



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• February 2010 • Volume 54 • Issue 2 •

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

### February 7, 2010

#### *The Beauty in the Every Day*

Service Leader: Rev. Lisa A. Wiggins

Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

Beauty is an illusive concept, fraught with a wide diversity of understanding and appreciation. However, it is a common spiritual yearning throughout human culture. We will explore this critical search for the aesthetic not only in our daily lives, but also beauty's fundamental value in building a healthy future for generations to come.

Rev. Lisa Wiggins, a second generation Unitarian Universalist, has ministered in churches and community settings domestically and in Africa and Central America. Currently Rev. Wiggins is an itinerate preacher in the Bay Area and provides strategic planning and leadership development to congregations.

With music from the UUusual Suspects, and the Choir.

### February 14th

#### *What We Really Need*

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

Unitarian Universalists often speak of uniting people in our common humanity. But when human language, society, culture and religion can be so very different, what does that really mean? Understanding what all human beings really need provides the answer, and a call to action. The Choir will perform, and we'll also hear from guest musician Sheridan Malone.

### February 21st

#### *Evil!*

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

What, if anything, is evil? Can this word be used constructively, or is it doomed to divisiveness? How does evil differ from the merely nasty, unfortunate, or ill-chosen? Is evil a separate force from good? Where does it come from? Why does God "allow" it? Why do WE? This is the fourth in our sermon series on

### February 28th

#### *The World Keeps Its Word*

#### **INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE**

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

Worship Associate: Andy Levine

We must have a basic trust in ourselves, others, and our environment in order to live with well-being and hope, according to Erik Erikson, even though we have to acknowledge that our trust is sometimes betrayed. Today we'll establish and affirm the path of trusting Life with stories and songs for all ages.

### 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. This service will present the absolutely final word on authority and shared ministry in our liberal religious tradition. :-)

### 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

## The Inherent Worth and Dignity of What?!?



Our fragile democracy has faced its share of struggles over the years. At the outset we failed to include women and people of color among those who had been created equal, and those without property were without a vote in most states for too long. In every case, great struggle has been required to extend equal rights to all of our citizens. Stir in the occasional expansionist war, or a Senator McCarthy or Dick Cheney, and it is readily apparent just how precarious real freedom and democracy actually are.

I nevertheless maintain my faith in our great experiment because, however gradually or fitfully, we really have corrected some of the more egregious perversions of our shared vision of life, liberty and happiness for all.

My faith was deeply shaken by last week's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to remove the spending restrictions that for over a century have prevented corporations (and unions) from having an undue influence on elections. I believe this decision was completely wrong. Unfortunately, based on our history, it was also shockingly predictable.

In a 2003 issue of the *UU World* magazine devoted to the influence of corporations (the source of all this column's quotes), writer Tom Stites shared these words from a one-time corporate lawyer who later served in public office: "Corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."

Abraham Lincoln wrote those words in 1864.

Two years later the Fourteenth Amendment was passed. That addition to the Constitution reads, in part: "No State shall...deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Sounds great, doesn't it? And it is, when applied to actual, living, breathing, human beings. Indeed, most U.S. human rights advances in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century have depended upon the equal protection clause of this amendment. But even with his awareness of the great threat that moneyed power poses, Lincoln could not possibly have imagined just how much those words, the purpose of which was to ensure full personhood to the freed slaves, have been perverted.

"Of the cases in this court in which the Fourteenth Amendment was applied during its first fifty years

after its adoption, less than one-half of one percent invoked it in protection of the Negro race [for whose benefit it was drafted], and more than fifty percent asked that its benefits be extended to corporations," wrote Justice Hugo Black in 1938.

How could that be? Somehow, in defiance of all logic and common sense, "Corporations gained personhood through aggressive court maneuvers culminating in the 1886 Supreme Court case *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific*. Until then, only 'We the People' were protected by the Bill of Rights, and the governments the people elected could regulate corporations as they wished. But with personhood, corporations steadily gained ways to weaken government restraints on their behavior—and on their growth." The list of their legal victories since then, and their impact on the commonwealth, would stun most of us.

And now they can spend as much as they want to influence our elections, under the guise of their equal right to free speech. As Stites wonders, "On the surface, when the big corporations and 'We the People' have the same rights, they are equal, and the playing field is level. But disparities of scale tip the field toward the corporations at a steep pitch. If a nation-sized corporation with its huge treasury and squadrons of lawyers wants to exercise its free speech rights in a shouting match with a citizen who is exercising her or his free speech rights, can this be a fair fight?"

As a UU, I utterly reject the notion of corporate personhood. I will not affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every corporation as part of our First Principle. It isn't just the fact that many corporations lose sight of the common good and their civic responsibilities. People do that all the time and I still honor their value. I reject corporate personhood because I believe the things that make us *people* - reason, love, imagination, freedom - are gifts from, and reflections of, the creative, living, universe. Life, consciousness, and our conscience (however cloudy at times) are all of a divine nature. We didn't make them, nor did we make them up.

But corporations are made up. They are purely *human* creations. They are an abstraction. They are NOT persons. They don't have skin or feelings. They can't go to jail. They don't bleed or die. Furthermore, unlike individuals (under the moral law, if nothing else), and some of our other public institutions such as congregations, schools, unions, and governments, corporations have no obligation to attend to the common well-being of their members or the wider world.

## Splinters from the Board

### Notes on *Avatar* and the Vision Thing

Seems difficult to have a conversation these days that doesn't quickly touch on movies. Maybe it's due to awards season being upon us, or the spate of movies released during the holiday season, combined with people actually having a bit of time during the holidays to go see movies. And always, it seems, atop the conversational heap: "Seen *Avatar*?"

Being a prominent conversation topic is what happens, I suppose, when a film steams its way toward TwoBillion\$Ville. (I'm waiting for some quirky math major to reveal to us that the ticket stubs alone would circle the globe or go to the moon and back if laid end to end.)

*Avatar* is a rather amazing piece of mass entertainment; only a cinematic genius and yarn spinner could put together a film that carries enough plot over here, moral over there, romance over yonder and incredible technological tableaux throughout to pull in eager fans from all ages, educational levels and aesthetic sensibilities. An underappreciated Sundance Film Festival indie this is not.

But I write here not in the context of a review, but of a vision, and the will to carry it through. In a *New Yorker* magazine profile of *Avatar* director James Cameron, he is quoted as saying, "If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success."

I am liking that line.

And this, which he once uttered to a studio president: "I want you to know one thing—once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me." Relating this tale to the *New Yorker* reporter, the studio president said, "You looked into those eyes and you knew he meant it."

Cameron is widely reputed to be hot-headed, cantankerous, megalomaniacal—and visionary. I don't know that the first two of those descriptors are necessary to be a successful director, while the third probably is and the fourth is absolutely a requirement.

And a fifth quality comes into play, too: the courage to carry forth one's vision, even in the face of detractors and doubt. Having pulled off extravagant hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars movie projects that returned billions of dollars in the face of much doomsaying, James Cameron does not seem to lack courage.

All right: so that's the movie and its director. Why have I found myself thinking so much about these matters in the context of UUCSR? We're not making a movie here,

are we? (Actually, we are, and though I'm not quite sure who's directing it, let me tell you, y'all are one heck of an endlessly fascinating cast...)

No community, and in truth, no person, can flourish without dreams, visions, courage, and at least a scintilla of megalomania that helps propel the vision when the inevitable difficulties arise. No vision, no risk, no reward—we all understand that formula. But do we live it? Certainly, we have lived it in the past. Our move from Stony Point into our current building and its big-gulp renovation and mortgage costs was, in relative terms, rather Cameronesque in its audacity, I venture to say. There were plenty of reasons *not* to proceed with that scheme. Cozy little place, Stony Point was. We could easily have stayed there, the equivalent of a \$1 million movie that had a decent chance of making \$1.3 million and keeping the investors content enough.

But is "content enough" really the point of living out our Unitarian Universalist faith? It wasn't to the majority of members who voted to exchange the comforts of Stony Point for the big bills and uncertainty of downtown. They left small-risk/small reward thinking behind in favor of something more and bigger, more expansive and inclusive, more capable of heightening the profile of UUism and affecting the religious and cultural life of Sonoma County. Little bit crazy, wasn't it?

UUs tend to be skeptical of bigness, evangelism, proselytizing. We don't do much fervor. But when you've got something great—whether a great movie or a great religious community—there comes a time when quiet slogging along doesn't serve anyone. Being a growing downtown UU congregation in a highly educated, liberal community means no more quiet church mouse. It means showing ourselves, parading at least a little, becoming visible for our principles, our beliefs, our ambitions (remember: *we're trying to change the world!*), even in the midst of massive economic downturn and cultural turmoil. Perhaps *especially* in the midst of such turmoil!

With membership recently passing the 320 mark and the pews packed with new or barely familiar faces on Sundays, we are on a roll at UUCSR. Our love of life and community and what our tradition offers is radiating outwards. May we never lack for the courage and vision that have brought us this far.

—Andrew Hidas

President, Board of Trustees

## Treasurer's Report

Ahh... winter is finally here. It does feel somewhat like winter during the holidays with cold Christmas mornings, a drizzling New Years Eves. But to me, it isn't REALLY winter until all the sycamores have lost their leaves, until the mulberries and sweet gums are brown-black skeletal frames against a cloudy and dismal backdrop of grey sky. Yes, THIS is when Mother Nature really starts to heat up, sending forth storms and wind and rain galore.

And also, things are really starting to heat up in the accounting department down at our local UU. We've passed the half-mark milestone of our fiscal year, championed the December 'high point' of our colorful annual income flow chart display, and can now look forward to weathering the remainder of our year with the hope and promise that this new decade is sure to bring.

The January meeting of the Accounting Committee brought forth much discussion about our successful push for budget preparation. Here are a few insights into this process, to help you understand the need for this early prep work that we've done so far. First, we have our "dream" budgets which might have merit and are important to keep in mind. They include things like the magic bus that I'm dreaming of, that could carry a dozen UUCSR folks around. Some of these 'dream' items aren't even quite on the 'back burner' yet - they are for now, say, in the storage drawer at the bottom of the stove. But they're still there!

Then we have what we refer to as our "goal" budgets, with items that we are hopefully very close to getting - at least within the next year or two.

The Accounting Committee is currently preparing this "goal budget". Once all the committee budgets are completed and entered, we will plug in the final number - which is the PLEDGE INCOME that must be generated in order to fulfill this budget.

And with THAT number calculated the Accounting Committee will report this figure to the Annual Pledge Drive group, as this will be the goal of the canvass that will happen during March and April. Then once the canvass is completed, we'll be able to see if we can keep our 'goal budget'. However, if canvass comes up short of the budgeted pledge amount - we'll have to determine what will need to be shaved from the 'goal budget', in order to create an 'actual budget'. This final budget must be completed and ready to vote on at the June congregational meeting.

Thus the need to start early with our budgeting process! So thank you all for your help and cooperation so far. In addition to budget discussion, we have also just received the December financials. We're still doing some calculations on contributions and restricted funds - but I can tell you that, as expected, income was up in December, and so we are sitting pretty good at the moment. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly payment of the PCD/UUA dues is now due. And you may recall that we only paid one-half of the first quarterly payment, so we are already behind. We are determined to catch up as quickly as possible.

Also, the Accounting Committee will continue to work with the Financial Stewardship Council to determine how much more fund raising will need to be done to carry us through this difficult budget year.

So enjoy the glorious showering from the heavens as Mother Nature continues through her most raucous season. And may we all continue to find glimmers of hope and promise as this first year of our new decade carries on.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denese Pender

# Goal Budget

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

In November a group of parents and non-parents got together to talk about ways in which children and youth can get to know adults in the congregation on a deeper level. Several good ideas surfaced. Our intergenerational holiday caroling party was one event inspired by this gathering and it was *a lot* of fun. Here are some of the ideas that I will be pursuing in the months to come:

Having adults speak to the children during Religious Education about important events in their lives. The theme of the morning's Children's Chapel would be shaped around the story or stories of the guest.

An intergenerational field trip will be planned in the spring - we are open to suggestions, so bring 'em on! (Cassandra Lista suggested a trip to the Exploratorium.)

Having children and youth take on roles in Sunday Worship Services, such as doing the welcome & announcements, reading opening words, and chalice lighting words.

Inspire the Youth Group to do a documentary about UUCSR with interviews of some of our interesting older folks.

An intergenerational game night & potluck

A "Secret Pal" program - this is what I will be working on, with volunteer help, during the month of February.

Secret Pals are intergenerational pairs composed of one young person and one adult. For six weeks beginning the first Sunday of March, children & youth will be matched with adult "Secret Pals." Adults send letters to their young pals with stories about themselves, and clues to help the children guess their identity. Children write about their hobbies, pets and favorite foods. I will provide young and adult participants with suggested questions to answer in their communications to encourage a deeper sharing. The Secret Pal Program is designed to bring people (young, old and in-between) of our congregation together to meet someone they might not otherwise meet. The Secret Pal Program will culminate with an "unveiling" Secret Pal Luncheon on Sunday, April 11 where the pals meet for the first time.

I will be circulating sign up forms to participate in Secret Pal during the first couple weeks of February. If you are interested in being a Secret Pal please get in touch with me. I will have sign up forms available at the church office. I hope many of you will join in and make a special new friend.

In faith,  
Deborah



### This Month IN Religious Education:

Date	Theme	Teachers
2/7	Children's Chapel	Deborah Mason
2/14	K-2: Friends & Enemies 3-5: Respecting Others, Valuing Diversity 6-8: What About War & Peace	Robyn Hidas Joy Lonnes Kitty Wells
2/21	K-2: : Friendship with People Different from you 3-5: Creative Conflict Resolution 6-8: Hearing from our Own	Robyn Hidas Joy Lonnes Kitty Wells
2/28	Justice Sunday	Deborah Mason

# Musical Notes for February

**Some Musical Highlights this Month**

February will see more great music from our wonderful variety of congregational talent: anthems and new hymns from the choir, songs from our own band, offerings from individual members of our community both familiar and new, and the splendid work of our esteemed pianist, Nancy Hayashibara. As always, the styles of music are various and will include popular songs old and new, classical chamber music, jazz, and more.

Songs in services will include "You are so Beautiful to me" and "What a Wonderful World", among others. Choral anthems will alternately explore traditional American hymnody and beautiful contemporary music. Featured soloists will include singer/songwriter Sheridan Malone, who is new to our community.

**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.

Musically yours,  
Ben Taylor, Music Director

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *City of Falling Angels* by John Berend. The selection for March is *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell. Newcomers and visitors are welcome.

Linda Lampson

## Thursday Evening Meditation

If you are interested in the practice and theory of Buddhist meditation, please come on Thursday evenings 7 - 8:30 p.m., UUCSR. The text for both practice and discussion is Stephen Batchelors "Buddhism Without Beliefs" which is a practical, secular approach for Western people. New meditators and seasoned meditators are encouraged. For more info, call Rose 865-0755.

## Economic Justice Read/Study Group

Specific psychological character structures and features are necessitated by and molded by the social and economic arrangements by which a people lives and works.

Come on Tuesday evening, January 12, to see an Adam Curtis, BBC documentary which describes the history and development of a psychological structure characteristic of people living in 21st century corporate, monopolistic, consumer capitalism.

The Economic Justice Read/Study/Discuss Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m., UUCSR. For more info call Rose, 865-0755.



## Caring Committee Partnering

You will find a "Volunteer Service Form" in your February Newsletter. Please complete and return to UUCSR. You will find marked gold boxes in the social hall where you can drop your forms. This will enable us to share the caring to fellow UUs who may need an assist. Many of us do this anyway, and this will just enhance the Caring Committee efforts to step in when a member is ill, having surgery, needing a ride or a meal. We hope to

take advantage of the geographical pods already in place for Community Organizing. So you may have a Caring Committee member visit your next pod meeting. This will minimize driving, and neighbors can help neighbors, as was done in years past.

Thanks so much.  
Gretchen Vap

## Meditation Retreat— Saturday, February 6, 2010

Refresh yourself with a day of silent sitting and walking meditation. Both new and seasoned meditators are invited. Some meditation instruction and guidance will be offered. Bring a bag lunch.

Saturday, February 6, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more info, call Jan (528-8063), Rose (865-0755), or Mary (523-1366).

## 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 walkway all the way around. The site has a fascinating his-

tory, 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 - 18<sup>th</sup>.** 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



## Advocates for Social Justice

### SHARE THE BASKET

On Sunday, February 7th, one half of the collection will be given to The Living Room, the only drop-in center for homeless women and their children in Sonoma County. I spoke to Kendra McKenna, the new Executive Director, who told me that they are seeing increasing numbers of older women whose resources have been consumed by health-care needs. Also, women are staying longer and returning more frequently because of the frozen job market. Ms. McKenna wants us to know how much our support means to them and how appreciative they are. So, when the basket comes your way on February 7th, please be generous because those women and children with no place to go as the rain pours down.

Linda Harlow/Advocates for Social Justice



### HOT TOPICS

#### POLICE AND THE MENTALLY ILL

On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Patrick Band, a vibrant, young, long-term activist, will talk to us about the critical problem of the police response to the mentally ill. Patrick is a native of Sonoma County and has been an advocate on issues of community concern for nearly 10 years. As a sophomore in high school, he worked to build SOLID Magazine, Sonoma County's first regional student run newspaper serving our youth. He has been active for the past five years on law enforcement and civil liberties issues, serving as Chair of the ACLU of Sonoma County, working with accountability groups including Copwatch, the Police Accountability Clinic and Helpline (PACH), and the Mental Health Advocacy Alliance of Sonoma County. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Sonoma County Human Services Commission and the Sonoma County Young Democrats, and is a statewide delegate to the California Democratic Party. There will be time for questions and discussion. We will meet in the RE Lobby from 12:30 to 2 pm and refreshments will be available for those who do not choose to bring a lunch. For information or questions, contact Linda Harlow, 526-3528, or [lmh1937@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmh1937@sbcglobal.net).

## UUCSR Writers

UUCSR Writers will meet from 4–6 pm in the "Green Room" on Monday, February, 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](mailto: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 Café 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](mailto: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.



## Readings from the Heart—Women Together

On Sunday afternoon, February 21<sup>st</sup>, from 2 to 4, all UUCSR women and their friends are invited to the home of Cathie Wiese to share favorite readings, poetry or prose, written by you or not. Over the years this has been a fun and powerful event so I hope you can be at 220 Frankel Lane, Sebastopol, to share this experience.

Please call Cathie at 839-3634 for directions or more information.

Linda Harlow/Women Together

P.S. Mark your calendars for this year's Retreat ~ May 14th-16th!

## Committee on Shared Ministry

The Unitarian Universalist denomination calls upon all of us to share the ministry. It is the responsibility of each of us to minister to each other, our congregation and ourselves. The Committee on Shared Ministry exists in order to foster healthy communication. It is our intention that issues and concerns are discussed in appropriate and respectful ways, with open hearts and

open minds. When we do this our congregation thrives and is able to grow while encouraging divergent views.

Please feel free to contact any of us with comments or concerns.

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

## Whale Coast Alaska 2010

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer in our 14<sup>th</sup> year! See *REAL* Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. Experience

Native Alaskan culture. Observe wildlife, including bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles. Visit Denali National Park. Dave Frey, a 29-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit [www.whalecoastak.org](http://www.whalecoastak.org). Don't delay,

the program usually fills by March 10. Email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) for information, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

## Shoes for Kenya

Recently we had a garage sale. A very nice man, James Mangwi, came looking for shoes. Turns out he sends a shipment of shoes to Kenya about every 3 months as they are sorely needed there. I gave him all the shoes that I had immediately available and took his phone number thinking I would look for more when I had time. Then it occurred to me that it might be a good idea for the church to donate old (but wearable) shoes to the cause.

I talked to Chris and Linda Harlow about it and they both felt that it is a good idea.

I recently put a box in the outer office labeled "Shoes For Kenya". James said that they want any kind of shoes except for sandals as it is too dusty there.

If you can donate shoes, put them in the box and I will see to it that James gets them.



Joan Thatcher

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

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

**E-mail submissions  
Greatly Appreciated!**

## Notes from David Templeton

I don't know if you've noticed this lately, but here are the UUCSR, we are a VERY musical community. The number of congregants who either perform musically as musicians, sing (in the UUCSR choir or elsewhere), or participate in the music community by organizing or attending musical events, is fairly staggering. Witness the level of "musicological discourse" that routinely takes place in the church office, where the various musical choices of the staff (we sort of take turns playing music at our desks, and Rev. Chris can often be heard rocking out in his office, singing along with some hip, cool CD he's listening to).

With this in mind, the Arts & Culture ministry of the UUCSR is putting extra focus on music over the next several months, though with a decidedly UU orientation.

A perfect example is the second annual Darwin's Birthday Party celebration, scheduled for the Big D's 201st B-day on February 11. That's a Thursday. Following up on last year's surprisingly well-attended event, we'll have a big birthday cake, served Survival of the Fittest-style (first come, first served), some science-themed fun-and-games, and a short concert of songs with Darwinian lyrics. See elsewhere in this newsletter for specific details.

In March, three big musical-inspired events are planned, though the last one looks at the LYRIC side of some famous songs. First off, it's a concert of music by composers whose last names begin with the letter 'C.' part of cellist Judiyaba's A-Z project, in she will spend 2010 performing 26 concerts, one for each letter of the alphabet. Her 'C' concert takes place at the Glaser Center on

Friday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. Then there's the third Our Favorite Songs Concert, in which the musical members of our congregation perform songs chose BY the congregation. Planned for March 13, this one will feature some of the greatest songs ever written—and a few personal favorites (nominated by members of the congregation) that many of you will never have heard before (Punk Rock Girl, anyone?).

Later in March, the night before Rev. Chris's much-anticipated "Grateful Dead" Sunday service, we present 'Until My Tale is Told and Done,' and evening of actors form around the Bay Area, performing the LYRICS of Grateful Dead songs, taking on the unique character of the GD's various rogues, travelers, dreamers and searchers, speaking their words as poetry and dramatic performance. This unusual and creative program will take place Saturday, March 27, and we will be sharing proceeds from the event with The Living Room.

Later in the year will bring a concert of music led by accordionist Robert Lunceford and friends, the return of the folk duo Emma's Revolution, two concerts by the ever-inspiring New Horizon's Band, and lots more.

Music is more than just entertainment. Music is an expression our deepest feelings and yearnings. It is as human as the desire to be in a community of friends and family. We are fortunate that at the UUCSR, we have the whole package.

Have a great February!

### **Calling all UUs! Save the date & plan to attend the**

#### **North Bay Sponsoring Committee Leadership Gathering**

***Tuesday, March 2, 7:00-8:45pm***

#### ***Held right here at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa***

Join us as we continue to build the North Bay Sponsoring Committee into a powerful and sustainable broad-based organization capable of influencing the public life of Sonoma and Napa Counties. Meet other leaders, share stories about the successes in our member institutions and learn from the work of our research action teams as we move towards the NBSC's first public action in May. This gathering is for members of the core organizing teams as well as other involved leaders and clergy in your institution. If you have attended other NBSC events, been a house meeting leader or would like to become more involved in the movement *please* plan to attend.

**RSVP to the church office-568-5381 or talk to one of UUCSRs Core Team members: AnnaLisa Wiley, Linda Harlow, Dorris Lee, Linda Proulx, Cassandra Lista, Mary Louise Jaffray, Larissa Dahroug, Deborah Mason, JoAnn Robson, Mark Sowers, Rose St. John and Rev. Chris Bell**

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

## The Inherent Worth and Dignity Cont.

Some do, of course - one thinks of Joe Como's remarkable tale of the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company - and many corporations provide essential, life-enhancing products and services. But their primary obligation is, and must by definition always be, the profit of the shareholders. Their first love is, naturally and understandably, money, and as we have heard, "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." Again, not money itself isn't the root of evil, but the *love* of money, particularly when it supersedes our other loves that define us as people: family, friends, neighbors, other creatures, life, the Earth, the Sacred.

If we would see those loves elevated, and our laws and leaders guided by them, we must respond by growing and empowering a different form of corporate power, a

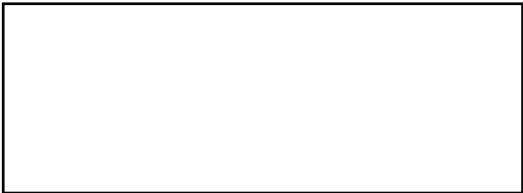
more compelling version of "persons united in a body for some purpose." Like, say, a congregation, or better still a united group of congregations, organizing together, preaching about and working for a higher common good, for a real Republic. It won't be easy. We will have to shout and sing with many, many voices. We might have to tear a few things down. And we will need faith that the religions of the nation will finally realize their common purpose, and recognize the threat that unchecked vested interests pose to our shared principles and vision; that the personhood of *a business* will be seen as the delusion that it is, and that the rights and blessings of real personhood - given, not made - will again be affirmed. May it be so. And soon!!

You can find the UU World issue online at  
<http://www.uuworld.org/2003/03>.

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February 2010

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

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**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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Krissy McWhorter

# THE UUCSR CARING COMMITTEE

Gretchen Vap, Chair

## Volunteer Service Form 2010

We need your help in providing the personal care and attention in times of need that makes a religious community such a valuable asset in people's lives. Please consider how you are able to dedicate time to the practical well-being of your fellow congregants and fill out the following form accordingly. Rev. Chris has challenged us to commit at least one hour a month, but you are welcome to sign up for more. It is possible that you may not be called for months at a time, but it is vital that we have a pool of available volunteers when one of our members enters a time of crisis. Thank you so much!

YOUR NAME & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PRIMARY CONTACT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR EMAIL (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO BE FREE? AM or PM? \_\_\_\_\_

### DRIVING

- \_\_\_ I'll deliver a meal.
- \_\_\_ I'll drive someone to an appointment.
- \_\_\_ I'll provide a ride to Sunday service.

### FOOD PREPARATION

- \_\_\_ I'll make a dish at my home on occasion
- \_\_\_ I'll join in the Caring Committee cooking party a few times a year

### BASIC LABOR

- \_\_\_ I'll do some small chores.
- \_\_\_ I'll help someone move.

### VISITS/PHONE CALLS

- \_\_\_ I'll visit someone in the hospital.
- \_\_\_ I'll visit someone on the phone
- \_\_\_ I'll visit someone in their home.

### RESPIRE CARE

- \_\_\_ I'll sit with an ill person to give a caregiver a break.

