project. I am a member of the Sebastopol Thursday evening TIE group and we completed our service project on February 20. We provided fruit, drinks and cookies for the lunch before the Congregational meeting. It was fun planning our service project and helping out with members of the Advocates for Social Justice (ASJ) committee set up and serve the lunch. My experience reminded me of how fortunate I am to be part of UUC, SR and work with others as a team. The funds raised from the lunch will be used for some of the good causes the ASJ committee is working on this year such as the Saturday morning breakfast program.

For newcomers to our congregation I'm including some history of how TIE Groups came to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa (UUC, SR). TIE Groups are part of the Small Group Ministry (SGM) Program that's been in some Unitarian Universalist's congregations since 1998. The model for this program comes from the Christian mega churches' success of offering a

type of SGM program to help make their members and friends feel welcome and connected. Some of our UU national leaders adapted this model for our congregations. This movement has spread to more than half of the Unitarian Universalist's congregations in the United States. TIE Groups in our congregation began in 2005 after a year of planning.

Our trained and dedicated co-facilitators meet monthly with Rev. Chris Bell for ongoing support and problem solving. We finish up with a TIE group topic and enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level. Thank you TIE Group facilitators for your hard work and being there for your group!

If you are new to our congregation or a long time member who has not been in a TIE group, please join us in October when a new round of TIE Groups begin. Long time members of TIE Groups, keep coming back for more.

Submitted by Carolyn McLeese, member of the TIE Group steering committee. Any questions about this article? Call me at 875-3542.



UUCSR Writers

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa, Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., 707-568-5381. Information: Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Regular Monthly Meeting Presentations and Feedback

- 1st Monday of the month.

Monday, March 7 from 4 - 6 pm. Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress".

Write-In's - 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

March 14 and 28, from 6 - 8 pm.

Bring your computer, parchment and quill, yellow lined pad with pen or notebook and join us for a couple of hours of writing, writing, writing...

Guest Speakers or Workshops 2nd and/or 4th Monday, from 6 - 8 pm.

TBA - Confirmations being finalized.

Thursday's at the "Haven Coffee House"

Every Thursday morning, 10 am - 12 noon

Located in one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County, the Video Droid on 1901 Mendocino Avenue in the Santa Rosa JC area. It's in the same parking lot as CVS Pharmacy. Parking is free.

Buy yourself a good cup of coffee or hot chocolate and a morning pastry of your choice. Enjoy the ambiance at the "Haven" as well as the pleasure of our humor, clever conversations and the periodic, spontaneous outburst of laughter that permeates the atmosphere.

Take Care,
Georgette G. deBlois
GGdeB@aol.com

The Elephants' Blessing

Last weekend, I stood in front of the microphone in KRCB radio's tiny studio, waiting for my cue to tell listeners about what public radio means to me. I'd agreed to help with the station's winter pledge drive, in part because that very morning the U.S. Congress had voted to completely de-fund the Public Broadcasting System. As a staunch believer that, as the similarly under-fire National Endowment for the Arts has so eloquently put it, a great nation deserves great art, I have been doing my part to get the word out that public radio and television needs the support of those who would mourn its passing should certain members of government have their way. So, standing there thinking these thoughts, musing on all of the threats that seem to be poised against things I care about the most, I began listening to the song that was playing over the airwaves at that very moment. From a brand new album by folksinger Lucinda Williams, the piece is titled 'Blessed.'

Here are the lyrics:

We were blessed by the minister who practiced what he preached.

We were blessed by the poor man who said that heaven was within reach.

We were blessed by the girl selling roses who showed us how to live.

We were blessed by the neglected child who knew how to forgive.

We were blessed by the battered woman who didn't seek revenge.

We were blessed by the warrior who didn't need to win.

We were blessed by the blind man who could see for miles and miles.

We were blessed by the fighter who didn't fight for the prize.

We were blessed by the mother who gave up the child.

We were blessed by the soldier who gave up his life.

We were blessed by the teacher who didn't have a degree.

We were blessed by the prisoner who knew how to be free.

We were blessed. Yeah, we were blessed.

We were blessed by the mystic who turned water into wine.

We were blessed by the watchmaker who gave up his time.

We were blessed by the wounded man who felt no pain.

We were blessed by the wayfaring stranger who knew our name.

We were blessed by the homeless man who showed us the way home.

We were blessed by the hungry man who filled us with love.

We were blessed by the little innocent baby who taught us the truth.

We were blessed by the forlorn, forsaken, and abused.

We were blessed. Yeah, we were blessed. We were blessed.

The song struck me. It's hardly an original thought, but it's so easy to forget about all the people who bring blessings to our lives, the many small ways in which our world is made better on a daily basis.

That's one of the purposes of the arts: to remind the world of all the blessings that surround us, and to give us the inspiration to stand up for those things we most believe in.

Last year, one group of the artists who blessed us with their work was the Walking Elephant Theater Company, which presented the play 'Prop 8 Love Stories.' Walking Elephant is a group of young actors, all under the age of 18, who, under the direction of Bryan Bryson, tackle subjects so big, people try to ignore them: the "elephants in the living room." As a follow-up to 'Prop 8 Love Stories,' this year the Walking Elephant actors will be returning to the Glaser Center to present a program called simply, 'Bully.'

Over the last several months, these actors have been interviewing people on the subject of bullying, tracking down the bullies and the bullied alike, from playgrounds to workplaces to City Hall. As is their style, they are now fashioning these interviews into performance pieces, each young actor portraying the bullies and victims, word for word, live onstage.

What a blessing that there are people like Bryan Bryson, with the energy and vision to create a company like this, and what a blessing that there are young people eager enough to make a better world, that they would put themselves out there to tell their own truths about what is wrong in the world, and how we might fix it.

'Bully' will be performed in the Sanctuary on March 25 & 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Please spread the word. It would be a blessing to these remarkable artists to have a full house when they share the work they've been doing on this important topic. Especially, it would be wonderful to have plenty of other young people in the audience.

Be a blessing to others, and receive one in return. Invite some friends to join you for this very special event.

Be well,

David Templeton, Glaser Center Artistic Director

Aging with Grace

In order to better serve the time commitments of the "Aging With Grace" group, there will be duplicate sessions:

First Wednesday of the Month:	10:30am—12:00 noon
Second Thursday of the Month:	10:00am—11:30am



March 2nd and 10th

April 6th and 14th

May 4th and 12th

What Will My Investment Earn?

What Are My Taxes?

What Are My End Of Life Expenses?

Moderator: Bob Watkins, 707-775-8627

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 20 January, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Andrew Hidas

Members Present: Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Bonnie Daines (Co-Treasurer), John Farison, Phyllis Heagney, Andrew Hidas, Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Lois Nagle, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Craig Work

Members Not Present: Laura Jean Hageman (Co-Treasurer)

Non-members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Gretchen Vap, Mary Wolfe

Opening Words: Chris - Reading of "A Spiritual Conspiracy," author anonymous

Minutes of 16 December 2010 approved as amended:
WAS: Membership Council: Craig presented Chris' "Wish List," AMENDMENT: Membership Council: Chris' "Wish List" was presented.

Open Mic: Mary Wolfe and Gretchen Vap extolled the benefits of attending PCD UUA Leadership School and encouraged greater participation by UUCSR members. Rose St. John and Deborah Mason are attending in 2011. The school consists of a week of intense workshops, great food and social activities and infuses the participants with enthusiasm to return from the school and search for avenues to better serve the congregation while inducing personal growth opportunities.

Treasurer's Report: Month-end November financials were distributed. Bonnie reported that budget vs. actual is typically best at calendar year-end due to greater than average pledge contributions in December.

Financial Stewardship Council meeting activities and issues include (a) this year and next year pro forma budgets, (b) budgeting for pending sabbatical expenses, (c) budgeting for potential minister compensation increases, (d) lagging fundraising income and generally, the identification of income increases required to fund selected accounts either not being funded or under-funded in the 2010-11 budget.

Further discussion centered on the lack of definition and/or lack of understanding of the new budgeting process and format amongst BOT members as well as congregational committee members. ACTION: Bonnie to chair an ad hoc committee to document the budgeting process.

Discussion then focused on the minimal amount of discretionary funding (~2%) within the 2010-11 budget—the rest of it claimed by fixed costs such as the mortgage, salaries and utilities. The consequence is that most any new program or funding need within the "goal" budget will require increased income. The bylaws require that the goal budget be presented at the February Congregational Meeting.

Cont. on page 11

BOT Meeting Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 10

RE Task Force: Cathie reported that the task force had conducted a first meeting brainstorming session toward the goal of strengthening the RE program to attract younger families and youth. Next meeting is 15 February. **Policy Issue:** Disruptive Persons
Chris explained that heretofore, the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) had dealt with disruptive persons on an ad hoc basis without benefit of a standing policy. A draft "UUCSR Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior," 20 Jan 2010, modeled upon those of other congregations and endorsed by the COSM, was reviewed. Discussion included the observation that group/council/committee leaders will require training with regard to the policy. After minor changes/additions to the draft, Bob moved, Cathie seconded to approve the policy as amended. Motion passed unanimously (10-0) by show of hands.

Policy Issue: Sales Solicitation of Staff
Discussion of a Sales Solicitation of Staff policy centered on the need to provide guidance for staff and members regarding business solicitations not associated with congregational activities. A draft policy will be addressed at the February meeting. **ACTION:** Chris to distribute a draft via e-mail for BOT review and comment.

Council of Councils (CoC): Discussion was held regarding the need to continue elaborating establishment of the CoC. An effort to define/codify its role, mission and direction was initiated about a year ago but has lacked sufficient organization and leadership. This topic will be addressed at the next CoC meeting on 30 January.

Goals Status/Reports: New Member Contacts: Mixed success thus far on making contacts with new members. Renewed attention of the BOT members was requested by Andrew.

Bylaws Report: Mary Louise reported that an additional meeting had been conducted at which a first reading and identification of issues was accomplished.

HR Committee: Andrew reiterated that the focus has been on the review of the minister's compensation vis-à-vis UUA guidelines, since this figure lags behind other

staff members. The minister's sabbatical funding is another issue that will need to be addressed in the upcoming budget.

Youth Group Interaction: Mary Louise reported that although progress has been minimal, contact with PCD has been made to request guidance.

Board Transparency: The addition of the BOT meeting agenda to the FOCUS list has received positive reaction. Minutes will also be posted there henceforth.

Budget Drive: Bob reported that several meetings have been conducted and potential leaders are being contacted to conduct the "visioning" presentation(s). The next meeting will focus on conduct of the neighborhood meetings.

Maintenance Plan Budgeting: John followed-up on the November report to BOT. He is populating the spec sheet, collecting historical and expected cost data in anticipation of the budget discussions, investigating lighting efficiency options and identifying insulation needs.

President-Elect Andrew reported that the bylaws do not prohibit the BOT from pursuing the election of a president-elect. The BOT is responsible for electing its officers. Andrew requested BOT members consider who among them would be willing and able to serve as president for 2011-2012. Andrew and Mary Louise have begun investigating interest of potential candidates. A vote is planned for the February meeting.

Service Awards: Andrew requested that consideration be given to nominations for Service Awards which are to be presented at the congregational meeting, 28 February. **ACTION:** Cathie to provide a list of recent service awardees. BOT members to forward nominations to Andrew before the next meeting.

Closing Words: Chris - Reading of "The Pond" by Mary Oliver

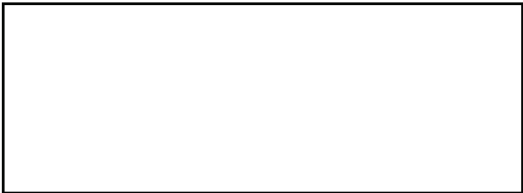
Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Graham

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Santa Rosa, CA
Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



March 2011 Please Recycle

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

Board of Trustees

President: Andrew Hidas, President@uusantarosa.org
Vice President: Mary Louise Jaffray
VicePresident@uusantarosa.org
Co-Treasurers: Bonnie Daines and Laura Jean Hageman
Treasurer@uusantarosa.org **Secretary:** Cathie Wiese
Board Members: **Recording Secretary**
Bob Barrows Terry Graham
Ann Chambers
John Farison
Phyllis Heagney
Lois Nagle
Craig Work

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. 131 DLRE@uusantarosa.org
Administrator: Janis Brewster, Ext. 106, Administrator@uusantarosa.org
Music Director: Nancy Hayashibara, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org
Sexton: TBD

Sunday Religious Education Staff
Jeremy Cummings
Aly Holloway