



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 4 •

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

April 6

### CELEBRATION SUNDAY

"Sustaining Our Vision"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Erin Howseman, Orlando Raola

In the midst of difficult and uncertain times, this community has faithfully celebrated life and empowered people, cared for its members, and worked to build a better world. Our accomplishments are many - but the work is never over. Today we'll gather our annual pledges of financial support during worship to honor our resolve to be a beacon of hope, spiritual growth, and public witness in the heart of Santa Rosa for this and future generations. When we pool our physical, financial and spiritual resources we can generate vision and power that far exceeds when any of us could achieve alone. We're going to rock today, and astonish ourselves with our generosity and determination to make our dreams real!

**NOTE:** So that we might renew our commitments as one strong body, there will *not* be a 9:00 service on this day.

April 13

"The False Divide"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

In the media and the public consciousness science and religion are commonly painted as inherently at odds with one another. Certainly the response of the orthodox faiths over the centuries to the new insights of science didn't do religion any favors, but neither have the diatribes of bitter anti-religionists who would make an idol of science or paint every "believer" as a dupe. Empiricism and faith each have their place in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and today - via a look at the theory of evolution and the pseudo-science of creationism - we'll try to bridge the gulf.

April 20

"Sustaining Our World"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Leslie Giffen

The goal of a sustainable society that is in harmony with the natural world is a core vision of Unitarian Universalism, found throughout the Principles and Sources. In our complex society, such sustainability seems very hard to come by, even as it is more needed than ever. On this, the first day of Passover, we'll find inspiration in Jewish wisdom that connects the fate of humanity and of the natural world, and explore new possibilities in the practice of thinking globally while acting locally. All while singing praises to our Mother Earth!

This will also be "**BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY**"

April 27

Apples, Arks and the Apocalypse:

How Christianity is getting out of its head and back into its body - and why you should too.

Service Leader: Anitra Kitts

Worship Associate: Andy Levine

Are we of this world or separate from it? Christian theology - and the Western worldview we all move within - has struggled with this question since the ink dried on the Gospels and the answer has huge implications for the well-being of the whole planet. We will look at the origins of classical Christian theological teachings on the relationship between human and creation and how those teachings have played out to the current Western cultural understandings on our connections to the environment. We'll also see how Christian theologians are reworking some of those assumptions and how that can be helpful in our own lives and theological communities.

## 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.

## Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

Warm greetings to all of you as Spring has officially sprung! On the spiritual side, Passover and Earth Day are calling me to renew my commitment to ending oppression of both people and the planet, while all around the lush green of the hills and the brilliant blue sky inspire awe and appreciation. On the even more spiritual side, baseball season is about to begin. Life is good!

Not that you would know it from the daily papers. Gas prices are rising as the dollar falls. The threats of recession and home foreclosure grow, while the ice caps shrink. Although at least one political candidate has eloquently dared to face America's problems with race head on, for the most part the political discourse remains as shallow and uncivil as ever. Closer to home, a fourth mentally ill person was killed by the police even as our only inpatient psychiatric facility closes. Denied the ability to organize themselves, hundreds of workers face layoffs at Memorial Hospital, deepening the sense that our community health care is in a state of crisis.

In such difficult times, attention to our own spiritual life may seem like an indulgence. But the inner world and the outer world are intrinsically connected. Our sense of despair may challenge our faith in the principles and values that we would have guide us. Hope and inspiration may seem hard to come by. I am convinced that both the consolations and the prophetic demands of a liberal faith are needed now more than ever. The hopeful and inclusive message of Unitarian Unitarianism is a real antidote to rampant anxiety and doubt, and in Santa Rosa it is up to us - you and me - to offer it. Our efforts to transform ourselves and society must not cease.

When I got here last year one of my first thoughts was that I would like to give everybody a vacation. I was very aware of the incredible amount of energy, time, money and sweat it took to restore the building, move the congregation, overcome a ministerial leadership predicament, and still worship and play together. Folks looked a little bleary-eyed. It seemed like a great big deep breath and some Sundays in bed would have been healing and restorative for everybody. That wasn't really an option, of course, and I felt nothing but optimism and enthusiasm from you, so we hit the ground running and we've kept it up ever since. As the hymn says, "we who believe in freedom cannot rest."

In these uncertain times, I'm very grateful for a congregation that has bold aspirations, rises to challenges, and is unafraid of growth and change. As Linda's column (see *Splinters from the Board*, pg.3) makes so clear, we are advancing in a number of areas thanks to the hard

work of our staff, elected congregational leaders and our many, many volunteers. We are indeed sustaining our vision.

And I am happy to say that we have found one way to make life a little easier for everybody this year: we're going to take care of our annual fund-raising canvass as quickly, simply and joyously as possible, on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

The type of canvass we did last year, where a large team of volunteers visits every member of the congregation face-to-face, certainly has its merits. It is always good to get together with our fellow members, to make new friendships or renew old ones. But, boy, does that process take a lot of work! And this year, with membership finally cresting 300, with a new and talented Director of Religious Education, a benchmark-setting small group ministry program (Together in Exploration), inspiring worship, a revitalized Caring Committee and an ever-increasing public presence as a voice for justice I don't think we need to spend a lot of time convincing ourselves that our grand experiment is worth supporting. We know it.

So first, we will laugh in the face of the darkness. We are going to celebrate our community with a lovely and fancy reception for our pledging friends and members. There will be no pleas for money, no long presentation - just a deep draught of the living water of fellowship, a bit of testifying and a few rousing songs. No one ever said religion couldn't be fun. Well, actually a lot of people have said that, but they were all totally wrong.

Then, the next morning, we'll have a special worship service for everybody. In addition to bringing forward the great feelings of the night before, we will bring forward our pledge cards in the context of worship, making our vision real by putting our money where our minds and mouths are. Those who are unable to attend the service will be contacted later to pledge by phone. God willing, we'll be done with the whole shebang by the end of April, followed by a furious month of budgeting before the June meeting.

By now you have received your canvass materials. You know how ambitious our goals are, and what it will take to make them come true. I know you will rise to the challenge, and I thank you deeply for your hard work and generosity, and for the gift of serving you.

Peace, Rev. Chris

## Splinters from the Board

Spring has taken me by surprise this year. Here it is March 22nd, and even in chilly Seattle where I'm visiting family, the days are getting longer and trees are covered with buds and blossoms. That same air of spring excitement and accelerated activity seems to have infected your Board. Perhaps all of the seeds we've planted and the quiet work of winter is finally sending up shoots and asking for our attention. With so much going on, I thought I'd give you an update.

### ***Council Governance***

The Council Governance team, a group composed of both board and non-board members, presented at the February congregational meeting and has since held 2 town meetings. The feedback so far seems to be that organizing our growing congregation into functional councils makes sense. The team's next step is to meet with those committees who would make up each council to talk about what steps would be needed to move into a council structure.

### ***Land Use Planning***

Chris Bell and board member Bob Barrows have been heading up a task force on Land Use Planning to consider the possibilities of an outdoor play structure for our kids and a memorial garden for those who wish to have their remains interred on our community property. Task force members Shaun and Karen Simmons presented some concepts to the BOT at our March meeting. We have asked the task force to move the project forward by presenting to the Operations Team, the group in charge of our outdoor areas.

### ***Conflict Management Workshops***

The Board has approved the Committee on Shared Ministry's proposal to offer programs that will help our congregation work with and resolve conflict more effectively. They will sponsor two workshops on conflict management led by Rev. Carol Chase, an

Internationally Certified Trainer with the Center for Nonviolent Communication. The first workshop will be offered to staff and members of the BOT and Committee on Shared Ministry in April. A second workshop will be offered to all congregants on Sunday, June 1st after service. We hope that all will take advantage of learning these important life skills.

### ***2008 - 2009 Budget Process***

Planning for next year's budget is moving into full gear. Committees will be submitting their budget proposals to the Finance Committee by April 1st. Those who are proposing additional staffing, a new initiative or a significant increase in budget will be presenting their proposals at the April 9th Board Meeting. The Board and Finance Committee will work on a proposed budget in the following weeks, after which we will host a budget town meeting. This will be a time when all interested congregants can review the proposed budget and give feedback. Stay tuned.

### ***Fundraising***

On Saturday, May 3rd, we will be having a very special event featuring live opera and delicious Italian food. This delightful evening will be a year-end fundraiser for UUCSR. Please save the date, join in the fun, and show your support for our wonderful community. Just think, an evening in Italy that we can pay for in dollars instead of euros!

If you want to ask a question, make a comment, or simply learn more about what we're up to, please give a call or visit a Board meeting. Our meetings are open and we welcome visitors! Our next meeting is on Wednesday, April 9th. In May and June we will return to our regular meeting time on the second Thursday of each month.

Linda Proulx, President  
Board of Trustees

## Treasurer's Report

A year ago at this time we visualized an ambitious year financially which included meeting our Fair Share Pledge to UUA and PCD.

While we still have a quarter to go in this fiscal year with everyone's support of our "Italian Night" fund raiser and the Holly Near concert it looks as if we will meet that goal! Thanks to everybody our pledges are up to date and expenses are down.

We have had one year on a solid financial basis. Now is the time to keep the momentum going. This month we will have our chance to continue 'Sustaining The\_Vision.' Our Celebration Weekend will be April 5 and 6 when we all have an opportunity to pledge our commitment to our

on-going Vision. Our Canvass this year will be different, fun and very successful!

From a preliminary look at the budgets that have been submitted by the various committees we certainly will be keeping the Vision moving forward. However as stated in the letter sent to all congregants it will require more from all of us. Even though we offer our time and talents to make the Vision happened, it also takes financial support from all of us. Please support the Canvas Campaign with all your generosity to keep us moving forward.

Suzie McPhee Co-Treasurer

## Together in Exploration/Small Group Ministry News

Fellowship, Community. Connection. Commitment. Listening intently. Being heard. Sharing laughter, and learning new dimensions of myself and others.

Those are the first words that come to mind when I think about TIE Groups. I've been a member of TIE Groups since I moved here a little over three years ago -- just as the groups were put together by the Small Group Ministry Program. Before that, as a member of the Livermore UU congregation, I was a member of TIE's counterpart there for five years. Even before that, I was one of many UUs across the US asked if we thought they'd be a welcome, useful activity in our congregations. I responded with an enthusiastic "Yes!"

In any organization, the way to become an integrated member of the group is to attend activities, join a committee, work on a project. We all know that. That's the way we get to know who the other people are and how to become known to them. We may love Chris' sermons and enjoy the music. Being part of the sanctuary full of people on Sunday feels good and enables us feel part of a larger whole. Afterward, the social time gives us a chance to connect with each other, widen our circles. Committees and task forces and project involvement gives us a feeling of accomplishment and helps us get acquainted with others.

Being in a TIE group widens and deepens the integration process, and even makes those experiences just named even more meaningful. Typically, in a group of up to ten,

we get to know some people we didn't previously know at all, and we become closer to those we already know. We deepen our understanding and perspectives of a broad array of aspects of living common to all of us, including who we are as UUs. The connections are faster and deeper.

Each TIE group has guidelines that ensure inclusiveness. Each of us is part of the decision-making process for the guidelines. We all hold each other accountable for equal sharing time, and to make sure that less verbal people are enabled to contribute. The TIE Group program in this congregation is one of the most active in our district. I'm proud to be involved with it. And I absolutely know that my assimilation into UUCSR, and my comfort level here, is largely due to that involvement.

Current TIE Groups will end in May and will resume in October. Sign-ups for all the new groups will begin in September.

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

Submitted by Dorris Lee

## Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Spring is in bloom here in beautiful Sonoma County! I hope the beauty of this season is as enlivening to your spirit as it is to mine. As the buds and young blossoms arrive, I am reminded of the nascent possibilities that lie, just waiting to be realized, in the work of religious education and in our relationships as a community. It is a blessing to be amid children, especially in the spring-time, when their vivacity is reflected in the nature of all things around us.

I have a vision of our RE program and it is *expansive*: in the numbers of children and families we serve, in the breadth of experiences we provide, in the depth of connection our children and youth feel for one another, in the appreciation and assimilation of UU principles, and in an ever-widening circle of love. Part of what will make this vision a reality is the active participation of the majority of UUCSR congregants, across the generations, in the RE program. It takes a village to raise a child they say, and it will take this entire community to grow our RE program. This *must* be a place where any family coming on Sunday morning will know that there is room for them here; there is something of worth for them *here*. How will they know this? They will know it by the presence of children and the visual displays of their work as an integral part of the life of the church. They will know it by seeing engaged interactions between the

young and the old, between parents and children and among the children. And, of course, they will know it because of the high quality program of each RE classroom.

Last month Rev. Chris and I gave a plea to the congregation for help with our program. At this writing I do not know the results of that plea, but I am very hopeful that with my assistance and the assistance of well seasoned RE parent volunteers we can build a program that will include the effort, energy, and love of a broad spectrum of our church community.

April 20<sup>th</sup> will be "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday". I encourage all RE families to do just that, and I encourage all others who know families with children to invite them to check out our program that day. The kids will have Worship for All Ages that morning on the 1<sup>st</sup> Principle: The Inherent Worth and Dignity of All People and the adults will have a 7<sup>th</sup> Principle focus for Earth Day. Two worthy topics for the newcomers among us! Unitarian Universalism is an all too well kept secret. Let's share the wealth of this community and the values we live by.

In faith,  
Deborah

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**APRIL 20TH IS**  
**BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

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

## Advocates For Social Justice

### Share the Basket

As we've all heard, jobs are being lost, health-care is becoming more expensive, and most human services are being cut in the coming year. This affects our city and county and their ability to support The Living Room, the only drop-in day program for homeless women and children. When I see the people accessing the wonderful services provided by The Living Room, I realize that there but for fortune go I. Here is one woman's story: 'S' is attending the JC and raising two children, a preschooler and a kindergartner, while living in a shelter. She is sparkling with enthusiasm, overflowing with excitement when she talks about her classes. When challenged by illness

*in her family and other issues, she stuck with it and stayed in school. I asked what life challenges she had faced, alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, and the answer was, "All of that and more." An opportunity for housing is looking good, so keep her in your thoughts. As a member of the Circle of Support, our congregation has made a commitment to help in whatever ways we can, so on Sunday, April 6th, one half the money in the basket will be donated to our neighbor The Living Room. Please be as generous as you can.*



### The Rights of Immigrants in Sonoma County

For those of you who missed the forum we had here in the Fall, or who would like to know more about what's going on in our county and what it would mean to become a County of Refuge, come to an educational forum on Sunday, April 6th from 2 to 4 at the First Congregation United Church of Christ, 2000 Humboldt Street in Santa Rosa. We are having an important election for County Supervisors in June and the issue of the relationship between immigrants, their families, and law enforcement is one that is of great importance to many of us. Bring your questions and concerns to the Forum.

## Annual Spring Cake Auction

The UUCSR annual Spring Cake Auction returns this year on Mother's Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Plan to participate by volunteering to be in a team with a youth from RE, take photos on that day, or help with other organizing tasks. This event serves several purposes.

1. It raises money to be used in programs at UUCSR
2. It gives the children a fun and memorable experience in their church careers
3. It builds relationships between our young members and adults
4. It gives us an opportunity to spent fun time together as a whole congregation

Mark your calendar today and plan to volunteer or participate as a high bidder in the auction! Past years masterpieces have gone for up to \$75!

Call Heather Lawton 707 843-9936 to volunteer.



## District Assembly Events

### Events:

- Banner Parade
- Friday Night Opening Worship
- Saturday Breakfast with Keynote Speaker, **Rev. Robert Latham, "A Mission Born of Mystery"**
- 5 Levels of Child and Youth Programming' Workshops for everyone
- PCD Annual Meeting

- Saturday evening Banquet Dinner, Featuring **Rev. Victoria Safford, "Open Wide the Windows"**
- **Roy Zimmerman**, Folk singer and satirist!
- Sunday morning Worship Service, Featuring **Rev. Bryan Jessup, UU Church of Fresno**
- 'Old friendships and new faces, engaging conversations and discoveries... and much more!

*For more District Assembly information go to [www.pcd-uuu.org](http://www.pcd-uuu.org) or contact us at [pcd@pcd-uuu.org](mailto:pcd@pcd-uuu.org)*

## Music Committee

I recently took a moment to reflect on the diversity of music in our worship services. It was a moment well-spent. What a splendor! In the past few months, we've enjoyed and been enriched by music from all periods of history, from Renaissance through recent popular music. The list of genres is staggering: American folk, classical, rock, Hindu hymns, jazz, American spirituals, Gregorian chant, blues, Tuvan folk, Celtic, and so on. We've featured music written by UU's both current and long-past (did you know Bela Bartok was a Unitarian?). Our dedicated choir has several times premiered new

music, an artistic honor and an exciting adventure! I find myself grateful for such variety of experience, and the outstanding talents of our congregation and visiting musicians has enhanced this sense that we are truly blessed with riches. Where else in our community, I ask, can a soul be spiritually nourished by a wonderful choir and, in the same day, have soul stirred by renditions on the accordion, guitar or ukulele? Oh, riches!



-Ben Taylor

## Call To Worship

Your worship team including Rev. Chris and the Worship Associates, warmly invites you to take part in our Sunday Services. If you have a message (sermon) that you are burning to relate, a reflection or reading that would fit just right and tight into an upcoming service, a poem that you'd like to share — let us

know. If you have a special occasion you'd like to commemorate by lighting the chalice — let us know. If you've never lit the chalice — let us know. If you would like to dance, play the kazoo, hum a tune — let us know! Have a great piece of art, a wall-hanging, piece of music or sculpture that we could incorporate — let us

know! We'll consider your wishes and work to build a future worship service together. We're especially open to summer services, when we enjoy the great range of our congregants' offerings. Please contact Worship Associates Co-Chair Maureen Wallace, 578-7665 with your suggestions.

<p><b>NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  <b>SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008</b>  <b><a href="mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org">Newsletter@uusantarosa.org</a></b></p>	<p><b>E-mail submissions Greatly Appreciated!</b></p>
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# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GLASER CENTER

**FRI. APRIL 4, SUN APRIL 5, 8 P.M.**

Narrow Way Stage Co. & the Glaser Center present a special sneak-peek night of theater, with post-show feedback session; workshop scenes from two upcoming plays:

## **Darrel Come Home & Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 8:00 P.M.**

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation presents

## **Holly Near**

In concert with Emma's Revolution

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 7:30 P.M.**

The Glaser Center and KRCB presents

## **The Telephone Show** Page on Stage

9 of the North Bay's best actors take the ultimate test, bringing the Telephone Book to life. Plus music by Stiff Dead Cat & the Sorentinos

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 7:00 P.M.**

The Sonoma County Chamber Singers Present

## **True Treasures: Choral Gold**

A Wealth of Harmony; a Bounty of Tongues

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 7:30 P.M.**

## **The New Horizons Band**

"No Band has More Fun on Stage than the New Horizons Band!"

**MAY 24, 2 PM & 8 PM, MAY 25, 8 PM**

Narrow Way Stage Company & The Glaser Center present

## **Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom**

The award-winning play about freedom, humanity, and survival; taken from the real-life transcripts of 4 Guantanamo Bay detainees



## Glaser Center News

### Turning Shoulds into Could's, the Glaser Center way

During Reverend Chris's March 9 service, he discussed the way some of us respond, with guilt and discomfort, to messages beginning with the word should, as in "I 'should' have turned in my newsletter submission sooner. I was thinking about this last Friday night when, at the intermission of a wonderful night of music (the Jim Scott concert), not one, not two, not three, but FOUR separate people approached me to deliver some variation of the statement, "I should have invited my friend, so-and-so, to come with me to this concert, because I know he'd have loved it," or, "I should have sent an e-mail to \_\_\_\_\_ telling them they shouldn't miss this concert." While I strongly wish to avoid use of the S-word, I would like to suggest that, in regards to our occasional musical and performing arts events, that we all consider an alternate word: "Could." As in, "Hey, I could invite my sister to come see Holly Near on April 11th," or, "I bet I could organize a group from my cooperative housing group to go see *The Telephone Show* on April 19," or even, "Maybe I could send out an e-mail blast to my \_\_\_\_\_ group letting them know about *the Guantanamo Project* in May, or the *Kitka* concert in June." The point

is, while these events certainly do provide income for the UUCSR, they are also marvelous excuses to get together with friends (either church members or folks from outside the UU community), and our events work well as outreach tools. For example, when the Glaser Center (the name of our rental and performing arts ministry here) presents its 3-show run of the play *Guantanamo: Honor bound to Defend Freedom*, in May, it will not only be a riveting evening of drama (based on the stories of five British Nationals held at Guantanamo on suspicion of terrorism), it will also be an excellent "witness" to our UU principles and commitment to human rights protection. The conversations you have over coffee and pie after the show could lead your friends to want to know more about our community and what we stand for. So we officially invite you, when you see a list of upcoming events, to approach it with an attitude of Could, seeing our events as opportunities to help the church as we take our message out to the world in increasingly daring ways. As always, I invite your suggestions and comments,

David Templeton,  
Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director

## Women Together Events

### Annual Retreat ~ May 16 to 18

**The theme this year will be**  
*Embracing Change.*

All UUCSR women and friends are invited to this wonderful weekend, away from the cares and duties of our daily lives, at beautiful and peaceful Saint Dorothy's Rest for two days of reconnecting with old friends, discovering new ones, and exploring and sharing some of our ideas and experiences. Plus wonderful food, singing, games, a

Sunday service that we create, a silent auction to raise money for next year's scholarships, and who knows what else! Some of the workshops already scheduled are *Living With Children*, *Writing*, *Problem Solving*, *Drumming*, and *Sharing Children's Literature*. We will also have small-group discussions focusing on different aspects of *Change*. Sign-ups will be on four Sundays beginning April 13th, the first two Sundays will be for UUCSR members and pledging friends, the following two Sundays

for family and others we might want to bring. The price for two nights and 5 meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) is \$155. Some partial scholarships will be available. New(er) women are particularly invited as this is such a good way to feel connected to our congregation.

### Elder Tales

Dorris Lee will tell her story on Saturday, April 6 from 2 to 4 in the Lake Room, and it's an fascinating and inspiring story indeed! Please bring finger-food to share.



## Legacy Circle Appreciation Event — April 19

The UUCSR Legacy Circle consists of those who have named the UUCSR in their estate plan. All such folks should have received, already, via snail mail, an invitation to the Legacy Circle Gala Appreciation Luncheon on April 19. We express our deep gratitude for your thoughtfulness on behalf of the ongoing financial health of this congregation. **THERE IS STILL TIME** to be invited and acknowledged. Let one of the below-named

members of the Endowment Committee know if we accidentally missed you, or if you just now have made plans to include the congregation in your will, trust, IRA, Charitable Annuity, etc. Deep thanks. We would love to invite you.

Mary Wagner, Bill Foshee, Brian Wells, Calvin Simons, Joe Hammerquist, Rose Saint John

### Calling all TIE GROUP MEMBERS, SAVE THE DATE!!

**What:** Together in Exploration (TIE) Groups May 10, 2008 Potluck

**When:** Saturday, May 10, 2008

**Where:** UUCSR, The Social Hall

**Time:** 12:00 noon to 2:00 P.M.

**Who:** All current and previous TIE Group members

**Why:** To be with other TIE group members to celebrate our 3rd year of fellowship together.

**Bring:** A dish to pass for 8 people



## UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, April 7, 2008, from 4 - 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 547 Mendocino Ave. 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 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](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com), <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com> and/or visit the Writers Table in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings.

## Membership News

**Please Welcome Our Newest Members:** Jeanie Bates, Joy Lonnes, and Margi Nagy.

**Phyllis & Bob Clement**, who joined in February, moved to Sebastopol from Berkeley in 1995 following their retirement. Bob was formerly a chemical engineer who later graduated from law school and became a patent attorney. Phyllis has a Master's degree in social work and worked in that field prior to retirement. The Clements are both UUs who belonged to the UU Fellowship in Berkeley in the 1950s, where they made many lifelong friends. After moving to Sebastopol, they visited us at our former location on Stony Point Road, but were not yet ready to become members. When they visited our congregation in Santa Rosa, they finally decided to join us. Bob & Phyllis have 3 children, all living in California - Oakland, Pt. Arena, and San Ramon. They also have 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Phyllis is especially interested in social justice activities. She is currently active in the League of Women Voters and serves on the Board for the Senior Center in Sebastopol.

**David Hope** became a member in January. He recently moved to Santa Rosa from St. Helena. He worked as a civilian instructor in radiological practices for the Navy at Mare Island in Vallejo. He is now semi-retired and works as a special education assistant at Montgomery

High School. David is a new UU and describes himself as a "recovering Catholic." He initially became involved in our congregation by helping with the Saturday Breakfast program, which he continues to support. He participated in the first Katrina relief trip and has joined a TIE group. He is also active in AA. David has a daughter and a son, both living in Napa County, as well as 3 grandchildren.

**Paula Reid**, who joined in December, is a native Californian, born in La Jolla and raised in Huntington Beach. When she was 19, she moved to Lake Tahoe, where she taught snow skiing and worked at Harvey's Casino. In 1998, she moved to Sebastopol and attended Sonoma State University, where she earned a BA in Environmental Studies and a multiple subject teaching credential. Paula describes herself as "a recovering Catholic, turned agnostic, wannabe Buddhist," so she feels that becoming a UU is "a perfect fit." She has relatives on the East Coast who are UUs, including her aunt, Lee Reid, who was a UU minister in New Jersey. Paula loves outdoor sports, being around children, and living "green." Her latest interest is learning to play both acoustic and electric guitars, and she is hoping to find other guitarists to join her in playing folk/rock music.

**Hillevi Wyman** became a member in February. She recently moved to Santa Rosa from a tiny town in New England, but is by no means new to California, having lived here since 1979 other than sojourns in New York, Minnesota and New England. She grew up abroad, in Sweden, England and Hong Kong. Hillevi has a long history in Unitarian Universalism, since first moving to the US and getting involved with LRY in 1979. Since then she has been active in leadership in UU congregations in Palo Alto, St. Cloud MN, San Francisco, and Monson MA. Her family also has UU roots going back about four generations, and she has many friends who have joined the UU ministry. She came to UUCSR for the first time two weeks after moving here. In fact, she would never have moved here if there hadn't been a UU congregation to join. Her extended family is mostly scattered around the Bay area, through Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties, with a few outliers in Trinity and Los Angeles counties. Hillevi has a consulting business, providing information and research services to the fundraising departments of non-profit organizations. She has many interests which include: dogs, sewing, crocheting, travel, photography, music, etymology, philosophy, history and reading.



## Outdoor AdventUUers—April and May!!

### April 20th - Angel Island Wildflower Ramble

Wildflowers on Angel Island! First one, then another popping up. What are they? Where are they? Just as you start to know the names, they're gone... until next year. We'll have a docent lead us on a tour - approximately 4 miles, 4 hours. There is a \$5.00 fee for the tour; the ferry is \$13.50 for adults, \$11.50 children 6-12; \$3.50 children 3-5. Bring lunch, water, good shoes and dress in layers. Meet at 8:45 am at 211 Ridgway Ave in Santa Rosa (possible pick up in Petaluma). We'll catch the 10:00 am ferry in Tiburon. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity!

### May 10th Pomo Canyon

One of our favorites - and still a possibility for wildflowers. We'll leave from Shell Beach, wind our way up and around Red Hill, continue on eastward to have lunch in the redwoods and then amble back to the ocean. Seven miles, mostly moderate elevation gains, covered and exposed areas, lovely views and forests. Meet 9:00 am at 211 Ridgway Ave in Santa Rosa.

For further information on both of these adventures please contact Maureen Wallace, 578-7665.

## ATTN: CAMP GUALALA LOVERS!!!

**What:** Annual All-Congregation Retreat

**Where:** The lovely Camp Gualala in Annapolis, CA

**When:** Fri - Sun Aug 1st thru 3rd, 2008

**Who:** All UUCSR Members & Pledging Friends

**Why:** FUN, FUN, FUN!!

**Your Job:** Put the date on your calendar, and watch future newsletters for more info!

From your friendly Retreat Committee Members:

Pat Wilson  
LeeAnn Fagan  
Shaun Simmons

Denese Pender  
Barrie Noe



## Gallery News



Thanks to all you member artists who've submitted or offered to submit your artworks for the upcoming group exhibition. We still welcome additional submissions of two or three paintings, photographs, collages, etc. Because we haven't received enough submissions

for a full show yet, the group exhibition has been postponed a few weeks, and will now open at the beginning of May. Artists who have had exhibits previously

are welcome to submit as well. Please contact David Templeton if you would like to be a part of this show.

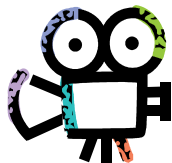
In April, we hope you will enjoy a vibrant exhibition of works by members of the Wine Country Rug Hookers guild, beginning on April 12. Our own Leslie Giffen will have some of her works on display in this exhibition. There will be an open house reception for the artists of Friday, April 18, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., so please do drop by for a glass of wine and an opportunity to celebrate the creative artists who've crafted these bright and colorful rug art pieces.

## Looking for new Activities?

### Well, here are a couple for your consideration.

"*Talking Pictures*" is a monthly movie group that meets the 4th Saturday of the month to discuss movies. We meet either at the congregation or in people's homes. The movie is chosen ahead of time and we meet to discuss it. You don't have to be a member; just love movies. The fun starts at 7PM. Questions? Call Mary Wolfe, chair) 544-3134 or e-mail

[mwolfe@sonic.net](mailto:mwolfe@sonic.net)

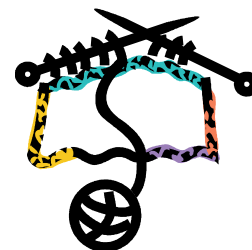


### Looking for ways to reduce stress?

Well, *meditation* may be for you. Currently, there are two groups that meet at the congregation. One meets Tuesday mornings from 10:30-12:00. They meditate for 45 minutes and then have a reading with a discussion. Sunday mornings are a silent mediation from 10:15-10:45. I am also trying to start an evening group, if there is enough interest. Questions? call Mary Wolfe 544-3134 or e-mail [mwolfe@sonic.net](mailto:mwolfe@sonic.net) Both groups meet upstairs in the room off the social hall

### UU Fiber Artists

We meet one Sunday afternoon each month to share fellowship as we knit, crochet, quilt, needlepoint...All levels welcome to come and learn or improve skills and create in community. Call Heather Lawton 707 843-9936 to find out more.



## Don't Miss District Assembly 2008!

Come join 400 Vibrant and Vital UU's from across the Pacific Central District for a weekend of laughing, learning, worship, meeting old friends and making new ones!

Featuring:

**Rev. Robert Latham, Saturday Keynote Speaker!**  
**Rev. Victoria Safford, Saturday Banquet Speaker!**  
**Roy Zimmerman, Satirist (Saturday night)!**

With over 20 different workshops, 5 levels of child / youth programming, Friday night Opening Worship, the PCD Annual Meeting, and Sunday Closing Worship, there is something for everybody at DA2008!

We will meet at the Fremont Marriott. We have received a Special Rate of only \$89 / night for this event!

For more information, please see: [www.pcd-uuu.org](http://www.pcd-uuu.org) and click on the DA2008 link.

We hope to see you there!

Charles B. Rosene, District Administrator  
 Pacific Central District - Unitarian Universalist Assoc.

## Flower Committee

Easy & Breezy, just like Springtime! Honor, commemorate or surprise someone with special sanctuary flowers in their name. A call to Joan Thatcher (544-9130, [jothatch@pacbell.net](mailto:jothatch@pacbell.net)), with 1 week's notice, and \$25 will do it.



## American Slave Trade—What are the Facts?

After completing my reading of *"Inheriting the Trade"* by Thomas DeWolf (Beacon Press) which chronicles the American slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries, I am curious about the possible participation of Unitarians in the slave trade and the ownership of slaves. What are the facts?

The author Tom DeWolf wrote that his Rhode Island cousins, direct descendants of the family members who were Episcopalians in the slave trade faced up to the implications of that history. Ten of them including Tom went to West Africa to trace the sources of the inhumane practice and to see the present day effects of African capture of other native people and the sale of them to the slave traders. Some of the cousins also produced a film documentary of their experiences. They learned that many of the Episcopalian clergy in

America owned slaves up to the Civil War. They also investigated the extent of White Privilege that came from the contribution of slave labor to the growth of wealth in the North as well as in the South.

I want to know if Unitarians and their denominational organization were actively or passively involved in slavery for which we as individual UU's are not responsible. We, however, should face up to any involvement of earlier Unitarians in the horrible practice in order to resolve related issues that may be present in our denominational life today.

Submitted by John F. Durr

P.S. "Inheriting The Trade" by Thomas DeWolf may be purchased at the Bookmobile.

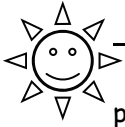
## A Night At The Opera!!

Join us for an Italian feast, frivolity and a show, at il Vitto di Vita (The Food of Life) on *Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>* 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.



## Sign Up For ESCRIP



**ESCRIP** is a hassle free, easy way to contribute to UUCSR. Through your everyday purchases, participating businesses contribute a percentage of your grocery card, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the organization of your choice. All parts of the program are handled automatically by computer and the merchants donate up to 10% of each transaction to the congregation. You can register online at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

Click on **Step 1** in the box that reads: "Make a Difference in Four Easy Steps." then select Group ID and

enter the UUCSR ID#140658825 in the search box. *Then click on the Congregation name and follow the instructions.*

If you should have difficulty or are unable to enroll online, I have forms available in the office.

Thank you for taking the time to show your commitment to Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa and our community. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 568-5381 ext 106.

Janis Brewster, [administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:administrator@uusantarosa.org)

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>**,  
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 ac-

complishments 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.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**



April 2008

Please Recycle

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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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**Sunday Religious Education Staff**  
 Anne Blevins  
 Kara Margolis  
 Erin Stewart



# THE TIME HAS COME !!!!

So many of you have been asking about when the new Council Structure will begin. Well, here is the schedule!

At these informational meetings, the committees of each council will consider their common ground and their role/s in UUCSR, help shape their Council, and ask questions of the Council Implementation Team.

So each and every one of you on a committee, find the date for YOUR Council meeting and come be a part of this historic and exciting process!

## Operation Council - Sunday, April 13 12:30

Communications, Newsletter, Web-team, E-list, Computer committee, Building & Maintenance, Landscaping, Aesthetics, Kitchen/Coffee Hour, Flower, Office Volunteers, Personnel/Human Relations, Ops Team.

## Program Council - Sunday, April 20 - 12:30

RE Steering Committee, Adult RE Committee, Advocates for Social Justice, Diversity Task Force, TIE Groups, Social Activities (book groups, circle dinners, bridge groups, hiking, Under the Hill, etc.) Men's Groups, Women Together, Bookmobile, History.

## Membership Council - Sunday, May 4 - 12:30

Hospitality Team (visitor table, ushers/greeters, follow-up, mentoring, brochures, Inquirers Meetings) New Member Integration Team (new member classes, member/visitor data, directory) Caring, Lay Pastoral Associates, leadership development, volunteer development, Denominational Affairs.

## Financial Stewardship Council - June 15 - 12:30

Finance, Budget, Canvass, Service Auction, Endowment, Rentals, Events, SCRIP

\*Bring a brown bag lunch or \$\$ for take out. Questions?? Call Dorris Lee, 795-7131 or Suzie McPhee, 537-1484