



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 3 •

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

### March 1st

#### "SACRED SPACE"

Service Leader: Andrew Hidas  
Worship Associate: Andy Levine

What is "sacred space?" Does it have a geographical address or is it a mere state of mind? Purely a human invention, or is there power inherent to some places that is quite apart from human consciousness? How does it differ from ordinary/secular space? Come explore a concept that while difficult to define, seems to speak to us all in places where we are struck with a sense of sanctity, depth, reverence, and the Word beyond words. Presenter Andrew Hidas is president of the UUCSR Board of Trustees.

### March 15th

#### "THE BODY IS A TEMPLE"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell  
Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

"My backyard is now a reflection of me," said an older member recently. "Run-down and rather scruffy." Whether in the bouncy flexibility of toddlerhood, the confusing burst of energy in youth, the "this-is-it" realities of middle-age, or the challenge of the elder body's decreasing powers, our body is the center of our universe, a vehicle for the brain and a seat for the spirit. It's health cannot be taken for granted, nor it's teachings ignored. Come, make friends with yours again!

### March 8th

#### "COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION"

Service Leader: Rev. Cathleen Cox  
Worship Associate: Maureen Wallace

Imagine the possibilities for creative problem solving if every stakeholder in a complex situation could work cooperatively for the good of the whole! Compassionate Communication - widely known as "Non-Violent Communication" - is a truly groundbreaking and transformative process for building communities and organizations committed to this goal. Join us in exploring the underlying values and skills of this astonishingly effective toolkit for breaking through "stuck places" in relationships and systems. Rev. Cathleen Cox is a Unitarian Universalist minister who offers a community ministry of spiritual direction serving individuals, couples, congregations and other communities in the Unitarian Universalist and interfaith worlds. The purpose of her ministry is to inspire and guide others in discovering ways of connection with the spiritual core of life and of self.

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### "THE LEAST OF THESE?"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell  
Worship Associate: Leslie Norinsky

Even as *Slumdog Millionaire* beautifully portrayed a wistful hope in destiny, it also illuminated the terrible plight of the street children of Mumbai (and their remarkable resourcefulness and adaptability). Our situation here is different, but it remains true that children are the most vulnerable, and often ignored, members of our society. How can we keep that from happening? The children of our own religious education program will share the blankets they have made for The Linus Project.

### March 29<sup>th</sup>

#### "UUSC JUSTICE SUNDAY"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell  
Worship Associate: Ray Teurfs

Today we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the most remarkable documents ever written, considering its meaning for history and its promise for today. The poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca will provide a counterpoint.



### 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.

## Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

Mary Rosenthal, an elder member of the church whom many know from the choir recently moved away and needed to get rid of a large number of books. "It hurts a little," she said. "They're like friends."

I dig that feeling. There is wisdom in surrounding yourself with things that make you feel competent, wise, knowledgeable. I keep all my religion books in my office. Many of them are gifts from others - they speak aloud to me: you go, boy! Sharing them feels like sharing a little piece of me, which is nice, too.

In the reading of my life, I've traditionally been a fan of non-fiction. I want to know the truth about things, and what experts have to say about things that interest me, and I enjoy learning. I feel a certain professional obligation to read about leadership and congregational dynamics and the like, and the good news is I find many of those books very interesting. I like essays and arguments.

But there's something missing from a steady diet of that stuff. I need the imagination and the intimacy of poems, too. Frankly, there are modern poems that speak to me more of the spirit and the human condition and the nature of the Whole that all but the best scriptures of any tradition (most of which are more poem than prose, anyway). And I need the drama, the situations, and, most of all the characters that novels and plays and movies offer a window into.

UUs have turned to the arts for inspiration for a very long time. The Unitarians of the 1800s, the Transcendentalists most prominently, conceived of art, music, poetry and literature as great and sacred tools for the telling of truth, and the exploration of creation and the mind and the heart. Thanks to my mom, I share their view. Consider how much we learn, how much America learned and can learn from, say, the characters of Jim and Huckleberry Finn and you'll see what they meant.

Although UUCSR has its non-fiction side, with budgets and agendas and knowledge and facts, we're also like a work of the imagination, a great story, opera or concept album, an epic poem perhaps, whose upcoming chapters are only beginning to come into view. Our success depends like good non-fiction on clarity of purpose, and like that of a great novel, on the strength of the characters.

When the congregation moved it naturally experienced an identity crisis. There were many pressures causing stress and many issues that ran hot. There was great excitement and hope for an expanding vision. In such an environment the new building was named the *Glaser Center*, for devoted members Jules and Barbara Glaser, who were able and willing to make an extraordinary contribution to-

ward its purchase. At that time some members were very concerned that the identity of the congregation would be lost underneath that mantle. It is true that as time passed "The Glaser Center" came to mean a lot of things. When it came to mean something too much like a commercial theater, or concert promoter, or rental hall, it brought the attention of the property tax assessor. As well it should. This is a sacred space, and its stewards are Unitarian Universalists, a religious people. We're here with a purpose.

The Glaser Center is the name of the building. The Glaser Center is owned by, and is the home of, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Everything that happens here happens at our will and by our decision. There is no separate organization called the *Glaser Center* - no board, no employees, etc. There is just us! David is paid by the congregation as facilities manager, but is also a volunteer leader of the congregation with the UUCSR Arts and Culture ministry. Please read his piece farther back for the exciting way we are furthering that aspect of our mission.

It's a fact that this place is widely known as the *Glaser Center* for a host of reasons we should be proud of. The *Glaser Center* is the name of the building when you come in on Tuesday for meditation, it is the name of the building when folks attend a workshop presented by someone who has rented the space, it's the name of the building on Saturday morning (when the UUs feed people) and Sunday morning (when we worship).

As I said at the congregational meeting, the folks who work and worship in *Glide Memorial Church* are United Methodists, not *Gliders* or *Memorialites*. So, too, with us. I hope you will feel comfortable saying, "I'm going to the *Glaser Center* to worship with my UU congregation" but, for what it's worth, I don't care if you also call this space "the church" or "547" or "the UU" or "Chris's getaway cabin" as long as you show up!

What has not and cannot be lost is the fact that we are a religious community. But, who could miss it? Step into the *Glaser Center* anytime and behold our Mission in giant letters. Check out the bulletin boards: when the congregation is sponsoring or benefiting from events, you will see such information featured prominently. Pick up some of the literature, notice the posters for meditation and prayer, and justice work, and scripture study, and educational forums, and UU history. Most importantly, meet the members of the congregation: ministers of many forms to each other and the hurting world around us. You can't miss the character of the place. And you might hear some poetry that will change your life.

Rev. Chris

## Splinters from the Board

I remember gazing out to the audience at our first congregational meeting last October and thinking, "This must be what it feels like to be at a New Hampshire town hall meeting." (Minus the hordes of reporters and photographers who show up every four years for the presidential primaries...) Not that I know exactly what goes on at those meetings, but in my imagination, folks who care passionately about making things work take the time to show up, listen, ask a question or three or four, offer observations and suggestions, and generally agree to put their shoulders to the wheel of the sometimes lumbering engine of grassroots participatory democracy.

It felt great at that October meeting with its 75 or so attendees, exceeding our precious required quorum of 60 (based on percentage of total membership). Meeting the quorum allows us to conduct congregational business as required by our bylaws. Historically, it has sometimes been a little tricky getting the required 20 percent of our members to attend, what with family obligations and the thousand and one other reasons not to linger around the church building for the better part of a Sunday.

So it was heartening a couple of weeks ago to look out again at our second congregational meeting and behold face after dear face—some 110 of you, near as our counters could count—there to hear the latest news and discussion on those bureaucratic stalwarts such as the budget and the goals of the Board of Trustees. This was, to anyone's best recollection, the highest attendance ever at a congregational meeting, with the notable exceptions of the meetings involving votes on purchasing a new building and inviting settled ministers.

This attendance figure bespeaks something very significant for our congregation, I think. It represents an increased identity for us as both a polity and a spiritual community, coming together not only to worship in words and song early in the day, but also to hear, via numbers and organizational charts in a longish (two hours) afternoon meeting, how the metaphorical sausage is made in the back rooms of our community,

Certainly, there will always be those whose other obligations or basic disinterest in such details will take them elsewhere during our congregational meetings. No real harm done there. (We've been able to meet our quorum without you!) What is more significant is both the quantity of those who do attend, and the quality of their involvement. The listening, the questions, the respect shown each speaker—it's a heartening process to behold from my perch on the stage, and I salute every one of you who committed yourselves to it. Please come again in June!

With our new *Governing Councils* beginning to take serious shape and our house meetings for the North Bay Organizing Committee commencing, we are seeing a profound evolution in the participatory landscape of UUCSR. It is the fruition of many years and many ideas and many passionate and able congregants who have taken it upon themselves to create and constantly re-create who we are and what we do, and thereby reflect what we stand for. It is an honor indeed for your Board to help build upon all their visionary work.

—Andrew Hidas

President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

## House Meetings Are Here!

Our community organizing effort is well underway, and the next step will be a series of neighborhood meetings happening now! 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!





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

Last month UUCSR hosted a Pacific Central District-Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) Youth Conference (aka Con). For 4 days over 70 youth ages 14 to 19 gathered in our space to celebrate community, create worship, express creativity, assert positive youth leadership, and have fun. I served as one of the 10 Adult Advisors for the Con and am here to report that it was a fantastic experience!

Our District's YRUU is driven by the dedicated leadership of a council of youth who plan and execute the cons with adult guidance as needed. At the con there were two youth designated as "deans" who were responsible for seeing that the programming happened, and ensuring that rules were followed, while still having a good time themselves. The result was a weekend of wonderful youth led workshops; inspired "touch groups" (small groups that came together 2 to 3 times a day to create community in smaller numbers); late-night youth designed and led worship that included a group painting, lots of singing, and connecting with the spirit; a talent show with song, poetry, theatrical performance, and some very fun silliness; and an amazing menu of meals prepared by youth cooks.

If I ever thought that the future of our denomination was in trouble, my fears were allayed in the presence of such bright stars in YRUU. Our district should be proud of these young people for the way they embody our UU principles and take our faith forward.

I am so proud that our congregation opened its doors to them.

In faith,  
Deborah

### What's happening in RE this month

- 3/1/09 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Youth Worship Theme: Creating Sacred Space
- 3/8/09 **Preschool** Chalice Children  
Teacher: Sonja Flores
- K-2** Cooperation Games - 1<sup>st</sup> Principle  
Teachers: Kirsten Olney & Elizabeth Wheless
- 3-5:** Trust in our UU Circle: Trust Games - 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle  
Teachers: Joy Lonnes & Susan Dickey
- 6 & 7:** Middle School Youth Group  
Leader: Robyn Hidas
- 3/15/09 **Preschool** Chalice Children  
Teacher: Sonja Flores
- K-2:** The Church of the Helping Hands - Helping Games  
Teachers: Kirsten Olney & Elizabeth Wheless
- 3-5:** Divine Images: Inward & Outward Expressions  
Teachers: Joy Lonnes & Susan Dickey
- 6&7:** Middle School Youth Group  
Robyn Hidas
- 3/22/09 Justice Sunday: Theme to be announced
- 3/29/09 Arts Sunday - Creating Mandalas expressions of the soul
- Youth Group 8-12: meets the first & third Thursdays of each month from 4-6 pm
- Youth Group Advisors: Rev. Chris Bell & Deborah Mason

## Circle Dinner Substitute List Spring 2009

*Cont. from Page 4*

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

## Who and What is the Committee on Shared Ministry

Here is some information about the Committee on Shared Ministry.

Who are we? We are Elizabeth Marrs, Chairperson, Rev. Chris Bell, Chris Farkas, Nancy Hargis, Heather Lawton, Andy Levine and our newest member Cathy Reid.

This is our charge: The purpose of the Committee on Shared Ministry is to encourage healthy communication among members and committees of the UUCSR, to help insure issues and concerns are addressed and resolved amicably and in a timely manner and to provide support and feedback to the minister.

The committee identifies trends, synthesizes information and appreciates the diversity of viewpoints within in the congregation.

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

## Membership News

**Please Welcome Our New Members:** Stacey Sincheff and Robert Watkins

**Robert Watkins** recently moved to Santa Rosa from Houston, TX, where he has lived for the past 25 years. Although raised as a Presbyterian, he later became a UU and worked as a Business Administrator at Emerson UU Church in Houston. Robert was also very active in that church as a member of the Endowment Committee and a TIE Group, serving as an Usher, as well as attending Bible Study and UU History classes. He is now retired and enjoys music, reading and walking. Robert lives with his oldest son, Barry, who is an Architect in Healdsburg.

**New Directories Are Now Available** (*for Members and Pledging Friends*): If you did not pick up your copy of the February directory at the Congregational Meeting, you may request a copy at the Visitor Table after the 11 am Sunday service, or from the office during the week.

## New Look for the Canvass!



This year's canvass has a new name,

### ***The Annual Pledge Drive***

We're not only changing the name, but we'll refocus our energy and conversation together.

Stay tuned. Don't fret or worry that we'll eliminate the fun

Mark your calendar now for **April 17.**

## Arts and Culture Ministry News from David Templeton

Those in attendance at February's Congregational Meeting will remember that Rev. Chris and I ended the get-together with what we referred to as our "dog and pony show," detailing a number of important things including 1. the exciting new direction and focus for our arts & culture ministry, 2. a few changes in the way we will be doing rental business in the future, and 3. the resolution of the years-long confusion about what 'the Glaser Center' means (I'll leave it to Chris to fill in the details on that last one). For those of you who missed the meeting, here's the scoop on the first two items.

On the rental side, as of January 1, our rental operation has been revamped to better express our social and humanitarian values, and to come in line with certain property tax restrictions explained to us by the county assessor's office. The short version of our new plan is as follows. The majority of our rentals from here on out will be to local non-profits and other charitable organizations, rentals which can take place throughout the building. The majority of all other rentals (to for-profit organizations, individuals, weddings, etc.) will be located in the Social Hall, which has been designated our "taxable" (therefore freely rentable) area; certain other select groups (mainly 12-step groups and the like) will be allowed to meet in our classrooms and Board Room, and while these groups are not being charged rent, we anticipate that the majority of them will be making donations to the UUCSR on an occasional basis. In this way, we will be continuing to allow the building to make money for the congregation, will do so within the allowable dictates of the county of Sonoma, and will do it all in ways that always accounts for the fact that, first and foremost, we are a religious-humanitarian institution. For rental possibilities that fall within these definitions, there will always be creative ways to serve our congregation and the community, though it may require some improvisation and resourcefulness, and will not accommodate every single situation.

The Board of Trustees, the Rental Committee, Reverend Bell and I believe these changes are a positive step forward, fully in line with our financial needs, the needs of the community we live in, and the philosophical goals of Unitarian Universalism.

Now, regarding the work of the events committee, formed three years ago to produce and execute performance-based events that would provide income for the UUCSR, the committee is being somewhat restructured to now have two goals: the first will be to continue to provide

"fundraising support" by assisting with the occasional UUCSR fundraising effort, to produce and carry out a limited number of entertaining fundraising events, and to provide "snack bar" services for our own events and the occasional rental event (sometimes, as with last year's Michele McFee fundraiser, a renter allows us to run concessions as a fundraiser for the UUCSR).

The other, especially exciting arm of the Events Committee is our "Arts and Culture Ministry." These events will be cultural, philosophical, musical and theatrical events intended primarily to engage the congregation, the community and the world in conversations on subjects of significance to the UUCSR and UUism in general. Our financial obligation is simply to cover our costs, so these events will be low cost or free. In many cases, as with the upcoming Sights & Sounds silent movie series, the "ministry" part of the Arts & Culture Ministry will be made clear through a special free workshop or other educational event; in association with the silent movies, a special free concert & talk on the spiritual origins of music will be led by composer and pianist Robert Bruce, the musician who will be providing the musical accompaniment for the two silent movies we'll be screening on March 28 (F.W. Murnau's metaphysical masterpiece 'Faust') and April 4 (Murnau's other masterpiece, the soaring family drama 'Sunrise'). You will be seeing many more of these "crossover" classes and talks, as we move forward with our effort to truly serve the community, to spread our ideals, and to inspire conversation through the power of the arts. Please share your ideas and your energy with us.

With this new focus on ministry, we anticipate a heightened interest in our events from members of the congregation, and we invite individuals and groups to assist by volunteering for specific events. For example, with the silent movie series and planned Raymond Burr Film Festival in May, we have invited the Talking Pictures movie group to assist on the day of the events. If you are a part of a TIE group, Men's Group or committee, and one of our Arts & Culture events is in-line with your enthusiasms, please feel free to "adopt" that event as a service project for your group.

We have a full calendar of events already on the books (some very, VERY exciting things, so look at the enclosed listing carefully), and I am sure our efforts will capture your imaginations as fully as the opportunity to create this arts & culture ministry has inspired mine.

## Music News

### Musical Therapy, part I

Excerpts from the welcome address to freshman at Boston Conservatory, given by pianist, Karl Paulnack, and shared with me by choir member, Pam Tennant.

"We live in a society that puts music in the "arts and entertainment" section of the newspaper, and serious music has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with entertainment. Art is part of survival; part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are. Art is one of the ways in which we say, "I am alive, and my life has meaning." It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we fund from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pass time. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds."

Paulnack then tells several stories of witnessing people responding to tragedy--both immediate and in the distant past--through music: people weeping at concerts, people writing music in the worst of times, people singing together in the wake of Sept 11, 2001. I can personally attest that these things happen. I've witnessed each myself. From there, Paulnack concludes...

"If we were a medical school, you'd take your work very seriously because you would imagine that some night at 2am someone is going to waltz into your emergency room and you're going to have to save their life. Well, my friends, someday at 8pm someone is going to walk into your concert hall and bring you a mind that is confused, a heart that is overwhelmed, a soul that is weary. Whether they go out whole again will depend partly on how well you do your craft."

"I'm not an entertainer; I'm a lot closer to a paramedic, a firefighter, a rescue worker. You're here to become a sort of therapist for the human soul, a spiritual version of a physical therapist, someone who works with our insides to see if we can come into harmony with ourselves and be healthy and happy and well. If there is a future of peace for humankind, if there is to be an understanding of how these invisible, internal things should fit together, I expect it will come from the artists, because that's what we do."

I encourage you to read the entirety of Mr. Paulnack's address at

<http://pianotree.wordpress.com/2008/09/06/inspirational-speech/>. Many thanks to Pam for sharing! Hoping our music can bring about peace for humankind,

Ben Taylor, Music Director

## Women's History Month!

**March is Women's History Month!** What? Why? How? On Saturday, March 7th, Paula Hammett, a founder and current Board Member of this wonderful program will tell us how it all began, what it is today and

how this agency, right here in Santa Rosa, became the nationally recognized authority on women's history. Please bring finger-food to share. Men are definitely welcome!

## Discussion Group Following 11:00am Service

Following the 11AM service on Sunday, March 8, a discussion group will meet to reflect on and discuss the service. We will end by 1PM. All are welcome. We will meet in the Sunset Room in the RE wing of the building. Bring your coffee and spend some time in conversation. This project is sponsored by a TIE group and will con-

tinue through May 17. If it is well received, it may continue indefinitely. Please call Jeanie Bates, 829-9883, with any questions.





## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

Chrysalis Counseling Services for Women has provided high-quality counseling and psychotherapy to women, men, families, couples, and children in Sonoma County for over 25 years. Chrysalis provides a safe, supportive environment where all voices are heard, encouraged and respected. Grief, disability, codependency, addiction, depression, self-esteem, relationships, parenting, money issues, work issues, life transitions, trauma, abuse, incest and sexuality are examples of the issues our clients grapple with. Because of our sliding-fee scale, we are able to provide services to clients from a wide range of economic circumstances. Perhaps the most important component of our fee schedule is our subsidized fee, or "Wings" program, with which client fees are subsidized by as much as one-half per session. This can definitely make or break a clients ability to get critically needed counseling and psychotherapy. "Wings" has historically been managed through redistributing

the money from higher-fee clients to subsidize those less able to pay. As you may imagine, this is becoming increasingly difficult. With the defunding and closure of vital mental health services in Sonoma County over the last several years, and the strain of the current economic crisis, Chrysalis remains one of a handful of agencies still providing affordable mental health services. The need for clients to request subsidized fees has increased dramatically, and we are now seeking other means by which to meet this critical need. At this transitional period in our growth as an agency, donations are essential to our client base. Your contribution to Chrysalis will be used for the exclusive purpose of subsidizing fees for clients who would otherwise go without services. When the basket comes to you on Sunday, March 1st, please be as generous as you can. Your contribution will be most gratefully accepted.

### Adrienne Swenson Award

Thanks to everyone's generosity and appetite, the Advocates for Social Justice took in about \$450 from the lunches you bought before the Congregational Meeting on February 15th. Many thanks! This year, our first, the award of \$500 will go to the person among our Coming of Age students who creates the best response, in writing, drama, art, or music, to their day-long experience with the Faithful Fools in San Francisco.

### Soldiers of Conscience

To kill or not to kill? For some, the war is within. *Soldiers of Conscience*, a documentary about American service men and women in Iraq faced with this decision and the consequences of their choices, will be shown twice in the Board Room at UUCSR: On Sunday, March 8th after the service and on Friday, March 13th at 6:30 pm. See the flyer in this Newsletter for more information.

## Musings from the Caring Committee

The members of the Committee have been in contact with any UUs we know are frail, or "shut-ins". But we are not always aware of those in need. So if you know of any UU in need of a Caring Committee visit, please let Gretchen Vap (chair; 568-3290) know. Or, if you are so inclined, make a visit yourself. Visits are always appreciated. Please try to notice if a member just hasn't been seen for a while, and either call or visit yourself, or call the Committee chair. With each passing year, there are UUs losing mobility who we want to continue to love, and include in our community. Contact Dolores

Miller (837-0933) if a ride to church or M.D. is needed, and give a few days notice. Or if you are willing to help with transportation, call Dolores, who kindly organizes rides. We have loads of medical equipment that has been donated. If you need walker, wheelchair, bedside commode or anything else, contact Gretchen, and we can arrange. Frozen main dishes are also always available to members temporarily laid up. The Caring Committee is simply an extension of the hearts at UUCSR, serving members in need of an assist.

## 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.

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman.

New members and visitors are welcome. The selection for April is *Thirteen Moons* by Charles Frazier. The selection for May is *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz.

Submitted by Linda Lampson

## All Congregation Retreat

It's time to start planning for the 2009 All-Congregation Retreat, scheduled for Jul 31 - Aug 2. It's the one Retreat of the year designed for everyone in the Congregation - parents, kids, teens, adults, singles and grandparents. There'll be loads of fun - with campfire songs, swimming in the river, workshops, music, relaxation, and dazzling entertainment with the annual Camp Gualala Talent Show.

If you are interested in helping out during the weekend in order to receive a scholarship (discount) on the cost, please let us know. Also - have you got any hidden talents that you'd like to share with the group by putting on a workshop? We'd love to hear your ideas!! Please contact Barrie Noe at 823-5018 or Pat Wilson at 537-8562. And don't forget - put the date on your calendar:

**Jul 31-Aug 2 =**

**FUN FUN FUN at CAMP GUALALA!!!**



Submitted by  
Denese Pender

## Whale Coast Alaska 2009

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer in our 13<sup>th</sup> year! See *REAL* Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau, and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. We

visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see lots of wildlife like bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles and visit Denali and other National Parks. Dave Frey, a 28-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit

[www.whalecoastak.org](http://www.whalecoastak.org). Reservation deadline is March 21, but tours usually fill early. Email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) for information, or call 907-322-4966. Alaska UUs would love to share our awe-inspiring state with you!

## 2 Bedroom Apartment Available!!

2 bedroom, large, sunny, upstairs apartment available to rent in a housing co-operative. Situated on a beautiful 1.8 acres of land near downtown Santa Rosa.

Available March 1  
\$1100 First and last plus security deposit  
Call Marley 575-8946

## Grandparents Needed

If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of children, The Children's Village of Sonoma county currently has openings for three grandparents to live at the Village and work with children in foster care.

In return for at least ten hours of work the senior living at the Village receive reasonable rent for new, modern apartments. Surrogate grandparents are required to do what grandparents might do—help kids

with schoolwork, be a mentor and friend, drive children to sports activities or medical appointments.

It's a great opportunity for seniors to remain active and involved, and to share their life experiences with children. Consider giving one year to the Kids! For more information, call The Children's Village at 566/7044.

## Guest At Your Table

Your generous gifts to

**GUEST AT YOUR TABLE**

were a wonderful display of the sprit of giving!

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee received \$1,608.50

which will be put to work in their mission of  
advancing human rights and social justice around the world.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009**

**[Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)**

**E-mail submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



March 2009

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**  
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**Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: http://www.uusantarosa.org**

**Board of Trustees**  
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**Order of Service Announcements:**  
 Send submissions to Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org  
**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service  
**UU Update Newsletter:**  
 Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org  
 Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail address  
**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.**  
 Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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 Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious Education Staff**  
 Sonja Flores  
 Kim Bringhurst



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa presents  
**2009 Events at the Glaser Center**



**Saturday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.**

**Our Favorite Songs, part 1**

A joy-filled concert of great songs & music selected by the members of the UUCSR

**Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Silent Cinema Series.

F.W. Murnau's metaphysical masterpiece

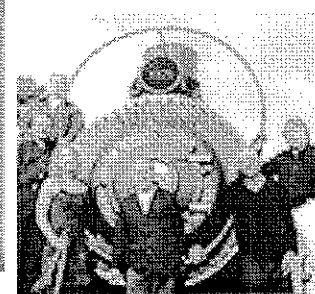
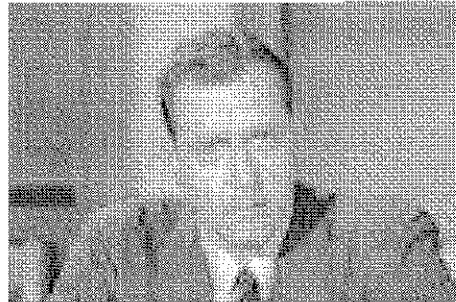
**Faust (Eine deutsche Volkssage)**

with composer Robert Bruce on piano

**Friday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.**

Silent Cinema Series, F.W. Murnau's

**Sunrise (A Song of Two Humans)**



**May 15 - 16**

**RAYMOND BURR  
 FILM FESTIVAL**

Rare screenings,  
 Panel discussions,  
 Guest appearances,  
 Illuminating  
 Conversations

**All the details to be  
 announced soon!**

**Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.**

**The New Horizons Band**

Sonoma County's reigning assemblage of sassy senior citizens, in a concert of great big band tunes and pop favorites!

**July 17 - 26**

A special preview performance of David Templeton's new autobiographical solo show!

**Wretch Like Me**

True Confessions of a Teenage Fundamentalist

**August 6 - 29**

Narrow Way Stage Company\* presents William Shakespeare's

**Twelfth Night & Coriolanus**

Love, Secrets, Intrigue, Transformation!

**Saturday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.**

**Our Favorite Songs, part 2**

**Saturday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.**

**Twisted Christmas Live 7**

The annual lit-comedy variety show! Offbeat holiday tales read aloud by very funny people!

**Saturday, April 4, 2:00 p.m.**

Free talk & concert

**The Spiritual Origins of Music**

with Robert Bruce

**Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.**

**Ensemble Art Flamenco**

**Poema Del Cante Jondo**

flamenco dance & music, with the poetry of

Federico Garcia Lorca

Featuring dancer Phoebe Vernier and singer Salvadora Galan

**Saturday, June 20**

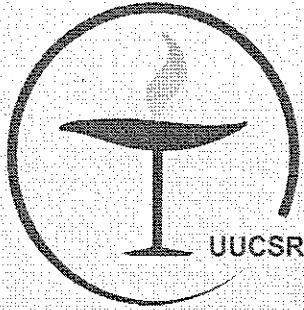
**WAY OUT WEST**

**Rip-roaring Summer  
 Extravaganza**

A mouth-watering barbecue dinner, with outdoor screenings of Roy Rogers films and a rootin' tootin' live cowboy concert with cowboy singer-yodeler-accordionist

**Sourdough Slim**

The Arts & Culture Ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa



## ***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

# **Spring Newcomer Welcome**

Saturday, April 18

10:30 am - 2:30 pm Lunch provided

Please register by April 12<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.  
Registration forms available at the visitor table, or call  
Maureen Wallace - 578-7665

# ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE INVITE YOU TO VIEW

## **SOLDIERS OF CONSCIENCE**

a documentary film which takes a powerful look at a central drama of our time: how a soldier decides to kill or not, and the life-changing consequences that come with either choice.

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** after the 11 o'clock service in the Board Room  
or (of course you could also come to both)  
**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm in the Board Room

## **TO KILL OR NOT TO KILL? FOR SOME, THE WAR IS WITHIN.**

From West Point grads to drill sergeants, from Abu Ghraib interrogators to low ranking reservist-mechanics, soldiers in the US Army today reveal their deepest moral concerns about killing in war.

Their message: every soldier wrestles with his conscience over killing. Although most decide to kill – some refuse.

Soldiers of Conscience reveals that far more soldiers decide not to kill than we might expect.

Made with official permission from the US Army and filmed in state-of-the-art high definition video, Soldiers of Conscience includes never before seen footage of basic training and the war in Iraq, with an original soundtrack from an Academy Award winner and composer.

Soldiers of Conscience is a realistic yet optimistic look at war, peace and the power of the human conscience.

Not recommended for youth under age 13

\*\*The film length is a little less than 1 hour and 30 minutes. You may want to allow extra time for discussion afterwards.

**All are warmly invited to  
a Celebration of the Life of**

# **Van Craig**

**Beloved elder of the congregation, who passed  
away on February 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Sunday  
March 8<sup>th</sup>  
3:30 pm

**A catered reception will follow in the Social Hall.**