



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• September 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 9 •

Sunday Services at 9:00am and 11:00am resume September 14th!

September 7th

INGATHERING: "Celebrating Life"

All Ages Together

Service starts at 10:00 am!

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Andy Levine & Ellen Skagerberg

Our congregation has expressed its religious mission with four simple lines: celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another, and helping to build a better world. Today we won't just talk about the first of those - we'll actually do it! As we "officially" reconvene after our summer slowdown, we will make a joyful noise with laughter and song as we rededicate ourselves to our community.

September 14th

"Spiritual or Religious? (or neither? or both?)"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Erin Howseman & Ray Teurfs

If I was given a dollar every time someone says "I'm spiritual, but not religious" I could double our family's pledge. I have certainly heard many Unitarian Universalists say it, which is fascinating given the clear dedication to religious purposes in our congregational and denominational by-laws. I've even heard a member of a church say "I am opposed to religion." Huh? For me, these two rich and multi-faceted words go together hand-in-glove. Where do you stand?

We resume two services at 9:00 and 11:00

September 21st

"TRANSformation"

Service Leader: Meredith Guest

Worship Associate: Maureen Wallace

This sermon was originally delivered at the Unitarian Universalists of Petaluma in honor of this year's gay pride month and takes a more focused look at the "T" of GLBT. While transsexuality is often the least visible and most confusing of the issues surrounding orientation and identity, not far beneath the surface are important themes with which we are all familiar.

Meredith Guest lives with her partner in Petaluma, has two grown, wonderful children, is a writer by calling and a school bus driver by necessity, co-chair of the worship committee at UUP and — in another life — was an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

September 28th

"Our First Principle"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Joe Como

The Seven Principles are the guiding values of Unitarian Universalism, rooted in two centuries of theological and philosophical reflection. The very purpose of this organization is to affirm and promote them. The First Principle makes a faith claim that every person has "inherent worth and dignity" and when we say everybody we mean everybody: game show hosts, bad drivers, murderers, even the Vice President. Living this Principle is a very challenging lifetime practice. Today we'll explore a few ways to make it a little easier.

Our 9:00am Service resumes September 14th!



Gathered in a circle, 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 at 887-9810.



Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

Last April at our District Assembly here in the Pacific Central District, Rev. Robert Latham, a well-known UU minister and congregational consultant issued a bold challenge to all in attendance, encouraging us to own and articulate our mission as a religious community. I strongly urge you all to read it, (at www.pcd-uua.org) not only because I have freely borrowed so much of it for this column, but because his message must be heard if our religion is to thrive. Actually, *survive* may be the more appropriate word.

First, Latham argues that all powerful, growing religious institutions have three things in common: "a strong devotion to a clearly stated religious mission; a cadre of basic leadership committed to that mission above all else; and an organization designed to maximize the effectiveness of this mission." He then argues that the basic societal purpose - the mission - of religious institutions is to make meaning of the mysteries of existence, and to provide purpose and direction to its people and to the broader culture. Along with its sister, Philosophy, (which is, however, very rarely institutionalized) religion gives answers to the most profound questions of human existence. That is its job.

Latham's formulation of the ancient questions of ontology, epistemology, theology, teleology and eschatology, that any religion must be able to answer, is as follows (I've restated just slightly from the original):

WHO AM I? Or what is the nature of my being?

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT I KNOW? Or, what is the source of my authority?

WHO OR WHAT IS IN CHARGE? Or what is my ultimate concern, or what is of ultimate value?

WHAT IS MY PURPOSE? Or, what informs and sustains my sense of self-worth?

WHAT DOES MY DEATH MEAN?... Or how shall I live with the boundaries of my existence?

Collectively the answers to these questions comprise our common view of reality. Latham argues - and I agree - that the mission of a religious community is to transform the society in which it exists into the shape that view of reality, reflecting its values, spreading its conscience. The clearer, and more widely held, such a view is the more powerful it is, and the better we model it in our community and relationships the more convincing it is.

Thus, if we are fulfilling our purpose in society the cause we serve is not ourselves. Our individual preferences and desires are of secondary importance compared to the larger goal of propagating the views and values of Unitarian Universalism. Unfortunately, as has so often

been the case with those who have accurately seen our problems, Latham is dead on with his analysis, but fails to pursue the task at hand. He did not articulate the distinctly Unitarian Universalist answers to those questions. I don't blame him: it is a challenging task. I have long held the same criticisms as Latham, but my feeble first writings toward a comprehensive UU theology while in Divinity School nearly melted my brain. I've not given up on the task, though, so next month I'll offer what I think are our (yes, *our*) answers. How's that for a cliff-hanger?

I love you all, but it is Unitarian Universalism as a whole that I serve, and I invite you into that service as well. I believe that in any given place a thousand, or ten thousand, additional UUs committed to a modern understanding of God and the inclusiveness of Her love, coupled with our Humanist ethics, would be of inestimable influence and power in creating the world of harmony for which we long. I am a minister partly because I think that a city or county or state or country or planet built upon the Principles of Unitarian Universalism would be better for everybody, and that I would like to convert (gasp!) as many people to that view as possible.

Latham says that our central task is transforming as many hearts and minds as we can. For me the most central piece of such a project is raising a new generation of children to carry our view of reality into the future, but it includes all of the social justice work, the community-building, the worship, and the religious education that we pursue, all designed to show how living a UU life makes one's own life, and the life of one's community better. By *better* I mean more connected, more powerful, more secure, more truthful, more enlightened, more in harmony with the Great Big Thing.

At UUCSR our stated mission and vision is to "live as fully as possible our Unitarian Universalist Principles and to nurture a liberal religious community" that will "celebrate life, empower people, care for one another, and help to build a better world." The questions for us if we find those principles and aspirations sufficiently inspiring, is what are we willing to do to make it so? How will we stretch our boundaries and our comfort zones? How will we rid ourselves of the prejudices or presumptions that keep us from sharing that vision as broadly as we might?

As we look to a new year together, I hope that we will engage these questions of deep meaning - and our common answers to them - again and again, that we might find clarity about our mission and strengthen our commitments to it. May our community and all its members be blessed, and may all the world grow in love.

See ya! Rev. Chris

Splinters from the Board

By the time you have this newsletter in your hands, the Board of Trustees will have completed its annual retreat and come back to UUCSR with its collective consciousness chock-full of new knowledge, hard-won insights, 12-Point Plans and 44 Bold Goals for ensuring the long-term vitality of this religious community. ("Dad, I think you're doing that exaggeration thing again," I can hear my daughter saying.)

In truth, retreats always help focus a board's energies on the many competing needs and desires expressed and held dear by a diverse congregation such as ours. There is always so much to be done, so many worthy ideas to pursue, so many suddenly emergent problems that come crashing in like an unwelcome guest (or gust) at a party. How does a board ferret out the relatively few things it is capable of attending to and achieving in the course of a year while accepting that the basic human constraints on its time and energy will necessarily result in bypassing other, perhaps equally or more worthy projects?

With humility, fear and trembling, on the one hand. But on a more expansive other hand, by gathering together in an abbreviated retreat weekend for extended reflection, questioning, visioning, deep listening and probing of

our own and our fellow board members' hearts and minds. Part of it, too, comes from tapping into the unique gifts each board member brings to our table, some of those gifts perhaps coming as a surprise even to their bearer. Beginning to acknowledge and uncover these gifts and exploring how they can contribute to the betterment of congregational life is one of the beauties of a retreat weekend.

The concept of "stepping up"—to one's gifts, one's potential, one's challenges—was much bandied about in the recently completed Olympic Games. Making the most of what is in us, fanning the embers of unacknowledged, dormant or underdeveloped skills and passions into the fire of commitment is always a worthy pursuit, whether in the pool, on the beach volleyball court or at the next church committee meeting.

If you find yourself inspired by one of those meetings to take an even more active role in the life of this community, here's to following through on the inspiration. That's where the gold medals are waiting.

Andrew Hidas
Board President



Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket:

Our congregation will share the proceeds of the collection taken on September 7th with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM) The Action Network PAC which is an integral part of the No on 8, Equality for All campaign. This is the organization that is working to defeat the proposed amendment that would add discrimination to the California Constitution by denying gay and lesbian couples the right to legal marriage. Experts believe that this amendment will either pass or fail by less than one percentage point! At this point, approximately 7% of the electorate is undecided on the issue. The side that is able to raise the most money and

recruit the most volunteers to talk with undecided voters will be the side that wins. Please, stand on the side of love and donate generously.

Because the campaign is being operated through a political action committee (PAC), campaign finance laws require that all donations are accounted for by individuals. Therefore, UUCSR cannot collect the donations and then cut a check, which is our usual practice. This month, you will find special envelopes in your order of service on September 7. Please take the time to put your faith into action and fill out the donation information.

Treasurer's Report

As the summer winds down and the church year begins, we again have co-treasurers for the UUCSR Board. Bonnie Daines will continue and Denise Pender will begin to share the duties of the treasurer. The former co-treasurer, Suzie McPhee is the new vice-president of the Board of Trustees. Thank you, Suzie for your super contributions as co-treasurer last year.

As our new church year began on July 1st we continue to be pleased with how well members have kept their pledges current. Timely pledge payment is a key factor in making sure that our month to month expenses get paid when due without causing problems with "cash flow". This congregation did an outstanding job last

year in keeping expenses low and pledges and other income areas high, bringing us the best fiscal year in recent memory.

This fall the Board is grappling with some "life happens" problems, which may impact our very ambitious budget. We have some work that needs doing on the exterior of the building and some possible property tax issues. The Board and Finance Committee are hard at work in finding practical and fiscally sound solutions to these thorny issues and expect resolutions soon. Keep tuned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Daines, Co-treasurer

Councils Under Construction

The Council System of governance is moving ahead in spite of vacations, summer fun and other warm weather activities. The Membership groups have met and are well underway in forming their council. The Operations Council is looking at a restructure and not just having the Ops Team as the council. Ted Miller and Joan Wion are working on the Program Council. The Financial Stewardship Council will meet in early September. As we look at all the committees it is apparent that some need to be in councils different than originally thought. As things are sorted out, the word everyone needs to

remember is - 'this is a work in progress'. Please be open and ready to be a part of this new process if you are asked. To paraphrase another saying "it takes a Congregation to make the Councils work." This fall will be a transition period and it's not as if we don't know about change! The congregation and the governance of it will come out stronger, more flexible and able to take on the challenges and opportunities that we know are and will be happening at UUCSR.

Submitted by Suzie McPhee
Vice President, Board of Trustees

Women Together—One Day Retreat

**Save the date ~ Saturday, October 4th,
for our One-day, Potluck, Women's Retreat,
from 9:30 to 3:30 at UUC.**

**Our theme will be
*Celebrating Personal Hope and Resilience.***

We will gather at 9:30 in the Social Hall for coffee and munchies. Then an opening circle after which we'll break into small groups for a silly and a less silly activity. After a pot-luck lunch (please bring a dish to share) there will be a variety of activities to choose among, and we'll end with a closing circle. This retreat is especially for people with mobility challenges for whom St.

Dorothy's is a too unwieldy, and for those with children who find it hard to get away for the weekend. There will be childcare available. (Please contact Susan Dickey if you'll want that so she can hire someone if needed: 525-1740 or susan_dickey@agilent.com). Newer members are particularly invited as this is a wonderful way to get to know other people and feel part of the congregation. Also, you are welcome to invite any friends who you think would like to come! Call Linda Harlow if you have any questions or need more information ~ 526-3528.

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Our Summer RE program proved to be really fun. Each session focused on nature and the 7th principle. Though our numbers were small (as expected) the children who attended seemed to get a lot out of each lesson. We even welcomed a visiting chicken, guinea pig, and a couple dogs to the delight of the kids! It was a good time for connecting to one another and appreciating the many gifts of Mother Nature. Many thanks to all the grown ups who helped out this summer!

Most of my summer was spent planning for the church year. I am introducing a whole new schedule this year. It is based on a program concept developed by Rev. Greg Stewart (now senior minister at the San Francisco UU Church) called *Way Cool Sunday School*. The idea of the program is to make Sunday School as engaging and spiritually awakening as possible. Twice a month the children of all ages will be together: 1st Sunday will be Youth Worship based on the theme of the adult worship service that day. 4th Sunday will be Social Justice/Community Service Sunday. We have programs planned to teach the children about the plight of families and children living with AIDS in Africa and how they can help a local organization to address this issue. We will have a day of generosity & random acts of kindness where the children (escorted by adult volunteers) will give away dollar bills downtown. Later in the church year we will be making blankets for the Linus Project (named for the loveable Linus van Pelt of Peanuts fame) a group that provides hand made blankets to abused children. Our fiber arts group will assist with this project. I will be looking to the congregation for other creative ideas for other community/social justice activities. Please let me know if you have a special project you would like to bring to the kids.

The children will be in their age-group classes on the second and third Sundays. Detailed descriptions of the curricula being followed in these classes were in last month's newsletter. Much of the focus of these classes will be on UU identity. Again I chose curricula which are experiential, engaging, and provide space for the children to connect and bond with one another.

We are offering the Coming of Age program this year and 8 of our youth (grades 8-10) signed up, and 8 members have volunteered to mentor these kids throughout the church year. Our youth will join with other UU kids at 3 retreats during the year and with guidance from Rev Chris and their mentor will compose a personal credo. The Coming of Age program will culminate on May 17 with a Sunday service where they will present their personal credos.

We will be kicking off the new church year in RE on Sept. 5th with a gathering of the families for a barbeque, games, and a time for some spiritual reconnection. Our first family fun activity, A Day on the River, is planned for Sept. 21 at Kitty and Brian Wells' place on the river in Healdsburg.

It is going to be a busy and exciting year in RE and we will need the help of many to make all of these activities successful. It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a congregation to grow a religious education program. Be a part of our village - join us! The children need you.

In faith,
Deborah



A COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES

Please join the Playground Committee on **Sunday, September 28** after church (12:30pm) in the RE common room to hear about plans for a children's play area in the courtyard.

The committee will provide details of the proposed plan and how they arrived at it.

You will be invited to give feedback and suggestions.

All are welcome.

Circle Dinners = Fun and Fellowship

Again, this year the circles will not begin until the October newsletter comes out. This is in order to give new members & friends who join us in September a chance to get on the list. Those of you who are already signed up need do nothing unless you want to get off the list.

Circle Dinners are a great way for members and friends of the congregation get to know each other better. (We all know how difficult this can be at Sunday morning coffee hour and other large gatherings.) New members & friends are particularly encouraged to join Circle Dinners.

How does it work? Small groups of 6 to 8 people meet together in their homes for a planned potluck three times in a period of four months. After that time everyone who wishes to be in a circle for the next four months are scrambled into new groups. These groups are published in the newsletter at the beginning of each new period.

When the new groups come out, the person or couple whose name appears at the top of the list needs to get in touch with the others in the group to arrange a date and to plan the menu. The next two meetings are gener-

ally planned at the first meeting--when & where they will take place & who will bring what. It's easy and it's fun and we've been doing it for several years!

Unfortunately, there have been people who are on the list but do not attend. People who do not respond to invitations from the current hosts or who fail to call when they are unable to attend will be removed from the list. Of course, we understand that unforeseeable circumstances sometimes arise. That is what the substitutes are for. But PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE let the hosts know if this is going to happen!

Let us know now! If you decide to join Circle Dinners, or decide that you no longer wish to participate, or if you decide to change your status, (i.e., from member to substitute), please contact Joan or Shirley to let them know BEFORE the time to generate new lists—in this case, September 15.

It would be best to email Joan Thatcher at jothatch@pacbell.net to let us know, but you may call Shirley Williams (575-9322) or Joan Thatcher (544-9130) BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10. The new list will be in the October newsletter.

The Four Agreements—An Inspirational Workshop

Are you shy about speaking openly and honestly?

Do you hold on to being right?

Do you long for intimate, nourishing conversations?

Based on Miguel Ruz's best selling book we will explore these and other questions. This is another offering from the Committee on Shared Ministry supporting positive communication in our congregation

Wednesday evenings Sept 24th thru Oct 15

7:00pm --- 8:30pm

\$12.95 (cost of book) - Scholarships available

Please RSVP by Sept 12

Facilitated by Nancy Hargis and Heather Lawton
Transforming communication with awareness and wisdom



Book Group Information

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Tuesday, September 22 at 1:00 p.m. The book to be discussed is *"Broken for You"* by Stephanie Kallos. For information about the location of this meeting, or for any other questions please call Susan Simons, 527-7191.

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *"Watermelon Nights"* by Greg Sarris. New members and visitors are welcome.

A Campaign to Replenish the Endowment

Several years ago, this congregation took a very bold and brave step: the membership voted to spend more than 80% of the endowment fund in order to facilitate the move to our new location. This was an extraordinary decision to make, one for which very few organizations have the courage. If you were part of the congregation then: thank you. I've been able to join a vibrant and thriving group because of your decision.

And if you were here before then, thank you, too. That big, bold decision was only possible because there was an endowment available to use, and it was there because people decided that this congregation should have a tomorrow, and put money in a fund to support that tomorrow.

We're a remarkable group of people. After a couple of difficult years, this year we have a balanced budget: enough in pledges and other income to meet all our anticipated expenses. Now, with today secure, it's time to think about tomorrow again.

One way to do this is through your estate planning: recognizing this community with a bequest, or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, or through the use of an-

other financial instrument. However, you don't have to wait until you die to invest in our future: you can make a gift to the endowment at any time. Please, don't reduce your gifts to the annual operating fund; today must be secure before we think about tomorrow, but if you have a little extra money, if you get a bonus from work or win the lottery, or get unexpected dividends, consider supporting the future of UUCSR by giving 10% of that to the endowment fund. It's time for our endowment, now about \$89,700 to return to and then exceed its previous value of \$274,800.

Giving to the endowment is easy. You can contact Rose St. John (707-865-0755 or email to rosestjo@hotmail.com) or Jan Hess (707-528-8063 or email to hess-aguirre@msn.com), or simply drop a check in the Sunday collection basket, with "endowment" written on the memo line. I just gave \$100 to the endowment, can you do the same?

And again, thank you.

Hillevi Wyman
Endowment Committee member

Trip to New Orleans

The Advocates for Social Justice are organizing a third trip to help with the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. We have reserved space in the Volunteer Center that is run by our partner church, First UU Church of New Orleans, from December 6-December 13. The twenty-five or so people from our congregation who have gone on

these trips in the past have found them extremely rewarding. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Mary Louise Jaffray or Rita Butterfield. Rita can be reached at 528-2714 or rita828@gmail.com.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

**E-mail submissions Greatly
Appreciated!**

12th Annual PCD Men's Retreat

Save the Date!

Friday-Sunday, October 17th-19th

IT'S ALL ABOUT SHOWING UP!

Come join men from all around the Pacific Central District for a weekend of fun, community building, kinship, singing, workshops and more!

We will be gathering once again at the Westminster Center in Alamo (10 miles south of Walnut Creek).

Our theme this year is *It's All About Showing Up*. Through experiential workshops and kinship groups, we will explore the importance of showing up at the retreat and showing up and being fully present in our lives. There will also be free time on Saturday afternoon and the always-popular No-Talent Show on Saturday night.

The cost for the weekend is \$225. Scholarships are available.

For more information and to register - <http://pcd-uua.org/men/frames.htm> or contact Harry J. Mersmann at 209-955-0291 or pcdmensretreat@gmail.com

Service Auction, Getting Closer

Our annual Service Auction will be Saturday, November 8, at 5:30. This is a huge, fun annual event that is our biggest fund raiser. Last year we brought in over \$15,000 and we're trying to top that amount this year. We will display the silent auction bulletin boards during the month of October.

Almost every person in our congregation gets involved in preparations. Here are ways you can be part of the fun:

Host an event or offer a service. This can be something as extravagant as an elegant, themed meal ("A Night in Morocco") or simply a meal that is a specialty of yours, like lasagna or chili. Or, have guests over for singing, a game night, or poetry readings - use your imagination.

These types of events are our biggest sellers. Also, you can offer a service, such as transportation or cleaning someone's house, or whatever you can think of.

Donate gift-quality items. Talk to Kitty Wells about these. She is our item assessor.

Arrange a donation from a favorite **business**. **Ask any place where you do regular business to see if they would like to donate something.** You'd be surprised how often places say yes to their customers. If you are too

shy, give your suggestion to Kitty Wells and she will ask for you. She is the courageous member of our Service Auction committee.

Volunteer to help the night of the **Auction**. **A list of tasks and a sign-up sheet are on the bulletin boards, next to the restrooms.**

We are trying something different this year - we are asking people to sign up in advance for the Service Auction dinner. Reserving your place gets you the discounted price of \$15 for your meal (which includes appetizers, dinner, beverage and dessert). If you do not sign up, you are still welcome, but it will cost you... an additional \$5.00.

Here is a brief introduction to our Service Auction committee: Kitty Wells (433-1196) orchestrates community donations and evaluates items donated to make sure they are appropriate to the auction. Kirsten Olney (542-4694) recruits the volunteers.

Cathy Wiese (829-3634) organizes the dinner. Nancy Freeman (537-1987) handles data input and wields the whip.



Together In Exploration (TIE) - Small Group Ministry (SGM) Program

SIGN-UP NOW FOR TIE GROUPS

Look for the TIE sign-up sheets at the Small Group Ministry table in the social hall before or after the Sunday services through September 23. All friends and members are welcome to join a TIE group. If you have any questions, come to the Small Group Ministry table and we will be there to help you out.

The Small Group Ministry Program steering committee members have been hard at work this summer making plans for our 4th year of the Together in Exploration (TIE) groups being offered at UUCSR beginning in October.

For those who are new at UUCSR, the TIE groups are a good way to get to know members and friends in a small group of 6 to 12 members. The TIE groups meet twice a month for 2 hours each time.

Each TIE group is led by trained facilitators. The bi-monthly gatherings includes opening words, lighting of

the Chalice, a check-in, a topic for discussion, a check-out and closing words. A simple format that allows for developing close relationships from October through May. These new friends will become part of your church family forever!

The following quotes from TIE participants evaluations from May will give you an idea of what you might expect when you join a TIE group this fall:

"I loved getting to know the people in my group and hearing the stories of their lives that were all so different from mine.", "I liked getting to know the other member's of my group better—and myself." and "It was great, as a new resident of Santa Rosa, to be able to share in fellowship with a small group."

Any questions? Leave a message at the church office (707)568-5381.

Submitted by Carolyn McLeese, member of the SGM steering committee



UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, September 8, 2008, from 4 - 6pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 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, except September, 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.

UUCSR Community Outreach Projects

"Literati" A quarterly Publication - release date TBA, "Write a Book in 30 days" Summer Workshop, "Sonoma County Book Festival" A September, Community Event in which UUCSR participates. The next Book Festival will be on Saturday, September 20, in downtown Santa Rosa Old Courthouse Square.

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.

SheNANigans with NANCy Hayashibara

"Come, come whoever you are," to Nancy Hayashibara's piano concert Saturday night, September 27 at 7:30 PM. Buy your tickets now because they may sell out - only \$20 at the Glaser Center Box office.

"Wanderers, worshippers, lovers of leaving," will be pleased with the quality of UU talent joining Nancy. Roger Corman will jazz us with a few piano pieces. Robert Lunceford will pump us up with accordion tunes. Cathy Wiese will wow us with classical guitar. Plus, we are sure to get a few mystery guests to entertain you.

"Ours is no caravan of despair." If you are even close to feeling blue or need a bit of cheer, don't miss this performance. We enjoy her music most Sundays - here's your chance to hear her play lengthier classical pieces and a few creative surprises.

"Come, yet again, come."



Who and What is the Committee on Shared Ministry

Who are we? We are Elizabeth Marrs, Chairperson, Rev. Chris Bell, Chris Farkas, Nancy Hargis, Heather Lawton, Andy Levine and Derek Spiekerman.

The purpose of the Committee on Shared Ministry is to encourage healthy communication among mem-

bers and committees of the UUCSR, to help insure issues and concerns are addressed and resolved amicably and in a timely manner and to provide support and feedback to the minister.

The committee identifies trends, synthesizes information and appreci-

ates the diversity of viewpoints within in the congregation.

Please contact anyone of us on the committee with any issues that arise.

In fellowship,
Andy Levine

UUCSR Aesthetics Committee

Do you like the building that greets you when you arrive at 547 Mendocino?

Do the colors please you? The art in the various spaces? Or the sanctuary, the new memorial tree on its rear wall, the wall colors in the Board room and new conference room, the pride flags?

We are an advisory committee Our purpose is to see that our beautiful building remains just that - beautiful, functional and reflecting our values. When we are con-

sulted about a project our perspectives are considered.

If you have ideas, thoughts, or preferences about how all the visual elements around our building come together, you may be interested in sharing in the process of making it happen. Talk to us! To explore your involvement with this committee, please contact any of the following: Louise Ostlund, Ann Chambers, Sally Fife, Elizabeth Marrs, Suzie McPhee, Elsa Torres, Floss Wheeler, Bud Willis.



INTERFAITH PEACE DINNER

**Potluck Dinner and Gathering
for Peace and Interfaith Friendship**
Monday Evening—September 15, 2008
7:00 - 8:45 PM Social Hall

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif.

Everyone, of all faiths, is welcome!

Free!

Participants are invited to fast and to pray from sunrise to sunset for peace and guidance, honoring the sacred Ramadan tradition which our Muslim co-hosts will be observing throughout September.

(Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up etc.)
Talk to Rev. Chris for more info.



Submission by a UUCSR Writer

Reflections

By Dorothy L. Walsh
August 15, 2008

One sunny Spring afternoon
I decided to walk to the store
The rain had finally stopped
And the air washed bright and clean
by The Spring rain sparkled
As though brushed with diamond dust
Along the way, I saw glistening
Beside a driveway, an oil slicked puddle.
The colors of a rainbow dancing on the surface.
Though some would say that was contamination
Still I found in those colors painted there,
Reflections of times long past.
The blues seen on the water
Called to mind the blue sky
That precious blue of a New Mexico Sky

from that trip so long ago
The greens seemed to speak
Of the green seaweed along the beach
As my young sons played tag with the waves
There were pinks and lavenders as well
Reminding me of that forgotten sunset
Also along the sand of the beach
Where once we camped and watched the
Sea Foam come in on the waves
And the young sea birds dancing in and out
As the waves broke upon the sands
I hurried on my way to the store
Those errands to run while still the sunshine
Warmed the Spring day,
While the Reflections brought smiles
And a few tears from Memories
And an oil slick for me remains a thing of Beauty

UUCSR Book Cart

Are you inspired by the music we sing and wish to know more? Stop by the Book Cart on Sunday mornings to purchase your very own copy of the hymnal! We have several versions:

Singing the Living Tradition - Pew Edition

Singing the Living Tradition - Large Print edition (in 2 volumes)

Singing the Journey. Supplement to *Singing the Living Tradition* - paperback

Singing the Journey. Supplement to *Singing the Living Tradition* - Large Print edition

Ever wonder about where the hymns come from? Look at:

Between the Lines Songbook. Sources for Singing the Living Tradition

Want to find some kid-friendly songs? Try:

May This Light Shine Songbook. A Songbook for Children and Youth

The Book Cart is always looking for new volunteers to staff it on Sundays. If you are interested, contact Paula Hammett

Children's Village of Sonoma County

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES
OF CHILDREN.**

BECOME A CHILDREN'S VILLAGE GRANDPARENT!

The Children's Village of Sonoma County provides nurturing, stable family homes in a multi-generational enriched environment for children and sibling groups in foster care.

VILLAGE GRANDPARENTS:

Live on-site in new, separate apartments with reasonable rent.

Share time and activities with the children and are involved with the family units and village parents.

For information call: The Children's Village Office, 707-566-7044

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

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



September 2008

Recycle

Please

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

Mailing Address: 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381
Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: http://www.uusantarosa.org

Board of Trustees

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Order of Service Announcements:

Send submissions to Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org
Editor: Janis Brewster
Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

UU Update Newsletter:

Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail address

Editor: Janis Brewster

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

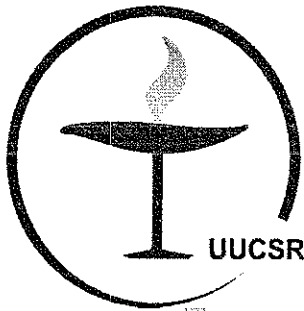
Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

Staff

Minister Rev. Chris Bell, Ext. 108, Minister@uusantarosa.org
Director, Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 101 DLRE@uusantarosa.org
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Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, glaser@uusantarosa.org
Sexton: Tony Crevelli

Sunday Religious

Education Staff
Anne Blevins



Getting to Know UU & UUCSR

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:

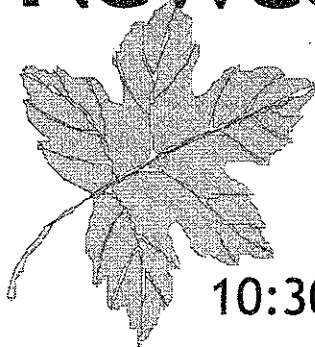
A brief history of Unitarian Universalism

How to become involved in congregational activities

Getting acquainted at lunch

Unitarian Universalist diversity and the meaning of membership

Fall Newcomer Welcome



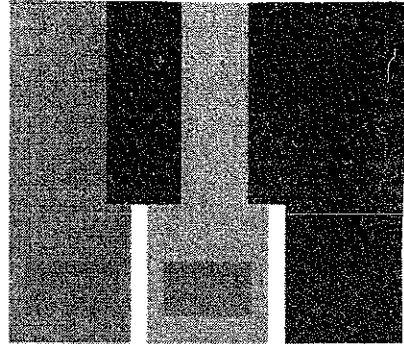
Saturday, October 11th
10:30 am - 2:30 pm Lunch provided

Please register by October 5th if you plan to attend.
Registration forms available at the Visitor table, or call
Maureen Wallace - 578-7665



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, SANTA ROSA PRESENTS

PIANO SHENANIGANS



NANCY HAYASHIBARA IN CONCERT

WITH ROGER CORMAN

JAZZ PIANO

AND ROBERT LUNCEFORD

ACCORDION

Shenanigans: n *plural*. Playful, prankish, or joyous displays of mischievous high spirits

SCHUMANN
RAVEL
DEBUSSY

\$20

IN ADVANCE

\$25

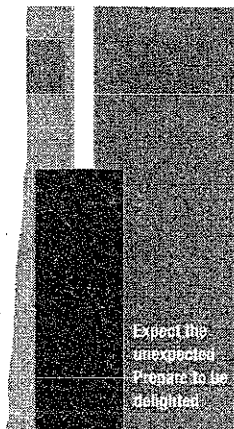
AT THE DOOR

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 27
8:00 P.M.**

**THE GLASER CENTER
547 MENDOCINO AVE., SANTA ROSA
(WITH CONVENIENT PARKING IN THE 7TH STREET GARAGE)**

Tickets available at Copperfields Book Stores, The Last Record Store (in Santa Rosa), Back Door Disc (in Cotati), Conroy Music Center (Santa Rosa), and on-line at brownpapertickets.com

BROWN ♦ PAPER ♦ TICKETS



Expect the unexpected
Prepare to be delighted

WWW.GLASERCENTER.COM

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN TO DO THIS FALL?

Friday, September 19, 8:00 p.m.

Movie Night

(in the courtyard, weather permitting)

Ed Wood's

PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE

"Future events will affect you in the future!"

Hilariously off-kilter and charmingly bad, Ed Wood's super low-budget 1956 "thriller" was the focus of Tim Burton's Oscar Winning comedy-drama *Ed Wood*. Featuring Bela Lugosi in his last role (sort of), *Plan 9 From Outer Space* has since become a demented Cold War-era cult hit. Tickets \$5, \$20 for families of four or more.

Appropriate pre-show entertainment is planned.



August 28 - Sept. 14

Narrow Way Stage Co.

and The Actors' Basement present

DAVID IVES'

Don Juan in Chicago

PLAYING IN REPERTORY WITH

DAN FARLEY'S

Darryl Come Home

David Ives' 1995 farce combines hilariously low sex-farce with piercing social observation, as we catch up with Don Juan, still alive in modern day Chicago, suffering under the love-challenging demands of his ancient deal with the devil. Directed by Kevin Bordi, *Don Juan in Chicago* runs in repertory with the North Bay premiere of Dan Farley's riveting *Darryl Come Home*, a searing, soaring, adrenaline-packed drama about a disturbed young man attempting to adapt to civilian life after a head-spinning tour of duty in an unnamed war. Directed by Adam Palafox, the show examines an entirely different kind of deal with the devil, inescapable and real. Tickets \$15 general/\$10 students.

Saturday September 27, 8:00 p.m.

Piano Shenanigans

Nancy Hayashibara in Concert

with Roger Corman, Robert Lunceford and others

Expect the unexpected as pianist Nancy Hayashibara performs the music of Ravel, Schumann and Debussy, with splashes of comedy and musical magic.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

October 2 - October 31

Fools Circle Repertory Theater Company
present

C.D. Payne's

Youth in Revolt

THE SIDE-SPLITTING
CULT NOVEL BROUGHT TO
LIFE BY ITS ORIGINAL
STAGE DIRECTOR

Directed by Carl Hamilton

Tickets \$20 general
\$15 students and seniors

Saturday November 1, 8:00 p.m.

VOENA

with Gideon Bendile

Saturday December 6, 7:30 p.m.

Twisted Christmas Live 6

Friday December 12, 7:30 p.m.

New Horizons Band

Monday, December 29, 8:00 p.m.

Will Durst presents

The Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show

FALL EVENTS AT THE GLASER CENTER

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

547 MENDOCINO AVENUE, SANTA ROSA