



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• December • Volume 54 • Issue 12 •

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

### December 5th JAZZ

Our capacity to make, hear and love music is built into the nature of Reality itself, so it is no surprise that it makes for a lovely metaphor for understanding and making meaning of our lives. Today we'll let the spirit of jazz lead the way, teaching us about creativity, improvisation, leadership, and listening.

### December 12th CHALICA

#### TWO ALL-AGES SERVICES!

Each year in early December, before the busiest part of the season, Unitarian Universalists pause to examine and celebrate our Seven Principles and Six Sources, the basis of our covenant and that part of our individual spiritual understanding that we all share, in a ritual of candle lighting and re-commitment. We will collect coats, and also share the basket with the YWCA Safe House.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason,  
Rita Butterfield*

*Both services are for all ages, with no separate children's programming.*

*Cathie Wiese will play classical guitar at 9:15.  
The Choir will perform at 11:00*

### December 19th

#### VEDANTA II: THE PATH OF DEVOTION

The second in our series about Vedanta, the Hindu philosophy that so closely mirrors the UU view of the world; it holds that the Divine is knowable only in part, and that there are many paths to understanding what we can about the Sacred, Good and True. Today we'll look at the Path of Devotion—a challenge to some, a blessing to many. We will also share the basket today with The Living Room.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine, David Hope  
Jenny Harriman will sing at both services.  
The Choir will perform at 9:15.*

### Tuesday, December 21st

6:00 p.m.

#### Winter Solstice Service

This is the eve of the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. This is the stillness behind motion. Now darkness triumphs; and yet, gives way and changes into light. Our Solstice celebration will respect a variety of sacred traditions and we encourage all to participate. Please bring drums, white candles and holders. The Solstice service will be followed by a potluck supper.

*Service leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Maureen Wallace*

### December 24th

#### CHRISTMAS EVE - 6:00 p.m.

Our beautiful annual service of candles and carols, followed by the Bell-Butterfield Christmas Eve Party. The collection is taken completely for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which is available throughout the year to our members in need.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller  
Nancy, the Choir and some UUsual Suspects  
will offer music.*

### December 26th

#### BOXING DAY

#### ONE SERVICE ONLY!! ALL AGES!! 10:00 A.M.!!

Boxing Day is a traditional public holiday throughout many of the nations that are, or were, known as the British Commonwealth. In South Africa it is called "the Day of Goodwill." It's like Christmas, Pt. II, with the gifts going to the poor and those who serve others. We'll celebrate the holiday spirit again in story and song, and return our Guest At Your Table Boxes. And if you yourself are in need on this day, please speak to Rev. Chris.

*Service Leaders: Frances Corman, Erin Howseman,  
Lucia Milburn, Susan Panttaja*

*Nancy and some of the UUsual Suspects will offer music.*

## Walking in Circles



Oh, sweet metaphorical life. Once again you have dropped your blessings right into my lap!

I have just learned that for no discernable reason people cannot walk in a straight line. Blindfold a man or woman on a wide beach, or in a field, or out in the salt flats, and ask them to walk in a straight line as long as they can, and they will invariably end up beginning to drift in one direction, slowly come around in a messy circle, and then do so again and again, in the same direction, often making the circle smaller along the way. Control the experiment for right-handedness or left-handedness, for one brain hemisphere being more active than the other, for one leg being longer than the other, and, no matter what, people still start spinning around in one random direction or another. This circulating tendency of ours can manifest even if we are not blindfolded, in a cornfield or a dense forest.

What's fascinating is that none of the physical theories for why we go in a circle have worked out yet. It could be somehow be related to the curvature of the earth, or our wobbly magnetic axis, or that everything in the world or solar system or universe goes around in one curved direction or another - even the toilet water. We don't really know.

How frustrating and strange. You have walked in something like a straight line many times in my life, or at least have been able to make your body go where you wanted, and yet all of a sudden, without your eyes, no amount of willpower can make it go where you want. The first lesson is fairly obvious: If we can't see where we are going, we cannot get there. In fact, we will spin in circles.

We find here a corollary to the Buddhist notions of Dukkha, the inherent suffering or confusion in life. Buddhism calls life itself *samsara*, which is the wheel of suffering, spinning endlessly. "Help, I'm stuck on this ride and can't get off!" Could there even be a trace of original sin (gasp), in the original Hebrew and Greek sense of sin as "missing the mark?" No matter how we try, there is something built into the system that will lead us somewhat astray. Willpower alone just can't get us to our target.

Yet I also find signs of the fundamental benevolence of the Universe-Nature-God-Tao-Verb, to whom and/or which we sing *Spirit of Life* every week. It may be, for example, that from an evolutionary perspective going in a circle when one is blinded provides a greater likelihood for survival. It gives other people a chance to find us somewhere near where we got lost. It may give us

better odds that we won't walk off a cliff (um, except for that one just off to the right, right?) I observe, that in Buddhism the Dharma is also a spinning wheel, the seasons are a wheel, the generations are a wheel. "When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed. To turn, turn, will be our delight, 'til by turning, turning, we come round right." Perhaps the universe is teaching us something in these moments of blindness. Stay centered, *and* keep moving. Hmm.

There are exceptions to this phenomenon of circle-walking. If the Sun is brightly shining, people are much more capable of holding the line, even with their eyes closed. And when we are lost in the jungle, if we can occasionally climb a tree and find a distant mountain to aim for we'll have a much better chance of going straight - for awhile - down here in the leaves and grasses.

Actually, walking with eyes open isn't all that easy either! It takes good balance and awareness, and strong muscles. Our attention wanders, or our foot hits a stump. If you've ever gone on a long walk down a sidewalk I bet you wobbled off the pavement occasionally, or have even rattled into a parking meter or two. I certainly have.

Thus, the second, equally obvious, lesson: In life, we must know where we are going, actively envision or experience it, and continue to aim for it - again and again.

We are all lost at points in our lives, wandering in some desert or forest of bad choices, or ill luck, or family karma, when the money is gone, the relationship is ending, the body is breaking down. At such times we need the sun of love, of beauty, of warmth, of truth, to help us straighten our path. The Holy One can be this and other people can be this. Our Principles and Sources can be this. We can be this for others. Those lights are real, and more powerful than any blindfold, in the end.

This whole metaphor applies to our congregation, too. If we don't keep our eyes on our fixed point ahead - a strong, enduring community marked by warm hospitality, richly moving services, new faces young and old, healed lives, financial and spiritual and physical abundance, many volunteers, kids everywhere, and power to be exercised - we will wander in circles. The good news is that together we are not blind, and many of us do know where we are going. I feel that sun, and in this season of new light coming from the darkness, I know that you can too. May the blessings of the holidays be upon you.

*Jan Soumann is the German scientific researcher who was recently featured on National Public Radio, where I heard this remarkable story. You can discover more about it at the NPR website.*

## Moment to Moment

It was one of those Moments. The daylight waning in mid-November, the sky a magnificent stew of cirrus wisps both vertical and horizontal to the west and south, nimbo-stratus puff balls north and east, the trending-toward-full moon already up and peeking from behind the latter. At that still-point moment in the transition from day to early eve, with the world perfectly poised between its in- and out-breath, the color palette of pale oranges, golds, purples, pinks, magentas and more seemed both fathomless and intoxicating. And then came the geese.

They were in their classic extended V formation, winging southwest towards the lagoon after their usual daytrip to Spring Lake Park. Mere seconds after I looked up to track their flight, their entire wingspans suddenly became rimmed in a piercing celestial light, every feather seemingly outlined and glowing, utterly ablaze. The descending sun had caught them in a perfect marriage of its unconscious light and the birds' sentient life, meeting in a scene so intense, beautiful and brief—the golden rim around the geese's wings was there and then it was gone—as to leave me both astonished and wildly desirous.

The desire, I knew, had to do with a primal impulse to swallow even more of the world than had gifted itself to me in that Moment—and to share it. I wanted to rush inside and search the Internet for Mary Oliver's phone number so I could call and beg her to write a poem about what I had just seen. Then I wanted to call out the scene to every friend in my address book, drink a bottle of wine, make love, sink my teeth into some chocolate, gaze at an original Matisse, and plug into a Rachmaninoff symphony. Oh, to continue gorging myself on the sudden drunken feast that had come to me unbidden in this Moment of good fortune and grace, this sight I had never witnessed in nearly six decades of previous existence and likely would not again. What I did instead was go back inside the house and begin to gather up various documents for my Board meeting. (It was the third Thursday of the month, and it was time.) So onwards I went to consideration of our property tax assessment and the building maintenance budget. Ecstasy be damned.

"The only constant is change," more than one sloganeering copywriter has penned in discussing the relentless creative destruction and reformulation—only to be destroyed again—of the business world. And so it goes in life. Just when we pause to think, "Finally! This is it, this is perfect, my ducks are lined up, my naked

longing for beauty, imagination and peace has been answered, I am finally happy," we discover there is no longer any "it" where we thought "it" was—because "it" has already taken flight and moved through an ever-changing set of conditions like those Canadian geese whose wings were one moment ablaze with the sun and the next, not.

Our Buddhist brethren grasp this truth about the ungraspable nature of life probably better than any other religion does; impermanence to them is as explicit and fundamental as "respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person" is to us.

Sometimes moments of beauty string themselves together on our behalf and we are fortunate to be engorged with joy through entire long afternoons or evenings of special conversation or performance or natural splendor. Or the moments extend to months of bliss in love with a new person or project or idea.

Other times, the moment—just the moment—is here, and then it is gone. In truth, though, each moment is fleeting and unto itself, never guaranteeing the next, as vanishing as the furious beating of hummingbird wings that transport their bearer dartingly from flower to flower, leaving only a puff of breeze in their wake.

We had a good Board meeting after my encounter with the celestially lit Canadian geese. It was not particularly more nor less inspired than many others—serious people (who manage to have quite a bit of fun) doing the serious work of keeping pace with a growing intentional religious community of disparate souls brought somewhat mysteriously together by a common set of ideals and aspirations.

Many of the moments we share at UUCSR are lit up by a communal sense of wonder and appreciation for beautiful words and music and shared ritual. Many others come from a common language of the heart that we recognize in each other, that paves the way for overcoming differences in background, age and temperament.

"I love my life!" concluded a recent Focus list post from AnnaLisa Wiley, delighted for the simple pleasure of a new trike that would increase her transportation capabilities. Would that all of us can (often enough) say the same, with occasional blazes of light serving to take our breath away before we return to our next and different breath, in the next and different Moment of these Moments comprising our lives.

*— Andrew Hidas  
President, Board of Trustees*



## Treasurer's Report

We will be half way through our Congregational fiscal year 2010/2011 by the end of December. The end of the month is also the end of the calendar year. So now is the time to check that your pledge is up to date. And for those of you that itemize deductions on your income tax, the deadline for making pledges, gifts or other donations to apply to your 2010 tax return is December 31.

Your financial team members have been exceptionally busy over the past few months. They have embarked upon several financial projects designed to curtail problems before they arise:

They have invited financial management specialists to the Financial Stewardship Council to explain our options for preserving capital and growing savings while maintaining liquidity for our monthly, quarterly, and semi-annual expenses.

They have managed to kick-start the Annual PLEDGE drive by organizing a committee in November. This will fill our need to get the canvass functioning at an earlier date, pledges in and our budget process finished in a more timely and orderly manner.

The Council and the Accounting Committee and Co-Treasurers have also been working toward an agreed upon definition for slippery terms such as "reserves" and "cash on hand." Although it sounds like an easy task, it has proved to be much more difficult than anticipated. It has, however, offered us an opportunity to review the functions and processes of the Accounting Committee and the administrative offices and how functions and processes have evolved and changed within our relatively new Council structure. This review will continue over the next few weeks and will further clarify and delineate our tasks and who is responsible for carrying out various functions.

Submitted by Bonnie Daines



## Letter from the Children's RE Steering Committee

Dear Friends,

As Members of the RE Steering Committee, at the last Congregational Meeting Susan Dickey and I reported on the "State of Children's Religious Education" and commented about the direction we hope RE will head in the immediate and long-term future.

Susan and I both have children who participate in R.E. My son, Braden, is 10 years old and my daughter, Halle, is 13. Braden attends Children's RE on Sundays. Since he began, he has spoken thoughtfully about so many of the topics that, as UUs, we value: peace, freedom of choice, diversity, inclusion, and social activism. As his mother, I have to say that what I love most about RE is the opportunity for Braden to feel safe when he explores **any** issue. He is not judged, nor is he expected to have a right answer. Unfortunately, most Sundays Braden is alone in his class or with only one or two others. While the support and leadership from his teachers are excellent, I believe that he would have a much richer experience if he were sharing these ideas and concepts with other children his age.

Until recently, I allowed Halle's "church" to be the swimming pool where she practices 6 days/week, including Sundays. However, this summer, I asked her

to consider attending a few Youth Group meetings on Thursday afternoons. Reluctantly, she went. By Week 2 Halle was referring to UUCSR as "my church" and talked it up to her friends. Recently, after Youth Group, Halle spoke thoughtfully at dinner about the topics they covered that day: Justice, and the recent suicides by 4 teenagers, each tormented and bullied because they were gay. While we have discussed both of these topics in detail at home, an opportunity to explore her own feelings and reactions with a group of similarly-minded, compassionate youth was invaluable. I cannot think of another place that routinely allows and promotes these kinds of discussions with our children.

Susan's son, Caleb, is 16 years old and was active in the youth RE through the Coming of Age program. Many of you may remember that his credo began: "I believe in Star Trek." Caleb is a UU at heart and gained wonderful skills and knowledge in the OWL and Coming of Age programs. Susan's daughter, Megan, is 7 years old. She has been attending UUCSR services and RE since she was 2. Over the past five years, Susan has taught often in the Children's RE program and is currently teaching Megan's K-2 class. Unfortunately,

*Cont. on page 5*

## Letter from the Children's RE Steering Committee Cont.

*Cont. from page 4*

more than once this fall, Megan has been the only child in her group. She told her mom she doesn't want her to teach if she is the only kid in the class because it "feels funny." Megan is a very active, social child, and would LOVE to make more friends here and have more kids in her class.

In assessing our RE Program, our DRE, Deborah, discovered that according to the 2009 Directory of Congregations put out by the UUA, of the congregations nationwide with an adult membership of 300-350, UUCSR has the **second lowest** number of children registered in RE. The average number of children in RE among these congregations was 118. We had 37 that year. This is second only to the UU Congregation in Sarasota, Florida.

We'd like to share some other concerns about our Children's RE Program:

The Children's RE Program has very limited involvement by the congregation-at-large. As late as September 2010, we were concerned that we would not have the teaching support to offer our RE Program, which includes four operational classrooms each Sunday.

Even with sufficient teaching capacity, attendance is very low most Sundays. This is particularly true in the K-2 and 3-5 grade classrooms.

We are asking the Congregation to consider making our Children's RE Program a priority this year and in years to come. As parents, we feel deeply committed to this program but we cannot do it alone. Making the commitment to explore ways to strengthen and expand our Children's Program is a decision that our congregation needs to make as a whole. Having our Steering Committee (of three), or even the voices representing the children in our program, is simply not enough.

We want the RE program to grow. We want our children - and their friends - to have a spiritual home that is safe, welcoming and, most importantly, reflective of our UU faith. As a congregation, we don't think it is possible to make strides toward these goals — and to really live the seven principles -- without the voices

of our children. But, truthfully, we have no choice but to put our trust - and the commitment to living the seven UU principles--in our children's hands. We will not be here forever.

We want our children to grow up feeling heard and connected to the bigger world. We want them, to feel safe when they ask hard questions and to be heard when they have an opinion that may not fit with the majority. It is hard to imagine any better gift for our children than the opportunity to strengthen their spiritual foundation while being a part of this amazing congregation.

We are asking each of you, as Members or Friends of UUCSR, to consider what it might take to grow our Children's and Youth's RE Program so that our children can continue to learn and live the 7 principles just as we set out to do each day. Our children are really important. So is Unitarian Universalism. We believe that our children have so much to share and learn and teach us . . . and teach others about our principles and mission and commitment to each other and to our beautiful Earth.

We are forming an "Expanding RE Task Force" with the primary purpose of evaluating the current status of our Children's Program, assessing the place of children in the life of our congregation, and developing strategies for growing our program. The task force will convene in January to begin this important work. So far we have seven members. Joining us are: Mindy Graham, Linda Harlow, Jan Prater, Rev. Chris and Deborah Mason. If you are interested in serving with us on the Expanding RE Task Force please speak to Deborah, Catherine or Susan.

Recently Braden commented about why RE is important to him. This is what he said: *"RE teaches kids like me to have a full religious experience even at our age. It is important because most kids don't get this until they are older. For me, having a powerful religious experience is important because it gives me a place to consider my feelings about the web of life."*

Let us work together to build a program that will serve many children

Sincerely,  
Catherine Arnold & Susan Dickey

## Advocates for Social Justice

### SHARE THE BASKET

Imagine being in a Safe House for survivors of domestic violence at Christmas time! For the last several years, UUCSR has 'shared the basket' with the YWCA specifically for Christmas for these women and children. This year we'll be doing it on Sunday, December 12th so when the basket comes your way, please

share that holiday spirit with these deserving folk. And all year long, homeless women and children rebuild their lives through the services of The Living Room, the only daytime drop-in center for these folks in Santa Rosa.

UUCSR has committed to being part of their "Circle of Support" so on Sunday, December 28th please help us live up to that commitment!



### BUY Unitarian Universalist HOLIDAY CARDS

Holiday Cards are selling well, we will continue selling them through December 19.

The designs are lovely and it's good to send cards which feature our UU beliefs.

See us in the lobby between and after the services,  
Phyllis Clement for Advocates for Social Justice and UU Service Committee

## Endowment Committee

As we enter the season of giving and gratitude and approach the end of the calendar year, many people take the opportunity to review their charitable giving for the last twelve months and make additional gifts. For those who are content with their material lot in life or who have been paring down their accumulated stuff, sometimes the most appreciated gifts are charitable donations in their honor, directed to the organizations they most dearly love.

As you think your way through the year about to close, what you have done during the year, and what you have supported, we on the Endowment Committee hope you will consider supporting the future of this congregation, through a gift to the UUCSR Endowment Fund.

If you have an interest in the Endowment Fund, what role it serves for the congregation, and what role it might serve, we invite you to attend an informal conversation on Sunday, December 12. We will gather in the Green Room after each service that day. We hope to gain from you a deeper understanding of what UUCSR members want the Endowment be, so that we can strengthen our practices to better support our purposes.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on December 12.

Warmly,  
Hillevi Wyman  
UUCSR Endowment Committee Chair

### January 2 MILESTONES

A service of sharing with many voices, including yours, that honors the events, joys, sorrows, and lessons of the 2010.

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rita Butterfield*

## Winter Solstice

Join us on **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** for our Winter Solstice Service and Celebration.

We hope to involve members in the service as they are willing, so bring an open heart.

By observing the rituals involved in this ancient celebration of dark and light we will help to acknowledge our kinship with the earth and the cycles of nature and perhaps offer ourselves a respite from what has become the frenzy of this season.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck supper after the service. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Maureen Wallace, 578-7665, [mwallace@scoe.org](mailto:mwallace@scoe.org)



## Lost and Found

All unclaimed property is placed on the lost and found shelf for two weeks before it is disposed of.

TOO MUCH STUFF has been left in the workroom and office for "someone else" to take care of.

Anything that is not put where it belongs will be placed on the middle shelf next to the board room door for you to claim and put away before it is thrown in the trash or taken to a thrift store. The bottom shelf contains objects that have been left in the workroom for more than two weeks and they are on

their way to the TRASH. Please feel free to take anything you may want off the BOTTOM shelf. Currently there are two boxes of books in excellent condition and a large stack of CD's that no one has claimed.

Our office angels are very good about helping people find lost items. When you call and claim a lost item, it is labeled and held at the volunteer desk until you can pick it up.

IF YOU NEED STORAGE SPACE for your committee's supplies, please take a box from the upper

shelf, label it clearly and find a space on the shelves to store it. In the next few weeks, I will be cleaning and reorganizing the staff kitchen which will free up even more storage space for you to store your group's supplies. The work room table and desks are not storage areas.

Please help keep our work room clean.

If you have any questions, please contact AnnaLisa (707-836-0758).

## Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry exists for the purposes of overseeing the general health of the congregation, supporting our minister and providing conflict resolution when needed. We aim to encourage healthy communication, to address issues and concerns in a safe and respectful manner. We meet at least once a month. The meetings are always confidential.

Please contact any one on the committee with your concerns, your questions and your comments. Your input is vital to the health and well being of our congregation.

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

## Aging with Grace

The Aging with Grace group will not meet in December or January. We will try to reform the group in February. There are many topics for discussion as we proceed in our life's journey.

'If you are interested we will meet next on February 2, 2011 from 10:30am to 12:00 noon in the Board room if available. Those who attend find the information helpful to their needs.

Submitted by Bob Watkins, 707/775-8627



## Got Coats? (Or Got an Extra One?)



Frost and heavy rains make winter a chilling experience for those in poverty or without shelter, especially those without a warm coat. YOU and the gently worn - but very *warm* - coat you donate can make life easier this winter for someone in need.

Got coats? Bring 'em to UUCSR on Sunday, December 12th! That day, UU Youth and the Advocates For Social Justice host a "**Got Coats?**" Warm Coat Drive from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., in partnership

with the Bay area non-profit organization One Warm Coat <http://onewarmcoat.org/>. Our shared mission is that *no one will go cold this winter*. We need warm, gently-used coats in all sizes for children, women and men. Coats will go directly to local agencies such as the Family Support Center and the Living Room. Got questions? Contact Sybil at [just4sybil@hotmail.com](mailto:just4sybil@hotmail.com). UU Youth, Advocates for Social Justice and One Warm Coat... warming communities one coat at a time.

*Sybil Hunt*  
(707) 293-9980

## Day-Long Meditation Retreat

Treat yourself to a full day of sitting and walking meditation Saturday January 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New and seasoned meditators are welcome. Sitting periods

do not exceed 45 minutes. Call Rose for more info or to sign up. 865-0755.

## Race: The Power of an Illusion

People of all colors are warmly invited to come to three nights of exploration and discussion based on our shared viewing of the film *\*Race: The Power of an Illusion.\** We will view the film in parts, so each night will be different enough that you are welcome to come to one, two, or all three classes. Rev. Chris Bell will help lead our discussion of the conclusions that these films draw from history and science.

If you are fascinated by how history influences how we live today, interested in how cultures and races interact

with each other, or just curious about people whose skin colors or cultures are different from your own, you would be a welcome participant.

Please join us January 5, 12, and 19 at the UUCSR from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This class is sponsored by the UUCSR Diversity Task Force. Contact Carol Kraemer (707)838-3736 if you would like to let us know you will be coming or if you have any questions or comments.

## UUCSR Writers

### UUCSR Writers

Our next regular monthly meeting will be from 4 - 6 p.m. in the "Green Room" on **Monday, December 6, 2010** at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-568-5381. Information: UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com), <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

### TatH

The UUCSR Writers now meet for our weekly 10am - 12 noon Thursday morning coffee at "the Haven Coffee House" 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](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com)



## Hot Topics—Community Organizing—We Are in this Together

Sunday, December 5, 2010

12:30 - 2 p.m.

Board Room

Please join Deborah Mason, Mark Sowers and other leaders of the Unitarian Universalist Conversation and Action Network (UUCAN) as they unpack our confounded acronyms NBSC, IAF, BAI AF, answer your questions about this unique method of civic engagement and bring you up to date on our organizing efforts.

### Women Together

#### Holiday Party

It's time for UU women to come together and celebrate the season with a festive pot-luck lunch on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3 pm at the lovely home of Helga Lemke  
1983 Grosse Avenue, Santa Rosa.

For questions or directions, call Helga at 579-2629.



### The Chalice Project

Through the talents of local established and emerging artists and in partnership with COTS and The Arts Council, the Unitarian Congregation is proud to host and produce: **THE CHALICE PROJECT**.

The Chalice Project is a community-wide effort in which artists and visionaries create pieces of art inspired by the word Chalice. Proceeds of all sales are split 3 ways, with 1/3 of the money raised from the auction of each piece going to the artist who created it. The rest of the money is used to assist COTS and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa to support the lives of people in need.

Join us for this exciting auction  
and festive party!

Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 5:30 pm

The Glaser Center

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

Price: \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the door.

Tickets will be sold at 547 Mendocino Avenue and Copperfield's Montgomery Village.

You have a chance to win a magical week vacation in the medieval village of Soreze in Southern France. Live and share meals in the 300 year old stone home of Carol Watanabe. (Transportation not included).

For more information call: Nancy Hargis at 707/571-1987 or David Templeton at 707/568-5381 ext. 103.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010**

**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

**Newsletter Assembly Nov. 30, 2010**

*Can't find a seat?*

*Got someone to meet?*

*Need an early treat?*

*Think music is sweet?*

# WORSHIP AT 9:15!

*Same choir and band.*

*Same worship associates.*

*Same message and preacher.*

*Same good friends.*

*COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP HOUR 10:15 - 11:00*



*TOGETHER IN EXPLORATION (TIE) GROUPS SIGN-UP FOR JANUARY  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AND 12TH BETWEEN THE TWO SERVICES AND AFTER THE  
11:00 A.M. SERVICE*

TOGETHER IN EXPLORATON POTLUCK  
SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2011, 12:00 NOON  
ALL CURRENT OR FORMER TIE GROUP MEMBERS ARE INCLUDED  
DETAILS IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## Save the Date! Saturday, March 5, 2010

Come enjoy our own Rev. Chris Bell in conversation with KQED "Forum" host Michael Krasny, author of the recently released "*Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*"

Make plans to support this major UUCSR fundraiser to ensure full payment of our PCD/UUA dues! Details to follow....

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa October 21, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Andrew Hidas.

**Members present:** Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Laura Jean Hageman (Co-Treasurer), Phyllis Heagney, Andrew Hidas (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Craig Work, Lois Nagle

**Absent:** Bonnie Daines, John Farison

**Non-member present:** Reverend Chris Bell

Opening words by Chris from Maryann Cotter: "Welcome to this place of possibilities"

**90-second check-in question:** Your favorite season and what it says about you?

**Minutes from September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: Changes:** Cathie Wiese will assist on the Board's short-range goal to "develop policies and practices that increase Board transparency and congregational participation." Cathie will also assist on the Board's committee to revise the Bylaws. Also, regarding the Sunday Hospitality discussion, Cathie Wiese, *not* Craig Work, made a recommendation that an improved snack contribution system be suggested to the Membership Council. The remaining minutes were approved pending modifications.

**Open Mike:** Mary Louise Jaffray reported on her experience visiting the Monterey UU Congregation and recommended visiting other UU Congregations as a board practice.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laura Jean Hageman reported that the Accounting Committee is discussing what a reasonable reserve cushion *should be* for a congregation our size. They propose tracking multi-year seasonal fluctuations to create a benchmark against which the congregation's fiscal health might be measured.

**Announcements:** Art Hernandez has been hired as the new sexton. Janis and the OPS Council will continue to manage/communicate his responsibilities and availability. Ben Taylor's term as music director has concluded. Nancy Hayashibara is the new music director. Updated job descriptions for the sexton and music director positions have been completed by the Human Resources Committee and will be passed out to the Board next month.

A committee has been formed for our 2011 Pledge Drive and is moving forward.

The Islamic Society has announced its intention to search for a permanent home and to thus leave the Glaser Center. The terms of their 2011 lease agreement may change to a month-to-month arrangement to allow for a mid-year move.

**Executive Session on a legal matter:** Minutes recorded separately.

Mary Louise Jaffray asked Andrew Hidas to elaborate on an upcoming fundraiser coined "100 (dollars) from 100." This is an event planned jointly by Andrew and Chris. Tentative date is January 22, 2011, pending availability of a guest speaker currently being pursued. The goal is to raise \$10,000, dedicated to paying full UUA/PCD dues. Details to follow.

### **Board Goals - Review and Plans**

Board Transparency - Cathie Wiese will post monthly board minutes on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Monthly Board Meeting agendas will be posted to the Focus List prior to the Board Meeting by Janis, to invite comments/visitors to the meetings.

Develop adequate staffing (volunteer/or paid) to maintain a dynamic, updated website — John Chenoweth has become integral to this effort.

Invite a Youth Group liaison to the Board — Mary Louise Jaffray is working with Deborah Mason on this topic.

Bylaw Committee — Mary Louise Jaffray, Ellen Skagerberg and Craig Work comprise the current core group working to revise the UUCSR Bylaws.

Minister's Compensation Revision—Linda Stabler, chair of our Human Resources Committee, will be addressing this topic.

Develop a plan/process to begin individual meetings with new members and existing leaders on a regular basis — Board members have committed to meeting with three new congregational members this year and are also committed to pursuing one-on-one conversations with other leaders in the congregation. Phyllis Heagney to bring list of newest members to next Board meeting.

Review of Medium-Range Goals — These were visited briefly; Board agreed to do so more extensively at next month's meeting

Congregational Meeting Preparation — The agenda was prepared and Andrew Hidas will finalize it. Board members discussed and chose congregants "to appreciate" at the meeting. Cathie Wiese will handle the presentation.

Actionable Items: Reviewed.

There were no final questions, concerns, sharings or appreciations.

Closing words were read by Reverend Chris: "I wish" by Frank Schulman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



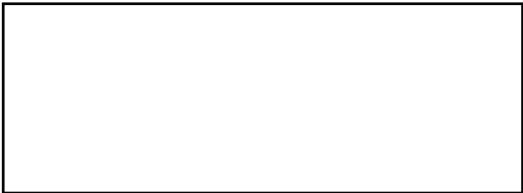
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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**December 2010**

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**Mailing Address: 547Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381**

**Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: http://www.uusantarosa.org**

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**President:** Andrew Hidas, [President@uusantarosa.org](mailto:President@uusantarosa.org)  
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[VicePresident@uusantarosa.org](mailto:VicePresident@uusantarosa.org)  
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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.

**Staff**

Minister Rev. Chris Bell, Ext. 108, [Minister@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Minister@uusantarosa.org)  
Director, Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 131 [DLRE@uusantarosa.org](mailto:DLRE@uusantarosa.org)  
Administrator: Janis Brewster, Ext. 106, [Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Administrator@uusantarosa.org)  
Music Director: Nancy Hayashibara, Ext. 112, [musicdirector@uusantarosa.org](mailto:musicdirector@uusantarosa.org)  
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, [glasermanager@uusantarosa.org](mailto:glasermanager@uusantarosa.org)  
Sexton: Art Hernandez

**Sunday Religious Education Staff**

Jeremy Cummings  
Aly Holloway





# Holiday Happenings

**Don't-miss These One-of-a-Kind Holiday Events!**  
Tickets on sale in Social Hall before-and-after every Sunday service

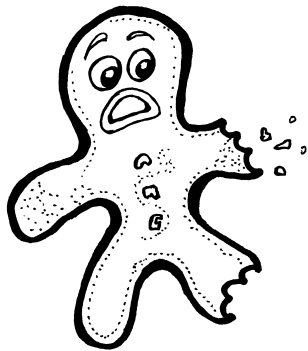
**Friday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.**

## The New Horizons Band of Sonoma County Annual Holiday Concert

The acclaimed ensemble of sassy senior-citizens, performing tunes of the season, plus marches, ballads, and favorites from Broadway  
*Donations in any amount accepted*



**Saturday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.**



The unpredictable Annual Lit-Comedy-Variety Show returns!

## Twisted Christmas Live 8

Off-beat holiday tales read aloud by satirist Will Durst, the RSC's Reed Martin, comic Debi Durst, authentic Englishman John Moran and more—plus a very special pre-taped performance by Josh Kornbluth! Music by the Twisted Christmas All-Ukulele Orchestra, accompanying the outrageous Holiday Hula-Hoop All Stars!

*Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door*

**Friday, December 17, 8:00 p.m.**

## David Yen in The Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris

This sweet-and-sour sugarplum of a show returns, as David Yen once again plays "Crumpet," a hard-luck actor reduced to playing an elf in the legendary (and hilariously dysfunctional) Santa Land at Macy's New York department store.

*Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door*

