



UUU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• November 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 11 •

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

Theme: Enlightenment

November 3rd

What is Enlightenment?

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn,
Roger Corman*

Special Musical Guests from "Legends of the Harp."

The goal of Buddhist practice and most other forms of meditative discipline is an experience of mind called enlightenment that brings freedom and peace. Perhaps we might also describe it as the goal of our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Strangely enough, Zen says you are enlightened already. If you aren't feeling that way, though, today's service should help!

November 17

Blessed are the Poor?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman

From November 9 – 16 a group of UUCSR members and friends are traveling to Haiti with the UU Service Committee to help build an eco-village with some of the displaced population that moved up to the highlands after the Earthquake. Rev. Chris will reflect on his experience there, on finding the sacred in the lives and perspectives of the poor, and on seeking real justice for the truly disadvantaged.

November 10th

Enlightenment 2

*Service Leaders: Bryan Plude, Intern Minister,
David Hope,*

Enlightenment comes in many forms and in many ways. In this second part of our exploration, I will speak about the times in my life when I have felt particularly close to the Great Big Thing and to the Interconnected Web of all Existence. These experiences have come in meditation, in nature, in worship and in music. I have had the privilege of performing a number of the great religious chorale works, including the Beethoven Mass in C and the Bach B Minor Mass. In each of these pieces, there came a time, just before or during the performance, when I felt intimately connected to every other person in the ensemble as we created transcendent music, something much greater than our individual selves.

November 24

INTERGENERATIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason,
the R.E. Steering Committee*

Together, as people of all ages, we will give thanks through stories and songs for the harvest and the many other blessings of life. The Religious Education Committee will lead us, and the children's choir will perform.

December 1

True Friendship

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine

What is a "friend" anyway? Someone who invites you to play Farmville again? Or someone who stands by you through thick and thin? What is the special nature of the friendship we enjoy in religious community, and how can we strengthen it and share it? We'll answer these questions today by considering the Buddhist concept of Sangha.

10 Seconds



10 seconds. I can't get the number out of my head.

It only took 10 seconds on October 22nd for a Sonoma County Sheriff's Deputy to receive a call about a suspicious person, do a U-turn, analyze the situation, confront the suspect, and then shoot him to death.

That suspect was Andy Lopez, carrying what legitimately might have been taken for an AK-47, although it turned out to be a toy. Andy was 13 years old. He was shot 7 times.

I will not presume what was running through the head of the deputy at that moment. Let us not forget that only one day earlier a 12-year-old boy shot a teacher and himself just up the road in Sparks. One could be forgiven for thinking that even a 13-year-old might pose a real threat.

Although, I might want to think about that longer than 10 seconds...

Today, as I write, our city is gearing up for the next in a wave of almost daily protests, in what the Press Democrat called, "an unprecedented, sustained show of public emotion." The marches have included hundreds of children, many from Andy Lopez's school. Right now, a helicopter hovers overhead, the newspaper warns of "outside activists," and again the cries of "Justice for Andy!" are heard. Traffic is backed up on Mendocino, as the marchers head to the JC. Most of them look like high school students, and most of them are brown.

The amount of anger and frustration that we are witnessing (and in my case sharing) goes far beyond the heartbreak of a senseless death. If this particular young man had been struck by a car, or murdered by a madman, there would be pain and sorrow and the deep questions we ask when something so random and tragic occurs, but there would not be protests in the street. Clearly, the wounds that have been opened in this case are not only the ones in Andy's body.

Through the community organizing work that we have been doing here at UUCSR I've been blessed to have much greater engagement with the local Hispanic community than I might have otherwise (what with the demographics of my own congregation and all). In a variety of settings I have heard about their experience of Santa Rosa, and with law enforcement. As you might have read in the paper, relations are sour enough that people are quoted that they fear law enforcement more than the gangs. Immigration enforcement and the deportations that have often accompanied it surely add to that perception, and I am certain that racial profiling is far more common than anyone wants to admit. I have heard so many stories of Hispanic people being pulled over for some alleged traffic or auto-safety reason, as though such stops are as common a daily occurrence as getting gas, while I have been pulled over in Sonoma County only once in seven years, and I did, in fact, bring my car to a stop in the

KEEP CLEAR zone right in front of the fire station and the police car parked there. Uh, duh. The officer checked my license, gave me a two-minute lecture with a smile and sent me on my way.

It is particularly tragic that this event should happen right now, when in fact relations between the Latino/a community and law enforcement has been on a steady upswing, due in no small part to the work of the community organizing efforts with which we've been involved. Recent years have seen an easing of unjust automobile impoundment policies, the acceptance by Sheriff Freitas of the superior authority of the California TRUST act over inhumane I.C.E. policies, and most recently the granting of driver's license to all capable drivers.

But 10 seconds pass, we're right back where we started.

And we'll be here again if we don't finally get our collective head out of our collective hole – call it what you will – when it comes to guns in our society.

The death of Andy Lopez is only the latest example, and it surely won't be the last, of the deliberate insanity we choose to live with when it comes to guns, a cloudy swirl of mixed messages that mask our collective fear and confusion. I recall the public outcry in August 2011 when the Santa Rosa SWAT team gave a firearms demonstration at a local school. Their reasoning was that we need greater familiarity with firearms, in order to use them safely and responsibly. OK. But I look back at the article now and I see a photo of an 11-year old boy hoisting a semi-automatic rifle with a smile on his face, and it's easy to see how guns were tangibly being made appealing and empowering that day, and how two years later a 13-year-old might pick up a toy rifle - having embraced the SWAT Team's message and the message of all the TV shows and movies and video games that we consume where guns are cool and problems are solved through violence - and head over to a friend's house to play.

10 seconds later, game over.

I share the sorrow of the family and the neighborhood, and I am deeply grieved by the actions of the deputy, but I really don't know what "Justice for Andy" looks like. On some level, the only *just* thing is to not have been shot in the first place, and that's not possible.

So it seems that the only alternative is to come together as a whole community to uncover the history that has brought us to this moment, air it out and learn from it. Let's bring public oversight to law enforcement again, and let's begin to slowly build, perhaps for the first time, a truly united and truly safe Santa Rosa. If we can make *that* what Andy Lopez lived and died for, than maybe we can have real justice – restorative justice, that is – in the end.

May love be known by all. – Rev. Chris

Greetings from the Board President

What is occupying my mind these days is overwhelming appreciation. Appreciation for the extraordinary generosity of members of this congregation who, when asked, give freely of their talents, time, and effort.

Scrolling back to the Congregational Meeting, October 13, there are many folks who contributed to the meeting that I want to acknowledge. Those of us who came early enjoyed a full breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruits, yogurt, juice and coffee, thanks to our Youth Group. We entered the sanctuary to a lovely slide show of the year thanks to Erin Howseman. There were 2 items to distribute to you all, the Directory and the Annual Report, and thanks to Linda Harlow and Sibyl Day, this was done smoothly. We had sound so that we all could hear and be heard, thanks to Daniel Reid and the sound folks. We had sound on the move, thanks to Andy Levine and Eric Fischer who brought the mics to members who wished to speak. We had chairs in the right places thanks to Phil Butterfield. We have a record of the work we did together, thanks to Terry Graham. Thanks to Alan Proulx for taking on the role of parliamentarian, available to rescue us from hopeless confusionalways a possibility. Over the past several years we have used visuals to help tell the story of some of our business at congregational meetings.

Well....we did visuals up proud for this meeting! Erin Howseman and Linda Stabler created slides to accompany our reports that were a delight to see. Many, many thanks, Erin and Linda. All of these players, plus the Board and our officers, plus Chris and Bryan, all together created a lively, productive meeting. And then there were those of you who attended : engaged, attentive, interactive. This democracy we have invites and requires input and participation in decision making from each of us and this congregational meeting was a good example of the successful coming together of all of us in the joyful work of moving our congregation forward. Appreciations all around !

It seems that every week I bump into another example of the generosity of our community. There is so much specialized knowledge within our congregation that you all make available when there is a need, there is person power for projects, there is willingness to problem solve in every aspect of our congregational life....with remarkably little grumpiness. This is truly a healthy organization. It makes being President of the Board of Trustees a work of great satisfaction. Thanks for all you do, each of you.

Jeanie Bates
Board President

Intern Minister

I've written previously about the Napa marshes and how I stop at Skaggs Island on my drive across 37 to UUCSR from Davis. Over the past month the marshes have been changing as they become more obviously alive. The birds which spend their summers in the far north are showing up, either to stay the winter or to refuel on their way further south. This annual migration has me thinking about seasons and cycles and renewal. In my Mid-western experience, winters are a time when nothing much is obviously alive in nature. The resplendent spring is many months away, most of the birds have left, and the trees are bare. Our portion of California is very different. We are the destination of many migratory birds. Winters are generally mild, with life-giving rain after the long summer drought. The hills become green again with new grass. It is the season of renewal for the natural world.

Yet despite the life giving rains, still to arrive in any significant way, our days are becoming shorter. Our bodies sense this and it is harder to get out of bed in the dark, even though we may be slept out. For some of us the short days can bring on depression. The holidays are

coming, with all that those may hold in the way of joy or anxiety. We are entering what can be for many a time of great busyness. How can these coming shortest days of the year be a season of renewal for us?

This is a really good time to practice saying no to over commitment and to things which do not bring you joy. If you have a spiritual practice—writing, reading, meditation, whatever—that has lapsed, this would be an excellent time to renew it; not after the holidays, but before. Seek out that which does bring you joy. If worship brings you joy and renewal, as it does me, make time for worship, if you are not already. Since I sang in the Sage Chapel Choir in college, one of my biggest joys of the holidays is all the wonderful live choral music which is available in this season. I will see at least a few concerts this year, while not over committing, of course. (This is the place, when you are texting, that you insert a happy face.)

I wish for you a season of joyous renewal, as our beautiful Northern California landscape is renewing itself.

Submitted by Bryan Plude

Treasurer's Report

In case you missed the congregational meeting, here's the reader's digest version...

2012-2013 Financial Year In Review – Great Year!

We ended the year with a surplus of \$13,710.

Our pledge revenue was over budget by \$10,000 and expenses were under budget by \$5,000.

Our fundraising revenue was on budget and sales of our worship Associates' beautiful book contributed almost \$1,000 to our net income.

We retired our mortgage with Luther Burbank Savings by issuing Member Notes. Interest savings will be well over \$100,000 over the course of the Member Note Program.

Our Endowment Fund has experienced very good earnings.

2013-2014 First Quarter – So far so good!

Through the first quarter of our year, pledge revenue is strong and over budget and our expenses are under budget. That's a great combination! The Glaser Center is under budget for both revenue and expenses but right on budget at the bottom line. We've made a strong start to our year.

We have some very significant building repairs coming up, including the replacement of the main electrical panel. Because of the foresight of our Board several years ago we have been putting funds away in a Building Systems Replacement Fund that will help us cover some of these expenses.

What's Going On in our Financial Teams? I'm so glad you asked!

Now that we're well into this year, our Budget Task Force and Canvass/Pledge Drive Committee are gearing up to plan for next year. The Budget Task Force consults with all our committees, teams, staff, Rev. Chris and the Board to determine our financial needs for the next year in relation to the priorities determined by the Board. It is truly a feat of juggling mastery. At the same time, our Canvass or Pledge Drive Committee plans the details and executes our annual pledge drive which usually takes place by the end of March. It takes a village to complete a pledge drive so there are plenty of opportunities to help out. Both committees are short term – convened anew each year to do the good work that helps keep us going. Want more information? Please ask me.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Thanksgiving Day Feast with our UU Family!!

Our tradition returns! We invite you to gather to celebrate this most wonderful holiday with your friends and family at our UUCSR home. After a brief respite due to circumstances beyond our control, we look forward to sharing laughter, friendship, and a terrific feast with others in our UUCSR community in our Social Hall on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, beginning at 3:00pm.

This feast is a community event with everyone joining to create a joyous meal of Thanksgiving. It is "potluck" which always brings abundance and deliciousness to our tables. There will be turkey, of course, but we will have vegetarian offerings, too. We will ask for volunteers to share the tasks of setting up, decorating, and cleaning

up...of course. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Social Hall starting in November for dishes you wish to bring. We will have music and games to play after our dinner.

Everyone is invited! Please sign up in the Social Hall as an RSVP so that we can make sure there is plenty for all. We are really pleased that once again we will be sharing this day of gratitude and community together.

Cathie Wiese and Art Rosenblum

(Feel free to call Cathie at 829-3634 with your RSVP and dish you are bringing if you cannot make it to the Social Hall sign up sheet!)



Religious Education for Children and Youth

Mission trips often conjure an image of young people going to far off places to bring the Gospel to people lacking the missionary's religious zeal. This is an accurate view of Mormon and evangelical Christian missions whose main work is proselytizing. But, for many communities of faith, Unitarian Universalists among them, a mission trip is a way to live out spiritual values through service. A mission trip with youth provides a unique opportunity to experience and expand notions of what it means to live in community, guided by our UU Principles. On a deep personal level it is an inner calling to perform a service.

The UUCSR youth group is planning to engage in a mission trip this summer. Together our youth have begun a process of looking at what they would like to do to be of service and who they would like to serve. They are looking at various groups that provide mission/service experiences. Once the group is more clear about the direction they want to take they will hold a meeting with their parents to garner support for their effort.

A youth group mission trip is going to require a lot of support from the congregation. We will need the support of the Board and the Financial Stewardship committee so that the youth group can raise funds to offset the cost of the

trip. We will need adults to accompany the youth on the mission trip. We will need the community to attend our fund-raising events. And, of great importance, the group will need the moral support of the adults in our community as they take on this important adventure. This will be an experience where our youth are taken out of the comfort of their daily lives and immersed in a world very different than their own. In whatever setting they finally choose they will experience cultural differences and see what poverty really looks like. They will work very hard and they will see the results of their toil. The trip has the potential to be the kind of experience that changes their lives forever. What might begin as an act of charity can develop into a lifelong commitment to justice.

The youth group had their first fundraiser, the breakfast before the October Congregational Meeting, and raised \$300.00. Many thanks to all who contributed! It was a good start and we have miles yet to go. You will be hearing more about this adventure in the months to come, so stay tuned.

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.

Middle School and High School students who attend on Sunday morning will begin in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship then gather in the RE Wing in the DRE's office for conversation, exploration and games.

November RE class schedule

11/3/13	Children's Chapel all ages together	Theme: Gratitude
11/10/13	Grades K-2 <u><i>Love Surrounds Us</i></u> Session 5: Love Surrounds Us Without Boundaries	Grades 3-5 <u><i>We Believe:</i></u> Session 4 <i>Teachers and Learners (Principle 4)</i>
11/17/13	Grades K-2 <u><i>Love Surrounds Us</i></u> Session 4: Acceptance	Grades 3-5 <u><i>We Believe:</i></u> Session 5: <i>Deciding (Principle 5)</i>
11/24/13	Inter-Generational Worship	Theme: Thanksgiving

Workshop! Discussion! Learning!

Put these upcoming Adult Religious Education classes on your calendar – register at the Adult RE Table in the Social Hall after services on Sunday or in the Office weekdays.....

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARY OLIVER

Facilitator: Robert Aquinas McNally

Mary Oliver's poetry is about the wild life that surrounds her home on Cape Cod. But her poems also explore life and death, prayer, spirituality, and a God who is incarnate in Nature. "There is," she says, "only one subject worth my attention and that is the recognition of the spiritual side of the world and, within this recognition, the condition of my own spiritual state."

"The author or coauthor of nine books of nonfiction, Robert Aquinas McNally is also a widely published poet. Four of his poems have been nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize, and his most recent collection, *Songs of the Two Names*, won the 2012 Grayson Books Poetry Chapbook Award. McNally has also taught a class on poetry, prophecy, and preaching at Starr King School for the Ministry and taught about Mary Oliver at Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek."

Day/Time: Saturday, January 11, 2014 - 9 am to 4 pm.

There will be a break for lunch at approximately noon. Bring your own bag lunch.

Book Needed: Mary Oliver, *New and Selected Poems. Volume One.* (Vol. Two is optional) Readily available at Copperfield's Books, Santa Rosa (20% discount for UUCSR Readers or online at Amazon.com).

Location: UUCSR Board Room

Fee: \$30

LONG STRANGE TRIP: A JOURNEY THROUGH 2000 YEARS OF UNITATIAN UNIVERSALISM.

Edited by Ron Cordes

This film series examines the early roots of liberal religious thought.

Day: Six Fridays in 2014 – January 10, January 17, January 24, January 31, February 7, February 14

Time: Noon – 1:30 pm Bring your own bag lunch to eat while we watch the film and discuss.

Location: UUCSR Board Room

Fee: \$30

Pajamas and Books for Children in Need

Want to make the holidays a little cozier and homier for the children at the Family Support Center? Of course you do!

New this year: We are doing a "Pajamas and Book" drive. Our dream is for every child at the Center to have a new pair of PJs and a storybook for Christmas.

Here's how you can help: First, just sign up to be a Santa's Helper at the Advocate's table. Next we will contact you with the specifics about "your" child(ren) -

first name, age, size. Then, you get to shop for them!

Finally, you bring in your wrapped gift to UUCSR. Our Santa will deliver the packages at the UU sponsored Holiday Party, held at the Support Center.

(Contacts: Jan Prater, Jeanie Bates, Deb Carter-Hope, and Becky Montgomery: 573-0103)



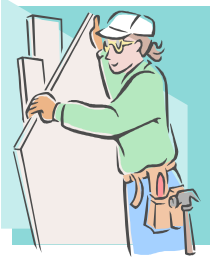
Meet the Minister

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.

November 17 and December 15

Work Party To Haiti



Our UUCSR work party to Haiti will depart November 8th for a week of learning, interaction, and Eco-Village-building. Our group is composed of Rita Butterfield, Aaron Bell-Butterfield, Travis Freeman, Chris Bell, Bryan Hargis, Carol Kraemer, John Chenoweth, Jane Facente, Reen Kennedy-Williams, Derek Spiekerman, Pam Tennant, and Cristin Talley. We travel on UUCSR wings because you all have given so generously to the cause. We especially thank Leslie Norinsky and Rich Nosker for designating our trip as recipients in lieu of gifts at the time of their wedding. That provided a wonderful start of \$2,150 toward funding our efforts. Additionally, a Share-the-Basket donation in the amount of \$630.02 has

supplemented that fund to defray the costs of our trip. Your donations have provided 1 full and 4 partial scholarships, paid \$100 deposits for each of us to secure our American Airline group-rated seats, and paid for hotel rooms for us to arrive in Miami the day before an early flight to Port-au-Prince, rather than flying redeye to begin our week.

All of the participants have been meeting numerous times to learn about the situation that exists in Haiti, the people, their culture, and about some of the aid work that has been ongoing for many years there. We are getting excited about going and will be happy to share our experiences with you upon our return.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Show Our Commitment To Community Organizing For The Public Good

Our UU congregation is now a proud member of the North Bay Organizing Project, NBOP, a regional group committed to creating a unified voice for social justice and public policy reform. NBOP brings together organizations with similar values in order to build a democratic North Bay community, to create a public voice for working people and to influence public policy change. It seeks to inspire ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

We, all UUCSR members, are invited to join with other Sonoma County community institutions and congregations for a public meeting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 3. The meeting will be held at the Sonoma Academy, 2500 Farmers Lane, just east of Kawana Springs Road and Costco. At the meeting, we will publicly and collectively express our shared values.

In addition to welcoming new members, such as UUCSR, and to providing opportunities for opening/deepening relationships, this public meeting will provide space for other objectives:

- Getting commitments from public officials on issues that are close to our hearts,
- Minimizing County deportations and providing support for the passage of just and comprehensive immigration reform (an Immigration Task Force activity),
- Ensuring passage of a new Santa Rosa City Schools restorative discipline policy (an Education Task Force activity) and
- Learning about the formation of a Transit Riders Union to promote better public transpor-

ation services (a Transportation/Neighborhood Development Task Group activity).

Here is more about what will happen at the Public Meeting:

- Rev. Chris will give the opening words and prayer.
- Superintendent Socorro Shiels will speak and receive our gratitude for the passage of the Restorative Discipline pilot program. Deborah Mason will give a synopsis of all the meetings and actions the Education Task Force engaged in to make this happen. This is only the beginning: we must show Superintendent Shiels that the community is behind this movement.
- Sheriff Freitas will be on hand and will be asked to do all in his power to implement the TRUST Act in Sonoma County. He is up for re-election. He formerly voiced strong opposition to the TRUST Act but with pressure from NBOP he changed his tune. We need to be there in-force to let him know the public wants the TRUST Act to be followed.

Rep. Mike Thompson will be there to unveil the House Immigration Bill that he along with Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Xavier Becerra are putting forth. According to our NBOP lead organizer Davin Cardenas, this bill is better than the Senate immigration bill. We need to impress Rep. Thompson with the force of our numbers.

Please join your fellow UUCSR members and attend the NBOP public meeting on November 3. Your presence is essential! And it will be exciting, enlightening, and fun!

UUCAN Team Members

Music Notes

Although we will continue to miss our beloved Music Director and amazing pianist, Nancy Hayashibara, we will still be blessed with wonderful music this month.

Beginning on November 3, we will be privileged to hear beautiful harp music from Patrick Ball and friends throughout the service. On November 10, the choir will sing "Hear My Prayer" at the 11 am service. We will also hear special music for both services sung by our own women's trio, Luna (Claire Beery, Susan Panttaja, and Cathy Read). Pat Russell and I will play piano duets by Erik Satie. Many of our other talented musicians will be providing music for both services on November 17. We will hear first from Robert Howseman who will play guitar for the prelude. The choir will sing a beautiful Spanish song, "Cuando el Pobre" and then lead the congregation in singing the English translation ("When the Poor Ones"). Roger Corman will play the offertory. Then, finally, we will again hear from Robert Howseman and friends, who will play and sing "Sitting Here in Limbo" by Jimmy Cliff for the

postlude. For the last service in November, we look forward to hearing from another group of guest musicians, the Festival of Friends, who have provided music for services in the past year or two. One of our members, Robin Rogers, who sang a solo last month, is a member of that group.

So, as you can see, we will still have a variety of excellent music for our services, even without a professional choir director or pianist. Speaking of which, we are in the process of hiring musicians temporarily for each of these positions. If you know of anyone who might be interested, the position descriptions are now posted on our Website. We have already received a few applications, so we hope to begin interviewing qualified candidates sometime this month. In the meantime, we hope you will continue to enjoy the music we are able to provide for our services.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 14th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The November selection is The

Housekeeper and the Professor by Yoko Ogawa. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for December is When Women Were Birds by Terry Tem-

UUCSR Writers

SEASONS GREETINGS...The UUCSR Writers will not be meeting during the months of November and December.

Remember that November is NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). If anyone cares to join me, please send me an e-mail so we can make arrangements for a meeting place to write our 50,000 word novels in 30 days.

The UUCSR Writers new schedule for our regular monthly meetings in 2014 is January 6, from 1pm to 4pm the first Monday of the month. 1 - 2pm will be Instructional: a half hr lecture and a 1/2 hr group discussion.

Each month we will watch the Great Courses DVD "Building Great Sentences: Exploring the Writer's Craft" with Professor Brooks Landon (Univ. of Iowa) in a series of 24 half hour lectures about writing followed by a 1/2 hr group discussion.

2 - 4 pm will be the Writers regular monthly meeting: of presentations of works in progress by our writers. Novelists, Poets, Memoirs, whatever your chosen work, come and share with us your written words.

If you are not able to attend the Instructional session from 1-2pm, do come for the regular meeting from 2-4pm.

Our meetings will continue to be on the first Monday of the month (except Sept-the second Monday) from 1 to 4 pm at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-568-5381. We will meet 10 months a year, Jan - Oct, no meetings in November and December.

We will also continue our "UUCSR Writers Presents" Special Events Series. TBA

Best thoughts to Everyone

Take Care,

Georgette G. deBlois, ggdeb@sonic.net

November Hot Topic

Join us in the Board Room on **Sunday, November 10th** from 12:30 to 2 pm to learn about Verity, an agency that has worked to end all forms of violence, particularly sexual abuse, in Sonoma County for nearly 40 years. They offer Counseling, Prevention, and Intervention. Underlying all their services are compassion,

safety, support. You can watch a short video about Verity at www.ourverity.org. Learn the facts about this tragic problem and how each of us can help to stop it! A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering:

For the last many years, we have given half of one of the November collection to the YWCA's Safe house to help create warm and festive holidays for the women and children who, for their own safety, cannot enjoy this special time at home. So when the bag comes to you on Sunday, November 10th, please remember those who will not have a Hallmark or Norman Rock-

well holiday. Thank you. And on Sunday, November 24th, we will share the collection with our Saturday Breakfast Program. We have so much to be thankful for this time of year but let's not forget those who are struggling! The days are darker and colder and our welcoming atmosphere and delicious food make a real difference to over 100 neighbors each week!

Women Together

When you were a little girl, what did you think your life would be like? What would that little girl think of you now? All UU women and their friends are invited to our annual 1-day Retreat at Friends House, 684 Benicia Drive, Santa Rosa close to the Montecito Shopping Center, from 10 am to 3 pm on **Saturday, November 9th**.

Our theme is "That was then ...This is Now". It's a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones! New(er) members and friends are particularly encouraged to come! There is no cost to this fun day but please bring a lunch dish to share. For more information, contact Linda Harlow, 526-3528, or Kathy Norman, 523-2787.

Breath—Mobility—Balance

Tired of your sore back? Wish you didn't get winded so quickly? Worried about falling and breaking a hip? Our own Monica Anderson, creator and guru of Tone Pilates, Yoga and Dance Studio, will lead us in some easy and fun exercises to improve your fitness.

On Sunday, November 17th from 9:30 to 10:45 am, join her in the Board Room. No special clothes necessary.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2013
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions
Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly
10 a.m.— November 27, 2013

Endowment Fund News

As Treasurer Linda Balabanian pointed out in the October newsletter, gifts can be given to the UUCSR Endowment Fund through either a will or trust, but that shouldn't prohibit your making a donation to the Fund while you're still alive! There's an opportunity available until the end of this calendar year to move up to \$100,000 from your IRA *directly* to the UUCSR without having to pay income taxes on the money. Congress could extend the law ("The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012"), but given the current dysfunction in Congress it might very well expire on

December 31, 2013, as stated in the law. You must be age 70 ½ or older by the date of the distribution, and the funds must be transferred directly (that is, you can't first withdraw the money from the IRA and then make your donation to the UUCSR). The details of the plan must be followed exactly, so consult your financial advisor for advice about this as an option for you, and contact me for other details on the transfer to UUCSR.

Phil Harriman, Chair Endowment Committee
Endowmentcommittee@uucsr.org

Soul of the Season

Music affects me deeply.

Whenever I am writing a short-story or a play, I always end up discovering a particular album, artist, or type of music that underscores the emotions and tone of feeling I am going for in the project I am working on. When writing 'Wretch Like Me,' I listened to a lot Bruce Springsteen, taking a cue from the imbedded sense of pent-up frustration and desperation in his music. During the months I wrote 'Pinky,' a love story, I listened to a lot of bubblegum pop love songs from the 60s and 70s.

When writing short stories, I often choose a particular album that fits the mood. For example, when writing 'Last Call at the Long Night Club,' a story that took place around the time of the Winter Solstice, I somehow found myself listening over and over to Sarah McLaughlin's lovely album 'Afterglow.' It is not an album about the Solstice, but it's bittersweet sense of longing and mournfully upbeat focus on new life growing out of loss did move me, and so I listened to it hundreds of times over the three weeks I spent writing that story.

Some of you might remember it from an early Twisted Christmas show, or the year I read it as part of a winter service. I was amazed and thrilled when, after reading the story, a friend remarked, "Have you ever heard Sarah McLaughlin's 'Afterglow,' because when I was reading this, for some reason I kept thinking of songs from that album."

The same thing, of course, happens in life. There are times, events, and whole seasons when we just want to hear a certain song or style of music.

Much of the time, when people talk about "seasonal music" at this time of year, they mean songs about the holidays, from spooky stuff like 'Monster Mash' and 'Thriller,' on into the Christmas Season with 'Jingle Bells' and 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland.'

But for me, when Autumn begins here in the Western half of the Northern Hemisphere and we all move inexorably toward winter, the music I most want to hear is the music

of the British Isles, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales. I can't even tell you why. Maybe it's because many of our winter traditions spring from that part of the world, and those long-ago celebrations of the coming of the Winter Solstice, that time when the days have grown short and the longest night is upon us.

As the seasons change, there is just something about Celtic music that seems to summon the right mood, and this year the Arts & Culture Ministry of the UUCSR has cooked up a couple of first-rate evenings of Celtic music to help us all get in the mood for the coming winter days.

On Friday, November 1, 7:30 pm, it's Legends of the Celtic Harp, featuring three of the world's premiere Celtic harpers playing separately and together. Please join Patrick Ball, Aryeh Frankfurter, and Lisa Lynne for an unforgettable concert experience.

Then, on Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm, let us gather in the Sanctuary for an evening of music specifically designed to summon the soul of the Solstice experience. From the East Coast, we welcome Ensemble Galilei, an astonishing musical group playing original music in the style of the British Isles, using Early music instruments. The show, titled The Winter Solstice Concert, will blend music with written word narration, performed by NPR's Neal Conan, the host of Talk of the Nation. Through the music of Ensemble Galieie and the voice of Neal Conan, we will all be transported together into a magical realm of words and melody. This will be an evening to share with friends and family.

As always, tickets for these events are available in the office, after services in the Social Hall, on brownpapertickets.com, and at the Last Record Store in Santa Rosa. Tickets for both events are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door.

I hope to see many of you at these very special musical events.

Happy Autumn to you all.

David Templeton, Glaser Center Manager

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

19 September 2013

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: Rev Chris

Meeting Called to Order: 6:36p.m.

Members Present: Jeanie Bates (President), Lois Bell, John Farison, Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Marge Wright

Members Not Present: Susan Bartholome, Joe Como, Laura Jean Hageman (Vice President), Cathie Wiese

Non-members Present: Rev Chris, Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Sibyl Day (Corporate Secretary), Jan Prater (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Review: Sibyl Day agreed to be Timekeeper for the meeting

Minutes Review: Minutes from August approved. Goodbye and thank you to Recording Secretary Jan Prater [and thanks from me too] -Terry Graham will start next month. Also, Peter Wilson has resigned from the Board however we will just continue with the remaining 10 members.

One-on-one: Rev Chris

Open Mic: (Rev Chris) We are going to have another Revival coming up May 18, 2014. Petaluma, Marin, Napa and Lake County are "in." The site will be in Penngrove, in down-home-country style. This will also be a District-wide Youth event. And yes, there will be a tent! Jeanie attended the first meeting and is hoping another Board member will join her for the next one.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: (Linda Balabanian) We're generally doing well. Board members reviewed the Summary Treasury Report including: Pledge revenue up, Sunday Baskets down a little, larger than expected Utilities bill - which will be checked into, cash remains strong. The Endowment Fund is at \$147,000 - better than it's been in a long time - so we are looking at best ways to spend this to bring to light how meaningful these funds can be - and encourage more donations.

Facilities Report: (John Farison) Reported on Operations Team Discussion including one major issue: Electrical Panel Obsolescence (currently safe, but does not meet code). We have a bid from Linardi Electrical (who did the original design for the building) for about \$35,000. This quote is based on a Design Proposal, paid for already, done by an objective party. The project would take 3 days and could possibly happen in January. Marge Wright moved, Jeanie (2nd) to proceed by getting a second bid, and also a cost breakdown of the first bid - and the motion passed.

Also, looking to create a UUCSR Facilities Planning Team. John has a concern about using all volunteer labor re: safety and liability issues. He suggests Sat Work Parties should include safety discussions and determination of appropriate risks.

There is a 7th Principle group here pressing for replacement of

all the lightbulbs to more energy efficient ones. This could cost \$10,000 however PG&E has a deal to pro-rate called "On Bill Financing" which could be good - still working on this...

NEW BUSINESS

CUUPS: Rev Chris offered to be the sponsor in the request for registering a CUUPS chapter here (there is a formal application process.) Mel Jones says attendance so far has been from 4- 19 people. He described that this group is connected by the Sonoma County Pagan network. Their goal is to provide education, worship opportunities and to celebrate the holidays of the Sabbot calendar. Alan moved that we support a creation of a CUUPS chapter and authorize payment of a \$35 registration fee. Marge (2nd) - motion approved.

Final Budget: Linda Stabler reported that expenses have gone up 7.4% (5.6% actuals) due to modest raises for staff, etc. Alan made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Final Budget, Marge (2nd), motion passed.

Preparations for Congregational Meeting: (Jeanie)The Youth Group will provide the breakfast before the meeting. The Goal Groups will present. Linda Stabler will gather any info for the Power Point - needed by Oct 6. Appreciations will go to: Lucia Milburn, Pam Tennant, Erin Houseman, Pat Warner, and Bud Willis. Cathie Wiese will do this. Jeanie will send agenda for Congregation Meeting out to Board.

Islamic Society Lease: (Jeanie) David met with tenant re: lease and next it goes to their board.

Music Director Status: (Rev Chris) An initial meeting about the Music Director opening was held and it was decided that in order not to feel rushed and because of Chris's upcoming sabbatical, only an Acting Directory is needed for now. The position could be either a 12hr combination Accompanist/Choir Director or two separate 8hr positions. The hiring committee will meet soon to pursue this. It was suggested that Nancy be a consultant in the hiring process. It is recognized that music is Very important to many congregants. Oct 27 will be Nancy's last time here and we will celebrate after that Service. David and others in our music committee can send a budget estimate for the festivities to Linda Balabanian.

Lois Bell suggested the Board might have a table Sunday mornings - staffed by Board members - to connect with people.

There will be a Committee Fair on April 27.

Appreciations and Reflections: Thanks to Linda Stabler for a wonderful dinner! Sexton Phil Butterfield was suspended for 3 days.

Closing Words: Marge Wright

Adjourned: 8:46 p.m.
submitted by Jan Prater



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5241

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November 2013

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Board of Trustees

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Lois Bell

Joe Como

John Farison

Alan Proulx

Linda Stabler

Cathie Wiese

Marge Wright

Recording Secretary

Jan Prater

Order of Service Announcements:

Send submissions to Announcements@uusantarosa.org

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

Sexton: Phil Butterfield

Sunday Religious

Education Staff

Shawna Hoxsie

Fiona Mackenzie

UU FAITH AND FITNESS

Our first outing is scheduled for Saturday, Nov.16, 2013
at Foothill Regional Park in Windsor

We will meet at 10:45 at trail head
or carpool to be arranged.

Easy to moderate hike with some short steeper areas
easy footing.

All are welcome,

RSVPs encouraged so we don't leave without you.

We'll be silent part of the way, eat our lunches together
and be back to our cars by 2:00 pm.

Send replies and questions to Gretchen Paradis, gretchen@sonic.net
or call 707-889-3007, or Richard Fung and Patty Somlo.

Not able to come on this hike but want to be part of future planning?
Let us know.

FALL & WINTER HAPPENINGS

An unforgettable concert

Legends of the Celtic Harp

Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter

Three of the premier Celtic harpers in the world take you into the myths, magic and fabled history of a captivating musical instrument

Friday, November 1
7:30 p.m.



An annual event

TELLABRATION!

Join this worldwide evening of storytelling

Diane Ferlatte, Cal Johnson, Kenneth Foster, Liz Nichols

Outrageous and entertaining stories for kids, teens and adults, to dazzle, surprise and delight

Saturday, November 16,
7:00 p.m.

Free Admission



4th Annual

Global Marketplace Art Sale

Benefit for educational work in Cambodia

Organized by Deborah Huth, this spectacular yearly sale of beautiful art from Southeast Asia raises vital funds supporting important educational and infrastructure efforts in impoverished Cambodian areas.

Saturday, November 23
Noon to 5 p.m.



UUCSR presents presents

A Massive Attack of Holiday Comedy

Outrageous local comedy troupes join forces to tease, spoof and go crazy with some of the season's most sacred and beloved traditions

Saturday, November 23
7:30 p.m.

Holiday Concert

Sonoma County Children's Chorus

Under the direction of Carol Menke

Sunday
December 1
4:00 p.m.



UUCSR Presents

Ensemble Galilei

Winter Solstice Concert with NPR's Neal Conan

A stellar troupe of musicians performing Celtic and modern music to celebrate the return of the sun, with lyrical spoken word narration

Friday, December 6
7:30 p.m.