



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• February 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 2 •

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

### February 1st

#### "THE END TIMES"

(The Sixth Principle)

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Raymond Teurfs

Eschatology is the fancy word for what a religion thinks about the final destiny of humankind. Some faiths address this with conjecture about an afterlife, or imagine a final Day of Reckoning. Unitarian Universalists offer instead a "goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all." Although we preach no divine guarantee that humanity will get there (it is a "goal", after all), our faith nevertheless boldly proclaims: *we will!* Together we'll explore why we might be so optimistic.

### February 8<sup>th</sup>

#### "HOW TO BE RELIGIOUS"

Service Leader: Rev. Alma Faith Crawford

Worship Associate: Maureen Wallace

This sermon explores Unitarian Universalism as an approach to being religious, rewarding in its restlessness, challenging in its changeability, and deeply worthwhile. Rev. Crawford will offer insights from John Dewey and Ralph Waldo Emerson. The Rev. Alma Faith Crawford has been a Unitarian Universalist minister since 1991. A veteran of many social justice movements, she has been found on the front lines of struggles against poverty, homophobia and sexism. She has published many articles, and has been a professor at the Starr King School for the Ministry. She is very excited that Santa Rosa is giving her an excuse to return to one of her favorite parts of the world!

### Our 9:00am Service

Gathered in a circle, we have the same readings and message that are given at the 11:00am 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.

### February 15th

#### "OUR BLUE BOAT HOME"

(The Seventh Principle)

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

Our Seventh Principle - "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" - has been widely interpreted as a mandate for environmentalism in our movement. It is that, but also much more. It is the rare religious statement that does not put humanity at the center of the universe. The interdependent web further acknowledges the oneness of creation, and offers a glimpse of what we really are. Come sing love songs to Mother Nature!

### February 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### "YOUR HEART AND YOUR TREASURE"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Joe Como

**Money.** Most people want more than they have. Many folks outright *need* more than they have. And a few have far more than they could ever spend. (Such lucky ones are invited to call Rev. Chris for ideas!) Buddhist monks and nuns won't touch the stuff, and Jesus once said, "You cannot serve both God and Money." If we read "God" as the Good and True, what does that mean for our religious community, and for ourselves as people of faith who need money to survive, thrive, and influence events? And what help is the teaching that our true treasure lies within when the electric bill is overdue?

### March 1st

#### "THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE ORDINARY"

Service Leader: Andrew Hidas

Worship Associate: Andy Levine

It is we who imbue and impart and then take away meaning to sacred space—the space just exists, A tree is just a tree, a room arranged just so with sunflowers and beveled glass allowing in pale winter light is just that—nothing more, but in religious life, we do not say, "just that-nothing more," because the suchness of things, things just as they are, also gives rise to the richness of the human imagination, to our interpretations,

## Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

*If there is no God,  
Not everything is permitted to man.  
He is still his brother's keeper  
And he is not permitted to sadden his brother,  
By saying that there is no God.  
- Czeslaw Milosz*

An article in the Press Democrat the other day reported that "earlier this month, 800 buses rolled out of depots across Britain plastered with advertisements cheerfully informing people that 'there's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.'" The ad campaign was initiated by a British comedian who was tired of being subjected to Christian messages on the bus telling her that, as a non-believer, she was bound for the fires of hell. The campaign was organized by the British Humanist Association, and famed scientist and writer Richard Dawkins was a major sponsor. The group received 23 times more donations than they expected! Apparently that comedian wasn't the only one who was tired of being judged and damned. As a person who does not believe in hell (or heaven for that matter), I strongly share that sentiment.

In a related story closer to home, the American Humanist Association, which has been "being good without a god since 1941" purchased an advertisement quoting new President Barack Obama from *The Audacity of Hope*: "I was not raised in a religious household...Without the help of religious texts or outside authorities, [my mother] worked mightily to instill in me the values that many Americans learn in Sunday school: honesty, empathy, discipline, delayed gratification, and hard work. She raged at poverty and injustice. Most of all, she possessed an abiding sense of wonder, a reverence for life and its precious, transitory nature..." (I happen to think such attitudes are deeply spiritual, if not "religious" per se, but that's beside the point for now.)

His success, the ad proclaims, is "living proof that family values without religion build character." The key, of course, is values. As the ad suggests, the essence of humanism - a core Source for Unitarian Universalism - is the cultivation of values that serve humanity and the planet, regardless of whether they are rooted in a religious tradition or not. I have absolutely no doubt that a person can be without formal religion for their whole lives and be a moral, dedicated, complete human being. With Dawkins, I agree that there is no direct line between being religious and being good.

But neither does the mere absence of religion equal the achievement of moral behavior or happiness.

And that is what frustrates me about the self-presentation of contemporary humanism. I want less bashing of Biblical literalism and magical-thinking, which is easy and boring, and

more pursuit of understanding and shared human values. I applaud resistance to bad theology and zealotry and fundamentalism. But I am still frustrated that humanism - meant to honor and elevate humanity and its powers for good - has so often come to be so thoroughly conflated with simply being anti-religious or anti-God. Hasn't the world had enough of black-and-white either-or arguments?

Of course we should discourage irrationality, and use the power of reason and the tool of science to figure out what's going on here. But not every aspect of human experience can be described rationally. What of being in love? What of poetry or abstract art? What of hope? After all, before they lift up Obama as a humanist poster child, the A.H.A. has to reconcile the fact that he is now a member of a church and a professed Christian.

Instead of just dissing bad religion, humanists need to say what is good, and why. If we get rid of God and religion, then what? In the P.D. article Dawkins himself notes, and is troubled by, the implied hedonism of the message "relax and enjoy your life", suggesting that "spend your life doing good" would have been better. So what is good?

Dawkins presumes that scientific rationalism has the answers, that it will lead to happiness and a universally shared morality. To me, this is as much a faith statement as the idea that Jesus rose from the dead. I just don't see the proof for it. Others disagree, and you can find many illuminating and thought-provoking resources at the American Humanist Association website.

Again, I'm not saying that traditional religions have the only answers to moral and philosophical questions. In fact, many of their answers are wrong. But if humanism is to be a lasting and influential philosophy or way of life, it must escape its posture of resistance and negativity and offer a positive view of the world. I'd like to think this is one of the major roles of Unitarian Universalism. This way of life has been long known as religious humanism, and it might just be the middle ground the world desperately needs.

We say enough already with proving or disproving the existence of a particular kind of deity, and on with the work of cultivating more love, more security, more justice, more beauty, more peace, more openness, more creativity, more joy, more respect, more reverence, more compassion. And, more of a sense of humor, too, please!

So, I wonder, what would you have our bus ads say? Send me your ideas, and keep being kind to one another.

Blessings, Rev. Chris

## Splinters from the Board

No, not a chance. I am *not* going to be the only observer with ink at his or her disposal to refrain from commenting on the election of Barack Obama. This resounding shift in the political and cultural winds is simply too big, with too many implications right down to the level of church polity, to ignore.

During the campaign, much was made of Obama's experience in community organizing. His opponents actually mocked him for it, attempting to belittle his former occupation as some kind of starry-eyed liberal twaddle. In truth, as was made clear in the subsequent torrent of outraged letters to the editor by in-the-trenches community organizers and their allies, such organizing is the very heart and soul of our democracy. And I would submit, dear UUCSR congregants, that it is also fundamental to our own identity as a spiritual community with a progressive political bent.

Reverend Chris often touches on the simple truth (and beauty) of how much more we can accomplish together as an intentional community than we can as individuals. It's the difference between merely grouching to your spouse about the latest outrage in the morning paper as you fetch your second cup of coffee, and actually deciding to attend a meeting or form a group to address the civic issue that has gotten your dander all up.

Now, as we head into what looks to be a momentous year in our nation's history, with seemingly intractable problems looming large on the macro stage, it is good to remember how much change can take place—how much good can be accomplished—on the micro level of city, neighborhood, and church.

This is the essence of UUCSR's affiliation with the North Bay Sponsoring Committee, which, stripped down to its roots, involves people talking to other people, determining what their shared concerns and hopes for community-building are, and then deciding on concrete actions that can get them there. The committee's inter-congregational identity simply adds breadth and depth to the effort.

At our own intra-congregational level, what could be more community organizing-based than a few individuals (a shout-out to Shirley Williams, John Dumbrell and Sally Fife!) sharing a vision for a free breakfast program and then taking the necessary organizing steps to bring it about?

As Community-Organizer-in-Chief, President Obama isn't so much setting the tone for community building as he is reflecting it, representing currents that have long been flowing in various streams of church, neighborhood, and city. Part of our own congregation's mission—to help build a better world—is do-able only on the basis of systematic and sincere organizing efforts, carried out at the local level. All of us have a stake and a potential role to play in that effort. It's where all the vision-and-hope stuff gets put into nitty-gritty practice, which requires patience, discipline, and—let us not forget—joy. Without the latter, we'll all be beaten down by the sheer enormity of the tasks ahead of us. Our new President knows that only too well, which accounts for the ready and bedazzling grin on his face even as he assumes the world's biggest headache of a job. We do well to emulate him and his joyful organizing ways.

*—Andrew Hidas  
President, Board of Trustees*

## House Meetings Are Coming!

Our community organizing effort is well underway, and the next step will be a series of neighborhood meetings in February. UUCSR members who live near each other will gather in groups of 8 or 10 to get to know each other better, and help us uncover the issues and concerns that our congregation might take action to address. Leaders have been trained and will be contacting you shortly. We hope the whole congregation will participate! Power to the people!

## Treasurer's Report

The other day I read a sign. A simple sign that I've read a million times before. A white sign with red lettering that told you, "No Parking Any Time." And, it occurred to me that, hmm... 'NO parking, ANY time'.... this could be a command - or, this could be a description. In fact, this phrase could be the mantra for our UUCSR financial experts! Every time I talk to someone from amidst our pool of money-minded-folk, it always seems like there is something going on, something they're working on, something they're trying to improve or make run more smoothly. Now that the New Year is here and the Property Tax issue of 2008 has been taken care of and rectified - it would seem a good time to sit back, relax, and not worry about finances for awhile. But, diligent and hard-working as always, there are things happening both in front of and behind the scenes, in an effort to make our (that's YOUR and MY) congregational life better.

By now you've heard of the "Council Structure" that's in the process of being brought into fruition: a format that will help all committees to better communicate and bring about their respective goals and dreams. We recently had the third meeting of the Financial Stewardship Council - a group that will act as an umbrella to oversee and connect all committees who have anything to do with our finances. Our own beloved Ellen Skagerberg has volunteered to make sure that this Council move ahead and stay on track; and by the time you read this newsletter, they probably will have chosen the actual chair person and assigned the different positions, tasks, etc. The Council is comprised of a cooperative group of many supportive members who have volunteered their time and energy to help - and those wise and kind folks are full of ideas and plans to further the stability of our congregation's financial effectiveness.

In an effort to help us all better identify who is what, the UUCSR Finance Committee (headed by our also beloved Lillian Reid, and NOT to be confused with the Financial Stewardship Council), shall, from this point forward, be referred to as the "Accounting Committee". *(There, now, doesn't that make things easier already?)* Currently, the "Accounting Committee" is busy focusing on compiling the budget requests from all UUCSR committees, in order to balance out our new fiscal year (beginning July 1); and also gathering, presenting and analyzing financial information and related issues. As they normally do, of course; sometimes unnoticed, but never unappreciated! On the other hand - the purpose of the "Financial Stewardship

Council" is to coordinate, support, and provide for better communication between and among the committees who are involved with and/or who generate revenue. This includes the Accounting Committee, the Rentals Committee, Events and Fundraising, the Bookmobile, the Endowment Committee, Canvass, Scrip, and any other Fundraising event or happening that goes on in our congregation. To put it simply, they provide financial leadership and oversight. Currently, they are focusing on our annual Canvass effort. They are further envisioning the accomplishment of a "year-round Canvass". This is a long-awaited dream of many of us. It is essential, in that it will help to give our congregation the financial health, strength, and security to pursue the many goals of our collective UUCSR vision. And it is so heartening to see that this most important pursuit is beginning to take shape.

Some say that Unitarian Universalists are committee-happy. However, the truth of the matter is - we (as a congregation) are only as strong and as viable, as courageous and as undertaking as is each one of us. We are only as good as each of our best efforts. Of course, you put a bunch of energetic and enthusiastic people together, and the synergy will be unequivocal. But there are so many beautiful and far-reaching dreams we have as a congregation and also many, many mundane and ordinary tasks that need to be accomplished on an on-going basis. *Therefore, organization is a must!* Anyone who's ever volunteered to help with ANY of our groups or committees - can agree that the higher the number of people who participate the less the work load for everyone. So hat's off to our new Financial Stewardship Council - thank you, folks!! And to everyone else, please think about perhaps lending a hand or an hour here or there to help these kind and generous folks, which will in turn make everyone's load a bit lighter. The canvass efforts are underway, and the more helping hands there are contributing energy and talents, the easier this great and oh-so-necessary job will be for everyone. Remember, no previous experience or expertise is required - your talents, even if you think them mundane, will be greatly appreciated! And finally, one last thing, be sure to put this date on your calendar: Feb 15 is our next Congregational Meeting. As always, attending will be enlightening!

Respectfully submitted,  
Denese Pender, Co-Treasurer





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

Our First Sunday Youth Worship this month focuses on the Sixth Principle of Unitarian Universalism: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. As I prepare the order of service I am struck by the fact that in order for children to understand and embrace the concept of world community they must belong to community in their daily lives. For many of our children, especially the very young, the notion of a global community is an abstraction. But having friends, communicating meaning in a group, feeling cared for, resolving conflict with peers, and working on collective projects are concrete experiences within their reach.

School provides children with community, and to varying degrees it allows them the experience of peer collaboration and a sense of commitment to the larger group. Children's school community consists of primarily classmates and teachers (as well as classroom aides etc.). In many cases, with the exception of the times when they volunteer in classrooms & help with homework completion, parents are peripheral to their child's school community. Parents support it, contribute to it, and certainly help their children educationally, but the community of school belongs to the child. This is developmentally appropriate as an important aspect of individuation and social learning,

Our congregational life provides a unique setting for parents and their children to be part of a multigenerational community together. But do families feel a sense of

community connection here at UUCSR? In RE I work to foster a sense of connection and common purpose among the kids, and I would like to expand this to include whole families. It takes intentional effort, I think, to make a community of families where parents are engaged with one another, children develop strong ties with others of various ages, and families feel an inclusive sense of belonging to a greater whole.

Let's work together to create this!

Beginning on February 20, (and the third Friday of each month through June) from 6:00 - 8:00 parents and children will gather in the RE wing for a potluck dinner and a time to connect. Families will dine together, then children will have a "structured play program", teens can play along with the younger ones, or have an activity/game of their own, and parents will gather for a program that could include discussion topics, exploring you role as spiritual guide to your children, sharing & clarifying your personal beliefs. The program content will be according to your interests and needs. Sometimes we could have programming with parents and children together. I am estimating that the cost will be \$5.00 per family to cover the cost of the persons who will lead the children's program (The cost is dependent on the number of people attending).

I will be talking to you all about this and getting your feedback. I hope you will plan to attend!

In faith, Deborah

## The 5th Leg of the Council Table—Financial Stewardship

Finally, the final Council is in place! The Financial Stewardship Council joins the Worship, Program, Membership, and Operations Councils to complete this part of our new congregational governance structure. Think of it as a round table with five legs!

Each Council coordinates the budgets and calendars for their member committees. In the case of the Financial Stewardship Council, this covers the committees on Accounting (formerly the Finance Committee), Canvass, Service Auction, Endowment, Fundraising, Scrip, and Events.

Our most pressing order of business has been to organize a year-round Canvass Committee, which will produce this year's annual member canvass and then continue with ongoing canvassing of new members.

The next important agenda item for the "Fine Stew" Coun-

cil is to launch a Fundraising Committee that can guide fundraising ideas and efforts - a large income item for our congregation. We are looking for interested people who can provide oversight as members of a Fundraising Committee, and also for those with ideas and energy for specific events to benefit our operating budget. Any ideas for, say, a black-and-white ball? A spring fling? A summer softball series? Cultural events? Please contact Ellen Skagerberg ([ellen@skagerberg.com](mailto:ellen@skagerberg.com)) for information or to discuss any ideas on which you might be willing to work to benefit our common endeavor.

The members of the new "Fine Stew" Council are George G. deBlois, Ted Miller, Alan Proulx, Ellen Skagerberg, and Hillevi Wyman. We are guided and advised by Board of Trustees members Suzanne McPhee and Bonnie Daines, with additional input from the Rev. Chris Bell.

## Together In Exploration (TIE) Groups Regrouping in January

If you are interested in joining a TIE Group, there may be a few places available in January for new members. TIE Groups meet twice a month from October through May with trained Facilitators. Meetings follow a format designed to allow members to share views on a pre-selected, often emotionally or spiritually sensitive topic

without interruption. Rather than verbally wrestle with each other, members are involved in the religious practice of listening with silent support for divergent points of view. If you would like further information, please contact Bonnie Daines (537-7247) or [bon-bob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bon-bob@sbcglobal.net).



### Inquirer's Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2008

12:30 - 1:30pm in Green Room

**\*\*Special session for parents!\*\***

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders. Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Bring your coffee or tea and join us.

## UUCSR Writers Forum

The First UUCSR Writers Forum will be held in the Common Room and the Lake Room at the UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, 10am - 4pm on Saturday, February 28,

This Forum is open to the public and is free of charge. Please help get the word out so folks can save the date. Workshops, lectures and discussion groups

have not been finalized but will be announced in the near future.

Information: UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. de-Blois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com), <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com> and/or visit the Writers Table in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings.

## Membership News

**Please Welcome Our New Members:** Sarita Hazen and John & Lynda McGinity.

**Sarita Hazen** grew up in the suburbs of NY, as well as Europe and Latin America. From 1970 to 1990 she lived in NYC's Lower East Side. Although Sarita's family was secular and agnostic, she attended Judson Church in NYC, which incorporates both Baptist and Congregational traditions and has a long history of liberal political activism. Her husband, Tom Craft, who died last year, found the UU and the Quakers when he researched churches before they moved to Santa Rosa in 1990. Sarita is a retired social worker. She is currently active at Santa Rosa Creek Commons, her resident managed housing cooperative. She also volunteers at the Saturday Breakfast once a month. Her other interests include: watercolor painting, knitting, sewing, creative writing, gardening, yoga and a variety of classes through SRJC. She has a sister-in-law who lives in Mill Valley and a nephew in San Francisco.

**John & Lynda McGinity** moved to Santa Rosa two years ago from Fairfield, CA. John was born in Somerset, England, and grew up in Long Beach, CA. Lynda was born in Tacoma, WA, and grew up in the Bay Area. They were both raised as Catholics. They were drawn to Unitarian Universalism's liberal, more encompassing, and less judgmental religious stance. John received a BA in Art from UC, Berkeley, and Lynda graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in Psychology. John and Lynda have been married 32 years. When they were first married, they lived in Hawaii for a few years. John has worked for thirty years in the wine industry, and is presently the Northern CA Sales Manager for a major wine and spirits distributor. Lynda is a retired elementary school teacher, and currently works as a substitute teacher. Both love to travel, read, watch videos, especially foreign and independent films, and stay physically active. John is an avid golfer. Lynda enjoys art, writing and playing bridge. They have two adult children, both living in the Bay Area.

## UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, February 2, 2009, from 4 - 6pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

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.

### Information

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

## Circle Dinners = Fun and Fellowship

It's time again to renew the Circle Dinner Circles. This means that if you are new to the congregation and would like to participate in Circle Dinners you should get in touch with us. If you have been in Circle Dinners and want to continue, you do not have to do anything. You will be kept on the list. If you are in Circle Dinners and do not want to participate any longer, you should also let us know.

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 generally 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!** Please contact Joan so that we will know BEFORE the time to generate new lists—in this case, **February 10**.

It would be best to email Joan Thatcher at [jothatch@pacbell.net](mailto:jothatch@pacbell.net) to let us know, but you may call Joan Thatcher (544-9130) **BEFORE FEBRUARY 10**. The new list will be in the March newsletter. This round runs from March through June.



## Music News

### Music in a New Year

Now into February, I'm still finding it hard to believe that the number 2008 now refers to the past. It raises an interesting dilemma regarding how we think of ideas in music like "contemporary" and "relevant." In my work with young people, I find that music is generally considered interesting if it is very new, maybe no older than 12 months. Typically, the older the individual, I find the less excited about new music they are. I find this in myself as well, as I used to be disinterested in classical music unless it was the so-called cutting edge. While I still enjoy new music, either on the concert stage or from our massive army of popular musicians, as I move forward in time, my interest in music seems to reach further backward in time. I begin to explore (for a brief example) bluegrass from the 1950's or popular song from the early 20th century.

In our musical lives-- our interests, our playing, singing, or listening activities-- do we seek out the new? Should we try to do so? Familiarity of music is generally comforting and enjoyable. I contend that musical novelty is analogous to exercise, sometimes challenging and difficult to begin, but always ultimately invigorating and giving us abilities and experience we likely couldn't get without that initial effort and faith in our capacity for growth.

In the coming month-- just the second of 2009, but also the first month in a never-ending line of absolute newness, months that have never happened before-- let's make an effort to relish in whatever musical novelty we either discovery or conjure. Even the seemingly familiar usually has a twist not before encountered. Listen for new experiences in the many offerings by our wonderful choir, in the songs presented by our outstanding band, in solos from guests and familiar faces.

### Choir news

In the next few months' services, you will routinely be hearing excerpts from John Rutter's *Gloria*. The choir is preparing this large work for an annual concert put on by Bay Area UU choirs. This year the united choirs will perform Rutter's work with the Kensington Symphony at the UU Congregation of Berkeley on the evening April 4. To help prepare, our choir will perform excerpts on Sundays

### Curiosity

I have been asked on several occasions what instrument it is that I sometimes play in service, either with our band or as a solo. The instrument is an electric bass guitar! It is a fairly standard part of popular bands (rock, R & B, etc.) and many jazz ensembles. But the bass guitar rarely takes center stage, and is very rarely a solo instrument. So, when someone like me dares to take redefine a role, it can make a listener wonder...is that really a bass guitar? I'm not a trail-blazer, though!. There are some AMAZING bass guitarists out there: Jaco Pastorius, Victor Wooten, Marcus Miller, Stanley Clarke, Les Claypool and so on. A month ago, I played *Amazing Grace*. If you'd like to hear a virtuoso version, go to YouTube.com and search "Victor Wooten amazing grace". Then, just drop your jaw and smile!

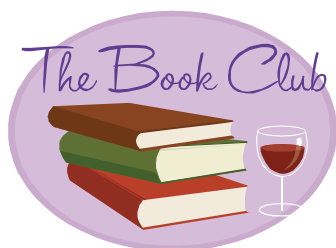
### Upcoming music in services

**February 1:** Ever heard a ukelele play a South African song?

**February 8:** An installment of John Rutter's *Gloria* on a bass guitar,

Ben Taylor, Music Director

## Evening Book Group



The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson.

New members and visitors are welcome. The selection for March has not yet been determined.

Linda Lampson



## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

On Sunday, February 1st, one half of the money in the collection basket will go to The Living Room. Our congregation has committed to be part of their 'circle of support' and this support has never been more necessary. As people lose their homes, TLR is the one place that women and their children can go during the day to get two healthy meals, counseling for both generations, friendship, and ongoing assistance as they face and learn to master their painful circumstances. When the basket comes your way, please help as much as you can. P.S. Last month 'share of the basket' collected \$577 for our Saturday Breakfast!!!! We can congratulate ourselves.

### Health Care Forum

Saturday, February 21st from 3 to 4:30

Doctors are uniformly opposed to single payer health insurance - right? Wrong! Over 16,000 doctors are on record as favoring such a system for solving our health care crisis. Learn how we can make our voices heard as the discussion begins in Washington about one of the most pressing issues facing the new administration and our country! John Shearer, M.D. of Sonoma County and past president of California Physicians' Alliance will moderate a panel of knowledgeable and committed people at the Glaser Center. See the insert in this newsletter for more information.

## Women Together

### Women Together Shared Reading:

On Saturday, February 21st, from 1 to 3pm in the Lake Room, UUCSR women will share prose or poetry focused on the idea of "Being a Woman". It can be something you've written or simply something you enjoy. Or, you can come to listen and share your thoughts, if you are so moved. Please bring finger food to share.

### National Women's History Project:

Did you know that when quiz shows need to know or check an answer to a question about women's history,

they contact the NWHP, right here in Santa Rosa? Did you know that our own Paula Hammett is a founder and Board Member of this wonderful agency? Ever wonder where the material for Women's History Month comes from? Or how such a thing came to be? On Saturday, March 7th, from 2 to 4 in the Board Room, Paula will tell us about the history and current activities of this great organization! Please bring finger-food to share. Men are definitely welcome!

And don't forget ~ Our Retreat at Saint Dorothy's Rest is May 15th to 17th. This year's theme is "Circles of Support".

## Officer of the Day

### IF

You like to be 'in charge' (what UU doesn't?)

You are good at negotiation

You enjoy being around people

You would like to know the 'ins and outs' - literally and figuratively

You want to know how to 'Dog' the doors

You would like a position of prestige, responsibility and respect?

### THEN

please apply for the following:

We are looking to have two Officers of the Day each Sunday. One would arrive a little before 9am and help between then and just after 11am.

The other would arrive a little before 11am and help until about 1pm., locking up and securing the building. The job requires tact and patience, on the spot decision making, an eye for detail and opportunity to meet lots of wonderful folks. The duty would require serving about once a month. Training is pro-

vided and a more detailed job description is available.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include facilitating a wonderful service experience, being in the thick of things and having fun. Please talk to a member of the Ops Team: Janis Brewster, Tony Crevelli, Fred Dodge, John Jaffray, Phil Hariman, Barbara Leahy, former member Suzie McPhee, David Templeton or Bud Willis

**Here's An Opportunity**



Are you planning to attend either the Pacific Central District Assembly in Fremont (May 1-3), or UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City (June 24-28)? If you are, then you could be a delegate from our congregation! It's a great way to get an inside look at UU unavailable in any other way!

We're entitled to six delegates from UUCSR - six delegates to each event, that is. It's an important thing to do. The business meetings are where many of the future policies and directions of our denomination are determined. You, as a delegate, take part in forming and deciding those policies and directions.

The business meeting takes only a couple of hours out of each weekend's activities. Prior to attending the Assemblies, you're provided with plenty of information

to help you understand your role as a delegate, and to explain the issues on which you'll be voting.

You don't need any special qualifications; be a member, be interested, and read the background information provided. The meeting attended by delegates is a typical conference meeting: an agenda, opening, some brief speeches, voting, closing, etc. What you receive from it all, though, is a unique perspective of our movement, how it operates, and who administers it. Most people who attend the Assemblies' business meetings later talk about how moved they were, how stirred, how proud....

Interested??? Do you have questions? Then talk with a member of the UUCSR Nominating Committee (John Durr, Sally Fife, Dorris Lee, Cassandra Lista, or Millie Tripp), or call Dorris Lee at (707) 795-7131.

**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

ing 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 leadership, 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.

In fellowship, Andy Levine



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH**

The Advocates for Social Justice will be selling lunches before the Congregational Meeting. All proceeds will benefit the Adrienne Swenson Award.

Please plan to attend.

UUCSR  
**1 Day Men's Retreat**  
**March 28, 2009**

9:00AM to 3:30PM

Come join the members and friends of UUCSR for a one day Men's retreat.

Registration fee: \$10.00  
(lunch included)

Please return this **form** and **fee** no later than February 28, 2009 to the UUCSR office- (547 Mendocino Ave., S.R. 95401)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions call Andy Levine 887-9810

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>Spectrum Fellowship</b> |
|----------------------------|

Spectrum Fellowship is the congregation's LGBT social group. Partners, newcomers, and straight friends are always welcome to join in the fun. We get together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. This month we're watching the film *Kissing Jessica Stein*. Stein is a New York writer who gives up on love with men and finds romance with a woman.

Gather in the Lake Room after worship on February 15th around 12:30pm to watch this comedic film. Feel free to bring your own lunch or snacks to share. For more information, contact Heather French <[heather.french@sonoma.edu](mailto:heather.french@sonoma.edu)> or Carina Zona <[carina@cczona.com](mailto:carina@cczona.com)>.

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Prayer Group with Rev. Chris</b> |
|-------------------------------------|

Experience another dimension of Spirit with prayer, meditation and sharing every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 in the Board Room. Come and join us!

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2009**

**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

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February 2009

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

**Mailing Address: 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381**  
**Email: [office@uusantarosa.org](mailto:office@uusantarosa.org) Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: <http://www.uusantarosa.org>**

**Board of Trustees**

**President:** Andrew Hidas, President @uusantarosa.org  
Ex-officio President: Linda Proulx  
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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**

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Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org  
Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious**

**Education Staff**  
Sonja Flores  
Kim Bringhurst



Come Celebrate the 200th Birthday of

# Charles Darwin

Thursday, February 12

Join us in the Social Hall beginning at 6:30 for some tasty Darwinian Birthday Cake, then stay for a special 'Survival of the Fittest' concert, featuring folk-singer Peter Tracy (a natural selection, to be sure) performing a medley of humorous songs about science and evolution, + comic readings from The Onion, and other literary sources.

ALSO

Science Experiments!

Suggested Donation between 200 cents and 200 dollars

Saturday, February 21

## Poetry Out Loud

presented by the Sonoma County Arts Council

Friday, February 27

## Young People's Chamber Orchestra

presented by the Santa Rosa Symphony Orchestra  
7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 6

## Baroque Sinfonia

presented by the Santa Rosa Junior College  
8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 27

F.W. Murnau's Silent Film Classic, the amazing

## FAUST

With live original soundtrack performed on the piano by Canadian composer Robert Bruce  
7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 3

F.W. Murnau's *OTHER* Silent Film Classic

## SUNRISE

With another original soundtrack performed live by Robert Bruce  
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4

Ensemble Arte Flamenco  
**Poema Del Cante Jondo**

singer Salvadora Galan, Flamenco dancer Phoebe Vernier plus Mark Taylor & Geoff Hawkins  
8:00 p.m.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE FIRST ANNUAL  
U.U.C.S.R.

# OUR FAVORITE SONGS

FUN-FILLED CONCERT AND GET-TOGETHER  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 7:30 P.M.

You helped choose the songs!  
Now come share the music!

Sliding Scale Admission: From One Dollar to One Thousand Dollars

# HEALTH CARE FORUM

## **NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLVING THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS WITH A SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM**

FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AS THE DISCUSSION BEGINS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF OUR TIME

RICHARD QUINT, MD MPH, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UC MEDICAL SCHOOL

CLAUDIA CHAUFAN, PhD, MEDICA (UNIVERSIDAD DE BUENOS AIRES)  
LECTURER, SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - SANTA CRUZ

ANDREW MCGUIRE, STATE COORDINATOR, "ONE CARE NOW - CALIFORNIA"  
MODERATOR

JOHN SHEARER, MD., FAMILY MEDICINE, SONOMA COUNTY, PAST PRESIDENT, CA. PHYSICIANS' ALLIANCE

HEAR HEALTH POLICY EXPERTS DISCUSS THE ANSWERS TO FIXING OUR BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION PLEDGED TO HEALTH CARE REFORM. AMPLE TIME WILL BE ALLOWED FOR AUDIENCE INPUT AND GROUP DISCUSSION.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, FROM 3-4:30 P.M.

THE GLASER CENTER  
547 MENDOCINO AVE.  
SANTA ROSA, CA.

PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON MENDOCINO AVENUE

THERE IS NO FEE, HOWEVER, A DONATION IS APPRECIATED AND WILL ALLOW OUR WORK TO CONTINUE

ORGANIZED BY  
THE CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS' ALLIANCE,  
STATE CHAPTER OF PHYSICIANS' FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY  
THE ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SANTA ROSA