



# UUU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• January 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 1 •

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

**Theme: Letting Go**

**JANUARY 5TH**  
**ANNUAL MILESTONES SERVICE**

Service Leaders: Susan Panttaja,  
the Worship Associates and Bryan Plude

Ring out the old! Ring in the new! Today we mark another swing around the sun together by reflecting on the lessons, insights, joys, and sorrows of the past year. What will you let go? What insights will you carry with you into the new year? Come share your milestones and hopes for the future.

**JANUARY 19TH**  
**LETTING GO**

Service Leaders: Bryan Plude, Intern Minister and  
Susan Bartholome, Worship Associate

Life is a process of letting go. That's one way of looking at it. But life is also about new beginnings. We often, if not always, have to let go of something to make space for beginning something new. My own process of becoming a minister has been one of letting go; of income, of security, of who I have been for much of my life. The flip side is that by letting go of these things and more, I have made room for joy in ways I couldn't have imagined just a few years ago. Let us look at what it means to let go and how that can open us to new beginnings.

**JANUARY 12TH**  
**LETTING GO: INTO THE GREAT SOMEWHERE**

Service Leaders: Rev. Kathy Huff, Sabbatical Minister;  
Bryan Plude, Intern Minister and Linda Proulx,  
Worship Associate

Being new to a people, place or circumstance in life gives us the opportunity to let go of what came before. The spiritual work of living our lives in new and unexpected ways can lead to transformations we never imagined.

**JANUARY 26TH**  
**LETTING GO: STRINGS TOO SHORT TO SAVE**

Service Leaders: Rev. Kathy Huff, Sabbatical Minister;  
Bryan Plude, Intern Minister  
and David Hope, Worship Associate

Letting go of old patterns and belief formulas that don't serve us, or the world we live in, is an inward job. Letting go as a spiritual discipline invites us to challenge and change the way we work on the past and live in the present.



## Monkey Bars?



'If we walk far enough," says Dorothy, "we shall sometime come to some-place."

--L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

When my children were toddlers I marveled at their playful abandon. The way they could take off running for the simple joy of it, or laugh at the silliest things until they couldn't seem to stop. And like all children, they loved to explore new things and places that caught their attention. This freedom to follow their hearts content was in stark contrast to the times they put their little arms around my neck or held onto my legs having suddenly gained some super human strength and refusing to let go. Saying goodbye, even if it was for an hour, did not come easy. It often involved tears, promises, and clever distractions just to get out the door. Those brief but intense emotional moments would stay with me for hours afterwards.

I'd like to think we have all matured since those toddler days but I've learned that no matter how old we are letting go is probably the hardest thing we do in life. It's not easy to say goodbye to someone or something we love. It's why we hold on so tight. We love deeply and may even be afraid if we let go the love might go out the door too. We want to hang on to the familiar. Letting go can mean facing a fear, or an attitude, or an idea that has been with us for a long time. Our consumer driven culture conditions us every day to work and strive to possess more of everything -- money, power, status. Then there's all that stuff. Most of us have more things than we really need or can use. No wonder it's so difficult to let go, when we are being constantly bombarded with the message that more is always better.

When it comes to relationships letting go almost always means being willing to risk pain and loss and trusting that love remains. Or if it doesn't, we will find a way to move on. Of course then there is death, the ultimate letting go. And it's especially hard when we don't get a chance to say goodbye.

In January, with all the changes the New Year may bring and ask of us, we explore "Letting Go" as our worship and learning theme. Let us ask one another what do we really need to let go of that we might live a more content and fulfilled life as individuals, families and in community? Who are our teachers in this? How might we best support each other, and our church, in letting go and letting be?

When I asked my youngest daughter what she thought of when I said "letting go." She immediately replied "monkey bars!" At first, not getting it, I asked her to explain. "Because you have to let go to move forward." Ah yes of course! My little Zen master got it right. The swinging out, feeling as if you might fall, then grabbing hold of that next solid rung, letting go, holding on, repeat. Doing it over and over until the safety of the ladder, or a friend, to help you down and out in the middle or at the end. Feeling vulnerable, a little scared, and yet triumphant and strong when the deed is done. Perhaps we all need those monkey bars in the days ahead. We can hold each other up along the way when we need to and then celebrate the success of our journey at the end. What a way to go. I look forward to seeing you on the playground!

With Love,  
Rev K

## The Outreach Team Continues!

The Outreach Team will continue it's work especially with new members, but seasoned members as well.

We want everyone to feel included at UUCSR. We will call our seasoned members, with whom we will check in and see how their connections are working.

If you are already very involved @ UUCSR, please do not think we want you to ADD to your work, we will simply listen.

We particularly want to know if any member has special skills or equipment that we might call on/use occasionally.

We took a break in December because holiday calls can be overwhelming. Do feel free to contact any team member if you need information: Gretchen Vap & Phyllis Clement, co-chairs, and Shirley White, Natalie Brundred, Kitty Wells, Patty Somlo, Richard Fung and Susan Williamson.

## Greetings from the Board President

\*\*\*HAPPY NEW YEAR\*\*\*

We had quite a holiday season this year at UUCSR. Let's start with our Thanksgiving potluck hosted by Cathie Wiese and Art Rosenblum. Thanks, Art and Cathie. Sixty folks enjoyed the good food and fine company. This is a lovely tradition and speaks to the bonds of community that we form here.

The generosity of our congregation was in full display with the jammies and a book project for the children at the Family Support Center. Over 70 of you participated by buying pajamas and a book for individual children in shelter. The party, on December 13, was wonderful. Roger Corman made great music, Santa (Bill Montgomery) showed up and a spirited time was had by all. Thanks to Jan Prater who made all this happen and to all who helped in so many ways.

Your loving concern for our less fortunate neighbors was shown by the generous response to a request for warm coats and blankets. Thanks to Gretchen Vap and Chris for this successful project.

Then there were our rich celebrations of the winter holidays with our Solstice and Christmas Eve services....beautiful, stirring. The addition of lovely banners, thanks to Pam Tenant, Susan Bartholome and Frances Corman, brought an extra warmth to the Sanctuary. Thank you to all who make worship so deeply meaningful for all of us.

These are just the highlights, of course, but it does seem that we have been living our mission fully and joyfully. This is good.

The good news just keeps on coming. I want to share a list of some of the facilities projects that the joint efforts of the facilities folks, the board and the treasurer have pushed forward. These are all in progress, at one stage or another.

1. a lighting retrofit that saves money and energy
2. a noise reduction project in the social hall
3. installation of blinds for the RE common room, enhancing its usability

Other necessary work is being done as well, including fixing the main breaker. Stewardship of our building is a high priority and it is gratifying to be able to move forward on some of these improvements as well as manage the routine repairs and upgrades as needed.

Finally, this is the first month of Chris' sabbatical. We sent him off with love and good wishes, reassuring him and ourselves that we would be fine in his absence. We have welcomed Kathy Huff as Sabbatical Minister and we look forward to this new relationship. It seems that we have all of our ducks in a row for this sabbatical period. We expect to continue to thrive and to encourage new initiatives and we are confident that we will be able to meet any challenges that arise.

Here's to the New Year and the promise it holds for all of us here at UUCSR.

Jeanie Bates....Board President

## Treasurer's Report

Happy and Joyous New Year!

I've always loved the feeling of newness I get on January 1. In my head I know it's just a day like any other day but there's something about a new beginning that makes me feel optimistic and grateful. It seems like anything might be possible.

I feel that way about us at UUCSR too. Look at where we are today, a large and growing, vibrant and caring community with many helping hands. We give mightily of our time, talents and treasures and we have accomplished quite a bit from a financial perspective this year – significant building repairs and upgrades completed or in process, substantial giving to those in need in our community and strides forward in becoming a teaching congregation. We are able to consider new programs and facility upgrades that only a few years ago were out of reach and all because of the generosity of our members and friends.

So I'm excited as we embark on 2014 to see what we can accomplish this year. Our remarkable community, after 60 years, has only just begun. It still seems like anything might be possible.

Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it!" Goethe

Financial Update

Through November we are doing quite well relative to our budget in almost all areas. Pledge revenue is well ahead of budget and expenses are down. Very good news! I'll provide a detailed financial report in next month's newsletter once we have the December information.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

## May it be So

Rev. Chris and I first met at General Assembly in June of 2012 to discuss an internship with UUCSR. We discussed a full-time internship for this year, but dismissed the idea because of his forthcoming sabbatical. Four months of tutelage would not have been enough for me to take on the added responsibilities while he was gone. We parted with a handshake. Later that day Chris texted me: "What about a 1/2-time internship for two years?" "Let's talk," I replied.

And here we are. Chris is now on sabbatical. Rev. Kathy Huff is our sabbatical minister. And I am still your intern minister, but in a different way. Though still a student, I'll be taking on some extra responsibility with Chris away. I will be preaching every month. I'll be taking a more active role with the Board, Worship Associates and some of the committees, particularly with Canvass, Caring Connections, TIE and Homeless Neighbors. I will be making additional pastoral visits in Chris's absence.

I feel eager and ready to take on this added responsibility. I feel very well trained by Rev. Chris and by you. And in Rev. Kathy we have a very capable and experienced minister from whom I will continue to learn.

I feel very blessed for my wonderful experience here at UUCSR thus far, and blessed for the opportunity to be with you in a different way in the coming 6 months. I believe that Rev. Chris's sabbatical will be a time of growth and fun for all of us. May it be so.

Bryan Plude  
Intern Minister



### Theme Reflection Questions, Practices and Resources for "Letting Go"

**Our worship and learning theme for January is 'Letting Go'**

**Here are a few reflection questions and practices to guide us.**

**Questions:** What do you need to let go of? What's holding you back? What would it take for you to let go? Who do you know who exemplifies peace and contentment? What can you learn from them? What is your prayer for your life?

**Practices:** Reflect on your life and notice the areas where you are attached or have unfinished business. Imagine that you have one year to live. How do you want to live out the final chapter of your life? Spend at last twenty minutes a day for forty days in sitting meditation. Practice releasing yourself from the three attachments: 1) material gain; 2) self importance 3) the urge to control others. Create a "Book of Epiphanies" that journals your significant moments, prayers, peak experiences to remind you of what is important. Create a collage of images or draw a picture that illustrate the life you would like to have for yourself and the world you would like to live in. Post it. Let it be your mandala.

**Movies:** *An Unfinished Life* (PG13); *Because of Winn-Dixie* (PG); *Toy Story 3* (G); *The Family Man* (PG13); *127 Hours* (R).

**Books for Adults (A) Youth (Y) and Children (C):** *The Four Things That Matter Most: A Book About Living* By Ira Byock (A) ; *The Little Book of Letting Go* By Hugh Prather (A); *The Art of Letting Go: A Pathway to Inner Freedom* By Vidya Frazier (A); *The Secret of Letting Go* By Guy Finley (A) *Dirty Little Secrets* by CJ Omololu (Y,A); *The Knife of Never Letting Go: Chaos Walking* by Patrick Ness (Y); *Flash Burnout* by LK Madigan (Y) *Trigger* by Susan Vaught, *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* by Jack Canfield (Y); *Life, the Truth, and Being Free* by Steve Maraboli (A); *Jessica Strange* by Malorie Blackman (C); *Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon.

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

Happy New Year!!! Another year come and gone. Another year ahead, full of promise.

Our worship theme this month is "Letting go". Perfect for a new year and perfect for the process of parenting. For, isn't raising children all about holding on and letting go and knowing when the time is right for one or the other? Even with my two in their late twenties I am constantly learning to let go of my perspectives on what is best in order to honor their process for growth and change.

Small children need our help and guidance for so much and yet they do take their first steps all on their own. And from that moment on we let go, inch by inch, moment to moment. Letting go takes enormous faith. Natural fears about the potential treachery of the big wide world abound, but in order to let our children develop mastery in life we must give them the gift of freedom. Freedom to succeed and to fail. I will never forget the moment my Jake crossed the street in our neighborhood for the first time. I was literally terrified. I hid behind the gate in the side yard and peered over it

making sure that he looked both ways and got across in one piece. Moments like this seem silly on one hand and profound on the other. My faith was tested in that small moment. Was the world safe enough to take care of my boy? Had I taught him well enough to keep him safe? In the end I chose faith. I sent him off into the world and by doing so told him, very clearly, that he could have faith in the world and faith in himself. Since that moment life has presented a series of letting go experiences. Not all of them have had good outcomes, but my children have learned from their mistakes and they keep on moving forward. They continue to take chances and feel that the goodness of the world supports them....at least most of the time.

So, here is my wish for you this month and in this new year: May you have faith in the goodness that surrounds you and find the balance between holding on and letting go. May your family flourish with trust, love and support.

In faith,  
Deborah

## Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

### Here's What's Happening In RE Classes this Month:

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, and Rev Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah ([debmasonuu@gmail.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday all ages gather for Justice or Arts Sunday. The middle Sundays children will be grouped by grade. Here is the schedule:

January RE class schedule

01/5/14	<b>Children's Chapel</b> all ages together	<b>Theme: Letting Go</b>
01/12/14	<b>Grades K-2</b> <i>Love Surrounds Us</i> Session 9 <i>Love Surrounds Us in Our Search</i>	<b>Grades 3-5</b> <i>We Believe:</i> Session 10: <i>Used-to-Thinks (Principle 3)</i>
01/19/14	<b>Grades K-2</b> <i>Love Surrounds Us</i> Session 10 <i>Our Words Matter</i>	<b>Grades 3-5</b> <i>We Believe:</i> Session 11: Asking Questions (Principle 5)
01/26/14	<b>Grades K-2</b> <i>Love Surrounds Us</i> Session 11 <i>Hear Our Voices</i>	<b>Grades 3-5</b> <i>We Believe:</i> Session 12 A vote for Everyone (Principle 6)

## Circle Dinners – Reforming in January!

Sign-Ups Sundays December 22, December 29 and January 4 and 11 in Social Hall near the Welcome Table. Look for table with Kitty Wells and Lynn Riepenhoff to join in the fun!!! OR....please send an email letting them know you would like to join in this most enjoyable activity.

Already on the Circle Dinner List, but need to drop off for a bit? PLEASE drop a line to Lynn or Kitty letting them know. 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 [953-0620](tel:953-0620)/[bewells@sonic.net](mailto:bewells@sonic.net) or Lynn Riepenhoff [525-8424](tel:525-8424)/[lynnsplc@sonic.net](mailto:lynnsplc@sonic.net)

They will need your name, phone number and email info. Don't miss out!

## Something Good Happens at Saturday Breakfast!

I was pulling some plastic utensils from the garbage at last Saturday's homeless breakfast when an Inuit native from Alaska came out of the men's room and quietly asked "Do you work here?". I said humorously, "No, this isn't work, it's fun helping people help themselves !" He smiled a stained toothy grin & said: "I found this in the men's stall and I wanted to be sure it gets back to the owner", while handing me a black wallet. Upon opening it I saw there was no money, but plenty of credit cards and identification with the name of Joe Butler.

Spontaneously I began calling out over the din of conversation common at Saturday Breakfasts: "A call for Joseph Butler ! A call for Joseph Butler", to the tune of the old 1950's black & white tv ad "A call for Phillip Morris !".

Up came a smiling older gentleman who matched the photo ID. I asked him if he was missing anything from his pockets. Joe immediately reached inside his pocket and discovered it was missing. I said while handing over his wallet, "Well you can thank this fine Alaskan Inuit gentleman for his honesty as he found it inside the bathroom stall". Joe immediately smiled, shook his hand and thanked him profusely, giving him a little reward for his integrity. They talked awhile and became instant friends. Joe thanked me again later as he was vacuuming up the social hall and putting the tables away after breakfast. My heart was warm and fuzzy knowing something good happens at Saturday Breakfast !

## Meet the Ministers

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 Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Kathy Huff and our Intern Minister, Bryan Plude 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.

**JANUARY 19**

**FEBRUARY 16**

## Community Experts—Working with the Shelterless

**Mark your calendar for January 29, 2014, 3-6 PM at the Glaser Center (our sanctuary).**

We will have experts from Sonoma County Mental Health and others to discuss being and working with our neighbors who live on the streets. We have many different concerns about our neighbors and this is the place to get help and advice.

Feel free to submit questions in advance to Gretchen

Vap (gvap@att.net) or just bring them. These experts really want to focus on what we want from them.

Meeting them in advance has been a real treat, as they bring knowledge, skills, humor and sensitivity to the very issues we have. Everyone is invited and urged to come (we've even invited our neighbors from Church of the Incarnation, since they do Sunday breakfast and host the Living Room).

### For Adults ONLY!

Put these upcoming Adult Religious Education classes on your calendar – register at the Adult RE Table in the Social Hall between 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 wildlife 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. 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 Recommended: Mary Oliver, *New and Selected Poems*. Volume One. Available at Copperfield's Books, Santa Rosa (20% discount for UUCSR Readers or online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)).

Location: UUCSR Board Room

Fee: \$30 (Scholarships Available)

#### ***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.

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 (Scholarships available)

#### ***THE RIGHTEOUS MIND***

***a book discussion by Jonathan Haidt***

This series will be a discussion about the origins of political divisions and ways to move to mutual understanding.

6 Thursdays in 2012: February 13, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24

Time: 6:30 - 8pm

Cost: No cost. Participants must obtain their own copy of the book, *A Righteous Mind*

Facilitators: Linda Harlow and Sarita Hazen

Registration: None necessary

### TIE Groups (Together in Exploration)

T.I.E. Groups (Together In Exploration) has spaces for folks to join now. The groups meet twice a month through May to discuss a topic concerning spirituality, values, and life.

T.I.E. is now in its seventh year here at UUCSR. If you'd like to join a group or find out more about them, contact Michele Murphy at 479-3661.

## Pagan Circles at UUCSR

We are in the process of creating pagan circles under the UUCSR umbrella in which to explore Earth based magic with fellow seekers. UUCSR membership is not required. Time and location is limited by the availability of leaders and meeting space.

There will be a full moon circle on Wednesday Jan 15th. This will be a learning circle and all who wish to explore their inner magic are welcome. Our goal is to foster a deep spiritual connection to the Earth and all Her inhabitants.

Attendees will be expected to participate in chants, meditation and generally demonstrate a respect for the process. Everyone is expected to arrive BEFORE 7:00 pm. Once the circle is cast, the door will be locked and late arrivals will be asked to leave. Please bring a small drum or rattle. If you have extras to share, please do.

Please contact AnnaLisa at 836-0758 or email her at [SCCUUPs@uusantarosa.org](mailto:SCCUUPs@uusantarosa.org)



## UUCSR Writers—A Stimulating Environment

Writers, Screenwriters, Poets, Film enthusiasts...Focus: provide atmosphere where serious writers improve and hone their writing skills.

Meetings: open to the novice, the more experienced, and the published author.

UUCSR Membership not required.

Meet 1-4 pm, first Monday of the month.

1-2 pm Instructional (Courses on DVD), 2-4 pm Regular monthly meeting.

Film enthusiasts: "UUCSR Writers Presents" special events. Details TBA.

Visit: <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Subscribe: <http://lists.sonic.net/mailman/listinfo/uucsrwriters>

Info: Georgette G. deBlois - [ggdeb@sonic.net](mailto:ggdeb@sonic.net) or call Glaser Center at 707-568-5381.

Thursday Morning Coffee, 11 am - 12:30 noon at Warm Puppy Cafe, Charles Schulz Ice Arena on West Steel Lane and Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. Buy the beverage/food of your choice. We meet once a week for lighthearted conversation about who's doing what in our literary community. Table is not reserved.

Look for us. Parking is free.

Join our UUCSR Writers e-mail Community. Send an e-mail to: [ggdeb@sonic.net](mailto:ggdeb@sonic.net) and write, "add me to your Writers e-mail list" in the Subject line.

Please give us your "Reactions" to this blog (See below). Thank You.

Information: UUCSR Writers • Glaser Center • 707-568-5381

Unitarian Universalist Congregation • 547 Mendocino Ave • Santa Rosa

<http://www.uusantarosa.org> •

<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

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## January Hot Topic

Is our government spying on you?  
 What are they doing with the information they're getting?  
 Is it Constitutional?  
 How can we protect ourselves?

On **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**, Marty McReynolds, chair of the ACLU of Sonoma County, will explain what's going on, answer these questions and any others you may have. Please join us from 12:30 to 2:00pm in the Board Room. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Offering

On Sunday, **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, one half the collection will go to the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration** on January 19<sup>th</sup>. UUCSR has been a vital sponsor of this community event so let's continue to stand with those who support his call for social and economic justice through strong, non-violent action!

On Sunday, **January 26<sup>th</sup>**, half the collection will go to sustain our **Saturday Breakfast** program. On these cold winter mornings, many dozens of people rely on our nourishing food and warm welcome.

## Women Together Movie Night

On Friday, **January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm, all women are invited to watch the delightful movie "**Calendar Girls**" in the Board Room.

Women Together will provide wine and coffee, please bring a yummy dessert to share.

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, January 9th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.  
 The January selection is *The Aviator's Wife* by

Melanie Benjamin.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In February we are reading *The Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro. If you have questions, please contact Linda Lampson.

## Breath—Mobility—Balance

Monica Anderson invites all who want to improve their fitness to come to this easy and fun class in the Board

Room on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 to 10:50. No special clothes necessary.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014**  
**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail Submissions**  
**Greatly Appreciated!**  
**Newsletter Assembly**  
**10 a.m.— January 29, 2014**

## Important-UUCSR/Glaser Center Building Closure!!

Due to electrical repairs, the building will need to be closed for a week in mid-January,

Once we have the equipment in hand that we need to install, we will set the earliest possible date, allowing for suitable advance warning to all who might be affected.

The electrical repairs will leave us with no lights, no heat, and pretty much nothing else. The plan is to have everything restored in 4-5 days, but there is an outside chance that it may take longer.

For safety reasons, no group will be permitted to hold meetings during this time. Our hope is that some groups will be able to relocate to members' homes, or make other arrangements.

The office will be letting groups and facility users know exact dates once dates and details are confirmed.

If you have any questions, please call either Janis or myself at 568-5381.

Thank you in advance for your patience.

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 21 November 2013

**Members Present** -- Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (President), Reverend Chris Bell (Minister, ex officio member), Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (Vice President), Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Cathie Wiese, Marge Wright

**Members Not Present** -- None

**Non-Members Present** -- Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), John Jaffrey (Operations), Bryan Plude (Intern Minister)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:31 p.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Jeanie Bates

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting** – Reading by Reverend Chris Bell: *The Great Bazaar* by Carl J Nelson, UU Minister

**Agenda Review** – No additional items added to the agenda

**Timekeeper Volunteer** – Reverend Chris

**Minutes of 17 October 2013 Review** -- Draft minutes corrected in situ -- Minutes accepted as corrected

**Open Microphone** – No speakers

**Treasurer's Report** – Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report handout highlights for the first fiscal 4-months, July-October, included (1) Pledge Revenue is 11% & \$13.6K over budget, (2) Sunday Basket is 18% & \$1.7K under budget, (3) the Service Auction grossed \$19.6K, (4) Total Expenses are 6% & \$11K under budget and (5) Net Income is \$8.5K. FY2013/14 has begun with a very positive start.

**Additional Intern Travel Expense Reimbursement** – The Financial Stewardship (FinStew) Team recommended that *an additional \$100/month for the remainder of the FY be allocated toward intern Bryan Plude's travel expense*; bringing the total to \$1,000. *Alan Proulx motioned and Marge Wright seconded that the BOT accept FinStew's recommendation.* Both the Intern and Human Resource Committees are in agree-

ment. This adjustment more closely aligns with the budget planned for the 2014/16 internship. Motion carried unanimously (9-0). Because Joe Como had not yet arrived at the meeting, the unanimous vote was 9-0.

**Soundproofing the Social Hall** – Linda discussed the BOT prioritization of soundproofing the social hall. This item has broad based congregational support as witnessed at the most recent congregational meeting. John Farison will work with Operations Committee on design and installation. Linda was given authority to pursue funding opportunities.

**Music Director Status** – Reverend Chris

There are several promising candidates for the choir director position. Selected candidates will have a session with the choir to better solicit choir input into the down-select. An expanded search is underway to increase the response to the accompanist position.

**Group Goals**

**Facilities** – John Farison; group co-member Joe Como  
The main breaker solution is scheduled for installation in January 2014. John is working with Operations to develop a process & team to evaluate, prioritize and fund the facility needs. Per a later item in the agenda, John and John Jaffray will present a lighting proposal to the BOT.

**Financial** – Alan Proulx; group co-members Laura Jean Hageman & Linda Stabler  
The second meeting of the group addressed all of the established goals. The planning will be embodied in a long range plan format with emphasis upon the next 2-year years.

*Cont. on page 11*

## Important-UUCSR/Glaser Center Building Closed!!

*Cont. from page 10*

**Community Support & Communications** – Cathie Weise; group co-members Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates, Lois Bell, Marge Wright  
The first annual activity fair is scheduled for 27 April 2014. There was a good turnout of UUCSR members and friends at the North Bay Organizing Project annual meeting at Sonoma Academy. Laura Jean has taken the lead toward addressing the question of defining the need and role of an UUCSR CEO. The “Talk to a Board Member” table has been established for Sunday services; the table staffing schedule is through 12 January. Jeanie added that her proactive liaison activities with varied committees and teams has been rewarding.

**Lighting Retrofit Proposal** – John Jaffray

Competitive bids have been received on lighting materials for an energy saving retrofit. The selected contractor will install the lamps and transformers in high places. Operations was responding to a tight schedule to qualify for an “On Bill Financing” plan from PG&E. The PG&E plan is an interest-free loan which will be paid with an estimated \$200 additional negative cash flow per month until the approximate \$9,200 loan principal is paid. The plan will save several hundred dollars per month in energy costs and is expected to be paid off in less than 3-years. Occupancy sensors will provide additional cost/energy savings. Dimmer switches are being evaluated to determine if they need be replaced. *A motion was made by Laura Jean and a second by Alan to (1) accept the Program Participation Agreement of the TEAA Energy Alliance Association, (2) contract with New Light Energy Design (\$9,243.66) and (3) commit to the “On Bill Financing” plan from PG&E for the lighting efficiency upgrade. Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.*

**Sabbatical Committee Report** – Jeanie Bates

A “Sabbatical Companion” brochure has been drafted; modifications are in-process. Sabbatical Minister Kathy Huff’s first service will be 15 December 2013.

**Revival Update** – Jeanie Bates & Marge Wright

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin is taking the lead for the revival. Jeanie has volunteered UUCSR to perform registration; volunteers will be

solicited. The event venue is Social Fireman’s Penngrove Park, scheduled for 18 May 2014. The format will include small groups, eating & playing. Next meeting is 23 November 2013 where program details will be further defined.

**Intern Committee** – Jeanie Bates

Progress is being made; actively searching for a greater number of candidates. The Committee may be pursuing the Pacific School of Ministry as well as Starr King School for the Ministry.

**Advocates for Social Justice (A4SJ) Charter Change** – Jeanie Bates

“Section III. Purpose” of the Charter was changed by A4SJ, adding the sentence: “Advocates for Social Justice will serve as an umbrella for internal working groups of UUs working on Social Justice issues as long as one (1) member of that group attends our monthly meetings to report on the group’s activities and the group understands that they need to follow our guidance.”

**Building Protocols / Emergency Shelter Group** – Jeanie Bates

The subject issue grew out of a Hot Topic led by Reverend Chris. There is a group of approximately 2-dozen members who have formed 2 subgroups to address (1) using the building as an emergency shelter and (2) general building use concerns. Their next meeting is 24 November 2013 after the 11 a.m. service.

**Request for Date Change for the December BOT Meeting** – Laura Jean Hageman

At Laura Jean’s request, the BOT agreed to change the next meeting from 19 December to 12 December 2013.

**Final Reflections** – Thanks offered for the extent of Jeanie’s degree of engagement in the congregation, for John Jaffray & John Faison’s lighting efficiency proposal, for Linda’s detailed treasury report, for Cathie’s food provided and for “group camaraderie”

**Closing Words** – Joe Como: Reading “Primary Wonder” by Denise Levertov

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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January 2014

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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

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**Board of Trustees**

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**Treasurers:** Linda Balabanian  
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**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

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**Editor:** Janis Brewster

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

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

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Sexton: Phil Butterfield

**Sunday Religious**

**Education Staff**

Shawna Hoxsie

Fiona Mackenzie

# Events at the Glaser Center

Saturday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.

Robin Rogers'

## **Festival of Friends** in Concert

with pianist Nancy Hayashibara, Kevin Russell  
The UUsual Suspects and more

*An evening of music, laughter, and frolic*

Tickets \$12 in advance (\$15 at the door)



January 17 - January 26

Jade Dragon Theater Company presents

## **The Miracle Junkie**

*An Absurdist Comedy of Breathless Proportions*

Written and Directed by Lito Briano

January 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, and 26

Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.

Annual Winter Concert

## **New Horizons Band** of Sonoma County

*The Bay Area's premiere all-senior-citizen concert band,  
performing rousingly upbeat tunes new and old*

FREE (donations accepted)



Friday, January 31, 6:30 p.m.

17th Annual Global Celebration

## **Season for Nonviolence**

*Featuring speaker James "Alex" Alexander  
and music by Jim Corbett's Love Choir*

FREE ADMISSION (donations accepted)

Saturday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.

SHOWCASE CONCERT

## **Blacktop Moon** and **Jaclyn Steele & Michael Capella**

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa

707-568-5381



# One Earth, Different People II

As Unitarian Universalists we are guided by principles which include commitments to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations. The One Earth, Different People series are designed to explore these commitments. Through the lenses of Race and Class, the One Earth, Different People II workshop series begins with understanding how our socialization affects the way we see and perceive ourselves and others. From that foundation we will examine the topics of Race and Class on a personal, cultural and institutional level. Please consider joining us for this experiential learning opportunity.

One Earth, Different People II will be facilitated by Stephanie Puentes\*, an experienced, professional diversity consultant and team builder who led our workshop series last year. The series is sponsored by the Diversity Task Group of the UUCSR Advocates for Social Justice.

## SCHEDULE

- ❖ February 1, 2014 (Saturday) 12 - 4 PM Retreat to set intentions and goals of program.
- ❖ February 9, 2014 (Sunday) 12:30 – 3 PM
- ❖ February 16, 2014 (Sunday) 12:30 – 3 PM
- ❖ February 23, 2014 (Sunday) 12:30 – 3 PM
- ❖ March 2, 2014 (Sunday) 12:30 – 3 PM
- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** To get the most out of these workshops and to respect the group process, it is expected that participants will make a commitment to make attendance at all sessions a priority.

## COST

\$25.00 for the entire series. Some Scholarships are available if needed. Please ask.

## REGISTRATION and QUESTIONS

In person registration starts January 5, 2014 at the Advocates for Social Justice Table. For additional information or to request registrations forms to be sent to you by e-mail please contact Mary Louise Jaffray at: 707/538-4668 or [mljaffray@jaffray.us](mailto:mljaffray@jaffray.us)

\*Stephanie Puentes is the Principal of Puentes Consulting specializing in training, consulting, and teambuilding in the areas of diversity and cultural competence. Puentes Consulting is based in Sonoma County, CA and has a local, national, and international client base. Stephanie brings her deep commitment to social justice to her work as a presenter, trainer, and facilitator. After a 28-year career in the high tech industry she founded Puentes Consulting to pursue her passion for a more inclusive and multicultural world.