



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• October 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 10 •

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

### October 5th

#### "The First Social Worker (and the Second Principle)"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell  
Worship Associate: Orlando Raola

The life of Joseph Tuckerman, minister-at-large to the poor of Boston in the early 1800s, is an inspiring story of crossing boundaries and living one's principles and exemplifies the philanthropy of classical Unitarianism. We'll use his life to consider questions of restorative justice, the meaning of equity, and the central place of compassion in human relations.

### October 12th

#### "Aesclepius and the Miracles of Healing"

Service Leader: Karen Melander-Magoon  
Worship Associate: Leslie Giffen

Karen Melander-Magoon will talk about her trip to Turkey, visiting the library of Ephesus and the healing center at Aesclepius. She will speak of Socrates and the role of the community in healing and in finding spiritual health and well-being as well as the power of gratitude in our spiritual lives.

Karen graduated from Indiana University in Music and received her Masters Degree from Boston University in Education/Counseling. She spent several years in Europe singing on the major stages of Germany and Austria. Her two children were born in France and in Germany. She has just completed her Doctor of Ministry with San Francisco Theological Seminary."

### October 19th

#### "Partial to No One"

Rev. Matthew Lawrence, Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation (right across the street) and Rev. Chris will be exchanging pulpits this morning. Father Matt will offer his response to the right-wing Christian political agenda, and explore the wisdom of Jesus on the question of choosing sides - or not - in politics, faith, and family issues.

Father Matt was ordained in 1990 and spent several years as an activist, a management consultant, and a policy analyst prior to jumping into parish ministry in 1992. He has served in Santa Rosa since 2003. He has been married for 25 years to Rose, a clinical psychologist, and is the proud father of Tom, a sophomore at GWU.

PLEASE NOTE, our communities will enjoy two coffee hours together, one here and one there, in a spirit of mutual hospitality. Here's the special schedule:

**9:15** Early Service with Father Matt

**10:15: Coffee Hour at UUCSR** (Most of the folks from Incarnation will come over during this time. *Please come to services an hour early, and make a new friend!*)

**11:15** Late Service with Father Matt

**12:15ish Coffee Hour at Incarnation**

### October 26th

#### "Empowering People"

#### ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

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

Today we will join thousands of other UUs in affirming our common bonds on the second annual Association Sunday! UUA President Rev. Bill Sinkford has challenged us to *Grow Our Faith* by more effectively *Growing Our Spirit*. This Sunday's collection will be pooled with those of hundreds of other congregations and distributed by the UUA. Half will help create new programs for lay theological education and spiritual deepening, and the other half will be divided equally between continuing education for ministers, scholarships for promising students in seminary, and a special initiative to support our ministers of color. Come ready to give generously to help grow our spirit and faith!

### Our 9:00am Service

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

There were a few “compelling questions” left dangling in last month’s column. Rev. Robert Latham, at our District Assembly in April, claimed that any religion that would play its appropriate role in society must have answers to them. They are:

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

**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?

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

One of the strengths of Unitarian Universalism is that it encourages each of us to seek our own answers to these questions. One of its weaknesses, however, is that it provides surprisingly formal guidance in one direction or another for those on the journey, particularly those who are just setting out. While I fully agree that every person is existentially fated to discern truth and find faith for him or herself, it is bizarre for a religion to offer so little direction to those who are in need. Instead, we tend to offer two possibilities: try not to worry too much about answering the big questions and simply enjoy the friendly, like-minded people; or dare to undertake the quest alone.

A metaphor I once heard suggested that finding oneself newly in need of spirituality and/or religious community is akin to waking up lost in a forest. Most faith traditions holler “Walk this way!” and show you a path out. Unitarian Universalists airlift in a compass, a flashlight and a few books of poetry and say “Good luck! We’re pulling for you!” Our Principles are helpful as an ethical code along the way, but I do wonder how effective and meaningful these really are. At a gathering of 25 UU adults and teenagers last night there were only a couple of us who could speak to them all from memory. And the Principles don’t clearly respond to the questions above, although some of the answers may be hiding in there.

Based on how few Unitarian Universalists there are, Latham argued that our basic “don’t ask, don’t tell” approach is a failure. We might try to justify this by feeling smarter or wiser than everybody else, but we clearly don’t provide what the vast majority of people want or need from religion. Those needs and wants have never gone away no matter how advanced psychology and science have become.

So, then, with the appropriate bows to our creedlessness, to each person’s supreme right of conscience, and to the welcome presence of diverse theologies within our congregation, here

is one effort to answer these compelling questions. I have sought the answers in the lived practice of Unitarian Universalism in dialogue with our historical positions on these matters, from our liberal Christian roots, through Transcendentalism and Religious Humanism, to the postmodern UUism of today. These words are, of course, just the briefest snapshot off the top of my head to get us thinking. The big picture would take many, many pages and have an annoying number of footnotes.

Who am I? What is the nature of my being? A person is an amalgam of inherent physical life processes (few of which can be changed or controlled) and familial, societal, linguistic and cultural influences (some of which can be changed). Within those significant limitations, we are truly free. Our raw self is highly malleable; both good and evil can be taught, learned and later chosen by us, so we need to be very careful. Spiritual discipline is very helpful in this regard. My choices are real, and have profound meaning through their impact on myself, other beings, and the totality. We are wise to center our morals and ethics in our shared humanity, but must remember that we exist only in relation to everything else – which is all also free. We are fundamentally relational beings in an “interconnected web of all being of which we are but a part.”

Each of us is a member of a single universal human family, which is itself only one branch of the family of all living things. Although we might be the most intelligent and complex manifestation of life on earth, that demonstrates only the possibilities and potential of Life itself. We did not create our own minds, brains, or senses, nor did we invent love in its many forms and with its myriad moral implications. Still, one has to admit, we’re pretty cool...

Humans are animals, and life requires the consumption and transformation of other life, so we will always have a mix of selfish and survival-oriented qualities in our being in tension with our higher moral qualities. We are imperfect beings who can imagine perfection, broken beings who forever yearn for wholeness. The demands of the body and the spirit are often at odds, although ultimately mind/body dualities are false, at least as long as we are alive. We are more than our body and genes, but that “more” cannot be found outside the body. (Although, our forebears, I note, had a very clear sense of an eternal, immaterial soul.) To lift up any one piece of our intellectual/physical/emotional triad as our “essence” put us out of balance. Because humans demonstrate astonishingly diverse cultures and societies, our true nature as a person must precede or transcend them all. The mystical insights of every tradition proclaim that we are at our very root a locus of pure, if ever-changing, awareness in a unified field *Cont. on pg 15*

## Splinters from the Board

Two broad themes seem to have emerged from our early Board of Trustees meetings and the retreat we took over the Labor Day weekend. One is the need to pay ongoing attention to the transition we are undergoing with our new council-based governance structure. (I can see your eyes glazing over already with the last four words of that sentence, but bear with me, please...)

The second is that even as we engage in this highly bureaucratic-sounding activity and attend to all the other "business" of this growing "organization," we do so being ever mindful that as a religious community we are fundamentally different than a mere "business" or "organization." This means many things, chief among them that all of our deliberations and decisions have to be formed and make sense within the spiritual context and values that form this community. So let's talk a little bit here about how these two themes of our Board year will inform each other.

Our new governance structure calls for more decision-making authority to be pushed down to the committee-and-council level, closer to the ground where the many activities of this congregation take place. That accomplishes two worthy goals:

It gives every member a greater say in and more opportunity to influence the daily life of the congregation,

It frees the Board to spend its time on longer-term strategic visioning activities to help ensure that we actually are headed somewhere on this big boat called UUCSR, rather than drifting along hoping to come across a friendly port whenever the tides are with us.

An obvious example: the Board should not be deciding on paint colors or cleaning schedules for the building. (Let's

hear it for the Aesthetics and Building Maintenance committees within the Operations Council!) Instead, we should have our eye out for five, 10 and 20 years hence, envisioning what will be necessary to ensure that our congregation continues to thrive as a bastion of liberal religion in Sonoma County. More curious young people coming through our doors in search of a religious home? A vibrant, homegrown RE program chock-full of children? If we agree those are important goals, then we begin to explore, in consultation with relevant councils, what steps we as a congregation can begin taking to achieve them.

Subsequent program planning and daily decision-making on the part of councils and committees are then filtered through the overarching question, "Will this help support our long-term strategic goal?" (And yes, "changing burned-out light bulbs" and similar mundane daily activities do play a role in that process.)

All of this ideally takes place, as I suggested earlier, within a context of overt spiritual community, with all of us—Board, Council and Committee members, congregants, employees—stoking the fires of our own spiritual lives and blending those within the larger community we have committed ourselves to.

We've grappled more with spiritual questions and concerns this Board year, even as we find that simply mining what the word "spiritual" means is a challenge unto itself. That discussion will continue throughout the year as we conduct our "business" meetings under the warm and reflective clouds of this cherished spiritual community.

Fondly,

Andrew Hidas, Board President

## Your Board Needs You

Our Board of Trustees is currently without a recording secretary to see to the all-important task of taking the minutes at our Board meeting on the third Thursday night of each month. No special shorthand or typing knowledge is required, just an attentive mind and sincere desire to assist in this crucial and much-appreciated activity. Being the recording secretary is a great way to get immersed in and knowledgeable about all aspects of congregational life—you get all the inside dope but as a non-voting member you don't have to make any decisions that might make you unpopular! How great is that?

If you can see your way to attending a two-and-a-half hour monthly meeting and then devoting perhaps another hour to collating the minutes, please talk to Reverend Chris or Board President Andrew Hidas as soon as possible. Many hosannas and karmic goodies of inestimable value await the willing volunteer. Thank you!



**Mark your Calendars for These Very Special Upcoming Events**

**Saturday  
November 1, 8:00 p.m**

**VOENA** with Gideon Bendile  
**The Voices of Peace Tour**

The international choral ensemble made up of 60 children representing a dozen cultures and countries, joined by the award-winning vocalist whose voice graced the soundtrack of the movie *The Lion King*. **See them to believe them; search for VOENA on YouTube.**

**All seats \$25 In advance/\$30 at the door**  
Available at the Box Office or at Copperfields

**Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.**  
David Templeton's

**Twisted Christmas 6**

The annual alternative Christmas extravaganza, featuring Will Durst and others performing offbeat X-mas tales, with music and mayhem. **All seats \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door**

**Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.**

**New Horizons Band**

Sonoma County's ever-popular assemblage of senior citizen musicians in their grand annual holiday concert. **All are welcome; Donations accepted at the door**

**No on 8**

On September 7, our congregation raised more than \$1500 (!!) for the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry's Political Action Campaign, which is working to defeat Proposition 8. If Prop 8 passes, same-sex couples will be barred from civil marriage in the state of California. Thanks for your generosity!  
Between now and election day (November 4), the No on 8 Coalition of Sonoma County will continue to have phone

banks to talk to undecided voters. If marriage equality is important to you, please give some time to talk to voters about why no citizen of California should be treated unfairly. The phone banks are on Monday and Wednesday evenings here at the Congregation from 5:30-9:00pm and on Saturday mornings, from 10:00-12:00 at the Democratic Headquarters. You can email [info@no-on-8.org](mailto:info@no-on-8.org) to sign up.

**Better Than A Spa Day—Save The Date**

**Saturday October 4th**

*One-day Potluck, Women's Retreat  
9:30 to 3:30 at UUCSR*

***Celebrating Personal Hope and Resilience***

We will gather at 9:30 in the Social Hall for coffee and munchies. An opening circle starts the day after which we'll break into small groups for some fun and explorative activities. After a potluck 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.

Are you a newer member or a friend of UUCSR? You're 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!

**Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**"Day of the Dead/All Souls Day"**

All ages service. Please bring a memento or photo of a lost loved one.

**Nov.9<sup>th</sup>**

**North Bay UU Revival!!!**

We will be joined by the Napa, Marin, Lake County and Petaluma congregations for a old-fashioned feel-good revival and a cookout. You'll want to be here, whatever the election results!

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

In the most recent edition of the UU World, there is an article called *How to Raise a Mensch*. I recommend that you read this article, and if you don't have it I can get you a copy. The author of the article, Debra Haffner describes the word mensch as a "Yiddish word that literally means *human being*, but implies a person with strong moral character". Being a mensch goes beyond just being "nice" it is a quality of living with integrity and generosity, of having a sense of what is right and behaving accordingly. Isn't that what we hope for all of our children? I hope that you send your children to religious education classes each Sunday for the purpose of encouraging and fostering their "'menschness'!

The challenge for us all - religious educators and parents alike - is to raise children with enough faith in the goodness of the world and the creatures in it, to transcend the doubt and fear laid out by widespread evidence of cruelty and intolerance in this imperfect world we live in. Children are looking for fairness in their experience of the world. But the world is not always fair. They look for acceptance and affirmation, but they often feel rejected or judged. So, our work with children, as Unitarian Universalists is not to ignore or cover-up the inequities in life or the even inner contradictions that may lie at the foundation of our own faith, but to acknowledge them and provide a loving space for the children to explore the complexities of living a full life.

How do we do this? In our Religious Education program we do it by creating a community where there is a feeling that the children are not alone, that they are safe and that they are in a place where adults and other children care about them. Children are strengthened by a sense of belonging. In our youngest grade levels our aim

is to familiarize the youngest among us with the church, its people, and build a sense of caring and consistency. We tell stories of love and connection. In our upper grades we create community by providing shared experience. We provide a forum for sharing and discussion. We tell of our UU history to give them a sense of themselves in a larger context and to grow a deeper connection to our faith. We also use their own life experiences as lessons in spiritual development. Guided by the seven principles we teach by story and example encouraging exploration of personal values and behavior.

One of my goals in the coming year is to develop a stronger tie between the older members of our congregation and our children and youth. I believe that there is a beautiful opportunity at hand for the mentorship of our children at the knee of those mensches who have stood the test of time and landed here at UUCSR with some faith to share. AND there is a beautiful opportunity at hand for our elders to be awakened by the magic of a child's wisdom and promise.

The community we want to build and the lessons we hope to teach require the ultimate test of commitment: *Showing up*. In order to have impact, in order for the children and youth to gain a sense of acceptance and identity with our UU congregation they must attend as consistently as possible. And I am here to help with making that happen in any way I can.

See you in the RE Wing!

In Faith  
Deborah

## 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](mailto:rita828@gmail.com), Mary Louise can be reached at 538-4668 or [mljaffray@earthlink.net](mailto:mljaffray@earthlink.net).

Please contact us soon! In order to get the best airfares possible, we need to know your plans by October 16!

## Circle Dinner List—Fall 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.

**We are now asking people to follow certain guidelines:**

**It is important to arrive on time, share equally in the meal and listen and speak respectfully.**

**The hostess should go over these guidelines at the first meeting of the group.**

Carolyn McLeese & Charles Rettke	875-3542	Janet & Loch Grant	538-3937
Tom & Phyllis Matalis	568-7624	Dianne Verdee	924-1218
Hilevi Wyman & Bruce Maxwell	527-9048	Diana & David Bower	785-9725
Bruce (phone)	568-3981	Heather Lawton & Gretchen Paradis	569-9655
Dorris Lee	836-1576	Gretchen (phone)	792-2156
Anna Lisa Wiley	545-5711	Linda Elliott	360-734-8181
Tom Bond & Laura Jean Hageman	539-3360	Ben & Carol Jones	539-7284
Betty & Sam Miller	539-3654	Linda Reck	769-1080
Dick & Mary Sykes	538-8981	Elsa Torres & Orlando Raola	776-2746
Ruth Crawford	570-0120	Dick & Joan Thatcher	544-9130
Jeanne Crawford	415-334-2530	Elizabeth & Robin Marrs	528-6939
Nancy & Bryan Hargis	571-1987	Debby & David Hope	337-3046
Gretchen & Gene Vap	568-3290	Mary & Jim Wolfe	544-3134
Donna Stephens	545-7299	Judy Hutchinson	545-7808
Judy Schwalben	523-4470	Cassandra Lista	584-4293
Nancy Fitzpatrick	539-7753		
		<u>Substitute List</u>	
Betty & Sid Gordon	545-0560	Elizabeth Ward	694-6198
Susan & Nathan Miron	833-4683	Florence & Marshall Wheeler	433-2111
Marge Wright	887-7752	Marley Fein	575-8946
Cathy Wiese & Robert Lunceford	829-3634	Barry & Marian Quirk	525-1943
Calvin & Susan Simons	527-7191	Shirley Williams	575-9322
Phyllis & Bob Clement	823-0925	Louise & Ollie Ostlund	578-8619
Art Rosenblum & Maureen Rumford	539-5104	Kathy McGuire	523-2787
		Brian & Kitty Wells	433-1196
Dorothea Proctor	546-2913	Barbara & Jules Glaser	538-4870
Bonnie Daines & Bob Boone	537-7247	John & Linda Farison	539-3650
Dianne Vidmar	239-8833	Antonia & Dick Rodrigues	836-0757
Don Bell	584-3033	Mike & Joan Reid	431-8757
Shirley & Jim Costy	795-4877	Linda Harlow	526-3528
Victoria Dreifuss	874-2728	Karen Lillard	575-1255
		Philip & Jenny Harriman	206-0488
Judy Withee & Steve Sweeney	538-3404	Frances & Roger Corman	528-3321
	W--545-6161		
Judy & Bruce Taylor	794-9743		
Don & Jewel Ford	874-3616		
Carol Weisker	776-4856		

## Who's This Season's Artist?



The art installation that has gradually been appearing on our walls is the work of Wally Sommers of Oakmont. An accomplished life-long artist of exceptional skill and imagination, Wally lived and trained for many years in Paris, France, immediately after World War II.

We are proud to have his beautiful works on display through to the middle of November. Please join us for an open house reception for the artist on Friday, October 10, from 5:00 to 7:30. Refreshments will be served, and Wally will be on hand to answer questions about his life and career.

## Kitchen Tidbits

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have responded to the cookie patrol these past several months. We especially like the homemade cookies. The fresh fruit and veggies add a nice texture to our usual fare. Please remember to pick up your containers. We usually put them on the long table. It's helpful if you put your name on them. Items left too long are donated to a charity such as Goodwill.

If you'd like to be a part of the Kitchen Crew, please

let me know. It's good to have some folks who can help out occasionally or regularly. We make the coffee, put out the snacks and wash the dishes. Not a hard task.

You may have noticed that we are no longer asking for money donations. That is because the Board generously decided to make the coffee purchase a budget item.

Thanks everyone.  
Carol Weisker, Chairperson



## Christmas for the Homeless

The Saturday Breakfast volunteers are again asking for donations of small bottles of shampoo, mouth rinse, toothpaste, soaps. The kind of things you get in hotel/motel rooms are great.

We plan on making Christmas bags of essential toiletries for the homeless

clients. Razors, combs, new socks, and toothbrushes are also great additions.

There will be a box for donations of these items in the outer office at church. Religious Education students will help assemble the gifts. Helpers will be needed!

Stay tuned.

We are not currently collecting clothes. Storage and distribution become a problem. Perhaps we will put out a special call at a later time.

There is an average of 160 -170 eaters each Saturday.

## Book Group Information

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story by Timothy B. Tyson.

New members and visitors are welcome.

The selection for November is The Book Thief by Markus Zusak.

Linda Lampson

<p><b>NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  <b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008</b>  <b>Newsletter@uusantarosa.org</b></p>	<p><b>E-mail submissions Greatly Appreciated!</b></p>
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## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

We broke our record of breakfast's served on the third Saturday of September ~ we had 178 guests!!! Rev. Chris came to minister with those who wanted to speak with him, which he will do every third Saturday, no doubt increasing our numbers even more. And food prices are going up, too. So, when the basket comes your way on Sunday, October 5th, please be as generous as you can. Our guests thank us every week.

### Election Issues Forum

Confused about all the ballot measures? Does voting no on 8 mean you're against marriage equality? Come to a Forum after the 11:00 service on Sunday, October 12th to hear a representative from the League of Women Voters explain these issues and answer your questions. Bring your sample ballot, voters guide, and questions. A light lunch will be available for a modest price. Any questions? Contact Linda Harlow, 526-3528.

## Committee On Shared Ministry

I wanted to share more some information with you on what the Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with doing. The committee is charged with continually monitoring congregational life, modeling healthy and deepening relationships with minister and staff, supporting continuing education of the congregation for its growing, understanding of shared ministry. It also coordinates periodic assessments of the shared ministry of the congregation and its leader-

ship, advises the board regarding the health of the shared ministry and supports the minister's planning for continued education, sabbaticals and other professional development. Please feel free to contact any of us with issues or concerns, we are here for you!

Elizabeth Marrs, Rev. Chris Bell, Chris Farkas, Nancy Hargis, Heather Lawton, Andy Levine & Derek Spiekerman.  
In fellowship, Andy Levine

## Service Auction Getting Started

The silent bidding part of the Service Auction is starting - check the bulletin boards in the church foyer for remarkable items to bid on. Also, use the flyers in this month's newsletter to submit offerings of your own. The friendly Service Auction committee members will be at the bulletin boards and the Service Auction table before and after the Sunday service to assist you. At the Service Auction table, be sure to sign up for dinner the night of the auction so you can get the discounted price of \$15 for the yummy dinner, appetizers, drink and desert. If you don't sign up early, you are still welcome to come for the dinner and auction, for an additional \$5.

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

The Service Auction event is November 8, starting at 5:30 PM. We will have our traditional dinner, competitive silent bidding and a few coveted items for the vocal auction. We will probably even have a raffle for those who like to gamble - a little something for everyone. Be sure to join us for the "social event of the year!"

- **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 (433-1196). 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 signup sheet are on the bulletin boards, next to the restrooms.



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

It is almost October, and the Together in Exploration groups are about to begin. This will be our fourth year, and the sixteen facilitators are eagerly looking forward to the twice monthly meetings and discussions about a range of universal topics. Examples: Faith and Belief, Forgiveness, Community, and Rituals and Traditions. About 70 people have filled out application forms to participate.

We shall start the first of October and complete four sessions by the middle of December, 2008. There will be a winter break to observe the holiday period; we shall resume in January, 2009. If you were not free to join in October, you might wish to check again in January.

The Together in Exploration Steering Committee

Bonnie Daines - Chair

Carolyn McLeese, Dorris Lee, Marie Fox

## Membership News

Please Welcome Our **New Members**: **Jean Blackmur, Jennifer & Dan Frazier**, Jamie Holloway, and Diane Vidmar.

**Jennifer & Dan Frazier both grew up in** Northern California and both attended Santa Rosa Junior College as well as Sonoma State University. They later moved to San Jose and then moved back to Santa Rosa. After attending UU services occasionally for about 12 years, they began regularly attending our services when Chris started his ministry, and then decided to become members of our congregation. Jenny has been in a TIE group and is currently participating in the Four Agreements Workshop. Dan has joined the Writers Group. The Fraziers have two children: Denise who occasionally attends services with her parents, and Jack, who participates in our RE program. Dan is a High School student teacher of English and Art and will

graduate with his credential in December. Jenny is an Assistive Technology Specialist working with adults and children who are visually impaired to learn to use computers and other technologies in order to promote independence. Jenny likes to horse back ride and work in the garden. Dan is an artist in the mediums of paint, drawing, ceramics and writing. The both like to hike and enjoy cooking.

Would You Like to Help **Welcome and Integrate New Members into Our Congregation?** A New Member Integration Team is now being formed. This team will provide exciting opportunities to welcome and interact with our new members. If you have ideas to contribute or are interested in participating in this new effort, please contact Jenny Harriman (206-0488).

## Men's Retreat

Save the Date! 12<sup>th</sup> Annual PCD Men's Retreat  
Friday-Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

**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](mailto:pcdmensretreat@gmail.com)

## Note from Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director

Happy Autumn! As the seasons change we move toward wetter weather—what my grandmother used to call “The indoor days”—many of us are paying attention to what our indoors look like after a busy summer. This summer has brought a lot of activity to 547 Mendocino Ave., from the various weddings (gay and straight! Hallelujah!) and theatrical performances (some of us are still talking about the powerful ‘Darryl Come Home’), to the usual summertime training sessions (those T-shirt-wearing kids in September were part of CalSERVES, all being trained to conduct literacy programs around the state) and many, many, many volunteers working the phone banks to get the word out to vote No on Proposition 8. One wonderful night saw a bar mitzvah taking place in the social hall while a Ramadan potluck was happening in the Board Room; if that’s not a symbol of faith-affirming UU principles at work, I don’t know what is. And let’s not forget that for the first time, there were almost as many people in the services on Sunday as come during non-Summer months. We can all be proud of the way our home has become

such a pivotal center of activity for good works throughout the County. Of course, with so much coming and going and eating and drinking, the place is showing a bit of wear and tear, with the carpet showing it the most (we’ve painted many of the walls, which was long overdue, so they are now looking fine and fresh), but that carpet! As Artistic Director of the Glaser Center, I am intimately aware of each new stain from coffee spillage during the Saturday breakfasts and Socials Hour on Sundays, from wedding cake and birthday cake from our visiting guests, from the occasional splash of wine after a reception or theater presentation. While we are about to embark on a thorough Autumn carpet-cleaning effort (we DO make every effort to keep things beautiful inside and out), let me offer a thought that has become very inspiring to me: put one way, it’s this: Every stain is sacred. To me, the fact that there are sometimes stains on the carpets, or fingerprints on the walls, or crowded spaces behind the shoji screens in the Green Room, is a sign that our building is alive. Yes, the messes must be cleaned, and Tony

does an excellent job, as do the hard-working staff people assigned to care for our visitors during community events. But as we haul out the carpet cleaners and whip out the pine-sol, let’s not overlook what they represent. Each new scuff and smudge is proof that we have achieved one of the goals we intended when moving into the downtown area, which is to become a location that is vibrant, active, and rich with the rewards of so many people coming together for all kinds of activities, most all of which affirm our principles and values. The stains are just part of cost (and an easily treatable one, at that) of creating a space where the community we serve can feel welcome and loved. So let’s us honor the sacredness of our space by acknowledging the sacredness of the occasional coffee spill, and let us see the beauty in belonging to a congregation that so generously opens its doors to our friends and family in the wider community we live in. Let’s have a great fall, and I hope to see all of your faces here as often as possible!

David Templeton

## Movie Group

Talking Pictures Opera Season presentation:  
Caruso a Documentary (1998)

On October 25, at 6:30 pm, our Movie Group will present a documentary about Enrico Caruso. We are pleased to announce that Kay Ellithorps, of the Sonoma County Chapter San Francisco Opera Guild, will introduce and then answer our questions after the viewing of this 1998 A & E Biography about one of the most influential tenors in history and important pioneer of recorded music. You will not want to miss this event. Included is a Silent Film, a Melodrama, with Caruso himself.

Excerpts from the CD jacket: “...Enrico Caruso was at once silly, slapstick, and brilliant -- an Italian immigrant made good....Caruso's life was less than calm and upright, ...From torrid love affairs with two sisters to an arrest for "improper conduct," Caruso lived it up with the best of them”.

Hosts: Marie Francescutti and Georgette deBlois  
Place: UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa  
Light refreshments and beverages will be served. Saturday, October 25, 2008  
Program begins at 6:30 pm.  
RSVP: Mary Wolfe



## Flower Committee

\_Want to learn which flowers hold up the best and how to arrange them? UUCSR has a Flower Committee that weekly prepares flower arrangements for the church. We are looking for a few new members to add originality and/or just love to work with flowers and nice people. We will be having a flower arranging class just for

committee members to help us improve our skills. The commitment is for once every 4 to 6 weeks and two people do the arrangements. No experience needed, please contact Pam Tenant (823-1845) or Jan Hess (528-8063).

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa Street Persons and Panhandling Policy

Occasionally, we have visitors who come in from the street. They see people, food, etc. and a place to get out of the weather, hot or cold. While we welcome them with coffee, water and cookies, while we occasionally offer them a place to sit or rest, and sometimes allow them to use our restrooms, it is in the best interest of our visitors and this congregation not to give them money.

### DO NOT GIVE PANHANDLERS MONEY WHILE ON UUCSR PREMISES

When available, we also sometimes can offer 'pantry bags,' and at certain times of year, blankets and sleeping bags.

ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, REFER SUCH REQUESTS TO OFFICER OF THE DAY; ON WEEKDAYS, REFER SUCH REQUESTS TO THE ADMINISTRATOR

Some of our visitors can be rather disruptive. If you notice inappropriate or disruptive behavior from our visitors on Sunday morning, please notify the Sexton, Tony Crevelli, and/or the Officer of the Day.

REPORT DISRUPTIVE OR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR TO THE SEXTON OR THE OFFICER OF THE DAY.

It is perfectly okay to ask disruptive individuals to leave. If they become belligerent and/or violent, and other options are not working, then call 911 immediately or police department at 543-3600. However do not approach a disruptive or disturbed individual alone while on UUCSR property. Always use a 'buddy system', where two people can monitor the situation, while an additional person can contact the appropriate staff or others for assistance.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police Department - 543-3600.

Emergency – 911

Approved by Board of Directors 9-18-2008

## Sonoma County Book Festival Project

This year's Book Festival, held on Saturday, September 20, in downtown Santa Rosa Old Courthouse Square, was a very successful event for us. Throughout the day we had a continuous flow of people to our table with questions and comments about the UUCSR Writers meetings, UU philosophy, and Glaser Center activities. Many thanks to all our Volunteers who participated in both the planning and day of the Festival. A good time was had by all...

### **UUCSR Writers**

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, October 6, 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, 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.

Information

UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com),

## **In Memory: Will Kennedy**

Will Kennedy, a long time member of our congregation, died on Sept 1. Will and his wife, Ruby, moved to the County in the early 80's and immediately became active In the UU Fellowship on Stony Point Road.

Will was particularly active in the "Social Concerns" Committee. He was committed to recognizing the dignity of each individual and brought lovingly compassion and his previous social services experience to that work. He worked tirelessly with the Central American Sanctuary family which the congregation adopted.

Will also spearheaded UUFSC's support of the Homeless Shelter for families when it was opened by Catholic Charities. He organized and participated in the periodic paintings, cleanings and supplies for the room we "adopted" there.

Will was active in the broader community including the Peace and Justice Center and the local Democrats. He was a networker and lived for the last few years in Cotati co-housing where he undoubtedly continued to live his principles. Thank you, Will!!!

Submitted by Millie Tripp

Will Kennedy, passed away in his home on September 1st. He was surrounded by his loving family, dear caregivers, and his dear Frogsong community members. The day evolved into being one in his honor of his humor, compassion, and wisdom. He wished for no service. Will and Ruby Kennedy joined the "Fellowship" in 1987, and were active and vital members of UUFSC for over the next decade. Their commitments were the buildings and grounds and the memorial rose garden that was at the Stony Point Road site. The Social Concerns and Welcoming Congregation committees, as well as the Caring Committee were

also their passions. Will was on the Board of Directors, too, while mowing the lawns each week! Later he was recording secretary of the Alliance for Democracy. In his last couple of weeks of life, he enjoyed the Olympics and the Democratic Convention, loving his life at Frogsong, and being with all of us. He had just turned 88, and was ready to join his Ruby, and we're sure they are dancin' to the Big Bands.

Lovingly, Kerrie Kennedy and Reen Kennedy-Williams and families

## Come Celebrate Halloween with real Witches and Pagan UU's!

Join in the rituals and magic that have marked the end of summer throughout the ages as we celebrate the harvest and commune with the spirits of our ancestors. The evening will include sacred theatre, a guided trance journey, songs and dance. We invite all with an open mind and a sense of fun. Dress up as a witch in traditional red and black, sprout fairy wings or reveal your inner longings and prepare for a night of awakenings and delight. Plan to bring a remembrance of a departed loved one for the altar and some kind of finger food to share.

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 PM**



### Notes from the Music Committee

We all know that music enhances the worship experience. It has the power to touch us deeply, whether by appealing to our minds through challenging or affirming lyrics, uniting us in song and spirit, transporting us to a deep emotional place, or allowing time for quiet reflection. As our congregation grows and evolves, we want our music to continue to be relevant, meaningful, and appealing.

When the Music Committee prepared the UU Music Survey last spring, we wanted to find out what music moves members of the congregation and what we collectively think will enhance worship. In general, based on the comments from the respondents, you really like variety, music you are familiar with, and lyrics you can understand (or, as some suggested, read for yourselves). Most of the music you suggested was 20<sup>th</sup> century music, ranging from hymns, gospel, and classical music to pop and rock (Beatles, Beatles, Beatles!), show tunes, and folk/traditional music. We also received suggestions of less widely known songs in the pop and folk genres that fit our UUCSR "style".

The music committee has compiled a complete list of the music survey responses. We will distribute the list to Rev. Chris and the Worship Associates for possible inclusion in upcoming services. We are also researching the songs we aren't familiar with. Many thanks to those of you who included the songwriter/composer, artist, or

reference with your suggestions.

We remain open to suggestions for hymns and special music to be used in upcoming services. If you have an idea, don't hesitate to email it to me at [spanttaja@comcast.net](mailto:spanttaja@comcast.net), call me (778-1821), or leave a message in the music committee's or music director's mail box.

I welcome you to participate in our music program by joining the choir or yet-to-be-named "house band", singing/playing a solo, or joining the Music Committee. If you are interested in any of these pursuits, please talk to our music director Ben Taylor ([contact@benjamintaylor.net](mailto:contact@benjamintaylor.net)) or me. I look forward to joining you all in song!

Susan Panttaja  
Music Committee Chair

#### Most Requested Hymns

Let it be a Dance  
Amazing Grace  
De Colores  
Singing for Our Lives  
For the Beauty  
Come Sing a Song with Me  
How Can I Keep from Singing  
Morning Has Broken



## It's Okay To Ask For Help

Life happens. Sometimes situations overtake us that are beyond the usual skinned knees and colds. Last winter, barely two months apart, I lost my husband suddenly then fell and triple fractured my ankle. I was new to California, new to our congregation. Words can't express how grateful I am to Gretchen Vap and the Caring Committee for all of their loving care. You see, in my previous congregation I was accustomed to being the one who helped others. It was difficult to accept help when I hadn't yet had a chance to contribute to the community of UU's here in Santa Rosa. However, each person who found their way through the twists and turns and detours to my home up in Monte Rio was delighted

to bring a meal, bring in some firewood, take me to doctor's visits since I couldn't drive for two months. I had to learn to accept help graciously in a time of need. This bonded me to delightful individuals and to the wider spirit of shared caring that is so wonderful about UU's.

So, if you, or a member of your family, are incapacitated, know that you can ask for help - in fact some of it is already prepared and tucked into the freezer as pre-made meals waiting for your call to Gretchen Vap or anyone on the Caring Committee. Often we think we want only familiar folks around when the going gets tough. However, it was a real discovery to learn how cheered I was to

meet and get to know caring members while mourning, while laid up in bed. They weren't embarrassed by a messy house or my grieving. The Caring Committee folks understood. Now when reflecting on that painful period, my memories include those heartening visits.

Your situation needn't be as dire as mine. Give yourself permission to get some extra support when you need it. A warm meal and a warm smile from a caring UU will aid in getting you through your illness or other life challenge. It's okay to ask for help.

Thank you Gretchen and the Caring team!

Carole Czujko

## A Campaign to Replenish The Endowment—Part 2

Last month I wrote about the extraordinary step this congregation took, when the membership voted to spend more than 80% of the endowment fund in order to make possible the move to our current location.

Now it is important for us to rebuild the endowment fund. Operating expenses are fundamental, but contributing to an endowment means believing that we have a future, and it is one in which it is worth investing. We must take care of today in order to have a tomorrow, but if you have a shining tomorrow - secure and filled to the brim with possibility - it is much easier to appreciate the glories of today.

Members of the endowment committee are starting to contact members and friends of our congregation to discuss whether you are a participant in the Legacy Society. Don't be shy: even if you don't feel wealthy,

consider earmarking 3% - 10% of your estate to UUCSR. We promise: it will make a difference. You also don't need to wait until you are dead to contribute to the endowment; you can make a gift of cash any time and get to see and enjoy the difference that it makes as we restore our financial foundation.

Giving to the endowment is easy. You can contact Rose St. John (707-865-0755 or email to [rocestjo@hotmail.com](mailto:rocestjo@hotmail.com)) or Jan Hess (707-528-8063 or email to [hess-aquirre@msn.com](mailto:hess-aquirre@msn.com)), or simply drop a check in the Sunday collection basket, with "endowment" written on the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity, whether it is planned for the future or for the present.

Hillevi Wyman

Endowment Committee member

Member Marge Wright's mother, *Evelyn Lyser*, died recently in Sacramento. The memorial service for her will be held at our congregation on October 18th at 1 P.M. with Chris Bell officiating. Marge invites all members of our congregation to attend.

## Cont from Page 2—Rev. Chris Inside & Outside

of being, simultaneously utterly and uniquely alone, yet inextricably one with all things. We are fundamentally at home in the universe; we are its eyes, ears and mind. Because this is true of everyone, all people are equal and have "inherent worth and dignity." Accordingly, we believe political structures must reflect this.

Who or what is in charge? What is my ultimate concern or value? At the very least (though it is no small matter) we are subject to the laws of nature and to the physical and psychological conditions required for life. Ultimately, the Universe/Nature/Life is in charge. Whether it is a Who or a What or a Process is a question that can never be fully resolved, as every honest theologian or philosopher knows. The power that sustains the universe, which one might give a holy name or not, is forever beyond our full grasp and control. It makes us, and then it kills us, whether we like it or not! God is more verb than noun, as is everything. Or, everything, I might say. While the presence of our own wills and consciousnesses suggest that moral agency is a natural feature of the universe, and very many sane people have experienced the ground of being as a living presence, its vastness and eternal mysteries should keep us extremely humble when making any claims about He/She/It. That said, Nature's incredible (and unnecessary) tendencies toward variety, creativity, complexity, harmony, beauty, order and intelligibility are of profound and suggestive significance. UUs believe that the inherent goods of these combined qualities outweigh the suffering that the living system extracts from us as the price for being. Being/Life itself is in charge, and it includes all things without discrimination, and always allows for new possibilities, so we can describe it as manifesting love and still name it good. Realizing the world as manifesting love can change our lives in far-reaching and radical ways.

What is my purpose? Or, what informs and sustains my sense of self-worth? Our ultimate concern then is to live in harmony with all being, and to serve those "forces that create and uphold life." We are to further "the transformative power of love" which we know primarily in our relations with our fellow humans, but also in our relation to the whole Earth. Simple lives of mindful compassion would do the trick. We have self-worth by simple virtue of being children of the Whole. The basic purpose of the universe is our basic purpose, too. It is to serve the unfolding process of evolution, growth and transformation that we have participated in since before the dawn of history, indeed since before we were humans. We are forever invited to co-create the maximal expression of diversity, harmony, complexity and beauty that sacred power continuously brings forth. That invitation is never suspended, no matter how often we might fail to respond to it. However, and this is key, there are no guarantees. God can't "make it all better." The Great Big Thing has got her hands full keeping maintaining

the laws of nature and luring all things forward toward harmony, beauty, new life, etc. Humans are free to respond to that lure or not. If an enlightened society is not achieved on Earth there are 100 trillion other planets in the universe. Fortunately, since the supreme power is experienced in human lives primarily through the actions of human beings, we also have the power to offer the forgiveness and redemption necessary to let life and hope begin anew.

What does death mean?... Or how shall I live with the boundaries of my existence? Unitarian Universalism is silent, but open, regarding an afterlife, because it is a question that no mode of inquiry by the living can ever authoritatively resolve. We are wiser to concern ourselves with the life and world that can be known now. The laws of conservation and the widely shared aspects of near-death experiences are suggestive of possibilities, but whether anything continues or not, death is a natural occurrence. Death is not "the wage of sin" nor the moment of judgment. Just as we are not afraid of the enigmatic darkness that came before our birth, we need not fear that which comes afterward. Life gives the chance to taste eternity, and it is precisely our finitude that makes life indescribably precious and which calls us to peace and happiness in the here-and-now. People "live on" in the effects of our actions and in the memory of others. As our obligation to the hopes, dreams and efforts of those who came before us is as strong as our obligation to the future.

How do I know what I know? Or, what is the source of my authority? Finally, an easy one! (There is widespread agreement on the answer to this question among UUs.) Our own conscience, intuition and capacity of reason are reliable tools for discerning truth and meaning. The existential authority of every person (including even those who yield their authority to other things or people) is ultimately their own direct experience. Democratic, consensual and relational processes are more likely to yield truth and moral direction than ossified experiences of revelation. Because life is constantly in flux we must remain forever open new knowledge and understanding, but we are also wise to retain reliable sources of hope, joy and love. To avoid solipsism and hubris, we must engage the insights of science, the realities of nature, and most importantly, the wisdom and experience of those who came before and those around us.

Unitarian Universalism means All in One, and One in All. Everything is God, and God is Everything. Our consciousness, conscience and connection reveal us to be welcomed children of the Universe, unique and unrepeatable facets of the seamless Whole, invited to yield to its power, serve its ever-evolving expression of manifesting love, and to enjoy and extend its gifts. I very much look forward to hearing what you think our answers are. Along the way, let's be kind and gentle and have fun!

Blessings to all, Rev. Chris

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



October 2008

Please Recycle

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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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.

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Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious**

**Education Staff**  
Anne Blevins



# Unitarian Universalist History

The first Tuesday of every month.

(Except in November, because of Election Day. Please vote!)

7:00pm at the Glaser Center

Led by Rev. Chris Bell

Tuesday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

**Monday**, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Europe and America to 1776

Early Universalists / The Great Schism

William Ellery Channing and his Era

Emerson and the Transcendentalists

Powerful Women / Social Causes

Religious Humanism /

Modern Universalism / The Merger of Traditions

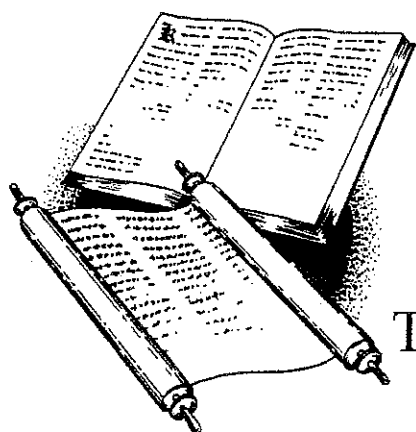
Civil Rights / Feminism / Black Empowerment

Trends in Contemporary Unitarian Universalism

Attend any single class and learn something new! Attend them all and win a prize!

Yes, you read correctly. Over the course of this year we will explore and discuss the Hebrew Bible; the Christian New Testament will follow next year. Historical context and critical scholarship are thoroughly explored, but the main goal is to consider how, or if, these texts might inspire, frustrate, illuminate, confuse, provoke, annoy, amuse, and ultimately deepen our spiritual lives. One of our mottos is, "Just because it didn't happen, doesn't mean it isn't true." An academic study Bible, such as the *New Oxford Annotated Bible* or the *Harper-Collins Study Bible*, is very strongly recommended. Come learn a language of faith, even if it's not your own, and explore the many possible meanings of Scripture. Suggested readings will be posted in the Order of Service on Sundays before the next meeting, and in the newsletter. The same lesson is offered on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon of a given week, so you are welcome to come to either. (or both!) Regular attendance is beneficial, but not required – please come whenever you are able.

# SCRIPTURE



# STUDY

**Tuesdays at 8:00am / Thursdays at 5:00pm**  
 Led by Reverend Chris Bell

October 7, 9	Introduction	February 10, 12	1 & 2 Kings, other history
October 21, 23	Genesis Pt.1	February 24, 26	Job
November 11, 13	Genesis Pt.2	March 10, 12	Psalms/Song of Songs
November 18, 20	Exodus Pt.1	March 24, 26	Ecclesiastes/Proverbs
December 9, 11	Exodus Pt.2	April 14, 16	Prophets Pt. 1
December 16, 18	Leviticus/Numbers	April 28, 30	Prophets Pt. 2
January 6, 8	Deuteronomy/ Joshua/Judges	May 12, 14	Apocrypha Pt. 1
January 20, 22	1 & 2 Samuel	May 26, 28	Apocrypha Pt. 2
		June 9, 11	Favorites / Conclusion

The

# Practice of



**THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER** takes many forms and is found in all the spiritual traditions of the world. Prayer includes healing thoughts for self and other, praise and thanks, silent waiting, the unifying of mind and body, reflection on scripture, confession, the cultivation of love and peace in the heart, and more. We will explore and try them all in this free-form group led by Rev. Chris Bell. The emphasis is on practice, not intellectual learning. Belief in a personal God is neither required nor discouraged. An openness to the forces that create and uphold life, and a willingness to try new things, however, is always helpful. Come, all seekers, skeptics and saints!

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays

5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Green Room

UUCSR

**Begins October 11th**

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# THE SERVICE AUCTION IS COMING!



Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 - 8:00 pm

Add to the evening's delight with your donation:

- host a feast...*
- walk a beast...*
- mop a floor...*
- paint a door...*
- knit a sweater...*
- tailor a coat...*
- have a party...*
- on your boat...*
- repair a crack...*
- massage a back...*
- shop for cars...*
- chart the stars...*
- share your tickets...*
- whitewash pickets...*
- teach a dance...*
- alter pants...*
- cater a dinner...*
- photo a winner...*
- wash a window...*
- 'til it shines...*
- share your cabin...*
- in the pines*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your auction donation  
(Be as specific as possible - and freely ad pizzazz!)

\_\_\_\_\_

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If this is an event or dinner, please specify the number of  
people \_\_\_\_\_ and the date it will happen \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum winning bid (per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Retail or estimated value \_\_\_\_\_

If high bid exceeds estimated value, may we offer this item twice? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

**Bid Early and Often! You need not be present to win!**

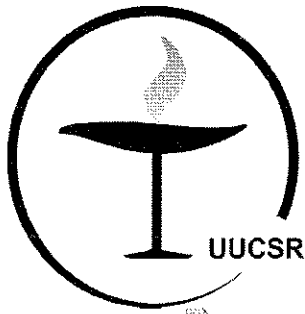
Another way to enjoy this FUN-raising event is to join in staging it. If you would like to help or need further information, phone: Nancy Freeman 537-1987 • Cathie Wiese 829-3634 • Kitty Wells 433-1196 • Kirsten Olney 542-4694

Please return this form to UUCSR office at 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa

## **UUCSR 2008 SERVICE AUCTION DONATION IDEAS**



VACATION HOME FOR A WEEKEND / WEEK  
THEME MEALS (FRENCH, GREEK, THAI, VEGGIE)  
CELEBRATION MEALS (BRUNCH, HOLIDAY...VALENTINE / SAINT PAT'S)  
KIDS COOKING CLASS - COOKIE / SNACKS  
ADULT COOKING CLASS (DESSERTS, VEGGIE, SPECIAL DISHES)  
ARTS & CRAFTS LESSONS  
PARTIES (POOL, GAME NIGHT, TOGA, MUSIC JAM)  
MYSTERY DINNER  
SHARE YOUR PASSION OVER DESSERT  
LEAD AN ADVENTURE (HIKE, RAFTING, CAMP OUT, CITY TOUR)  
BE A CHAUFFEUR ( AIRPORT, APPOINTMENT, PROM)  
DETAIL A CAR  
PET SITTING  
CHILD CARE  
MOM'S NIGHT OUT  
WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT  
MEN'S NIGHT OUT  
KID ADVENTURE (ZOO,DISCOVERY MUSEUM)  
DESSERT OF THE MONTH  
SUMMER GARDEN VEGGIES DELIVERED WEEKLY  
HANDYMAN / WOMAN HELP  
"HOW TO" WORKSHOP (DIGITAL CAMERA, VIDEO, COMPUTER)  
LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN.....



## ***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 5<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.  
Registration forms available at the Visitor table, or call  
Maureen Wallace - 578-7665