



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 3 •

Sunday Service at 9:00am and 11:00am

March 2

"The Most Radical Thing You Can Do -
Living The 6th Principal Through International Outreach"

Service Leader: Mr. John Dale,
Travel Coordinator for the
Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council
Worship Associate: Joe Como

In his talk John will retrace the theological roots and denominational history of our faith from the Council of Nicea to the Diet of Torda in 16th century Transylvania. It is in Transylvania where the word Unitarian was first used and where our religion has survived for nearly 450 years of difficult history. We will also hear a present day account of our co-religionists overseas whose stories can and should inspire us to live out our UU 6th principal.

tablets from a father figure named God. So, is true dialogue (or even shared worship?) possible with literalists of different religious persuasions? We'll explore an approach that encourages generosity toward other's beliefs, and contend with the challenge raised by literalists who may act on their beliefs by attempting to deny our own rights. Presenter Andrew Hidas is vice-president of the UUCSR Board of Trustees. His (literal) definition of heaven includes the three years he spent in graduate school studying the psychology of religion and theology.

March 9th

Guilt: Friend or Foe?

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Cathie Wiese

What is the right balance between the "should" that calls us to bigger and better things, and the "should" that just makes us feel inadequate or ashamed? How can we tell if the feeling of guilt is the call of conscience, or the call of the inner critic? Most of us resent being manipulated by guilt, yet most of us manipulate others with it from time to time! We'll hear from some old-time Universalists as we consider what we should do with the "shoulds".

March 23rd

Easter

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Molly Farison

In a service of faith and hope, we will celebrate the universal song of life, "the promise that always through the ages rings, that always, always something sings." For Universalists the universal song is a love song, and the master singer is Love itself, stronger than death. The children will begin with us for the annual ritual of the Flower Communion: please bring one or more flowers to share.

March 16th

Liberal or Literal?

Digging Beneath the Language of Religion and Belief
Presenter: Andrew Hidas
Worship Associate: Orlando Raola

Most UUs take a mythical or symbolic view of supernatural phenomena in sacred scriptures. Our deep roots in Humanism and critical thinking means we often can't help but roll our eyes at "true believers" regarding burning bushes, forbidden apples, and entire books transmitted via angels or on golden

March 30th

UUSC Justice Sunday - "The Cost of War"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Maureen Wallace

The war in Iraq has drained this nation's resources, created a humanitarian crisis in Iraq, and left a multitude of needs at home unmet. As Martin Luther King said, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." Today's worship service and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's simple steps for justice will empower us each to educate, act, and speak out. And Rev. Chris will propose a simple solution to evenly share the costs of war.

Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

Unitarian Universalists often use the image of spiritual journey. At our Ingathering service in September we sang a caravan song: "Come, come, whoever you are, though you've broken your vow 10,000 times." We sang it about 10,000 times that day, as I recall. UUs celebrate the fact that life is an unfolding search for truth and meaning, and that each person, as inherently free, must and can seek and find the ultimate concern for themselves. Sometimes this approach is a hindrance. To one who is lost in a spiritual crisis UUism often doesn't offer a map, instead it tosses a compass and a flashlight and says, "Best of luck." Most of the time, however, our freedom to roam seems like a great blessing. The freedom to deeply pursue multiple sources and to find endless forms of inspiration is one of the best things about Unitarian Universalism. I could never be anything else.

There is a personal dimension to the journey, and a communal one. Walking the path we find two seemingly contradictory, but actually complimentary, directions calling to us. Impulses might be a better word. In the very simplest terms we might name these impulses "yes" and "no". Echoing their constant expression in our act of breathing, we might call them "in" and "out". I'm speaking poetically, of course. You might remember the two wings of Buddha's bird from the January newsletter. Same thing.

On the one hand, the journey has a wisdom dimension. This is the side that seeks for truth and meaning. When wisdom is active, if you will, it expresses itself with *no*. Mu. In Buddhist iconography Manjushri - the personification of wisdom and clarity - is shown with a sword for cutting away delusions and obstacles and destructive habits. No, no, no! The Hindu/Yoga expression says *neti, neti*, "not that, nor that", lest we confuse our ultimate nature in any impermanent thing of the world, including ourselves. When we are trying to penetrate through the appearances of the world to find what really matters, when we are bringing reason and rationality to bear on human problems, when we say "no" to the lure of addiction and selfishness, to the injustice of the world, or to idols, we are using the active power of wisdom. Unitarian Universalists, the consummate Protestants, love this spiritual mode.

The other direction of the spiritual journey is compassion. Here we sat *yes* and commit (and re-

commit) to the world. Earthly life involves a lot of unnecessary suffering, lots of it caused by bad but not inevitable human behavior and we're right to try to change that. We are not meant to merely let life and its ocean of joy and pain wash over us. We are to swim, with the current perhaps. Here we find meaning and joy in knowing and helping and harmonizing with the rest of the school around us, maybe with the whole ocean as we are able. Here is the prophetic call of the Hebrew Bible, demanding that God's will be expressed in a just and merciful society. Here we might be inspired by the healing and welcoming ministry of Jesus, or the bravery of Gandhi or Tubman. Equally inspiring are the countless kind and charitable acts, large and small, of billions of humans through all of history.

Wisdom also has a more passive character. From the Tao de Ching we learn to be as humble and flexible as water. From Jesus we learn to turn the other cheek, to pray for our enemies, to offer our lives. Acceptance of change and letting go of attachments are the spiritual ideals in this mode. This is the *in* breath. We accept life on its own terms, its transience, its brevity, take it into our self and make it our self.

In *Tonglen*, a Tibetan Buddhist practice, the breath is directly used to cultivate compassion in this manner. With the in-breath affirm creation as it is, and with the out-breath we are taught to send love and goodwill and compassion outward to it through family, friends, enemies, all beings. Doing this privately, we are then moved to put compassion into practice in the wide world. As we sing in Hymn 6, "Just as long as I have breath, I must answer 'Yes' to life. Just as long as vision lasts, I must answer 'Yes' to truth. Just as long as my heart beat, I must answer 'Yes' to love."

The wisdom impulse leads to healing, happiness, and transformation, for self and other. The compassion impulse leads to healing, happiness, and transformation, for self and other. At any given time in our life we might emphasize or need one more than the other. That's why it is so good, so very good, to undertake this journey together. Yes, no, in, out, step-by-step, in the ranks of the caravan of seekers and workers and prophets and mystics, we share our work and our experience, learning from each other and supporting each other. If we're doing it right.

[Cont. on Page 15]

Splinters from the Board

All the talk of new budgets and our annual canvass at the congregational meeting must have gotten under my skin. I woke up this morning thinking about a workshop that Alan and I took together years ago called "Your Money or Your Life." An up-to-date version of this program is now contained in the book by the same title by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin. Many of the ideas from the workshop have influenced my thinking about our family finances. This morning I thought about how these ideas apply to our congregation's financial life.

The program starts by asking us to clearly define our income and assets. Then Joe and Vicki ask us to write down everything we spend for several months to see where our money is going. The results of this little exercise can be very enlightening. I'm happy to say that during my tenure on the board, I've watched our hard working finance committee and administrator develop our budget reports and list of accounts so that we can really understand and track both our income and expenses. We know where our money comes from and where it goes. First assignment complete!

Next the program challenges us to calculate our true hourly wage after carefully looking at the real costs of working. These costs go beyond the hours we spend at work, and include time and costs related to work wardrobe, commuting, working at home, and eating out because we're too tired to cook. When these costs are calculated, our true hourly wage drops significantly. The point of this sobering exercise is to awaken to how many hours of our precious lives we are spending to fund our expenses. It gives us a more realistic measure of the value of each spending choice we make.

This type of values exercise is something we will go through as a community this spring as we consider the many wonderful things we want to spend our money on. Do we want to offer our staff a competitive compensation package? Continue to pay our fair share to the UUA and PCD? How about funding a youth advisor, expanding our music program, hiring a membership coordinator, building an outdoor play area for the kids, expanding our social action programs or creating a reserve fund to maintain our building? These are just a few of the possibilities.

This spring on Celebration Sunday we will be asked to open our hearts and pocketbooks to support our community, fund our dreams and invest in our values. Joe and Vicki would tell us that our gifts are precious as we are actually sharing "the time of our lives."

In our faith community we can all participate in the visioning, discussion and decision making process about our values and which ones we will fund this year. My hope is that we will take time to think about the value this community brings to our lives, to share our dreams for the community, to participate in the budget discussions we'll have later this spring and to invest in our values with the most generous pledge we can offer.

Linda Proulx, President
Board of Trustees



April 6th

CELEBRATION SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Not only will we gather the spirit, we will gather our pledges for the coming year, and have great fun doing so. Don't miss this special Stewardship service for all ages.

9:00 AM Service

It is a smaller gathering, we have the same readings and message that are given at the 11AM Service, plus we have time for a discussion of the sermon topic. What UU doesn't like a discussion? There is childcare available. Any questions contact Andy Levine @ 887-9810.

Treasurer's Report

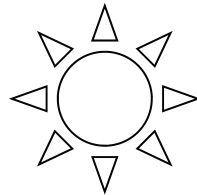
The accounting books for the previous month's fiscal activities usually don't close until mid month. The deadline for the news letter is often before the Finance Committee has had a chance to review the financials therefore our official finance report is often a little behind. We do know on a daily basis where our accounts stand and we are NOT behind! Thank you for keeping your pledges on track. We have paid the first half of our fair share for this fiscal year, but we will have to support the upcoming fund raisers to meet the final goal.

Holly Near is coming in April and in May we will be having an Italian Evening to savor.

We're also having a Gala for our Canvass this year. Lots to look forward to and many ways to help UUCSR fund the great plans and visions that make our community so exciting.

Just a reminder - if you donate pledges or other gifts with stock to our Schwab account, please let the Administrator or Treasurers know so we can complete our records. Thanks.

Suzie McPhee Co-Treasurer



Together in Exploration/Small Group Ministry News

**A short history of how the
TIE groups got started at UUCSR
March, 2008
Submitted by Carolyn McLeese**

The UU Small Group Ministry Program has been in some congregations since 1998. Each year the number of congregations that have a SGM program increases. The model for this program comes from the Christian mega churches success of offering a type of SGM program to help make their members feel more welcome and connected. Some of our UU national leaders adapted this model for our congregations. Now, this movement has spread to more than half of the Unitarian Universalist's churches in the United States.

Word spread to our congregation about the success of the SGM program in other congregations. In the fall of 2004 about 10 members of our congregation began meeting monthly to plan the beginnings of the SGM program at UUC,SR. We used the SGM format each time we met as a framework for creating what we wanted this program to be for this congregation.

Always, the basic format of what we decided to call Together in Exploration groups (TIE groups) remained the same. However we are evolving in other ways such as; starting a new group in January our first year and offering a mini TIE group in the summer of 2007. We also sponsored a TIE group potluck in April, 2007 for all members or former members of TIE groups. The wide variety of service projects performed by the TIE groups the last two years is evidence of the way our TIE group members nurture the congregation as a whole.

Our present groups will end in May. In September we will begin signing us new and returning members and friends for new TIE groups beginning in October.

SGM Program steering committee members are: Bonnie Daines, Rev. Chris Bell, Marie Fox, Ray Teurfs and Carolyn McLeese. The TIE group facilitators are: Kitty Wells, Bonnie Daines, Peter Wilson, Dianna Breslich, Frances Corman, Marie Fox, Dorris Lee, Mary Louise Jaffrey, Carol Kraemer, Sally Fife, Brian Wells, Mary Wagner, Marlene Kaulum, Carolyn McLeese, Barrie Noe, Laura Jean Hageman, Ollie Ostlund, Tom Bonds and Art Rosenblum.

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Last month a group of 31 children and parents gathered for a night of bowling. It was a significant evening. Kids ages 5 to 16 gathered with kids well over 30 and together they *PLAYED*. There was spontaneous laughter, and the creation of amazingly innovative techniques for rolling a ball down a lane. We cheered each other on, celebrated strikes and spares, gave encouragement when the ball chose the gutter, offered instruction at times, but mostly just let it be fun and free of the anxiety of competition. This was significant because, sadly, having fun is a precious and rare experience in today's busy world. We *PLAYED*. And our spirits were lifted. We were together for no other reason than to have fun. And our spirits were lifted. Let's do that more. Let's all take time to do fun things with our kids. Take a break from structure, commitments, and obligations...they will be there when you are done with your fun.

For my part I see the value of play both in leisure time and in the "serious" work of Religious Education. I have been putting a lot of research into finding RE curricula that includes the element of play...and have come up pretty dry. Play opens the mind to creativity, it provides a pathway for innovative problem solving, and it teaches children about getting along with one another. If our aim is to provide our children with a path toward self awareness while instilling sacred values, it must include the elements of play to open up the process and enliven their spirits along the journey. I will continue the search and also find my own ways of adding play to the curricula we work with. Let me know your ideas on how we can lift up the spirit of play in our RE classrooms.

Our next Family Fun Night is in the planning stages. It is a Swing Dance Party. Our own Molly Farison teaches swing dance to middle and high school

kids and she has agreed to teach us too! Save the date: **Saturday, March 29, 6:00 pot luck; 7:00 dancing.** This event is open to dancers of all ages: young and young at heart, couples and single parents, graceful dancers and those with two left feet. I will need help with this, so give me a call if you can lend a hand. We will have fun...Let it be a dance!

The third quarter of classes will begin on March 23. Perhaps you have already been called by Elaine Haas who is seeking volunteer teachers. Our program thrives on the generous contributions of our volunteer teachers. Please consider taking a turn.

Our dedicated elementary staff for second quarter Carina Zona, Elizabeth Wheless, Susan Ament, Robyn Hidas, Katie Parrish and Elaine Hass has been *AMAZING*. Thanks so much for the preparation and heart you put into working with our elementary school aged kids. Thanks to Kevin O'Conner, Ethan Foote and Katie Parrish for holding down the fort in the preschool as we were between teachers. Also, a big thank you goes out to our middle and high school teachers, Jason Parrish, Peter and Pat Wilson, Erin Howseman, Shaun Simmons and Julie Niehaus, who were steadfast in volunteering even if our numbers were low. Blessings and thanks to you all!

A *million* thanks to our OWL teachers who will be completing the course in mid-March. It is an amazing contribution of time, energy, and creativity. Our teachers: Rita Butterfield, Bill Von Seggern, Ben Ford, Phil Harriman, Suze Cribs, and Erin Stewart deserve all of our deepest gratitude for the work they have done!

In faith,
Deborah

Religious Education Wing Workday

Our R. E. Wing is overflowing with STUFF & CLUTTER

Please come help clean and organize it

We can make it a fun morning of work and fellowship

(if enough people pitch in together)!

Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 to Noon

Coffee and goodies will be provided

Call Deborah to let her know you can come 568-5381



Advocates For Social Justice

Share the Basket

When the basket comes your way on Sunday, March 2nd, please make a generous contribution to our Saturday Breakfast. We are averaging between 135 and 175 guests a week so the need is great. If you notice any men in town wearing UUCSR T-shirts, give them a smile and a heart-felt 'thank you'. These are our client-helpers who come early and stay late every week and without whom we couldn't do what we do!

Adrienne Swenson Annual Social Justice and Peace Award

Thanks to all of us we raised over \$600 at our pre-congregational meeting lunch to launch our new award to honor Adrienne and develop the awareness and commitment of our youth to peace and social justice issues! The Advocates for Social Justice and Deb Mason will be working out the details about what this Award should consist of and we are eager for suggestions!



LES/BI/GAY/TRANS/QUESTIONING (LBGTQ) SOCIAL GROUP

Come join us after worship on March 16th for a funny movie, potluck snacking, and chats about the future. We'll gather in the Lake Room to watch "Saved!" (2004, PG-13), a comedy about a fundamentalist teen whose faith is challenged by her openly gay boyfriend, a slightly immaculate conception, and a growing appreciation for other-ness in its many forms.

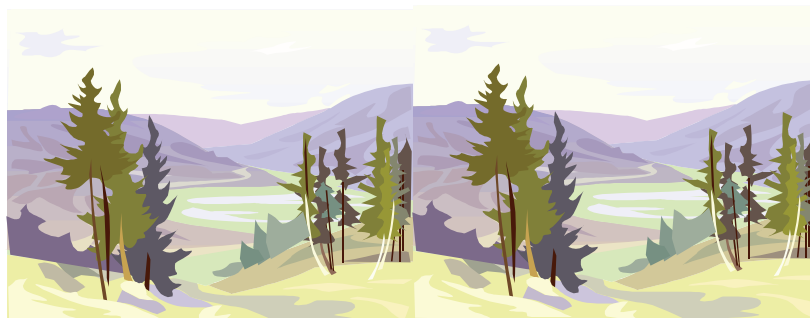
The LGBTQ Social Group meets every 3rd Sunday, after worship, in the Religious Education wing. Visitors, guests, partners, and allies are welcome. You do not need to be a UUCSR member to join in the fun.


Contact Heather French <heather.french@sonoma.edu>
Or Carina Zona <carina@cczona.com> for more info.

All Congregation Retreat

It's time to start planning for the 2008 All Congregation Retreat, scheduled for August 1 - 3. It's the one Retreat of the year designed for everyone in the Congregation - parents, kids, teens, adults, singles and grandparents. There'll be loads of fun - with campfire songs, swimming in the river, workshops, music, relaxation, and dazzling entertainment with the annual Camp Gualala Talent Show.

It'll be a peaceful, serene weekend away from civilization, along the Gualala River amidst the towering redwoods - but filled with rousing excitement, games, music, and entertainment for everyone. So be sure and mark your calendar for Aug 1 - 3, and start saving those pennies!





**Board of Trustees Meeting
Moved to Wednesday, April 9th
6:30—9:30pm in the Board Room**

Starr King School for the Ministry

Starr King School for the Ministry
cordially invites you and your friends to

The Balázs Scholars Program
Spring Transylvanian Tea

featuring

Balázs Scholar Rev. Béla-Botond (Bélu) Jakabházi
Transylvanian Unitarian minister studying at Starr King School
and

Starr King President Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker
President and Professor of Theology, Starr King School

speaking on

Change in the Church: Transylvania and the USA

Saturday, April 5, 3:30pm

\$25 donation

Starr King School for the Ministry,
2441 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

RSVP to Arliss Ungar

arliss@ungar.us; 925-283-3288

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions Greatly

Appreciated!

The Glaser Center
Spring Events

Friday, March 7, 8:00 p.m.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Presents

The Baroque Sinfonia

Performing Bach's Double Concerto for Violin and Oboe and other works

\$10-\$25 at the door

Friday, March 14, 8:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation presents Singer-songwriter

Jim Scott

(composer of 'A Song for the Earth' and 'Gather the Spirit')

\$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation presents

Singer-songwriter-actress-revolutionary

Holly Near

with Emma's Revolution

\$20 in advance; \$25 at the door

An extra \$14 gets a pre-show reception, sound-check admission and early seating

Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

The Glaser Center and KRCB presents

The Telephone Show

10 of the North Bay's best actors take the ultimate test, bringing the Telephone book to uproarious life, with music by Stiff Dead Cat and The Sorentinos

\$15 in advance; \$20 at the door

www.glasercenter.com

Bookmobile News

LOVE BOOKS? LOOKING FOR A NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

The Bookmobile Committee is looking for volunteers for Sunday mornings. If you can help, send an e-mail to our coordinator, Paula Hammett, at <kipster@Sonic.net>. If you haven't stopped by the Bookmobile on a Sunday morning lately, do take a look. We have an excellent selection of children's books in stock right now, plus new adult titles. Don't forget stationery, bumper stickers, and copies of recent weeks' sermons.

The book reviewed below was published by Little, Brown & Co. a few months ago., and has received accolades from critics and readers. If you read it, it will make you glad (like it did me) to be a Unitarian Universalist! Although not available at our Bookmobile, it's available through the Amazon web site, which offers new and used copies of it.

HERE IF YOU NEED ME: A TRUE STORY by Kate Braestrup

Kate Braestrup was a mother of four, and the wife of a Maine state trooper who was planning to become a UU minister after retirement. Before that could happen, he was killed in a traffic accident. As a widow, Kate decided to follow her husband's dream, and became a UU minister herself. She works as a Maine Warden Service chaplain. Each chapter of the book mingles police procedural with trenchant observations about life and death, as Braestrup ministers to the families of those involved in search and rescue attempts. It becomes obvious that she is a spiritual woman and a spiritual leader.

I recently heard from a friend in Oklahoma, who told me she had heard a Methodist minister there cite Braestrup's book in a recent sermon. If you decide to read this book, I'd love to hear your comments.

Joanie Reid
joanier@Sonic.net

Women Together Events

From Hoopskirts to Trousers

On Saturday afternoon, March 15th, Barbara Lynch will display her very vintage women's clothing from 2 to 4. Please bring finger food to share.



Elder Tales

A correction on last month's announcement: Dorris Lee will tell us about her amazing and unusual life on Saturday afternoon, April 12th from 2 to 4 in the Lake Room. Please bring finger-food to share.

Weekend Retreat

Save the dates ~ Friday, May 16th through Sunday, May 18th.

Our theme this year will be Embracing Change. The cost for 5 delicious meals and two nights is \$155. Partial scholarships will be available. Sign-ups start on April 13th and more details will be in the April Newsletter.

UU Artists: Call For Entries!

UU artists are invited to submit works for group show. We are finally proceeding with the long-planned group showing of works by congregation members of the UUCSR. Depending on the number of entries we receive, this group show will likely take place in April.

For wall-hangable artworks, please submit a photo or description to David Templeton at talk-pix@earthlink.net or at 338-6013.



If you are an artist with between three and five wall-

Legacy Circle Appreciation— April 19

We are grateful to the 45 UUCSR members who, so far, have named UUCSR in their estate plans, thus ensuring a bright future for this congregation. Legacy Circle members will be honored at a special luncheon on April 19. Look for your invitation in the mail.

There is still time to name the UUCSR in your will/trust/IRA, become a member of the Legacy Circle,

and be honored at the luncheon. Visit the Legacy Circle Table in the social hall on March 30, or talk to one of the Endowment Committee members, listed below. If you are thinking about it, please do it now.

Brian Wells Bill Foshee Calvin Simons
Mary Wagner Rose Saint John

Book Group News

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Tuesday, March 25, 1:00 p.m. at the home of Susan Simons, 887 Sonoma Ave., Apt. 3, Santa Rosa. Bring your lunch; beverages will be provided. The discussion topic is "Atonement" or any other title by Ian McEwen. Phone Susan for further info.

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday March 13th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. New members and visitors are welcome.

The April selection has not yet been determined. We will announce it on

the Focus list.

Linda Lampson



UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, March 3, 2008, from 4 - 6 pm in the Green Room at the Unitarian Universalist Church Santa Rosa.

About the UUCSR Writers

Whatever your creative endeavor: memoirs, letters, history, biography, the Great American novel, short story, poetry, essays, dissertation, Master's thesis, song lyrics, report, term paper, cook book, web pages, blogging, etc., our focus is to provide an atmosphere where serious writers improve and hone their writing skills.

The UUCSR Writers is open to the novice, the more experienced, and the published author. Membership at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

(UUCSR) is not required. We meet once a month in the "Green Room" at UUCSR in Santa Rosa, CA on the First Monday of the month from 4:00-6:00pm.

UUCSR Online Writers

Can't attend monthly meetings? Live in another City, State or Country? Request an Invitation to join our "Online Writers" Blog. You can learn more about our group, and current "Works-in-Progress", at the UUCSR Writers Blog.

Information

UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com> and/or visit the Writers Table in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings.

Build "Delicious Peace"

You've tasted Mireembe Kawomera Coffee at Sunday Social Hour. Now join us for an evening of lively dialogue, a fascinating film, and energetic songs from Grammy-nominated musicians. Discover and celebrate a remarkable effort to ...

Build "Delicious Peace"

Sunday, March 16, 6:00pm

At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa

Questions? Call Mike Persinger at 545-6550

Membership News

New Directories Are Available! If you are a member or pledging friend and did not pick up a copy of the latest UUCSR directory at the Congregational Meeting, February 17, you may request a copy from a Hospitality Team member stationed at the Visitor Table after the 11 am service on Sundays, or from the office during the week.

Please Welcome Our Newest Members: Bob & Phyllis Clement and Michael Walsh.

UUCSR Events for Newcomers - Spring 2008



Inquirer's Meetings: March 9, April 13, May 11

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11:00 am Sunday Service. 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. *No registration is required.*



Getting to Know UU & UUCSR: April 5, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

This orientation session is designed primarily for those new to our denomination who are considering becoming members of UUCSR. Those new to our congregation who have previously been members of other UU churches, congregations, or fellowships are also welcome to attend. The topics and schedule of activities for the day include:

- A brief history of Unitarian Universalism and UUCSR;
- Opportunities to become involved in congregational activities;
- Getting acquainted at lunch (meal provided);
- UU theological diversity and the meaning of membership;
- A tour of our building.

Please register at the Visitor Table by March 30 if you plan to attend.

Top Secret Meeting for Top Secret Leaders

Come One, Come All

Come and hear the Exciting News! A new organizational structure for UUCSR is being introduced. You may have heard people mumbling something about a 'council structure'. Well now is time to come and find out what 'secret' they've been talking about. Learn more about the Council Structure, what it means and how it will play a huge part in the growth

and organization of our dynamic community. It will introduce a new way of looking at our myriad committees and will help you find out 'where-to-go' for ideas, questions, new programs and just about anything else that may come to mind. Don't be left out - be in the know!



Wednesday
March 5th at 7 pm
in the Board Room

Sunday
March 9th at 12:30
in the "New Room"

See You There - Suzie McPhee

Circle Dinner List—Spring 2008

The person at the top of each group is responsible for calling the other people in their group to organize the first dinner. Please delegate this to someone else in your group if you are unable to do this. If you are not called in a reasonable length of time by that person, feel free to call them to see if you can get a date set up.

Shirley & Jim Costy 795-4877	Judy & Bruce Taylor 794-9743	Cassandra Lista 584-4293
Donna Stephens 545-7299	Calvin & Susan Simons 527-7191	Don & Jewel Ford 874-3616
Judy Schwalben 523-4470	Hilevi Wyman 527-9048	Harry Verwer 528-7873
Betty & Sam Miller 539-3654	Bruce Maxwell 568-3981	Ben & Carol Jones 539-7284
Dorris Lee 836-1576	Marge Wright 887-7752	Carolyn McLeese & Charles Rettke 875-3542
Carol Weisker 776-4856	Heather Lawton 569-9655	
Don Bell 584-3033		
Tom Bond & Laura Jean Hageman 539-3360	Art Rosenblum & Maureen Rumford 539-5104	Elsa Torres & Orlando Raola 776-2746
Victoria Dreifuss 874-2728	Judy Withee & Steve Sweeney 538-3404	Cathy Wiese & Robert Lunceford 829-3634
Elizabeth & Robin Marrs 528-6939	W--545-6161	Ruth Crawford 570-0120
Tom & Phyllis Matalis 568-7624	Diana & David Bower 785-9725	Jeanne Crawford 415-334-2530
Sarah Congdon 542-7363	Dianne Vidmar 239-8833	John Smithers 494-5928
	Linda Reck 769-1080	Dianne Virdee 824-1218
Bonnie Daines & Bob Boone 537-7247	Mary & Jim Wolfe 544-3134	
Betty & Sid Gordon 545-0560	Janet & Loch Grant 538-3937	
Nancy & Bryan Hargis 571-1987	Dorothea Proctor 546-2913	
Anna Lisa Wiley 545-5711	Dick & Mary Sykes 538-8981	
Judy Hutchinson 545-7808	Linda Elliott 360-734-8181	

Substitute List

Elizabeth Ward 694-6198	Kathy McGuire 523-2787	Linda Harlow 526-3528
Florence/Marshall Wheeler 433-2111	Brian & Kitty Wells 433-1196	Karen Lillard 575-1255
Marley Fein 575-8946	Barbara & Jules Glaser 538-4870	Philip & Jenny Harriman 206-0488
Barry & Marian Quirk 525-1943	John & Linda Farison 539-3650	Frances & Roger Corman 528-3321
Shirley Williams 575-9322	Antonia & Dick Rodrigues 836-0757	
Louise & Ollie Ostlund 578-8619	Mike & Joan Reid 431-8757	

Yoga Offering at UUCSR

6 consecutive Wednesdays beginning March 12th, from 10:00 - 11:30am in the Board Room. Led by friend Kay Sykes. Kay received her yoga teacher training at Ananda Seva Mission in Santa Rosa, which includes Hatha Yoga style, as well as Ashtanga Yoga. She wants her students to feel welcome no matter what ability level, size, age, gender or shape. Give yourself a mid-week treat! \$50 registration required - please register with the UUCSR Office. Bring a mat and a towel or blanket.



Diversity Task Force Lending Library

The Diversity Task Force Lending Library invites you to stop by and peruse the possibilities! Here's a sampling of the 80+ available books from our cart:

**The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*
**The Color of Water--A Black Man's Tribute to His White*

Mother
**Tortilla Curtain*
**The Measure of a Man*
**The Known World*
**Almost Ancestors*
**A Thousand Splendid Suns*
**Native American Wisdom*
**Beloved*
**Sorrow Mountain*

Also, please talk to us about books you might wish to donate to our collection. We have a list of books we need. We will also be happy to add your suggestions for books to our list.

Submitted by Jan Prater

Ants

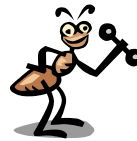
Ants are mostly very tiny
 Though some can get real big
 You'll see them crawling on the ground
 Or maybe on a twig
 Sometimes they're at your picnic
 Eating up your food
 Although it's really not polite
 They're really not so rude.
 It's just because of how they live



No fault then of their own
 But if they start to crawl on you
 You might be in their zone!

Stephen Clemmons
 3-9-2000
 UUCSR Writer

Stephen enjoys writing children's poetry



A Going Away Party for Linda Ellinor



Come help send Linda off with a potluck dinner on Friday, March 7th between 6 and 9pm. Linda will be moving to the Tucson, AZ (Tubac) area mid March to oversee the development of a spa & retreat center called "The Floating Stone Spa and Inn". The festivities will begin at 6pm with wine and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a potluck dinner at 7pm. At 8pm there will be

a special circle process. Appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Contact Elizabeth Fuss at 539-2875 if questions, to sign up for a main dish, side dish, wine, beer, or dessert to add to the potluck or to receive directions to Linda's house. Elizabeth's email is elizabethfussuu@sbcglobal.net. She will return phone calls and emails after February 25th.



Jim Scott in concert on Friday, March 14, 8:00 p.m.

**Get your tickets now for a very special UUCSR event
 An evening of music with the incredible singer-songwriter**

With a sharp song-writing skill and an inspiring passion for the environment and social justice, Jim Scott's songs include several that are in the official UU songbook, notably *Gather the Spirit*. Join us for this special evening of upbeat, inspirational folk music, performed by a world-renowned guitarist who rose to international attention as a member of the Paul Winter Consort. Tickets are available in the social hall after Sunday services, and also at Copperfields Book Stores, The Last Record Store, Back Door Disc, and on-line at www.brownpapertickets.com This is a great event to which to bring a friend

Church Custodian/Sexton

Tony Crevelli, our new Sexton/Custodian has been working for us for 5 months now and we have recently increased his hours from 15 hours/week to 18 hours/week. I am sure most of you have met or at least seem him working diligently to keep our facility not only safe and secure, but clean and welcoming.

Currently, Tony works six (6) hours on Sunday. He is responsible for the security of the building which includes opening and locking the building and keeping an eye on people known to cause problems. He is responsible for all setup and breakdown in the Sanctuary, putting tables in place for various committees and ensuring the facility is clean and well-stocked after weekend events.

If time allows, Tony is willing to help volunteers with additional tasks. During the week, he washes windows, cleans the bathrooms, vacuums, empties trash and does cleanup outside. Because Tony's hours are limited, it is important that any requests for his services be directed to the Administrator, Janis Brewster.

We will be looking into increasing his hours as we go through the budget process this coming year. Below is an outline of his responsibilities and duties as written by the UUCSR Operations team.

Job Description

Reports to: Administrator

In the absence of the Administrator, supervision and directions may be delegated to the Officer of the Day or Building Maintenance Chair

Responsibilities: To perform tasks assigned by the Administrator. Responsible for maintaining building as part-time caretaker and for understanding the operations of most if not all building equipment such as air conditioner, skylights, dish washer etc. When possible, repetitive tasks will be documented to enhance uniformity and efficiency.

Security of Building including opening and locking the building

Handling emergency and safety issues as they arise

Overall setup and breakdown for services on Sunday (may be responsible for additional setup and breakdown on one other evening during week)

General Janitorial

Duties:

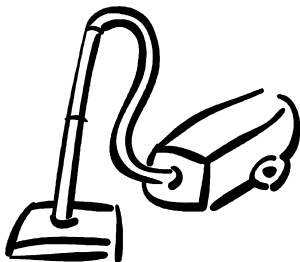
Set up and/or arrange tables and chairs

General Janitorial duties such as empty trash, wet mop kitchen and bathrooms, vacuum carpets, wash windows, and replenish restroom supplies

Light Building maintenance and grounds keeping duties as needed

Other duties as assigned

Please if you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the Administrator, Janis Brewster.



Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris, Cont.

I think we are. Our bird is flying straight, with both wisdom and compassion being expressed around UUCSR these days. Other people are noticing it, too, and coming to discover more. Yet, the work is never done, just as the breath cannot stop while we live. Our T.I.E. groups are thriving, but we need more small group ministries addressing unmet spiritual needs. We are funding ourselves and the causes we support generously, though we have ambitious goals of developing our leadership, offering ever-stronger religious education for children and adults, expanding our ministry to all resi-

dents of downtown. We share worship together in increasing numbers, but we will need more and different worship opportunities soon to accommodate our diverse needs. We are dreaming of new ways to serve each other and our community and working to create ministers (that's each of us!) and an organization (that's all of us!) that can make those dreams real.

And I think we've got a pretty good map after all, in our Principles, our Sources, our Mission, our Vision. I'll see you in the ranks of the caravan. Onward!

EVERYBODY CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES, C'MON!

All Members and Pledging Friends
are warmly invited to a **grand reception**
sponsored here at UUCSR
on **Saturday, April 5th, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.**

Enjoy appetizers and beverages from the bounty of Sonoma County, and meet and greet your fellow members and friends. Music, inspiring (but concise) speakers, and a sparkling toast are in store as we honor the accomplishments of the past and look to the future of our community and its ministries. Why not dress up? This event is sponsored by the Canvass team and is free to all Members and pledging friends.

A Night At the Opera!!



Join us for an Italian feast, frivolity and a show, at il Vitto di Vita (The Food of Life) on **Saturday, May 3rd from 6:00 - 9:00**. We will gather in the courtyard at 6:00, dine at 6:30, listen to Italian opera's most beautiful arias and art songs performed by Michael Van Why and the members of Project Applause in our beautiful sanctuary at 7:30, and finish up with dessert. All are invited to this fundraising event for UUCSR. Tickets are \$50.



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March 2008
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Vice President@uusantarosa.org
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Editor: TBA
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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Music Director: Ben Taylor, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org
Rental & Events Manager/Artistic Director: David Templeton, x103, glaser@uusantarosa.org
Church Sexton: Tony Crevelli

Sunday Religious Education Staff
Meredith Brown
Rose Mertens
Liz Latimer
Erin Stewart

**Celebrating the past, creating the
present, envisioning our future.
TOGETHER.**

Save the dates!

**Member Reception
5:30—7:30, April 5th**

**Celebration Sunday Worship
11:00am, April 6th**

All members and pledging friends are invited to a gala reception of food, drink, music and inspiration on Saturday. Why? Because we love you and are grateful for you!

All friends and members are welcome to a special stewardship service, during which we will offer pledges of commitment for the next church year, remembering that we alone are the caretakers of our dreams.

After years of hard work buying, renovating and moving into the building, executing a successful search for a minister, hiring a new administrator, a new music director and a new director of religious education, creating a breakfast program and the T.I.E. groups, and so on and so on, it seemed like a good year to make our annual pledge drive as fun and easy as possible. There will not be a face-to-face canvass this year. Instead we'll begin with a party to celebrate the strength and vision and generosity of the community. Then we'll carry those good feelings into worship on Sunday, bringing forward our renewed commitment for the upcoming year, and giving our dreams and ministries the support they need to become real.

See you there!

Presented by the Canvass Team and other generous stewards of the congregation.

Keep your eyes on the mail for more information.

**The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
Celebrating Life, Empowering People,
Caring for One Another, Helping to Build a Better World.**