



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 4 •

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

April 1 You Fools!

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome

April Fool's Day has been observed for hundreds of years, though no one is quite sure where it comes from. Many cultures enjoy regular rituals of turning things on their ear or mocking the serious. Christians have a big carnival before Lent begins, for example, which we know as Mardi Gras. By occasionally doing everything in a completely ridiculous or subversive manner, we celebrate our freedom to choose the correct way the rest of the year. Come prepared to laugh,

April 8 Easter & Flower Communion

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman,
Izzy Fischer, AnnaLisa Wiley*

The Choir performs at BOTH services.

We celebrate the incredible regenerative powers of Life, the Universe and Everything, through our annual Flower Communion. Please bring the gift of flower to add to our communal bouquet. Children will be present for the entire time. There will be ballet. We will share the Offering with The Living Room, a remarkable community program.

April 15 Against Transcendence

Service Leader: Andrew Hidas

Never mind the playful title—this will be quite the opposite of a negative, dispiriting service! While central to human experience, the human longing to transcend this mortal sphere of suffering and death has a substantial shadow side that can obscure where our true freedom lies. We'll draw on Buddha, some Plato, a middle school classroom and the presenter's dying friend for inspiration, with a musical assist recalling two eminent J's—Judy Garland and Jim Morrison. The UUUsual Suspects and the Luna trio perform at both services.

Presenter Andrew Hidas is trying to return to at least an annual sermon offering now that his three-year stint as UUCSR Board President is in the rearview mirror.

April 22 Zombies!

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller,
David Templeton, Linda Proulx*

*The Choir performs Harry Belafonte at 9:15.
The UUUsuals will offer scary music, too.*

As we consider the future of our planet on this Earth Day, we'll consider the image of one of our culture's most strangely popular current icons: the zombie. Zombies are all over movies, TV, and books these days. Knowing that art imitates life, what does this suggest are we afraid of being, or becoming? With the walking dead all around us, we will consider how to retain our humanity in the midst of chaos. Today's sermon on the Zombie Apocalypse is brought to you by several demented and determined bidders at the Service Auction.

April 29 A Transforming Faith

Service Leaders: Patrice Curtis, Andy Levine

After many years as social justice activists, how do we continually deepen our faith in transforming the world?

Patrice Curtis attends Starr King School for the Ministry, and has been accepted by the UUA as Candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry.

May 6 On Ritual

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

**Women Together Annual Retreat Weekend
At St. Dorothys in Camp Meeker**



Come Together, Right Now!



Hello friends and members!

A number of us have been reading *The Cambridge Platform* in our "UU Scripture Study" sessions lately. If you aren't completely on top of your ecclesiastical history, *The Cambridge Platform* was the document produced by the Congregationalist Puritans of New England to defend their way of "doing church" against the hierarchical practices of the Church of England and against the Presbyterian model that their revolutionary counterparts (Cromwell, et al.) were imposing on England after beheading their king.

What makes it all so interesting is that we still do things almost exactly the same way. Our theology has changed and broadened considerably, but many of the basic principles of running a democratic and independent congregation have endured through the centuries. You could come join us and learn more about how that is so, if you would like.

Now, one of the most important, yet most often overlooked sections of the *Platform* relates to the practice of calling Synods. A synod was a group of congregations that would join together in covenant to support one another, much as the individual members of congregation covenant to support one another. The idea was that congregations would share leaders, experience, even money with one another.

These days we call our Synod a "district," specifically the Pacific Central District or "PCD." Local congregations support it with dues. Last year UUCSR gave the PCD \$7584. Unfortunately, in my humble opinion, our district has done far too little to bring congregations together, and provided far too little leadership in crafting a shared vision for our movement here in the Bay Area. I'm doing my part to change that by serving on the Board of Trustees of the PCD, but I'd like a little help from you.

I want to urge you to come to District Assembly at the end of the month.

On April 27 – 29, a number of UUCSR congregants and staff, along with folks from 39 other congregations, will converge on the Oakland Hilton Hotel for "D.A.," which is a lot like a junior General Assembly, or "G.A.," the annual gathering of the entire national and international UU tribe that takes place in June. You can read more about THAT in Laura Jean's column on the next page.

District Assembly is an opportunity for all UUs, but particularly leaders both formal and informal, to come together to democratically shape the future of UUism in this region. There is some formal business for the delegates to conduct, but the main point is to inspire one another, to teach one another about programs and processes that are working for us, and to debate and discuss the present and future of our wild, wonderful, faith. We give out awards to the moral beacons and unsung heroes among us. We worship with gusto (yours truly is leading the Sunday service) and eat and drink with gusto, too. We hear from good speak-

ers, including UUA President Rev. Peter Morales who will be present to give the Saturday morning address.

A partial list of the stimulating workshops offered by outstanding district clergy and lay leaders, includes such offerings as *Exploring Liberal Religion's Relationship with Evil*; *How UU Theology Transformed the Fear of Death*; *Immigration Justice: Beyond Justice GA*, (presented by members of the PCD Racial Diversity Network); and *Theater of the Oppressed: Justice as a Practice, Liberating Community Imagination*. (Theater of the Oppressed is a series of embodied games, practices and exercises developed by the late Brazilian arts educator and activist, Augusto Boal.) There are sessions on how to *Transform and Grow Your RE Program* and on *Transforming Religious Disagreements Among Family and Friends*. We can learn about *Making Healing Space for Veterans: A Workshop for UUs to Welcome Warriors Home* from Caroline Knowles and *Teaching the Principles without Teaching the Principles*, from 8th grade teacher Bruce Knoth, of the UU Fellowship of Redwood City. And many more. You get the idea.

For me, however, as a Trustee of the PCD Board, the most important session is on Saturday afternoon when the entire body, delegates and non-delegates alike, will converge for a discussion on the future of our district.

It's a key period of change and growth for us. We will soon begin a search for a new District Executive. Also, there is talk of dispensing with districts all together, and creating larger "regions" to bind UUs together to maximize resources in hard times. I am primarily interested in creating a spiritually alive, growing congregation here in Santa Rosa with y'all. But I am also deeply committed to the vitality and relevance of our whole religious movement. I am eager to uncover new ways for congregations to support one another and to cooperatively advance our Principles. (Revival, anyone?) And I want to found new congregations. Lots of them. How can we make this so?

It's hard to know what the future will bring, but in the midst of these changes, we still must ask each other: How can the district empower our congregations to engage the cultural revolution that is swirling around us? If it were actually a powerful witness for our faith, what would our district look like? Who makes the district what it is and becomes? What is the role of staff? And most importantly, what goals would we like to celebrate five years from now? I need as many of you sane and friendly people (from one of the only growing congregations in California) to come and make your opinions known and influence felt.

The full D.A. schedule, and the opportunity to register can be found at the PCD website (<http://www.pcd-uua.org>).

Of course, it's quite possible that you don't care about this stuff at all. If so, I apologize for leaving you uninspired with this month's column. Fortunately, the whole rest of this newsletter is filled with inspiration!

I hope that these rainy days find you well and warm. See you on Sunday!

Greetings from the Board

A special meeting of the new and continuing Trustees was held on March 15 to elect officers for the next congregational year beginning July 1, 2012. This is done (in accordance with the approved changes to Article IV of UUCSR Bylaws) to give new officers time to prepare for their terms and make plans to attend the June General Assembly (GA) as officers, if they choose to do so. The elected officers of the Board of Trustees for the next congregational year are:

Laura Jean Hageman, President
 Jeanie Bates, Vice President
 Arthur Rosenblum, Co-Treasurer
 Amy Young, Co-Treasurer
 Cathie Wiese, Corporate Secretary

I consider it an honor to have been elected for a second term as Board President, and I am very grateful that Jeanie Bates has agreed to serve as Vice President. Many thanks to Art Rosenblum and Amy Young for agreeing to serve another year as Co-Treasurers and to Cathie Wiese for continuing as Corporate Secretary. I am very indebted to Mary Louise Jaffray who is completing her third and final year as Board Vice President. As such, she has provided tremendous support and assistance both to me and to our former President, Andrew Hidas. Even though she will not be an officer of the Board in her fourth year, her wise and dedicated counsel will undoubtedly persist.

Turning to GA - if you have ever thought about attending GA, June 20-24, this is the year to do it - not only

because by being in Phoenix it is relatively close - but also because our very own minister, Rev Chris Bell, will likely be granted Final Fellowship as a UU Minister in a ceremony at this GA. (See the Committee on Shared Ministry's article in this newsletter on the evaluation process leading to Final Fellowship).

Further, if you do decide to attend GA, you may want to consider being a delegate from our congregation. With 326 certified members, UUCSR is granted seven delegates and two alternates. So far, two members, Carolyn McLeese and Betz Miller have requested and been approved to be delegates to GA from our congregation.

Also, coming up soon is the District Assembly of the Pacific Central District (PCD DA) being held April 27-29 at the Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel. Betz Miller and Mary Wolfe have been approved to be two of our seven delegates to PCD DA.

For more information on GA go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/>; and for PCD DA go to <http://www.pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2012/index.htm>.

The congregation appointed the Board President to make further delegate appointments. Please notify Laura Jean if you wish to be a delegate or alternate to either GA or the PCD Annual Meeting.

Laura Jean Hageman
 Board President

Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11 a.m. Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders.

Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged!

Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room,
 located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.

April 22

May 13

Treasurer's Report—We Just Keep Moving On

As we approach our final quarter of the fiscal year the UUCSR seems to just keep moving smoothly along a path of financial responsibility. Through the first seven months, our Operating Fund Revenues are running 8% ahead of our Budget projections and our Operating Fund Expenses are running 9% lower than Budget projections. We have met our commitments to the UUA, PCD and our still on-going participation with the North Bay Sponsoring Committee. We (the Board) will take a look at our fourth quarter cash position and determine whether we can meet our last payment on this commitment.

The Financial Stewardship Committee revised the charter for our Emergency Fund (\$75,000) so as to provide greater flexibility to the committee put some of these funds in a financial instrument (mutual fund) which will provide a greater return than the meager interest it is currently earning. The Board reviewed the Revised Charter and approved it for presentation to the Congregation at the June meeting.

While our present looks good (bills paid and money in the bank), next year's increased budget depends on several factors such as the overall success of

the Annual Pledge Drive and the continued growth of the Congregation. By the May newsletter we'll know how well we did with our continuing pledges and the Budget Committee and Board will have a better feel for what the proposed budget for 2012/2013 will look like (what's in and unfortunately, what's out).

I know it's a difficult pill for us to swallow when one's desired program is not funded, I know it is for me. But I have often opined that I would not want to be part of a congregation where there are NO unfulfilled dreams! I think it speaks so well of us that our dreams are always pulling on us to do more and be better. Without those goals out there, I think we would lose some of the great vitality that makes the UUCSR MY congregation.

In hopes for continued financial and fiscal responsibility while reaching some of those "dreams",

Art Rosenblum
Co-Treasurer

P.S. Both Amy Young and I have signed on to continue as Co-Treasurers next year and the Board has agreed!

Here's what's Happening in RE Classes this Month

4/1/12	Children's Chapel	All ages worship together	Theme: April Fools
	Grades K-2: Wisdom Tales	3-5: Bibleodeon	6-8: Neighboring Faiths
Friday 4/6/12	-----	-----	Visit to the Sonoma Ashram to experience Hinduism - Leave UUCSR at 5:15
4/8/12	<i>The Berenstain Bears and the Real Easter Eggs</i> by Stan Berenstain		<i>Grades 3-8 will meet together to explore the stories and symbols of Easter</i>
4/15/12	<i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i> by Robert Coles	Theme: Jesus the revolutionary	Learning about Hinduism
4/22/12	<i>The Rag Coat</i> by Lauren Mills	Theme: Jesus as a miracle worker	MUUGs Retreat at UU San Jose - youth not attending the retreat will join in the lesson about Jesus
4/29/12	Art For All Ages	All ages worship together	Theme: Hope

Child Care is provided in our Preschool Room every Sunday during the 11:00 service for children infancy through age 4. Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4 - 6. Youth Group Advisors are Rev. Chris Bell and Deborah Mason

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Our Middle School Group has been studying "Neighboring Faiths" this year. So far the class has studied Russian Orthodoxy, Judaism, and Buddhism and has visited places of worship to experience services in all three faiths. The group has shown great interest and engagement in learning about other religions. One of the fascinating things we have seen is that even though there are great differences in beliefs and practices among these faiths, there are also many similarities. Who would have thought that a Buddhist sanctuary would look similar in many ways to a Russian Orthodox one? Both have extravagant golden alters, both use incense in ritual, both had pews and an organ (we were surprised to find that in a Buddhist Temple.) All three religions had songs and readings in languages other than English. All three services included a time to lift up members and friends who had died or were experiencing troubles. The most important similarity is that each faith is grounded in compassion and love. Each calls upon its members to be faithful to living a life that reflects these values. The specifics of theology vary, but in the end they are after the same thing as we are: living in a community of love and care that brings a message of hope to the world. We had a saying at the Ventura UU Church, spoken at the end of shared joys and sorrows: "The mystery is we are so connected, even when we feel so apart". The lesson of Neighboring Faiths is that we need not feel so far apart if we can understand our similarities and work for deeper understanding.

This month the group will study Hinduism and visit the Sonoma Ashram on Friday, April 6. We will visit the gardens, walk the labyrinth and attend evening prayer. We will leave UUSCR at 5:15 so parents,

please mark your calendars. We will finish our year with a trip to Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin of San Francisco.

In faith,
Deborah

Religious Education Open House The UUCSR Board of Trustees and the RE Task Force will hold an open house on **Sunday April 15 after the 11:00 worship service**. Come see what the kids in RE have been up to. We hope you will come enjoy your after worship snacks and coffee in the R.E. Wing.

What do we teach our children about God? The Expanding UU Task Force invites all parents and teachers of RE to participate in a discussion about what we teach our children about God in RE. As we work toward creating a clear statement of mission and vision for RE the subject of God is one that needs consideration. We started this discussion last month and it was an important enough conversation that we decided to open up the dialogue to more people. Mark your calendar: the meeting will be Tuesday, April 17 at 7pm in the RE wing.

The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting: *Bringing UU values into everyday home life.*

The group is meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month from 7 to 8:30. I plan a lesson on a topic (either one I come up with or one that responds to a interest raised in the group) and we have readings, discussion and worship. Right now we have 5 families participating in the group and **it is open to new members. Childcare is provided.** If you are interested in the group call Deborah at 658-5381 or just join us.

Roger Corman Jazz Quartet—Saturday, May 19

Save Saturday, May 19 for the 8p.m. concert by Roger Corman and his Jazz Quartet!! Donated by Roger through our service auction, the concert promises to be a continuation of the wonderful service presentation by the group back in December 2010. This fund raiser aims to help meet the congregation's passed budget for this year which included \$30,000

in fund raising, much of which, but not all was raised in the service auction. Plan to attend, sell or give tickets to your family and friends, and make an exciting evening of it. Get your tickets now from Tom Bond for this sure to be sold out event featuring one of our congregation's many talented musicians.

New Member Biographies

Elvyra Curcuruto - Elvyra was raised in the San Fernando Valley area, and has lived in Sonoma County for 26 years. A UU minister performed both her second and third wedding ceremonies! She is a Spiritual Intuitive Consultant. Elvyra also enjoys writing, and is an artist of Shamanic masques and jewelry.

Jen and Sean Freese - Jen and Sean and their 8 month-old son Owen moved to Santa Rosa from New York City 5 days (!) after Owen was born. They were looking for a church where they could each practice their own way, but also find common ground. Sean is the IT director at Sonoma Academy, and Jen recently started a tutoring company. Sean is an avid photographer, and they both love music and reading. Jen is working on a young adult novel, and has joined the Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus.

Peg Jennings-Shaw - Peg is an artist and social justice advocate. She lives in Santa Rosa with her wife, Amy Shaw. Peg is a long-time practitioner of Buddhist meditation, and came to know UUCSR through our Insight Meditation Group. She and Amy enjoy bicycle touring, kayaking, gardening, and playing Celtic folk music on guitar and recorder.

Kate Lee - Kate grew up in Michigan, and worked overseas (mostly in China) for 20 years. She found out about UU at a mediation retreat, and it sounded like home to her! She's already in a TIE group here. Kate and her husband own their own business, and she enjoys identifying the trees and flowers that she finds on the hikes she loves to take in her spare time.

John and Skipper Taylor - John and Skipper have been

married for 56+ years. They grew up and raised their children in Minnesota, retired to Aspen, Colorado, and then moved here 18 months ago. John retired from corporate management; Skipper from teaching. They were both "born" UU's, and John was raised a UU. John and Skipper are both active in UUCSR. They enjoy travel, biking, friends and family, alpine skiing and reading.

Holly Vinson - Holly lived in Los Angeles until she moved to Santa Rosa in 1983. She (occasionally!) went to UU services as a teen. Holly teaches creative writing and is a retired acting teacher. She volunteers at the 6th Street Playhouse, and has directed plays there. She has 5 children and 8 grandchildren, but, alas, only her youngest daughter lives here in Santa Rosa. They both teach at the same Montessori school!

Laurie Warren - Laurie grew up in Massachusetts, but has spent years in the Pacific Northwest. She has had a rich, varied religious life, and has known about UU since high school. She is a behavioral consultant for special education students in the public schools. She enjoys outdoor activities, cooking, the visual arts and artistic performances.

Donna Watson - Donna has spent most of her life in the SF Bay area, with a sojourn in Auburn, where she was a member of the UU church there. She is in her second TIE group, and has joined our choir. Donna retired as an electrician from CalTrans, and before that was a gardener. She plays clarinet in the Santa Rosa Jr. College Orchestra, and also enjoys yoga classes and growing vegetables in her garden.

Aesthetics Committee

We find it to be satisfying to be active participants in keeping our building safe, functional, attractive and aesthetically pleasing.

During recent months and years your Aesthetics Committee has consulted on some of the following projects. Other projects have been initiated by committee members.

Memorial Garden

Bulletin board on wall in social hall between restrooms

Purple accent paint on pillars in Board room

Provided skilled artisan to make entrance table in Sanctuary - donation in memory of Bob Ottman

Memorial Tree on rear Sanctuary wall

Play structure planning

Decoration of the new Library/Reading Room

Bookcases for Library/Reading Room to be built by artisan woodworker and which are a memorial donation

Repaint chancel wall

Addition of palm trees on chancel

Trellis in Memorial Garden

Drapes in social hall - another set in process for north windows

Improve safety and comfort of interior stairway

New drape in Green Room hides storage area

We meet as needed when projects arise.

We consult on projects and also initiate them.

Won't you consider joining us?

Mary Lill Lee, contact person

All Congregation Family Retreat—Mark Your Calendars!!

ALL-CONGREGATION FAMILY RETREAT

July 13-15 !!!

SAVE THIS DATE !! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!

Our Great Big UUCSR Camping Weekend will happen this summer from Friday, July 13 through Sunday, July 15. This major event is also called our All-Congregation Retreat or Family Camp. By any name it's a great weekend of fellowship, fun, workshops designed to teach and/or entertain, games, fine food, fresh air, swimming, a talent show, a silent auction, singing around a campfire, a Sunday service in the redwoods, hiking, and special activities for kids of all ages! (Now read over that list

again and figure out which ones appeal to you most!). It all happens at Valley of the Moon Camp, just over the hill from Santa Rosa.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it! Fees range from \$170 for adults for the whole weekend to \$15 for a child for just Saturday. The retreat planning committee makes every effort to make the Family Camp affordable for any family that is eager to join us. Limited scholarships are available.

Sign-ups will begin soon! Questions? Call Leslie Norinsky 373-7944 or Barrie Noe, 823-5018

Committee on Shared Ministry News

So what exactly DOES that Committee on Shared Ministry do?

As has often been mentioned in this column, the Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with overseeing the general health of the congregation, supporting the minister in his various roles, and providing conflict resolution when needed. What you may not know is that we also are closely involved, along with the Board of Trustees, in organizing yearly performance evaluations of our minister! This year, and over the past few years, this has taken the form of a very particular evaluation process: The COSM has organized and provided a series of required evaluations to the Unitarian Universalist Association Ministerial Fellowship Committee for the purpose of applying to invest Rev. Chris with the status of Final Fellowship at UUCSR. The evaluation consists of three separate documents, completed by the COSM, the Board of Trustees, and by Rev. Chris himself. While doing the MFC evaluation yearly for the past three years, the COSM has solicited input from the congregation in order

to complete the required eight different areas of ministerial performance review. This has at times proved to be a lengthy process, but one through which we have learned and continue to learn a great deal about our strengths and growing edges as a congregation. The end result of all these evaluations will be the investment of full fellowship upon Rev. Chris. This will, among other things, make UUCSR eligible for placement of a ministerial intern in the future.

The last required round of the Ministerial Fellowship evaluations was completed this February, and will most likely result in Chris' full final fellowship investiture, which will mean he can be publicly recognized for this accomplishment at this June's General Assembly in Phoenix. The MFC evaluations are part of Rev. Chris' human resource file here at UUCSR. He and the COSM are happy to share them with anyone who is interested.

The committee members are Cathy Read (chair), Rev. Chris Bell, John Chenoweth, Bill Foshee, Mary Lill Lee, Andy Levine and Mary Wagner.

Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 12th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The April selection is *The Vanishing Act* of Esme Lemmel by Maggie O'Farrell.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for May is *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.

Linda

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.—April 25, 2012

Together in Exploration (TIE) Group News

There are only two months remaining for this season's TIE Groups. How quickly the time goes! We hope to have a 4 or 6 week summer group forming - watch for more information in the May Newsletter. If you have any questions or comments regarding TIE Groups, please contact any Steering Committee member: Jeanie Bates, Diana Breslich, Carol Kraemer, Dorris Lee, Carolyn

McLeese or Marge Wright.

A big thanks to the groups facilitated by Brian & Kitty Wells and Ed Pine & Yvonne Hammerquist for providing food and service at the last congregational meeting. The proceeds provide funding for the Advocates for Social Justice's annual \$1,000 Adrienne Swenson Scholarship award to a graduating senior.

Music Notes

We hope you have enjoyed our musical world tour this past month. We started our journey in the rain forests of Brazil with three songs based on melodies sung by the Kraó tribe, the first of which even included animal sounds! Ann Chambers supplied the jungle drum accompaniment. From there we traveled to Japan for a lovely arrangement of Hanabe No Uta (Song of the Sea), a well-known song in that country, composed in the 1940s by Tamezoo Narita, a student at the Tokyo Music Institute. The words are from a poem written in 1913 by Kokei Hayashi describing sights, sounds, and memories while wandering on the seashore. From there we visited India to bring you a traditional Hindu devotional song, Raghupati, which was a favorite of Mahatma Gandhi. It was sung by Gandhi and his followers as they walked during the 241 mile Salt March to Dandi, which was an important part of the Indian independence movement. At our services it was sung by Jenny Harriman, with Phil accompanying her on guitar. If you missed

either the Brazilian or Japanese pieces, especially since they were presented by the choir at only one of our services (9:15 or 11:00), you may have a chance to hear them at some later time.

In April, we will begin our return journey home via England where we have adapted a very familiar tune to fit our service on April Fool's Day. The choir will accompany Eric Skagerberg for this satirical piece. On April 8, the choir will sing for both services a lovely arrangement of Come to My Garden (from the musical, *The Secret Garden*) for our Easter Flower Communion. April 15 will bring several special musical offerings, including jazz piano selections by Roger Corman; a beautiful arrangement of Somewhere Over the Rainbow, sung by our own trio -- Claire Beery, Susan Panttaja, and Cathy Read; and a surprise from the *Unusual Suspects*.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

21st Annual Women Together Retreat!

"Heritage and Legacy" is the theme for this year's Women Together Retreat in the beautiful setting of Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker. We will be gathering the weekend of *May 4, 5, and 6, 2012* for exploration, conversation, good food and good fun! Important Information: Registration begins on Sunday, April 8th after the 9:00 and 11:00 services at UUCSR. You will find our Registration Form in this newsletter and are welcome to complete it and return it to the UUCSR office with a check for your payment made out to UUCSR (note Women Together) before April 8th if necessary. Your early registration will not be processed until sign ups begin on April 8th. Please understand that, because this is such a popular event, and we want to accommodate everyone possible, priority registration will be given

to Members and Pledging Friends of UUCSR April 8th through April 15th.

Guests/non-members' registration will be processed as space remains on the last sign up day, April 22nd. Registration forms will be processed as we receive them, so please don't delay as this wonderful weekend often fills up quickly. The first 50 people to register will be guaranteed a bed in a double room. After that you may be in a bed in a dorm room (which is not bad). Look for the Women Together Retreat sign up table in the social hall by the stained glass chalice panel near RE on April 8, 15, and 22! Please look for us there with any questions, requests, and to register. We look forward to another amazing weekend together in the redwoods!

UUCSR Writers

Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4 - 6 pm, Monday, April 2, at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa.

Script Frenzy - Mondays, 6 - 8 pm, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa.

Next Poetry Slam - Friday, 7 pm, April 20, Video Droid "Haven Cafe", 1901 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

UUCSR Writers Presents - Tom Mariani, "A Canterbury Tale", Movie 5 pm and Lecture after the film, Friday, 5-9 pm, April 27, Video Droid "Haven Cafe", 1901 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

Thursday Mornings at the "Haven Cafe" 10 am - Meet once a week for coffee and conversation.

Information - Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Help us Sponsor the Poetry Slams

The UUCSR Writers sponsors the Poetry Slams. Your financial support accounts for 100% of the funds needed to provide the Prizes at each Slam.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 before June 10th. Any amount donated shall be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your contribution.

Please make your **Tax Deductible** check payable to: UUCSR. Please write "UUCSR Writers" on the memo line
Mail to: UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401

What can we do to improve the hearing of those with impaired hearing in our Sanctuary?

Some ways are:

- Support the maintenance and upgrading of the current sound system that was installed in 2004.
- Encourage clear speaking with adequate volume while holding the microphone close.
- Utilize the existing assistive hearing devices provided by Dan Reid which are located at the audio console. These consist of a FM receiver and headphones. These can help whether you wear hearing aids or not.

The installation of an induction loop system for the Sanctuary is being studied. It was intended to help those who wear hearing aids that are equipped with a "T" coil (also called a Tele coil). We have a bid of \$1600. However we have been cautioned against installing a loop system in our location due to interference with the dynamic microphones that we use, and electronic musical instruments. A very good alternative is to use a neck loop in place of the headphones with our existing FM receivers. You need a set for each person. We only have about 8 FM receivers and headphones. It would also be nice to have some spare sets for our guests.

This leads us to the need for a survey to find out how many members and friends wear hearing aids that are "T" coil equipped and would like to use this technology. The neck loop has the advantage of transmitting the sound directly to the hearing aid thus helping to eliminate background noise.

Some congregations have asked their members for donations. I know some of us have expressed a willingness to donate. Here are some costs (sales tax included):

Listen Model LR-400-072, Display Receiver - 72 Mhz; \$148.

Listen Model LA-166, Neck Loop, used with hearing aids that are equipped with "T" coils, \$53.

Listen Model LA-165, Stereo Headphones - Walkman Style, \$18.

Please let Bud Willis know if you are one of this select group. I know I am.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Your comments are appreciated.

Dan Reid let me use a neck loop last Sunday and I was impressed. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

SURVEY

1. Would you use these assistive listening devices?
 2. Do you use hearing aids?
 3. Is your hearing aid equipped with "T" coils?
 4. Would you be willing to donate for the purchase of more of these assistive listening devices for UUCSR?
- Please phone, e-mail, or leave me a note in the UUCSR Office.

Bud Willis, 707-292-1464, e-mail: hrwillis@sonic.net

Library News

Now that the library is in the Social Hall, it's even easier to check out a book as you munch on a cookie! What a deal! We've recently entered fifty new titles into the library, even more reason to come browse our tables and shelves. And don't forget - there are also MORE library books available during the week in the Reading Room.

We've been compiling a library database comprised of each book's title, author, and subject (that we have placed on the spine for easy reference). Sometime in the near future, we hope to print out a copy of this da-

tabase by title and subject. We've had some technical difficulties with the church's copier, but we'll continue working on it.

REV. CHRIS'S BOOKS

As always, Rev. Chris's books on Unitarian Universalism and Buddhism are available in the Reading Room for check out which is open during office hours Monday - Friday (if it's locked, ask at the volunteer desk to have it opened) and during coffee hours on Sunday. Don't miss this opportunity to peek inside Rev. Chris's book

Advocates for Social Justice

On Sunday, April 8th, half of the collection will go to The Living Room, our across the street neighbor that is the only day-time drop center for homeless women and their children. In addition to providing a place to be on these cold, wet days, The Living Room offers a wide array of services to help women and their children recover from past experiences and develop the skills and attitudes that will help them reconstruct their lives. To learn more about this unique program, and find out how you might help, come to

the Advocates for Social Justice table where you'll find useful information. UUCSR has voted to be part of The Living Room's 'Circle of Support' so please be as generous as you can in this time of increasing need and diminishing public resources. Thank you!

On Sunday, April 22nd, half the collection will go to sustain our Saturday Breakfast Program. We serve between 175 and 250 folk every week, and as we all know, groceries aren't cheap! Support from outside sources is diminishing

Hot Topic—Sunday, April 1st

Our Experience with Occupy Santa Rosa

You are invited to learn what our local "OWS" (Occupy Wall Street) affiliate is doing. Is there an agenda to further the interests of the 99%? Who's in charge? How do people participate and what do they participate

in?

Find out on Sunday, April 1st at 12:30 in the Board Room. Speakers Tess McDermott and Sky Nelson will answer your questions and welcome your ideas! A light lunch is available for a small donation.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 16, February 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Board President Laura Jean Hageman.

Members Present: Jeanie Bates, Ann Chambers, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Peter Wilson, Craig Work

Members Not Present: Lois Nagle

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Rose Saint John, Millie Tripp

Opening Words by Rev. Chris: a prayer for guidance

Agenda Review: No changes

Minutes approved as modified.

Craig Work accepted the role of meeting timekeeper.

One-on-One Sharing

Open Mic: None

North Bay Sponsoring Committee (NBSC) Status Report: UCSR representatives are experiencing frustration and disappointment. Some member organizations are resigning their membership. There is frustration concerning how slowly action within the organization develops. No advancement toward accomplishing the mission. The NBSC requires clarity of identity. Many member organizations are lacking the resolve to take action. Chris has conveyed the seriousness

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Board of Trustees Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 10

of the situation to NBSC while suggesting that the group may consider dissolution. Chris and Deborah Mason are working toward building a viable organization consisting of a constituency able to take action; within or beyond the current NBSC structure. In answer to a query from Laura Jean, Chris estimated that clarification of the situation and the time to build consensus within the organization may take 2-3 months. Next UUCAN meeting is 23 February where this situation will be a topic of discussion.

Financial Reports: Art observed that every account is in the black. There is approximately \$200K in cash that is earning near nothing. The Financial Stewardship Council (FinStew) is considering investing some cash in combination stock/bond fund. A formal proposal to the Board is expected in March.

The preliminary financial report handouts indicated a Jul-Jan 2011 P&L Net Income of \$16K for Operations, \$11K for Restricted & Endowment and \$8K for Glaser Center. The Jul-Jan 2011 Budget vs. Actual report indicated a Net Income of \$48K for Operations and <\$7K> for the Glaser Center.

Pledge Drive Task Force: Alan Proulx, co-chair of the task force, announced that a full complement of captains and canvassers has been recruited, ensuring that no individual has responsibility for greater than three canvassers or three families. Training for the captains and canvassers will be conducted 18, 22 and 29 February. The brochure mailing will likely be complete 18 Feb. ACTION: Alan will provide Art information for the monthly newsletter column.

Congregational Meeting Presentations, 19 Feb: The Board members are to assemble at 12:45 p.m. in preparation for the 12:55 p.m. start of the meeting. Peter will project the overhead presentation. Each "goal group" will present a 3-5 minute status. Expected presenters include Joe for Spiritual Life, Alan and Ann for Community and John for Infrastructure. Cathie will make the Appreciations presentations and Art will present the Treasurer's Report. The Draft Budget will be presented by Linda Stabler. Proposed By-Law changes will be presented by Ellen Skagerberg. Prior to elections, Ben Ford will conduct the nominations. The meeting will conclude with elections and a Q&A period.

Progress Reports from Goal Groups: Spiritual Life Group

Joe provided an initial assessment of pursuing an intern sponsorship program. The budget impact has not been fully addressed and extensive planning precludes implementation before 2014+. An alternative idea of adding a part-time minister in lieu of an intern was mentioned by Mary Louise. Chris challenged the Board to determine the goal; does the Board want ministerial assistance or does it want to make a commitment to training? Chris suggested seeking UUA assistance to determine requirements for pursuing both ministerial assistance as well as the internship process.

Joe mentioned that the Adult RE Steering Committee is expected to be stood up this summer and to become active in the fall.

Laura Jean reiterated Deborah Mason's desire to see BOT members' participation in the RE Task Force. A handout from the 17 January meeting listed requested opportunities for BOT members support; including (1) co-hosting an April Open House, (2) Secret Pal participation, (3) becoming a Coming of Age mentor, (4) assisting in a

Children's Chapel circle service with K-8 children and (5) helping with infants in the nursery. Laura Jean added that next year's curriculum will center on social justice themes.

Community Group: Jeanie reported the results of the survey regarding Congregational Meeting scheduling. Changing the time from after to before service was favored 101 to 23. Thirty five (35) respondents opined that they would more likely attend the meeting if it were scheduled earlier in the day. Eleven (11) declared that they wouldn't attend regardless of the scheduling. The conduct of the meeting before the service will occur at the 10 June meeting.

Mary Louise reported that a large group is scheduled for Membership's Feb 19 "Getting to Know UU" meeting.

Infrastructure Group: Laura Jean referenced a handout listing operational teams, their constituent groups and their functional responsibilities. Mentioning a few in particular, Laura Jean indicated that Adult RE and the Communications are requiring an emphasis upon future plans. The web site requires a "governance" update by the end of the fiscal year.

John mentioned that Facilities & Maintenance will be identifying underserved areas that can have a potentially large impact. He further explained that membership trends will be weighed against the facility resources; addressing specifics like the patio area and the upstairs. Laura Jean suggested that the analysis may address future major projects; John adding that determination of trigger events will be delineated.

Laura Jean indicated that Financial Stewardship will be clarifying management of various funds. FinStew will be presenting a recommended modified charter to the BOT.

Request from Advocates for Social Justice (A4SJ) to Waive Sponsoring Requirements: Jeanie, Rose Saint John and Millie Tripp led a discussion regarding BOT authorization of an extended exemption to a standing policy offering building space at no cost to outside groups. The presentation purpose was to provide context to the exemption request and to invite questions that are to be submitted to Laura Jean prior to the anticipated vote at the 15 March BOT meeting. The weekly meetings are expected to consist of 15-20 individuals including a minimum of two (2) A4SJ members. Questions included (1) what is the expected duration of the exemption request? Answer: 6-months at a time; (2) what is the source of the rule/exemption being sought? Answer: facility use policy and, also, the charter of the A4SJ requires BOT review of activities; (3) are there standard/existing terms and conditions for currently hosted groups? Answer: no, contract structure/content is open. Rose suggested that occupysantarosa.org is a source of organization information. ACTION: BOT members to investigate issues, concerns and questions and report to Laura Jean. The issue is to be further addressed at the March BOT meeting.

Closing words proved by Joe; a selection from Paramahansa Yogananda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. Next Board meeting is on Thursday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Graham



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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April 2012

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Editor: Janis Brewster

Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

UU Update Newsletter:

Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail
to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail
address

Editor: Janis Brewster

**Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All
electronic deadlines are noon Monday.**

Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter
mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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Sunday Religious

Education Staff
Nicole Arieta
Juliana Gurrola

Songs, fiddles, and a fresh look at Pinnochio

Arts & Culture Ministry offers plenty to look forward to this Spring

Spring, traditionally, is a time of growth and color and freshly enthusiastic expression, from the green of the grass and the buds on the trees to the looks of expectation and delight as kids stomp in mud-puddles and look forward to Easter egg hunts. Yes, those images are all clichés, but there is a reason clichés become clichés, and that's because the reoccur all the time.

Here at UUCSR, our vibrant Arts & Culture ministry is no different, bringing a certain number of anticipated annual expressions of music and theater, while working in one or two surprises, like Easter eggs tucked beneath a rose bush. Working in conjunction with several community organizations and artists, we have once again created a Spring season of activities and events which celebrate the joy of life and creativity, expressed through song, music, theater and other forms of art and expression. For the third time, the Glaser Center will be hosting the Stage One Theater Arts Awards ceremony, an increasingly popular (and rather eccentric) event in which local theater artists are presented with accolades and prizes for the best acting, directing and writing. The annual event is youthful and free (literally), and those who saw my recent play 'Pinky' will be glad to know that it has been nominated for Best Original Play. Do come out and see it 'Pinky' takes the prize.

Other perennial Spring events include the return of the Healdsburg Chorus (see below for details on all events),



and another explosion of concert band enthusiasm with the much-anticipated and much loved all-senior-citizen New Horizons Band of Sonoma County.

Along with appearances by various choruses and orchestras from Sonoma State University and the Santa Rosa Junior College, we are pleased to bring to the Glaser Center a pair of truly remarkable happenings. In mid-April, in partnership with the Redwood Arts Council, we welcome renowned Celtic fiddler Liz Carroll (a 2010 Grammy nominee; that's her to the left), performing alongside the stellar Irish pianist Cormac McCarthy. It'll be an evening of jigs, reels, and Celtic fiddling certain to chase away the last remnants of winter chill.

In early May, please join us for one of three performances (exact times of day still to be determined) of the original musical *The Adventures of Pin Pin*, an adaptation of the classic tale of *Pinocchio*, reinvented as a modern fable about bullying. The play (written and directed by Liz Jahren), is a presentation of the Theater for Life offshoot of Alchemia, an arts & vocational day program for Sonoma County residents with developmental disabilities. The play, with a live band, features 22 actors with special needs, performing with an honesty and charm that it thrilling to see.

We hope that many of you will come out to cheer on these remarkable performers, celebrating the coming of Spring. ----- David Templeton, Artistic Director



Monday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. — 4th Annual Stage One Theater Arts Awards — Free Admission

Friday, April 14, 8:00 p.m. — Fiddler Liz Carroll with Cormac McCarthy — All Tickets \$25.00

Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. — *Time Signatures*: Sonoma County Chamber Singers — Free

Sunday, April 22, 3:00 p.m. — Steppin' Out with the Healdsburg Chorus — Tickets \$15.00

Sunday, April 29, 4:00 p.m. — Love & Passion: SSU Chamber Singers — Admission \$8 - \$12

Friday, May 4 & 5, (Check Back for Times) — The Adventures of Pin Pin — Free Admission

Sunday, May 6, 4:00 p.m. — Concert: Sonoma State University Choir — Admission \$8 - \$12

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. — Annual SRJC Spring Choral Concert — Admission \$4 - \$10

Saturday, May 12, 2:00 p.m. — New Horizons Band of Sonoma County — Free Admission

Sign up now for.....

UU Secret Pals



*Psst, can you guess who I am?
I might be big or I might be
small.....
I might be someone you've never met at all,
Maybe I'm someone you never thought
was waiting to be your friend.....
Send me a note, and I'll send one to you
and we will be pals in the end.....*

Become a "Secret Pal" to a person of another generation
It's fun and rewarding --- Don't miss out!
Get to know someone of another generation better!
Give and receive secret notes and/or small gifts

Secret Pals will run for 4 weeks from Sunday, April 29 through May 20, 2012. On April 20, after the 11:00 service, you will get to find out who your secret friend is at a delicious potluck lunch. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE POTLUCK! Sign April 1 through April 15.

Children and adults will be matched with each other

- You and your pal will share the name of a famous Unitarian Universalist
- Please write the famous name clearly on all notes and gifts
- Please leave notes and/or gifts in your famous UU bag on our "Pal Wall" in the Social Hall
- If you are not able to be at the congregation on one of the Sundays, please make arrangements ahead of time to put something in your Pal's mail bag.
- Write notes that tell stories about your life and what is important to you. Ask each other questions & make it a fun exchange of ideas.
- Non-perishable gifts can cost between \$0 and \$5. Think small goodies & great notes
- Kids, be sure to have a parent or guardian sign this form, too!
- You will be notified of your match between April 17 and 19.

Please Read & Keep the Top Portion- Give the bottom part to DRE Deborah Mason

Name: _____ Gender: _____ Circle One: Adult or Child

Telephone Number _____ Email address _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Child's age _____

Circle Service you attend 9:15 am 11:00am

List your hobbies, likes, dislikes, etc. that you think would be helpful in making a match (use other side of this sheet)

WOMEN TOGETHER RETREAT

“Heritage and Legacy”

May 4, 5, and 6, 2012

Please complete this **registration sheet**. Your check reserves your space. Make check payable to **UUCSR (memo Women Together)** and return with this form to Women Together table at the Church or mail/bring it to the office at UUCSR marked “Women Together Retreat”. For further information call Linda Harlow at 526-3528 or Susan Dickey at 525-1740.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE(home) _____ E-MAIL _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ INSURANCE CARRIER _____

POLICY NUMBER _____ DRUG ALLERGIES _____

OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS _____

VEGETARIAN MEALS _____ OMNIVORE MEALS _____ VEGAN MEALS _____

FOOD ALLERGIES/RESTRICTIONS _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS? (Accessibility, transportation, etc.)

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DRIVE A CAR POOL? YES _____ NO _____

(You will receive a list of attendees shortly before the retreat to assist you in arranging car pools. Carpooling is essential due to limited parking.)

OTHER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

COST: Includes Friday evening dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

(There are some partial scholarships available. Call for information.)

Please choose one:

\$170.00 with use of camp linens (sheets, towel, blanket, pillow) _____

\$160.00 bring your own sheets and towels (blankets and pillow provided) _____

*UUCSR Women Together Announces
Our 21st Annual Women's Retreat*

"Heritage and Legacy"

Our Past / Our Future



May 4, 5, and 6, 2012

Saint Dorothy's Rest

(Camp Meeker)

*Join us for a weekend of exploration,
creativity, conversation, laughter and
connecting with one another.*