



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March 2010 • Volume 54 • Issue 3 •

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

March 7th

Chris is Always Right!

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Rita Butterfield

One of the two winning bids of our annual "you-pick-the-sermon-topic" Service Auction contest. Of course I'm not always right, but this service will, I'm certain, present the absolutely final, complete and perfect perspective on ecclesiastical authority, the role of clergy, and the meaning of shared ministry in our liberal religious tradition. We'll also see what my wife Rita has to say on the topic. Gulp.

March 14th

The Prophecy of Tikki Tikki Tembo

Service Leader: Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul
Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

"The image of the well as a source of human sustenance is a common one throughout human history. But a well can also be a dark and scary place, a place of fear and even death, a reminder that we have to be attuned to what is going on around us, engaged in our world, in order to be the prophets we are called to be."

Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul is an outreach minister with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco, where he coordinates a BodySoul Care program that matches fabulous professional therapists/body workers with people on the streets and the people who care for the disenfranchised of San Francisco's poorest, grittiest neighborhood, the Tenderloin. The program's goal is to heal past personal traumas and help prevent future traumas.

9:00 AM SERVICE

It is a smaller gathering, we have the same readings and message that are given at the 11:00AM 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

March 21st

A Very Wounded Word: GOD

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Michael Walsh

I often call that which brought forth and now sustains our orderly, intelligible Universe the Great Big Thing or the Great Big Verb. There are plenty of other names, too. Yet, in spite of endless misuses and abuses, and centuries of flawed theology, I believe the name "God" remains foremost among them. Today I'll say why, and invite you to consider a new way of responding to Her/Him/It/Us.

March 28th

The Spirit of the Dead

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Andy Levine

Over 30 years The Grateful Dead developed a loyal following that was the envy of every other rock band. Their fans' love approached religious devotion at times, and I can report that several of the happiest and most hopeful moments of my life came at their shows. The Deadhead phenomenon can tell us something about finding the spiritual dimension in unexpected places, but it also offers a warning about mistaking the apparently religious for the truly so. This is the second of the two winning Service Auction sermons.

March 29th

UU Passover Seder

Please contact Rev. Chris to volunteer and learn more.

April 1st

Maudy Thursday

A UU Communion service, plus foot-washing!
Please contact Rev. Chris to volunteer and learn more.

April 4th

INTERGENERATIONAL EASTER SERVICE FLOWER COMMUNION

The Sense of Community



I recently read in a Unitarian Universalist worship manual that the reason most commonly given by UUs for why they participate in a congregation is "the sense of community". This differs, interestingly, from a 2007 Gallup poll that found the primary reason among regularly attending Protestants to be "spiritual growth and guidance" and Catholics to be "keeps me grounded." It's not that those things don't matter to us, but they apparently matter a little less. Amidst our polarizing, alienating society, we yearn first and foremost for community.

The claim was also made that this emphasis holds true regardless of the size of the congregation, whether the congregation has 25, 150, 500, or 1500 members. So it is evident to me that how that sense of community is experienced by members, and created by a congregation, must vary widely.

For example, in the very smallest congregations the members are very likely to know each other personally, share duties collectively and make decisions by consensus. But after 150 members, church consultants tell us, the ideal of "knowing everybody" completely ceases to be reality, even if it endures as a strong emotional desire. The minister now becomes more central. Members may not all know each other, but they all know the minister to some degree.

Now, with 316 members, even your minister finds it difficult to "know everybody." I know most of your names, but it is a simple fact that, if we continue to grow as we are, even that will become less likely. As it stands, my goal of meeting with every member to hear about your passions, learn about your spiritual life, and invite your feedback is going to take me at least two full years to achieve.

I'm not complaining! Forging relationships with you has been a delightful process for me, and I want to invite you to do something similar. You may not "know everybody" here, ever, but I can tell you everybody here is well worth knowing. Pick up the phone. Invite someone to coffee. Have lunch after the service. Talk about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSR. Those are things, after all, that you already have in common.

I'll do my best to offer spiritual growth and guidance on Sundays and beyond, and to keep us grounded, but the creation and maintenance of relationships will

fall mainly to you. As we continue to blossom, multiple smaller communities must come to exist under the larger UUCSR umbrella, and opportunities to forge a real friendships must be consciously created. T.I.E. groups, men's and women's groups, Circle Dinners, book clubs and the like will increase in importance.

But if the consultants are correct, as our membership grows our shared "sense of community" will arise primarily from a strong commitment to the values we share, and from the feeling of power and presence that comes with belonging to a thriving and impactful institution. Our Principles, our Mission and our Vision will become ever more important in binding us together. You can recite them all, can't you? If not, please, visit the *Principles and Values* page on our website and bone up!

I know that there is some natural grieving that comes with growth. It's not an easy process, and not everybody wants it. The sense of having a private haven fades. Intimacy with the leaders and staff decreases. As our congregation expands its worship opportunities by enlarging the early service, or adding additional services, even Sunday mornings will not enable seeing everybody.

But we have not let the grief stop us. Nor have we grown from any selfish reasons, such as the desire for more committee volunteers, more pledges, or more prestige, which are all terrible reasons to welcome newcomers. We have grown because we are a genuine and vital force for good in Santa Rosa, and we yearn to be even more so. Visitors are warmly welcomed. The place radiates joy and hope and possibility.

James Luther Adams, one of our two most distinguished 20th Century UU theologians, named God "the commanding, transforming, community-building power" that manifests in voluntary organizations serving the common good. Charles Hartshorne, (the other one), saw all reality, including God, as a cosmic social process evolving toward greater creativity, diversity, harmony, and freedom. Both would say that *God is Love* (though they would require a long complicated book to do so). I agree, and so, with all due respect to our atheists, I have to say that I feel God living and moving among us.

Really. I just feel so good about how you have handled, and continue to handle, growth and change. I experience such flexibility, grace and good humor that I have to give praise. We don't just have a sense of community; we have the real deal. And for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Splinters from the Board

Pledge Generously—and Fly Free!

"Roots hold me close...wings set me free..."

"Hmmm," I can hear you thinking: "Where have I heard that before? Sounds ever so familiar!"

Yes, your Annual Pledge Drive Committee, headed this year by Joe Como and Sam Miller, has engaged in the time-honored practice of shamelessly ripping off the glorious words of our tradition in the service of a slogan for this year's Annual Pledge Drive. They have the blessing of none other than T.S. Eliot, who famously endorsed such larceny in observing: "Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal." And so it is that your ever-so-mature Annual Pledge Drive Committee has lifted our much-beloved post-meditation hymn to illustrate the dual-sided nature of our fundraising effort this year.

"Roots hold me close" reflects the Board of Trustees' main goal this year of launching a Special Gifts Drive to raise \$100,000 for an Emergency Reserve Fund that will shore up the financial foundation of our congregation. Success in this effort will mean we sink deeper roots into the kind of financial security that every family needs in its budgeting process, so we are never faced with sudden tortuous decisions of which pressing need we will pull money from in order to pay an unbudgeted bill. (As we were this year with a \$18,000+ plumbing repair.)

The truth is that we've been living a bit too close to the edge for too long in this congregation. Having made the dramatic move downtown thanks to the many generous donors who stretched mightily to make it happen, we took some time to recoup, to breathe, to rest in all the good that had been achieved. But now, five years later, the fruits of that effort have bloomed with a dynamic and growing congregation, and it is time to seed our long-term security with a solid, deep root system from which all the fresh emerging shoots of our community can continue to mature.

"Wings set me free" is about the Annual Pledge Drive. Having established the roots of our security with Special Gifts, we then look to soar with a healthy operating budget that reflects our members' ongoing commitment to match the scope of our many activities and programs with the funds to support them. Nothing good comes from failing to support the building and programs and staff we have committed ourselves to. The reach for our goals for this active, vibrant religious community has to be matched by a reach into our wallets to help achieve those goals. Generosity is truly the mother's milk of everything we do.

Our Special Gifts Drive started with a focus on "major donors" whom we hoped had the means and the will to help seed the effort in a significant way. I'm happy to report that early efforts there have already resulted in pledges totaling more than \$40,000 (likely more by the time you read this). So we are off to a good start. But what we ask now is that everyone, of whatever means, respond with a gift commensurate with their financial circumstance, but above and beyond what they were planning and capable of contributing to the Annual Pledge Drive. It will do our financial security no good if members simply reduce their Annual Pledge and shuffle that money over to a Special Gift. That will only mean moving numbers around on a spreadsheet, with no actual effect on our financial health.

In recent years our denomination has begun to face the hard truths that religious liberals in general (and UUs in particular) give demonstrably less both to our churches and to charities of all types, not only in money, but also in time than do religious conservatives. We even give less blood for blood drives! We, who so famously want to change the world, too often don't match that desire and its accompanying rhetoric with actual financial support to help make change happen.

I believe this shortfall is a temporary "stuck place" born of our general skepticism regarding institutions, so many of which have failed us in the past. But I also believe that once we come into a fuller understanding of the enduring value and centrality of this religious community in our lives, we will set our intention to match our love for this very human community of ours with a desire to support it ever more generously.

Even in these difficult economic times, I know we have the means in this congregation, in this blessed part of the world, to support our dreams in a way that can leave financial uncertainty truly behind us. When your Annual Pledge canvasser comes calling this month, please think about holding your roots close, sinking them deeper, and setting yourself and your fellow UUCSR members free to soar into this year—and far beyond.

—Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Trustees

The Many Faces of Generosity

The Annual Pledge Drive is underway, and this year it's an All-Member Canvass. This means that about 25% of our congregation visits the other 75% to talk about what's important to us in our religious community, hear kudos and concerns, and receive annual pledges of financial support for the coming fiscal year. Most members will tell you these conversations are among the most meaningful they have ever had at UUCSR.

There are so many ways to acknowledge the financial generosity of our members. Perhaps the best is **Fair Share Giving**, which allows people to place themselves into a category—Supporter, Sustainer, Visionary, or Tither—based on the percentage of income they pledge to our congregation each year (see your forthcoming Annual Pledge Drive brochure for charts). For example, in 2008 Eric and I qualified as Sustainers under the Fair Share method because we gave 3.6% of our income to the congregation. Our total family charitable giving, which included membership in our Zen group, was 5.9% of our adjusted gross income.

Another way to view generous giving is to list the **Top 25 Pledges** with, separately, an alphabetical list of members who made those pledges (with their permission, of course.) The two charts aren't linked, so no one knows who made which pledge, but we can all get a sense of what a "high" dollar pledge looks like in our congregation and can associate that type of generosity with the

faces of our friends and fellow members. (P.S. Eric and I did not make that list.)

Most of our top pledgers were surprised to learn they were on the list. What didn't surprise me is that so many of them also give so freely of their energy and enthusiasm. Our most involved members clearly demonstrate that both generous pledging *and* volunteer hours are needed in support of our religious home.

UUCSR is poised to achieve financial security and the ability to fulfill our dreams of additional services, programs, staff, and outreach, but we must all take a step forward. We have been spending more money than we've brought in this year, and we can no longer hope to fill our pledge shortfalls with the over-optimistic category of "fundraisers." Instead, we must truly own our congregation and its future. If you haven't been pledging at the Supporter level, please, make the leap. Those at the Supporter level are likewise encouraged to step up to Sustainers.

So, get ready for the call from your canvasser! Please promptly return their call, set up your appointment, and thank them for their dedication to our financial security in 2010-2011. Then relax and enjoy your canvass visit with your new friend. And I thank you in advance for your generous pledge!

~~ Ellen Skagerberg,
for the Annual Pledge Drive Committee

An Update from The Living Room

For fifteen years The Living Room has provided a daytime drop-in center where homeless women and children get nutritious meals and meaningful assistance in a safe, child friendly environment. Recently we experienced a significant cash flow problem and asked the community for help. We want you to know that we were able to meet our obligations by their December 31 due date. We couldn't have done it without you and are very grateful for your support. The agency received substantial contributions from churches throughout the county, including UUCSR, and other donations. Unexpected opportunities to apply for grants from two family foundations closed the gap. The Living Room is in the black for the moment but again faces a budget short fall of \$50,000 to \$75,000 in 2010.

In 2009 the agency had 18,000 client visits and provided 24,000 hot meals. Among new clients, 42%

were children. We expect this year to be much like the last, with increasing numbers of newly homeless women, elderly women, infants and young children. The drop-in center is reaching its capacity. In March there will be no more funding for a case manager to assist clients to change their lives, to get a job or a home. The Living Room will continue to rely on its friends, volunteers, and the community at large to provide for the women and children who need a helping hand.

We invite you to take a short tour of our program and see for yourself what The Living Room is all about. Upcoming tours will be held on March 25 at noon. We are located at The Church of the Incarnation, 636 Cherry Street, Santa Rosa. RSVP to Kendra McKenna, 579-0138 or kendramckenna@thelivingroomsc.org

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Ageism is something that rears its ugly head in many ways in many situations. We most commonly think of ageism as it relates to stereotyping of and discrimination against older people. After all, the term was coined by a gerontologist in 1969 to describe discrimination against seniors. Ageism, in its simplest terms, is prejudice on the grounds of age. People are guilty of ageism when ignore a person's ideas or contributions simply because of that contributing person's age; fail to recognize a person's abilities due solely to his or her age; or imply that a person's behavior stems directly from his or her current age. The truth is that this kind of discrimination is practiced across the continuum of ages.

Ageism has significant effects on the elderly. The stereotyping and infantilization of older people through patronizing language and attitudes affects their self-esteem. After repeatedly hearing generalizations that older people are less than competent, older people may begin to feel like dependent, non-contributing members of society. They may start to perceive themselves in the same ways that others in society see them.

Youth are also effected by ageism. Teenagers are frequently stereotyped as being enslaved by out-of-control hormones, which render them impulsive and irresponsible. These blanket generalizations create a pervasive trust gap between youth and adults. And just as

with seniors, youth may tend to behave in ways that others prescribe to them. Adolescence is an important in the process of individuation; it is manifest in many ways, sometimes extreme, sometimes subtle. Each adolescent goes through his or her individuation process in their own way, at their own speed.

And then there are the children. I think the most overt expression of ageism is the statement "Children are to be seen and not heard". Often the "good" child is thought to be the one who is always compliant, quiet, and adorable. But no one is always compliant, quiet, or adorable and this characterization robs children of their individuality and their spirit. Children are sometimes noisy and messy (because they now how to *play!*) and they need to have a place among adults where they can be who they are, and be honored for the place in life that they hold.

In this congregation we benefit from a wealth of wisdom and energy that comes from members and friends of all ages. Yet, the lines drawn between the ages divide us. The antidote to ageism is simple respect. We, as Unitarian Universalists are in covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all persons. As we work together to build a multigenerational community let us be intentional in our expressions of an open and caring attitude toward people of every age.

In Faith,
Deborah

What's Happening In RE This Month:

Youth Group meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 4-6pm

Date	Theme	Teachers
3/7	Children's Chapel	Deborah Mason
3/14	K-2: From Friends to Enemies 3-5: Cooperation 6-8: Hearing from Our Own	Robyn Hidas Joy Lonnes Kitty Wells
3/21	K-2: Appreciation of Nature 3-5: Making Peace & Creating Justice 6-8: The UU Story & Vision	Robyn Hidas Joy Lonnes Kitty Wells
3/28	Justice Sunday	Deborah Mason

Musical Notes for March

Sing -- Sing -- Music Was Given by Thomas Moore

Sing -- sing -- Music was given
 To brighten the gay, and kindle the loving;
 Souls here, like planets in heaven,
 By harmony's laws alone are kept moving.
 Beauty may boast of her eyes and her cheeks,
 But Love from the lips his true archery wings;
 And she, who but feathers the dart when she speaks,
 At once sends it home to the heart when she sings.
 Then sing -- sing -- Music was given,
 To brighten the gay, and kindle the loving;
 Souls here, like planets in heaven,
 By harmony's laws alone are kept moving.

When Love, rock'd by his mother,
 Lay sleeping as calm as slumber could make him,
 "Hush, hush," said Venus, "no other
 Sweet voice but his own is worthy to wake him."
 Dreaming of music he slumber'd the while,
 Till faint from his lip a soft melody broke,
 And Venus, enchanted, look'd on with a smile,
 While Love to his own sweet singing awoke.
 Then sing -- sing -- Music was given,
 To brighten the gay, and kindle the loving;
 Souls here, like planets in heaven,
 By harmony's laws alone are kept moving.

Music Awakening the Soul

As Thomas Moore intimates, Love, the core of our souls, can be stimulated by music. Music can enrich our soulful response to life in many ways: intellectual delight, kinetic vigor (dancing!), reflective meditation and so on. A wonderful thing about music is its capacity for sharing, which gets to the heart of that Love in the soul. We've recently

been enjoying a few new voices in the choir, each one a unique voice and personality that enrich our time together. I'm grateful for the talents and time our musicians share with me and the congregation. It is a splendid gift to offer!

Musical Highlights for March

March 7: choral music about integrity: "be yourself!"
 March 14: a variety of musical guests in one service!
 March 21: choir member Wendy Skillman's UUCSR debut on a popular favorite, and more from the choir
 March 28: music of the Grateful Dead

Join the UUCSR Choir!

Our choir is now learning new music of all sorts for upcoming services. The choir is a fun bunch of people and an uplifting way to start a Sunday morning! If you would like to join us for some fun and singing, please talk to me (phone, email, after services) or just drop in at a rehearsal to try it out! It's a low-commitment way to get involved in church life, and it's fun! We cover a variety of musical styles!

Regular rehearsals: Sundays, 9am, in the Boardroom

Join the Band!

We routinely welcome new folk into our UUCSR band. The band is a splendid blend of unique characters, each with special and various talents. The line-up of musicians is different each time, making it a great way to know new folks in new ways. The music is easy to learn and rehearsed in a friendly atmosphere. We're always looking for new instruments, too! If you would like to be a part of our UU band, please talk to me or to Susan Panttaja. Rehearsals are scheduled based on musicians' availability.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 11th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell.

The selection for April is The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga. Newcomers and visitors are welcome.

Linda Lampson

Young Adult Group

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! I would like to invite everyone between the ages of 18 and 36 for our first UUCSR Young Adult Group event. We will meet on Saturday, March 20th, 2010 at Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park around 5:30 pm. Bowling will start at 6:00pm with dinner to follow. We will take a vote as to where. Bring about \$20.00 for bowling, just in case. For questions or more information, please contact Linda Marie at 707/585-2212 or L_Stub@hotmail.com.

Getting to Know UU—April 24th

New to our UU community? Join us at our **SPRING NEWCOMER WELCOME: Getting to Know UU and UUCSR** on April 24th from 9:15am—12:30pm. This orientation session is designed primarily for those new to our denomination who are considering becoming members of UUCSR. Those new to our congregation who

have previously been members of other UU churches, congregations, or fellowships are also welcome to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet fellow seekers, get to know a bit more about UU and our congregation, and explore why we are here. Please look for fliers and sign up sheets at the visitor's table.

Let's Talk

"Let's Talk", a new UUCSR Women's Day Support Group, will meet from **1 - 3 pm** in the "Social Hall" on **Thursday, March 4**, at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-568-5381.

Women. Would you enjoy meeting amazing, interesting, sensitive, understanding UUCSR Women? At a "Let's Talk" meeting you'll be with other women and just talk.

This is a new UUCSR Women's Day Support Group open to women of all ages so, please, do invite your Non UU Women friends to join us. Our meetings "are not therapy" sessions. There are no fees and no membership requirements.

Interested? Need more information? Want to be added to the e-mail list? Contact/Convener, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com,

Mark Your Calendars—All Congregation Retreat

Winter is here, and the All-Congregation (Summer) Retreat Committee wants to assure those of you already dreaming of Fun in the Sun that a weekend of connecting with your church family will be waiting for you when Summer returns!

As many of you know, our previous site at Gualala was sold, so we embarked on a harrowing and emotional adventure to find a new place to call home for three days. Now, home is where the heart is, so we knew that as long as we were together, we'd be okay. But OH THE PRESSURE!

We toured several sites and came up with a couple options that seemed suitable, then we waited to find an open date (booking less than a year in advance is a challenge). In the end we grabbed a coveted mid-Summer date at the wonderful Valley of the Moon Camp in Glen Ellen. The camp is run by the same great management company that made Gualala such a treat in its heyday, and the site director is fabulous.

It's nestled against Jack London State Park with tons of beautiful trees and great hiking opportunities. On a clear day, you can see all the way to the East Bay from the outdoor chapel! The camp is laid out in a big horseshoe, with a lovely meadow in the middle and paved walk-

way all the way around. The site has a fascinating history, first as a Pomo Indian village, and later hosting summer retreats for movie stars in the 30s. To top it off, this camp has a pool!

We are thrilled at the prospect of having a true, inter-generational gathering, because this site offers some new opportunities. It is only a 20-minute drive from Rincon Valley - much more convenient for families with tiny tots and those who cannot manage long car rides. Because it's so much closer than Gualala, and some members have previously avoided camp because they are unable to sleep on bunk beds, we can now offer a day package for those folks. We're working on the details, but needless to say the spirit of community and camp activities can be enjoyed by everyone this year.

So - new year, new decade even, and new Retreat site, but same great UU people. We hope you will all mark your 2010 calendars (when you get them) for July 16 - 18th. And if you'd like to volunteer for a small part in making this new retreat the home of many new fond memories, please contact us.

Barrie Noe, Denese Pender, Pat Wilson & Jaime Holloway



Musings from the Caring Committee—Coordinators Needed

Please make sure you return your Volunteer Service Form!

And if you are willing to be an area Coordinator, please contact Gretchen Vap (568-3290 or gvap@att.net).

We want to have a coordinator in each geographical area to, on occasion, connect the service (from the forms) to a nearby neighbor needing an assist. This will just be a simple phone call, and in the past, most of this has been done informally, so this job is not a HUGE one! The Caring Committee work will really depend on these simple connections,

so your help is vital to our congregation. What we know is that informally, help is constantly being given between our members. What we don't know is who needs an assist that is going unnoticed.

Medical Supplies: We have these in great excess!! A list will be posted on the bulletin board inside the door to upstairs. If you need ANYTHING on the list, let us know. We may begin to donate some of the supplies to other agencies as they are not being used by our congregation.

A Night to Celebrate!

Featuring Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA- Benefiting the UU Legislative Ministry of California
Friday, March 5th, 7 PM

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco will be hosting a very special event on Friday March 5th beginning at 7 PM. Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be the main speaker and guest of honor that evening at a dinner to benefit the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and share dialogue with the leader of

our denomination while benefiting the legislative ministry's work to help us live out our UU values in the public arena. This celebratory event will also offer an opportunity to meet and mingle with other Bay Area UUs and UULMCA supporters while sharing a delicious meal and being entertained by a live band. Tickets are available for \$40 by credit card through the UULMCA website at uulmca.org or by calling 916-441-0018. Be sure to get your tickets early since this is Rev. Morales's only speaking engagement in the Bay Area and is expected to sell out. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Sharon Stone of the UULMCA at 916-441-0018 .

UUCSR Writers

UUCSR Writers will meet from 4 - 6 pm in the "Green Room" on **Monday, March 1, 2010** at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-568-5381, Can't attend monthly meetings? Live in another City, State or Country? Request an Invitation to join our Online Writer's Blog. Information: UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

"TaP" Thursdays at Peet's

The UUCSR Writers meet once a week for coffee and conversation at Peet's Cafe in Copperfield's located in

Montgomery Village at the corner of Montgomery Drive and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Parking is Free.

Come, join us on Thursday mornings at 10 am. Buy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, add a Danish pastry and enjoy the pleasure of chatting with writers about writing. We have no set agenda. Also, be sure to save some time to browse the books at Copperfield's.

Georgette G. deBlois
GGdeB@aol.com



Jeremy Taylor Dream Workshop

The Mendocino UU Fellowship is sponsoring a dream workshop by UU Minister Jeremy Taylor. Jeremy, perhaps America's foremost dream expert, will cover all the basics of what dreams are - their symbolism, what their

images are telling us, and how we can use them for deeper self-knowledge and spiritual growth.

March 5 (eve) and March 6; \$80; held in Mendocino; contact Rick Childs, 964-1722 for further info/registration.

The UUA is coming to the Bay Area! Don't miss your chance to meet
Gini Courter, UUA Moderator

Power in Your Congregation (or Governance 101)

Saturday, May 15, 9:30 am-12:00 noon
Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo
 300 E. Santa Inez Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401
 (Event is free, childcare provided)

Our fifth principle affirms "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." How do congregations make this commitment real? Through their governance. UUA Moderator Gini Courter will spend this morning with us exploring the foundations of governance in our liberal religious congregations. After her presentation, there will be time for dialogue and questions. If you ever wondered how things work, who makes what decisions and why, **don't miss this event!** It will be fun *and* informative.



Gini Courter is the Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which means (among other things) she facilitates the democratic process for 5,000 UU's at our annual General Assembly – and she does so with spirit, humor, respect, and from a deep love for our tradition. In October 2003, the UUA Board of Trustees appointed Gini Courter as Moderator for a term ending at the close of General Assembly in Long Beach in June 2004. Gini has since been elected twice by the General Assembly delegates, most recently in June 2005 for a four-year term. Gini has served Unitarian Universalism in her congregation and district, on committees and on the UUA Board. In her professional life, Gini is an Information Technology consultant, author of twenty-eight books, and a nationally-recognized speaker on collaboration and productivity software.

For information www.uusanmateo.org ■ office@uusanmateo.org ■ 650-342-5946 x 11

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions
Greatly Appreciated!

Notes, New Stuff, Curtains, and Carts

Anyone who's ever painted knows that some pieces of art evolve gradually on the canvass as the painter slowly adds color after color, layer after layer. This is a terribly crude metaphor for what has been happening with our Arts & Culture ministry over the last year or so, but clumsy or not, the whole paint-on-canvass thing serves to demonstrate the way we take what exists and slowly add new things in pursuit of a finished product. For example, after more than three years of regular art shows and other exhibitions, we have only just stumbled upon the idea of collecting notes, comments and thank yous to deliver to our featured artist(s) at the conclusion of a display. The candy jar in the foyer will now become a regular element of all exhibitions, recording your responses, feedback and comments. As we deliver your thoughts to erinO, our most recent artist, we will leave the jar in place to hear what thoughts are generated by our new exhibition. Titled 'Fashion Statements' (and thanks to my brilliant and insightful wife Susan for thinking up that name!), the new show is a collection of T-shirts that members of this congregation, and others from the community, have collected during various political marches, protests, or other social actions. While the shirts are themselves fairly fascinating, artifacts of a peculiarly American form of folk art (and that is how I see them), the best part of these creative fabric relics are the stories that come with them. We hope you will take the time to read the reminiscences that accompany each shirt.

Some of you have noticed the curtains in the Social Hall, a classy way to hide some of the day-to-day equipment and appliances that we all use each week in various ways. Some day, you may see similar curtains absorbing some of the sound in the high-ceiling portion of the Social Hall. I bring up the curtains to solidify the why-didn't-we-

think-of-that-before nature of our building. It only took us five years to realize that we would optimize our storage space with some attractive curtains, adding to the beauty of our Social Hall at the same time. Likewise, after five years of having a T.V. cart (used by various groups to show DVDs and tapes), we only recently realized that with so many people using the cart, we needed a better system so that groups or committees can "call dibs" on the equipment, avoiding the increasing conflicts when two groups show up on the same night, each hoping to use the T.V. Starting soon, you will find the Reservation Book in a rack at the side of the cart. Should you wish to make sure the cart is available for your use, please check the book to see if anyone has beat you to it. Or write in your reservation in the book, and if anything changes, PLEASE be sure to call me or Janis and tell us that you won't be needing the equipment after all.

For that matter—and this is very important—if you are the leader of a TIE group, meditation group, or other organized party using room space regularly, and if your meeting happens to get cancelled for a particular night, it is important that you let the office know as soon as possible, even if that is at the very last minute. Sometimes, we can use that room for other people, and it will save us (those of us who schedule the room usage at our facility) from the embarrassment of telling someone they can't use the Board Room, only to have that room stand vacant as they file past to their second-choice room.

Such little changes and policies are just a part of getting better at what we do. With your help, cooperation, and continued encouragement, "what we do" will just keep getting better, smarter, and easier.

Have a great March!
David Templeton

Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry serves the entire congregation. We are here to foster the best communication possible in our community.

If you are aware of issues or concerns please contact any member of this committee. It is our task to address such concerns in a respectful and compassionate manner.

The Committee on Shared Ministry has been working on an important congregational task, completing the Evaluation for the Unitarian Universalist Association

Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Before Reverend Chris can receive his final fellowship the UUA will review our evaluation as well as ones written by Chris and the Board of Trustees. This brings us closer to the stage when we will be able to accept an intern from divinity school to come to the UUCSR.

Elizabeth Marrs (chair), Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Cathy Read and Mary Wagner

UPCOMING EVENTS at the GLASER CENTER

Friday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.

A-to-Zed Concerts part 3

Music by composers whose names begin with 'C', Copland, Couperin and Cui, performed by cellist Judiyaba, with Nancy Hayashibara and others.

Suggested Donation \$10 - \$25

Saturday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Till My Tale Is Told and Done

Songs of the Grateful Dead performed as spoken word by a cast of actors from across the North Bay.

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Saturday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.

Our Favorite Songs III

Another joyous evening of songs suggested by the congregation, performed by members and friends.

Suggested Donation \$1 - ?

Saturday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

Spanish & French Music

The Potaje Trio

with **Un Deux Trois**

FEATURING ROBERT LUNCEFORD

\$7.00 - \$15.00 sliding scale

Creatives, Artists, Healers, Lovers, Survivors and Changelings - Come play with us!

In 1978, while still a young, struggling singer-entertainer, Marcia Singer attended her first "improv" workshop at The Holy City Zoo in S.F. It was love at first sound, the sound of her voice loudly hurling her first four-letter word across a room during a game: it landed safely. No one batted an eye. For a desperately proper young artist, it was life changing. Singer had found a crucible that could contain her energies and creativity as much of me as she dared let show, let go, and uncover her wildly, holy real, expressive (and pun-embracing) Self. Since then she has led workshops around the country, employing improv as a spiritual practice. Interested in being part of a regular improv "play group?" Join Singer in co-creating a *conspiracy of players—con (together) spiring (breathing)—bent on releasing joyful geni-us into a world hungry for Elf Realization!*

Thursday March 11, 6:45-8:45

Visioning, interactive discussion and improv+ exercises;

Proposal for a 6-class Improvisational PlayWorkshop course for April-May

Saturday March 27 -1-3 pm

Community Improv Play Jam!

(Donations appreciated -not required)

AGING WITH GRACE

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Beginning March 10th

Facilitated by Rev. Chris Bell and you

**There are 8 sessions scheduled, but the
group may continue beyond that.**

This group will offer:

Support and discussion with other elders.

Spiritual and practical resources for facing such challenges of aging as disability, loss of independence, and the immanence of death.

A different vision of being older based on Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*.

Participants are urged to purchase a copy as soon as possible.

UU-CAN!

North Bay Sponsoring Committee
Leadership Action

March 2

7:00pm

Here at UUCSR

Hear about the work of our issue research teams.
Build power, and plan, for a public action in May.
Strengthen our relationships with each other.

This is OUR interfaith community organization!

Each of our nine member institutions will have a delegation. We are expecting 170 people. As the host congregation, we intend to turn out 50 people. If you are interested in community organizing and political power, be there!

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa Presents



Till My Tale is Told and Done

*The Lyrics of
the Grateful Dead
performed live
as spoken word
by the actors of the
North Bay*

Saturday March 27,

7:30 p.m.

**The Glaser Center
547 Mendocino Ave.**

\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

'Till My Tale is Told and Done' is a benefit for The Living Room and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa Presents

Our Favorite Songs III

A Joyous Live Musical Evening of
songs chosen and performed by the
musicians of the UUCSR Congregation

~~~~~

Saturday, March 13, 7:30 pm

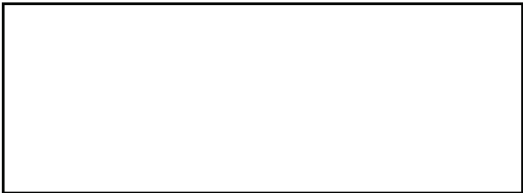
The Glaser Center  
547 Mendocino Ave.

Donations Accepted on a sliding scale of \$1 - \$1000

Non-Profit Organization  
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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

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March 2010 Please Recycle

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

**UU Update Newsletter:**

Send submissions to [Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)  
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to [Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto: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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