



UUCSR

UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• September 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 9 •

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

Theme: Work

September 1st – 10:00

The Dignity of Work, the Power of Workers

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman

Music by Roger Corman and Roy Zimmerman!

It's Labor Day, so we'll take time to honor the work necessary to keep our complex society functioning, and, in the light of our Principles, address some of the many challenges and injustices that face working people in America today. Songwriter Roy Zimmerman makes a guest appearance.

LAST SERVICE AT 10:00.

September 22nd – 9:15 and 11:00

On Social Media

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas,

Roger Corman, Nancy Hayashibara

Some UUsual Suspects share some tunes.

Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, and the like have changed the way we communicate with one another and process information. But is it good for us? What are the implications of this technological and cognitive revolution, and how can we turn it to the noble and the true? And what about the kids?

A SERVICE AUCTION SERMON.

September 8th – 9:15 and 11:00

INGATHERINGS

TWO SERVICES: Childcare at BOTH.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome,

Andy Levine, Nancy Hayashibara

The Choir performs at BOTH services!

Back to two services today as we mark the kick-off of a new "church year" with our annual Ingathering Service. Please bring a small hand-held object – a picture, a ticket stub, a stone or button or whatever – which will become part of our Ingathering Artifact, and, later, a Time Capsule. Intentional community-building is the work of the congregation, and the salvation of the world; let's do some today!

September 29th – 9:15 and 11:00

Loving the Job you Hate

Service Leaders: Bryan Plude, Andy Levine,

Nancy Hayashibara

The Choir performs at 9:15. The UUsuals work some magic.

It is not easy to maintain the mind of wisdom and compassion when you work a job you don't love. How can we bring spiritual consciousness into any setting and make the best of where we are, even when we don't like it? How can we express our calling in our lives if our calling and our work don't match? Come learn!

September 15th – 9:15 and 11:00

"Hi, I'll be your server today."

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Bev Helfer-Grand,

Nancy Hayashibara

The Choir offers music at 11:00. The UUsual Suspects may appear.

Before attending Harvard Divinity School, Rev. Chris spent many years in the hospitality "industry" as a busser, server, bartender, wine salesman and restaurant critic. It was excellent training for a life of ministry! Today's sermon is an autobiographical journey showing how we can learn about ourselves and others, and the Great Big Thing, in almost any setting.

October 6th

Women of Valor

Service Leaders: Susan Panttaja and

the Worship Associates

The women of the Worship Associates will lead a service celebrating female heroes famous and unknown. Meanwhile, many of the UUCSR men will be off on their retreat.

Show Me Your Faith By Your Works



Hello! Thank you for the vacation time I enjoyed during the month of July. I traveled with my son to Oregon, hosted my sister and her husband from Hong Kong, and relaxed in the garden with several fine books.

That said, I'm so glad to be back in the office and looking ahead to the next few months we'll enjoy together here at UUCSR before my sabbatical begins in January. The theme of our September worship services is *WORK* and it is an apt one for this time of year, when we busily gear up for the start of another "church year" (as we say in the vernacular). Of course, as you know, the congregation and the year actually never pause in their work, but this is very much a special and vibrant time of year for us.

Just as school starts up again for families out in the wide world, so does our Children's Religious Education program begin anew. Later in these pages you will read our Director Deborah Mason's report (you will, won't you?), but let me lift up one wonderful fact in particular. There are 22 *known* toddlers and infants in our preschool on Sundays, and that number is growing all the time. It is so good to see our ministry to parents and families bearing such joyful fruit!

Each autumn our *Together in Exploration (T.I.E.)* program kicks off again, too. I want everyone to consider joining one of these delightful discussion groups that bring 8 – 10 people together for spiritual, philosophical and personal reflection. This is a great way to meet people, particularly for new members and friends. If it's been awhile since you've participated, consider a return engagement. The T.I.E. Steering Committee is also accepting applications for facilitators. We will train you on September 21st and support you with monthly T.I.E. groups that meet with me and/or our Intern Minister Bryan Plude.

Adult Religious Education here at UUCSR has received a major shot in the arm over the last few months, with several new offerings planned including a real treat from Rev. Shirley Ranck on the Seven Principles. My Scripture Study classes will again be on Tuesdays at 8:00am and 5:00pm, starting on October 1st. We will be reading selections from the *Quran*.

Meanwhile, the Hot Topics on our ministry to the homeless provoked great interest and enthusiasm and it seems clear that we will develop more ways to be of direct service to our brothers and sisters on the streets. Already our meeting has prompted the Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless to revisit the idea of a rotating emergency shelter! Concerned people really can make a difference – as all of you involved in community organizing already know.

Finally – due only to space – our Pagan community has begun to blossom as well, with my warm blessing and support. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming rituals and circles to mark the natural seasons and cycles of the year. I'm so delighted to see different forms of spiritual practice and perspective thriving under our roof, and it is also my hope that, as time unfolds, UU Christianity might also blossom within our walls, reclaiming its

right place in the heart of our tradition, along with UU Buddhism, UU Humanism, UU Paganism and the other major sub-streams of Unitarian Universalism that we jointly celebrate here. But that's a topic for another day!

For now, there's plenty do, and I hope you will find a way to get involved in ways big or small, for your own sake. I believe that the work of building a community of hope, service and faith is essential to every person's full development as a human being. So jump in - the water is fine!

And this ain't just any water. It's the water of life that we get to drink and share together here in our work.

Does that overstate the case? I don't think so.

We build a religious community together as a testimony to the way of life we espouse. We make it so in the real world. We do the work of governance and finances and building maintenance so that we have a place to gather to worship, to teach our children, and to pursue our mission of celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another, and helping to build a better world. We share in the life of a religious community to help build a container that keeps love in, and hate out; one that lets people heal and flower and fulfill themselves. We want to grow in our ability to love one another and ourselves, which we do by pursuing a good and noble way of life together.

The fundamental purpose of this congregation, as stated in our by-laws, is to affirm and promote the Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association. That means, to a greater or lesser degree, everything we do here has to have something to do with these moral aims:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The good news is that we are manifesting these values in our congregation, with joy and laughter and friendship to boot. That's how I know the center of UUCSR is good and faithful and true.

At the end of Psalm 90 there is a lovely line where the Psalmist prays, "May the beauty and favor of God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands."

May it be so for us as well! Blessings on all our work, in our own lives and together here at UUCSR.

Greetings from the Board President

WE ARE CONSTANTLY INVITED TO BE WHAT WE ARE.....HENRY DAVID THOREAU

That is quite an invitation, it seems to me. Here, at UUCSR, we are offered so many opportunities to share, grow, celebrate ourselves and our talents whether it is decorating a piggy, facilitating a TIE group, doing the work of maintaining our lovely facility, connecting with folks at Circle Dinners, doing social justice work, volunteering in the office, playing at Friday Family Fun Night, serving at our Saturday breakfast or any of the many, many other activities this congregation has sprouted. With our principles, mission and vision as our foundation and worship as our source of inspiration we have built an impressive web of connection. Within this web is the opportunity for each of us to step fully into "what we are".

I feel this keenly myself having just taken on the role of President of the Board. I feel stretched and happily well schooled by my experience as Chair of the Advocates for Social Justice a few years ago. I look forward to a year of personal growth and, I hope, a year of good service to our congregation.

So—the August board meeting: what did we do and what is on tap. I would love to refer you to the minutes in another section of this newsletter, however, it seems that we can probably never stay current with the minutes because of the newsletter deadline. The minutes are taken on the 3rd Thursday evening and it is at the least unkind to ask the recording secretary to have them in printable

form by the 3rd Sunday or even noon on the following Monday. You will have them a month late in the newsletter though you can find them posted in the social hall and on the website.

Here's what we did at our August board meeting:

1. We welcomed our new board members, Marge Wright and Linda Stabler.
2. We welcomed Linda Balabanian as Treasurer and Sibyl Day as Corporate Secretary.
3. We heard wonderful news from Deborah about the population explosion in RE.....all those lovely little ones.
4. We heard reports from the Sabbatical Committee, New Intern Committee, Web-page folks, and the Retreat Planners.
5. We did some preliminary planning for the October 13 Congregational Meeting.
6. We approved a plan to offer a newly updated lease to our tenants, the Islamic Society.
7. We entertained several proposals from the Human Resources committee. Stay tuned for the October 13 Congregational Meeting to find out just what we recommended.

We are off to our retreat on August 23-25 and will come back with ideas aplenty and our goals set for this year.

A Few Gratitudes as the Fall Season Begins

It is a grave and slightly frightening responsibility, writing a newsletter article thanking the volunteers who assist, collaborate, collude and otherwise make the work you do possible. For one thing, it's inevitable that, once one begins to list the folks you owe a debt of gratitude to, you will accidentally leave out someone very, very important.

And of course, in an operation like the UUCSR's Arts & Culture Ministry, everyone is important. So, let me begin, as our summer season comes to an end, by thanking Ted Miller, who for two years now has been acting as volunteer coordinator for the various concerts, plays and other events we present through out the year. There was a time when I tried to make those calls myself, and the result was, I often staffed these shows all alone, thinking, 'Gee, I guess I should have made a couple of calls, but I didn't have the time.' So thank you Ted, for taking this on, and making sure I have a team of gracious, hard-working, friendly folks to staff these events.

Among the regular volunteers are a number of folks who've learned the ins and outs of selling cookies and

checking names off of the on-line tickets sale list. Natalie Brundred has proved invaluable, Kitty Wells helps out often with her calm, cool, problem-solving attitude, and my brilliant and insightful wife Susan seems to magically show up right when an extra hand is needed. Thanks also to Dolores Miller, Joyannah Lonnes, Elizabeth Olsen, Beverly Heifer-Grand, Mary Louise Jaffray, Gail Alford, Marie Stubblebine, Andy Templeton, Michele Murphy, Debbie Carter-Hope and David Hope, Elizabeth Marrs, Sybil Day, Mary Benson, Millie Tripp, Fred Dodge, Jim Wolfe, and Stacy Sincheff, all of whom have volunteered at events over the last eight months (along with anyone I've inadvertently failed to mention!)

You are all a pleasure to work with, and your contributions are greatly appreciated. As we move into the fall, with a truly exciting spate of upcoming events through the end of the year, I look forward to continuing to have your much-needed, and gratefully acknowledged participation.

David Templeton, Glaser Center Artistic Director

Treasurer's Report

It's that time of year when we put the finishing touches on the budget for the year we've just begun. The Budget Task Force, led by Linda Stabler, has worked tirelessly for the past six months on the process and the congregation will vote on the final budget after Board approval at the Congregational Meeting in October. But one thing that sometimes gets lost in our focus on making sure the bills get paid and our programs get funded is the high level of generosity this congregation practices.

I am so grateful for this community, these smiling faces and helping hands. What a treasure it is to know there are so many who will laugh with me, cry with me, come to my aid. And so many who feel a deep responsibility, as I do, to be stewards of the interdependent web of which we are all part. Many of us give generously of our time, talents and treasures in order to maintain, nurture and grow our congregation and to improve and sustain the community of which we are a part. The following is a list of the recipients of our financial generosity last year – the organizations and causes to which we donated a portion of our financial treasures.

Homeless Breakfast	28,179
Minister's Discretionary Fund	7,637
Haiti Scholarships	3,690
The Living Room	2,825
Women Together Scholarships	1,464
Arts/Culture donated proceeds	1,250

Living Tradition Fund	1,084
Guests at your Table	1,044
Advocates for Social Justice-Swenson	1,000
Assisted Listening Devices	950
Adrienne Swenson Award Collections	708
YWCA Safe House	646
Martin Luther King Jr Celebration	536
Hurricane Sandy	419
Parkinsons	400
Earle Baum Center	366
All Fellowship Retreat scholarships	338
Verity	329
Memorial Garden	300
Advocates for Social Justice misc.	225
Interfaith Peace Dinner	217
Redwood Empire Food Bank	184
Diversity task force donation	100
Hymnals	55
UUCSR Writers Group	45
TOTAL	53,991

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer



All RE Families are invited to:

UUCSR FAMILY

END OF SUMMER BBQ



Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 4:30pm in the UUCSR Courtyard

R.E will provide burgers, vegeburgers and dogs & fixins.

Please bring a dish to share and drinks for your family

Whether you are new to UUCSR or your kids have come up through the program to high school youth group,

ALL FAMILIES ARE WELCOME

RSVP to Susan Dickey at susanlf.dickey@gmail.com

by September 10 so that we can plan for food.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

I am so happy to announce the formation of the Religious Education Committee. The committee is structured around six areas of RE programming. Our six committee members are: **Susan Dickey**, Fellowship/Activities Coordinator. She will be the lead coordinator for social events for parents and children during the congregational year. **Emily Heinzlmann**, Registration Coordinator. Emily will help coordinate a registration day at the beginning of the congregational year and help develop a process for registration throughout the year for families who come on board after the fall. **Susan Miller**, Preschool Liaison will keep abreast of the needs of the ever growing preschool program, and report to the committee and DRE as they arise. **Denielle Medynski**, Coordinator of Social Action/Community Service, will assist in planning social action or community service activities for RE classes. **Erica Mora**, Arts and Crafts Coordinator. Erica will help with planning arts/crafts activities for Sunday morning RE classes. **Jennifer Freese**, Teacher Recruitment Coordinator, will help me with recruiting volunteers to teach on Sunday mornings. I am so grateful to have this team of caring UU parents to help with the work of making our RE program the best it can be!

We begin age-grouped RE classes on September 15. This year the focus will be on learning and integrating the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Grades K-2 will learn from a UUA Tapestry of Faith program, *Love Surrounds Us*. It is a really fun and engaging program for our youngest elementary kids. The Principles are introduced with activities and story. The program teaches children to

articulate their faith in the world. They will come knowing they are Unitarian Universalists, and leave knowing why, as the Principles help answer the question "Why do I belong?" Kids 3rd to 8th grade will have a program called:

We Believe: Learning and Living Our UU Principles. This is a program that engages children of a wide age-range in exploring and experiencing our UU Principles through stories, learning about our UU forebears, discussions, activities, and worship experiences. Each Sunday the kids will get the opportunity to put the ideas of the session to work in an active and intentional way – to live our principles.

Our preschool is bursting at the seams. What a gift it is to have so many little ones with us!! This month we will open a second preschool room. Our babies and toddlers up to age 3 will be in the preschool room (room 3) as usual. Children age 3 and 4 will be in room 2. We will be equipping the new room with toys and fun decorations throughout the month. The two classrooms will be staffed with one of our paid preschool teachers and one volunteer from the congregation.

The youth group will kick off the new congregational year with a sleep over on Friday, Sept. 6.

It is going to be a new RE year filled with promise and joy. Thanks in advance for all who will serve to make it so.

In faith,
Deborah

Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Rev Chris and Eric Fischer serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for more information.

Grades K-8 will gather together for Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of each month. When there is a 5th Sunday all ages gather for Justice or Arts Sunday.

September R.E. class Schedule

09/01/13	Children's Chapel all ages together	Theme: Keep Hope Alive Activity~making ice cream
09/8//13	Intergenerational Worship all children K-8 will worship with the grown-ups	Theme: Ingathering We will celebrate the coming together of our community for a new church year.
09/15/13	Grades K-2 Session 1 <u><i>Love Surrounds Us</i></u>	Grades 3-8: Session 1 - <u><i>We Believe</i></u> Inherent Worth What Does It Mean ?
09/22/13	Grades K-2 Session 2 <u><i>Love Surrounds Us</i></u> ~ Sharing	Grades 3-8: Session 2 - <u><i>We Believe</i></u> Fair to Everyone ~ 2 nd Principle
09/28/13	Justice Sunday all ages together	Theme: Working for Justice

UU Circle Dinners—Re-forming in September!

Sign-Ups Sunday August 25, September 1 and September 8 in Social Hall.

Look for the table with Kitty Wells and Lynn Riepenhoff to join in the fun!!!

Already on the Circle Dinner List? PLEASE drop a line to Lynn or Kitty letting them know you'd like to continue. This is to avoid confusion and dinner groups with members who would rather not participate any longer.

What are Circle Dinners, you might ask??? Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a pot-luck meal. They are opportunities to enjoy getting to know folks you might never have met otherwise. As participants, we have had some wonderful times visiting other members' homes (large and small---it doesn't matter!) and always look forward to great food and conversation. Some of our groups have even kept on meeting after the official Circle Dinners period has ended over the summer just because we enjoyed getting together so much!

How do they work??? Members and Friends (interested in

membership) of UUCSR let the Circle Dinner organizers know they want to be on the list. We then take all the names and shuffle them into groups of 7 or 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a "Circle Dinner Group" for the 4 months of the Circle Dinner period. In the October Newsletter we will post the Fall Circle Dinner Lists. The groups then contact each other, decide on a date, time and place to gather and who will bring what. The rest takes care of itself! Before the fun is over, the group decides the who, what, where and when for the next month's gathering. You don't need dinner service for 8, a family sized dining room, linen napkins, or even a room with a view! All you need is an enjoyment of meeting new friends, connecting with old friends, and the love of a good meal and conversation (maybe even playing games or music... 'cause that can happen, too).

Sign me up! Look for the sign up table in the social hall or Contact Kitty Wells at [953-0620](tel:953-0620) or bewells@sonic.net or Lynn Riepenhoff at [525-8424](tel:525-8424) or lynnsplc@sonic.net. They will need your name, phone number and email info. Don't miss out!

Adult Ed: Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse

Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse - The first class in our Adult Religious Education Program begins Saturday, September 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will meet each Saturday through October 26th.

To quote Kenneth Collier (retired UU minister who served in Palo Alto and Santa Barbara and is the author of *Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse*):

“ ‘What do Unitarian Universalists believe?’ What is there to say? We have no creed, no confession of faith, no body of dogma and we disagree a lot about theological matters.

There are few I can appeal to that most Unitarian Universalists will agree with--at least few that are worth bothering with. There is one exception, though, and that is the

statement of Principles and Purposes in the Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This is something that is both agreed upon among us generally and says something worth listening to and contemplating.”

Shirley Ranck, a retired UU minister and current member of our congregation, will guide us in this exploration of *Our Seven Principles*. She is the author of the popular feminist theology curriculum, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, which many people enjoyed this past year. Her new book is *The Grandmother Galaxy*.

Minimum class size: 8 persons - but we welcome more. (There will be a fee of \$30 which includes the cost of the book...or, pay what you can.)

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2013
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org
E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly
10 a.m.— September 25, 2013

UUCSR's Annual Service Auction

COMING SOON...UUCSR SERVICE AUCTION!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd AT 5:30 PM!

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR's biggest social event of the year! Mark your calendars, set your iPhones or just put a sticky note on your front door...you won't want to miss our Annual Auction Extravaganza! Our annual dinner and auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for UUCSR's general operating fund. YOU, our creative and generous members and friends, offer wonderful donations for our silent auction...dinners, yard work, theater tickets, theme parties, dog walking, hand crafted jewelry, trash hauling...the list has no boundaries! Volunteers scour the city and countryside to gather fabulous donations from local business to add to the offerings. So, consider what you might be able to donate this year to the fun! Look for our table display in the Social Hall for donation forms and a list of many ideas. Fill out a form for your donation and return it to the Auction Table or to the UU Office. Ask your favorite places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate or two. Our Auction Boards will be up beginning September 22nd. Watching the bids go up on your donations gets the blood pumping

in the ol' veins!

For the evening or our Auction Extravaganza we invite you to arrive in festive finery...this is a first class establishment! Fine dining awaits you with added room to accommodate our ever-growing popularity.

Entertainment will be sure to delight the senses. Childcare and "kid food" will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with our live auction starring those masters of auction mischief sure to keep you laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocketbook for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!), Keep an eye out for our table which will be set up in the Social Hall beginning in September. Look for the Top Hat and Tales guy dancing in a sea of star spangled purple! Any question? Call Kitty Wells at 953-0620, Nancy Freeman at 537-1897, Mindy Graham at 850-249-7160, or Lynn Riepenhoff at 525-8424.

Men's Retreat Registration Deadline—August 30th

UUCSR's 5th Annual Men's Retreat will take place from 5pm Friday October 4th to 11am Sunday October 6th, 2013 at St. Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker. All men, members or friends, are welcome. **New for 2013!** This year bed selection will take place in-person when you register prior to the retreat. Bring your checkbook to church on Sunday 8/18 or Sunday 8/25 and fill out a registration form at the Men's Retreat table before or after the 10 a.m. service. The registration fee of \$195 covers two nights in a double occupancy bedroom (single beds)

or dormitory bunk beds and all meals from Friday evening dinner through Sunday morning breakfast. A scholarship rate is available for those in need. Please contact Paul Marking @ 707-508-5479 if you have special health or transportation needs. If you have questions, please contact Ethan Foote at (footefire@gmail.com or 707-480-8610) or another planning committee member. For information about St. Dorothy's Rest visit www.stdorothysrest.org or call (707) 874-3319.

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.

September 15 and October 20

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, September 12th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The September selection is *In the Garden of Beasts* by Eric Larson.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for October is *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin.

Linda Lampson

Music Notes

Do You Like to Sing?

2013 – 2014 Choir Season Begins this Month!

Our choir season begins with a rehearsal on Thursday, September 5th (see details below). We will then sing for the two Ingathering Services on the following Sunday, September 8th.

Singing in a choir is a great place to start for those who want to express themselves through song but have little experience or confidence in doing so. When you sing in a choir, you're not up there alone. You have the supporting voices and spirit of all those in the group, and you have an opportunity to enhance the worship experience both for yourself and for the congregation.

Here are a few excerpts from an article on the UUA Website about the benefits of singing in a choir:

"What would our Sunday mornings be like without our choirs? Fortunately most of us will never have to find out. All across the country there are friends and members of our congregations who are committed to giving us music."

"A choir is a place of deep spiritual practice... It can be transformative and life-changing for choir members."

"In a world in which we live in our heads maybe too much, music is our heart connection."

Is the UUCSR Choir Right for You?

Our choir is made up of people from various musical backgrounds - some with years of experience and

others who have never been in a choir before. The music we work on is diverse, including spirituals, musical theater, world music, and well known choral pieces.

Being in the choir does involve some time commitments. We rehearse Thursday nights from 7--8:30 pm. We begin rehearsals with some physical warmups - light stretching and loosening up. Then we move on to vocal warmups before we work on songs.

On days that the choir sings in a service, we arrive a half hour before the service to warm up and rehearse. Most Sundays we sing for only one service (either 9:15 or 11:00), but occasionally we will sing for both. Also, because we must learn most music fairly quickly, it helps to practice on your own outside of the rehearsal. A website with practice files and song samples is available to assist you.

Joining the choir is also a great way to meet new people. In addition to making music together, we also socialize through occasional parties and special events. But is our choir right for you? The best way to find out is to come to a rehearsal. Being able to read music is an advantage, but not a requirement. However, the ability to match pitch or "carry a tune" is important. If you are uncertain about your singing ability, or if you have any questions, please contact our Music Director, Nancy Hayashibara at musicdirector@uusantarosa.org.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

UUCSR Writers

The UUCSR Writers requests the pleasure of your company at one or all of our monthly meetings. Please see date, time, and place of gathering in the "Schedule" below.

N.B. Conflict in dates? No problem. Writers, Screenwriters, etc. are welcome to present a "work in progress" at Poets meetings and Poets at Writers, Screenwriters meetings. **The Film meeting is for anyone who likes to watch movies.** First, we show a DVD full feature film on TV. Then, we have a group discussion about it.

Schedule

Writers, Screenwriters • meet on the First Monday of the month from 4 -6 pm. Free

Oct 7, Nov 4.

No Meetings in Sept, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

4 - 6 pm, "Work in Progress" Presentations.

Note: Please see "Agreements" in our Brochure.

Poets • meet on the Second Monday of the month from 4 -6 pm. Free Sep 9.

No Meetings in Nov, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa..

4 - 4:25 pm, "A Poet's Style" Group Discussion.

4:30 - 6 pm, "Poetry Readings" Read a poem you've written or one from a favorite author. Time may vary depending on number of Readings.

Join our UUCSR Writers E-mail list. Always In Progress...

Information: UUCSR Writers • Glaser Center • 707-568-5381 Unitarian Universalist Congregation • 547 Mendocino Ave • Santa Rosa
<http://www.uusantarosa.org> Georgette G. deBlois • ggdeb@sonic.net
 Tom J. Mariani • southforkboots@gmail.com
 UUCSR Writers • A Stimulating Environment

Hot Topics

Does it strike you as odd that all over the country nearly identical "Stand Your Ground" Laws are working their way through state legislatures? Is it a coincidence when several states see an urgent need for similar laws to eliminate environmental protection regulations? Why all the push back on laws simply requiring the labeling of GMO foods? And what about the many states that have passed laws making it harder to vote although there is no proof of significant voter fraud? **ALEC** (the American Legislative Exchange) has been influencing, and often writing, such state laws for decades! It is an organization (composed of corporations such as Monsanto and advocacy groups such as the NRA) that has decided the best way to pass laws that

benefit its members is to wine and dine and "educate" state rather than national legislators. ALEC has flown under the public's radar for decades, and only recently has come under public scrutiny due to the Trayvon Martin case involving the Florida "Stand Your Ground" Law.

From 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on **Sunday, September 8th**, Helen Grieco, an organizer for Common Cause of Northern California, will speak, share a video and answer our questions about ALEC and its tactics. She will also suggest ways we can combat the undue influence ALEC has over public policy.

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

(You are invited, urged, encouraged to suggest recipients for our donations. We like to focus on local organizations because if our community doesn't support them, who will? Please bring your ideas to the Advocates for Social Justice table in the Social Hall next to the doorway to the Sanctuary. Thank you!)

On **Sunday, September 8th**, half of the collection will go to our neighbor **The Living Room**. As many of you know, it is the only day-time drop-in center for homeless women and their children in Santa Rosa. It offers

counseling and classes for the women and children and helps them change the course of their lives. Please be as generous as you can!

On **Sunday, September 22nd**, half the collection will again go to sustain our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. So many of us have volunteered over the years that it hardly seems necessary to state how necessary and valued our service is, so please help sustain this much appreciated program.

Women Together

Last month we celebrated the end of summer with a lovely get-together at Linda Balabanian's home. This month we're welcoming fall and the new church year with a pot-luck lunch in our Social Hall on **Saturday, September 14th from 12 to 2 p.m.**

One of the purposes of this gathering, in addition to enjoying each other's company and the always

delicious food, is to set up a new women's group or groups. Several people have expressed the hope of participating in one so Mary Wolfe will help us get one or more started. Please bring a lunch dish to share. For more information, or answers to questions, contact Mary Wolfe at 544-3134.



The North Bay Organizing Project

The North Bay Organizing Project is a part of Gamaliel—hey, isn't that where Barack Obama got his organizing chops? You are right!

We are now members of what is affectionately known as NBOP. We are one of 19 organizations (an ever growing number) who organize for social justice issues. The current areas of concern are immigration, transportation justice, and education.

What does our membership mean? Well, we are part of a very cool group of people and we can individually choose to participate in a number of ways.

Actions: These are events where we hope to "bring the bodies." A recent action was at the Santa Rosa City Schools Board meeting at City Hall on August 14th. About 25 people showed up to celebrate the board's consent to a program to reduce expulsions district-wide. We dressed in black and white, we had inspiring speakers, and a mariachi band to add to the celebratory spirit! We are working toward the approval of a pilot program in a middle and high school to address suspensions and expulsions. This is an exciting first step!

Task Forces: Currently there are 3 task forces: Immigration, Transportation Justice, and Education. Anyone can join a task force if they are interested. Meetings are usually monthly. The task forces set up meetings with public officials, plan actions, present research, provide training and evaluate progress.

House meetings: We meet in small groups to discuss issues of concern to congregation members. This is a way to deepen relationships and to discover issues or

needs within the congregation. House meetings can also be expanded to include other member organizations-- which in the past, was very inspiring.

Fundraising events: NBOP just had an amazing fundraising event in Sebastopol. Noche Sabrosa had delicious food, dance lessons, terrific music, a robust dance contest, and just a bunch of lovely people. It was so much fun!

One-on-one meetings: A chance to meet one-on-one to expand personal relationships and discuss social justice issues.

UUCAN: You can join UUCAN, also known as an NBOP "core team." Each member organization has a core team. UUCAN organizes house meetings, helps inform the congregation about actions and events, communicates issues and concerns to NBOP, and provides two representatives to the Leadership Council of NBOP.

The Leadership Council: Two members of UUCAN attend the monthly Leadership Council meetings. The council is responsible for strategic planning and is accountable to their member organizations for the work of NBOP.

So, please, join in this wonderful work! You can choose your level of involvement. You could join UUCAN and not be on a task force. Some people may only be interested in house meetings or actions. Maybe you only want to come to the fun fundraising events. Please, just choose to be involved. It's a blessing. For more info, contact Sibyl Day (695-6665), Deborah Mason (542-0793) or Linda Harlow (526-3528).

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 20 June 2013

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: Jeanie Bates

Meeting Called to order: 6:34 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (Vice President), Lois Bell, Joe Como, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray, Lois Nagle, John Farison

Members Not Present: Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese, Peter Wilson, (Rev Chris away at General Assembly in Kentucky).

Non-members Present: Linda Balabanian, Jan Prater (Recording Secretary).

Minutes from May Meeting: Approved as corrected: Under -

Approval of Preliminary Budget, correct to "UUA and PCD dues have each gone up \$2.00..." Under - Appointment of UU Delegates, note that Rita Butterfield was later added in Peter Wilson's place. Under - Sabbatical, insert "as soon" [as possible.] Under - Report from Infrastructure, correct to add Linda Balabanian "said" and Lois Bell "said."

Assessment of Spring Congregational Meeting: (Laura Jean) Overall the Meeting went well, and it is recognized that people don't always feel exactly the same way about the way the money should be spent.

Cont. on page 11

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 10

Treasurer's Report: (Linda Balabanian) We balanced our budget from surplus of \$16,000 from last year. This year we have added to that up to \$30,000. However, until we get to the Final Budget we won't know what we really have. Lois B. asked if we might put some back into the Endowment Fund. We could also revisit some of the smaller projects around the property such as the stained carpeting. John asked if the Building and Maintenance Committee has spent their budget; Laura Jean observed that they may feel they should get the work done by volunteers rather than hire people.

Financial Stewardship Request: Approval requested of continuing Financial Stewardship members: Kirsten Olney, Mary Louise Jaffray, Linda Balabanian, as well as new members: Jennifer Murray, Amy Young, Laura Jean Hageman, Robin Rogers. Lois Bell made the motion to approve, (2nd) Jeanie - motion passed, with thanks to Linda for putting together this great team!

A motion was put forth (Mary Louise) to give Financial Stewardship authorization to spend up to 3% of the Operating Fund (around \$15,000) for "unbudgeted repairs and replacements." Fine Stew would work with Building and Maintenance re: projects, and with input from David Templeton re: concerns related to rentals. (2nd) Susan, motion passed.

Proposed Islamic Society Lease: (Laura Jean) David Templeton has presented a lease renewal proposal to the Glaser Center Committee and they approved it. We are trying to formalize the process and give David a tool to use in negotiations. This lease could go into effect Aug 1 - we need to give 30 days notice. It asks for an 8% increase but we will take over the HVAC maintenance. Also, they are requesting use of the Board Room for occasional use (up to 65 hours a year) which would be included. John moved that the Board give David approval for this, (2nd) Joe - motion passed.

Review Intern Timeline: (Laura Jean) Bryan's stay with us ends June 2014, so Sept. 2014 would be the time for a new intern. We need to form an Internship Search Committee who would process the applications and make recommendations. Rev Chris would then interview the potential candidate. We need to come up with a suggested list of names for this committee soon.

We also need to create a site profile and internship web page, and apply for an Intern Stipend Grant renewal.

Goal Groups' Contributions to Board's Annual Report due Sept 1: (Laura Jean).

Board Retreat Planning: (Jeanie) Each person on the Board is asked to pay \$155 towards food and lodging (over and above the \$1,000 that's in the Budget.) Jeanie will receive

the checks - made out to UUCSR - and then get them to Janis. Jeanie distributed an outline of the Board Retreat Plan which lists who will be part of what aspects of the retreat - if anyone wants to participate in any other ways they can contact the person listed for that item.

Proposal to do a Social for new Board members, Treasurer and Corp Secty: (Jeanie) Is this something the group would like to do? Discussion followed with the final decision not to do it in part because of crowded schedule due to Aug Board Meeting plus Aug Retreat.

Infrastructure Goal Group Report: (John) Banner Inc. will do the HVAC job (\$9,885) starting Mon eve - the crane will be here very early Tuesday and then all day. We also have bids for the HVAC maintenance check: IES \$2,392 yr/\$140 hr as compared to Banner \$1,800 yr/\$95 hr; we'll probably switch to Banner if the project goes well. We're also looking into an HVAC issue in the RE area - will ask Banner to assess. Joy Lonnes brought up taking another look at creating a "green" sanctuary re: the 7th principle - John is looking into it. Reminder that all graffiti needs to be dealt with promptly.

Community Outreach Team: (Lois Nagle) The committee has met and is looking at: "How does our congregation serve each person and how can we get people more involved?" They recognize that different people will respond to different approaches. Gretchen Vap and Phyllis Clement are leading this.

Adult RE Committee: (Lois Bell) The group has been meeting every two weeks. First offering will be a class of seven sessions on the Principles which will cost \$30, including a book; Shirley Ranck will teach it. Two other offerings for winter and spring are being looked at. The Congregational Survey is the base of all this. They are looking for more members.

Final Reflections and Appreciations: Appreciations to Laura Jean, Lois Nagle, and Mary Louise for their great work - you will be missed. Thanks to Jeanie for taking on the new Board presidency. Mary Louise said she has enjoyed being a part of this and appreciates Laura Jean for all that has been accomplished. Laura Jean said she has felt well supported and that it has been a joy - and that she is looking forward to not having as much responsibility but that it has been good for her! (The Board presented Laura Jean with a lovely gift of a Singing Bowl and a card signed by all.)

Closing words: (Laura Jean)

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

submitted by: Jan Prater



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September 2013

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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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Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, Ext.103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org
Sexton: Phil Butterfield

Sunday Religious

Education Staff
Rachel Alexander
Fiona Mackenzie

Glaser Center Events

Friday, September 27 & October 11, 7:30 pm
Solo Theater

Water from the Welles

**An evening of stories from the
one-woman shows of actress/author Elizabeth Welles**
Admission \$15

Saturday, September 28, 7:30 pm
Showcase Concert Series

Art of the Protest Song

**Featuring Moss Henry, Steve Meckfessel, Michael Capella,
Lisa Iskin, Al Haas + special guest Christiane Lelaure**
Admission \$15

Saturday, October 5, 7:30 pm
Showcase Concert Series

Guitar & Fiddle Duo

Featuring Jon Berger and Michael Rofkar
Daniel Kahane and Ed Berghoff
Admission \$15

Friday, November 1, 7:30 pm
Music in the Sanctuary

Legends of the Celtic Harp

Featuring
Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynee & Aryeh Frankfurter
Admission \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door

Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Gorgeous music and spoken word celebrating the Winter Solstice

Ensemble Galilei with Neal Conan

Admission \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

The Glaser Center
Showcase Concert Series
presents

**THE ART
OF
THE PROTEST SONG**



Moss Henry
Steve Meckfessel
Michael Capella
Lisa Iskin
Al Haas

and special guest **Christiane Lelaure**

performing original and well known protest songs

Saturday Evening • September 28th • 7:30 PM

The Glaser Center at the UUCSR

Santa Rosa's Downtown Performing Arts Center

547 Mendocino Avenue • Santa Rosa

Admission \$15



all performers proceeds will be donated to
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