



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 4 •

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

April 5th

### THE IMPEDED STREAM IS THE ONE THAT SINGS

Service Leader; Rev Lindi Ramsden

Worship Associate; Andy Levine

"It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work and that when we no longer know which way to go we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings." - Wendell Berry

We are one state, but we live in many different watersheds. This Sunday, the Rev. Lindi Ramsden, Executive Director of the UU Legislative Ministry, will help us examine how Unitarian Universalists from both water rich and water poor parts of our state can live into the questions of water justice.

April 12th

### HOPE LIVES!

Easter Sunday

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Scott Miller

Are you ready to start anew? Does your tomb need opening? Easter is a holiday for everyone who longs to see that life is stronger than death, love stronger than hatred, creativity stronger than destruction, hope stronger than despair. We'll let the Spring breezes of renewal blow through the Glaser Center, and affirm the Unitarian Universalist Congregation's faith in life, in love, and in humankind.

April 19th

### EARTH DAY OBSERVED

Guest Preacher: John Muir!

Worship Associate: Rev. Chris Bell

America's most significant environmentalist will be brought to life by the Reverend Don Baldwin, a former resident minister in Yosemite National Park, and a friend of the UU Church in Grass Valley, who will share John Muir's passion for the earth, his triumphs and his near tragedies. There will also be a New Member Recognition ceremony as part of the service.

Thursday, April 9th

(6:00pm service/6:30 meal)

### A HOLY FEAST

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Maureen Wallace,  
Michael Walsh

Two great holidays of freedom and faith converge on this night. Easter is just days away. Passover will have begun at sun-down the evening before. We'll follow Jesus' lead and honor the occasion with a ritual of foot-washing, discovering both the servant and the beloved within. Then we'll share a potluck meal together, partaking of communion in the grand UU style. Christians, Jews, Humanists - all are welcome at this table.

April 26th

### MUSICOLOGY

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Ben Taylor, Lucia Milburn

On the one hand, music is the most abstract of the arts, the high standard against which the great expressionist painters of the 20th century set themselves. It is also the most widespread, the most participatory, and the most spiritual of the arts. People have been drumming and chanting and singing to the gods and to each other forever. With Oliver Sachs as inspiration, we'll explore some of music's truly miraculous power to heal, to inspire, and to soothe the savage beast within.

### 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.

## Living Our Hope—Rev. Chris



The baseball season is about to begin, and familiar birdsongs have returned to my ear. I have never lived anywhere where the Earth herself proclaimed hope and renewal like the bright green hills of northern California do in March and April. If you don't think the Universe gives people and planets another chance, again and again, you need to get outside more!

Although I am still praying for lots of rain in April, I am hereby declaring that the days of darkness must move over and move on - Spring is sprung in Santa Rosa, and I am in a really great mood. But I wonder, is that still allowed?

Remember the "good old days" of January? When a new administration had the words hope and change on everyone's lips, and a spirit of service and commitment and possibility was in the air? Then the scope of the Bush legacy and our nation's wastrel ways gradually became clearer, and the mood shifted again.

These days there is no shortage of doom and gloom. Moved by the tone of desperation I am offered with my news, and my knowledge of the difficult circumstances some of you are in, I myself have fallen prey to this feeling at times.

When I recently heard one of the countless experts that are trotted out on NPR grimly declare our country to be in a "serious and prolonged" economic crisis I'd had enough. Counting my blessings (always a reliable spiritual tool), I thought of those countries out there that could put our "serious and prolonged" crisis into real perspective in a hurry.

I'm thinking maybe we need to stop whining and buck up for the fight, because the true blessings of life do not disappear when times get tough or moods turn dark.

Yes, people are frightened. Yes, we might have to adapt and sacrifice. But when hasn't that been true? It didn't stop the prophets, the political reformers, and the poets who have stood tall through the ages, lighting the way, singing the songs. Neither will it deter us.

Hope is not a mood. Hope is not a sunny disposition, as pleasant as that is. It's not superstitious faith in a magical solution. It's not burying your head in the sand or heading for the bunker.

Hope is a way of life that engages the world. Hope is the UU way of life.

Here a bunch of people, friend and stranger allied, confront hardship with memories of victories over injustice and fear and stories of struggle and triumph. We respond with love and laughter and faith to the challenges of life. We hold tight to our dreams, we make the best of what we have, we celebrate the blessings we both give and receive. We take care of each other, and take care of our city. We are a living example of our conviction that people can, should, and will make a better world.

And we seem to have fun doing it. While the fan was getting hit with what it gets hit with, haven't we also been singing our favorite songs together? Welcoming more and more people to worship?

Sure, there are hard decisions to be made about money and priorities. But that's true every year. All of life is filled with choices. That's part of what makes it scary. And fun.

The difference between our goals and reality should not disappoint or upset us; such a state is inevitable. That we aren't doing every single thing we can think of doesn't mean we're sitting on our "helping hands!" Our "in your dreams" budget shouldn't discourage us, it should inspire us. It is a testimony to our longing and creativity. Were we to surprise ourselves with our generosity and fully fund all our aspirations, I would hope that we would increase next year's budget by the same amount again, and put ourselves right back in the same spot.

We should feel an itch, we should sense a yearning into a better way of being. That is hope living in us. I bow in thanks to the Great Big Thing that the vast majority of people in this world share that sense, the "moral sentiment" as Channing and Emerson called it, that deep intuition toward evolution and love and growth. Our job as a congregation is to show Santa Rosa what it looks like when this people respond to this calling of hope, guided by liberal values, seeking benefit for self and other, striving to create the beloved community here on Earth, no matter what.

Can we do it? Yes, we can.

Hey, it feels like the good old days, again!

## Splinters from the Board

"March Madness" has become college basketball's slogan for the controlled chaos and intensity of its post-season playoffs—unfolding now on large screen televisions across the country. We have our own version of it here at UUCSR, but it extends through April, May, and a bit of June. We call it "The Budget Process."

Those with long institutional memories—hello, half-centenarian+ members John Durr and Floss Wheeler!—can no doubt appreciate that budgeting for a congregation of more than 300 is a tad more time- and people-intensive than it was in those "fellowship" days of yore, when a hearty band of members met in a small circle in each other's living rooms to share stories, poems, hopes and their dollars with those intimates they saw from a few feet away every Sunday. It is on the foundation of their weekly efforts at community building—which later resulted in the move to our first building on Stony Point Road—that we stand where we do now. (Can we say "thank you" often enough?) (No...)

Today, most of us don't know all of our fellow members in the congregation, a brand new council-based governance structure ensures that an unprecedented number of us will participate actively in budgeting decisions, and those involved in overseeing the entire budget—the Financial Stewardship Council and your Board—talk about a half-million dollar+ budget without blinking.

No, Dorothy, we are not at Stony Point anymore.

I don't know anyone personally who actually *enjoys* the hard decisions that go into making a budget. So much more pleasant to, oh, *let someone else do it*—or act like those execs at AIG who expect generous taxpayer types to just keep wheeling in more truckfuls of money

to fund their misbegotten dreams. Where's the helping hand for the UUCSR Budget 2009, is what I want to know! My, oh my, could we ever make use of that hand to fund our many good works!

Lacking easy breezy stimulus package dollars, however, a lot of hard work involving computer spreadsheets, email exchanges, and small huddles of budget-deliberating humans lies ahead of us over these next few months. It is a time for the many people directly involved to be both intense and expansive, focused and forgiving. Patience and a spirit of generosity are huge and important virtues for everyone involved, even at the mere spectator level (*especially* at the mere spectator level).

I know what my dictionary says about budget—"an estimate, often itemized, of expected income and expense for a given period in the future." Anyone who has actually been through an institutional budget knows what it really means, though: "An economic planning process in which no parties get what they want or think they need." But as the lyrics to the fabulous finale of the "Our Favorite Songs" concert here at UUCSR put it a few Saturdays ago, "You can't always get what you want...but if you try sometime, you just might find, you get what you neee-eee-eeed."

Who would ever have thought that the 1969 version of the Rolling Stones—profligate in every imaginable way—would be providing wise budget guidance to UUCSR 40 years later?

—Andrew Hidas

*President, Board of Trustees*

## UUA Pacific Central District Assembly 2009



**"The Heart of the Matter"**

May 1-3, 2009

Fremont Marriott

Fremont, CA

Join 400 Vibrant & Vital Unitarian Universalists for a weekend of laughing, learning, networking and worship. Both candidates for president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Laurel Hallman,

will speak on Saturday. Our own T.I.E. Groups Steering Committee is presenting a workshop on training small group ministry facilitators, and there are many others on congregational life, justice work, worship, theology, and more. Other great events include the Opening Celebration with the famed Banner Parade, youth worship and activities for children, the PCD annual meeting, and lots of old and new

friends and good conversation.

If you can't come for the whole weekend, come down to the Marriot for Sunday morning service on at 10:45. It's free, of course, and Rev. Chris Bell is preaching!

Registration information is at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2009/index.htm>, or talk to Mary Wolfe, or give us a call in the office.

## Treasurer's Report



What a difference a comma makes. Twice in the last week, I've been reminded of just how much a difference. Once, when an admired fellow congregant reminded some of us that our REAL name is NOT just plain old UUCSR, but, actually, technically, UUC,SR. We chose, several years ago, through a detailed, deliberate and democratic vote, to be the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa. (Not OF, and not DASH, but COMMA, Santa Rosa). And secondly, when I recently received a flyer in the mail from a local bank that I have an account with, extolling their virtues and reminding me what a conscientious, reliable bank they are. So, with a quick glance, just to eye-ball it before tossing it into my recycling basket... I came to their very basic, simplified balance sheet. And since I am very used to looking at such things, I quickly glanced at their assets - so much in cash, and in loans receivable, and just a very small bit (thank goodness) in 'foreclosed real estate'. And then, of course, as all of you mindful members know from reading your UUC,SR balance sheets every quarter - (right?) - the assets on the top half will balance to the liabilities & equity on the bottom half. So I was still just scanning nonchalantly, hardly concentrating, 'well, that's pretty good, 3 million in this, \$584 thousand there...' But then, as I got to the end, I stopped glancing, and actually looked at the last double-underlined total, and read aloud to myself the bottom dollar line, and I kind of startled myself into awakesness, and thought, OH! There is one extra COMMA in there - that isn't 3 million 172 thousand... that is 3 BILLION, one hundred seventy-two MILLION..." Jeepers!! What a difference a comma makes!!

And that got me to thinking about this budget process that the UUC,SR accounting committee is smack dab in the middle of - a process that I am happily privy to this year. And also - at the time of this writing

- with St Patty's Day right around the corner, with images of sparkling pots of gold at the end of rainbows. What if WE had an extra comma in our UUC,SR balance sheet?? What kinds of wild and crazy things could WE do with our beloved congregation?? At our last accounting committee meeting, we reviewed budgets that the different groups and committees have submitted... and some had even written out a "dream" budget, and then, alas, a "reality" budget. Ah... but for only a moment - just to dream!! What all we could do with our precious building and our already-wonderful programs, with just one extra tiny little comma! (Remodel the entire upstairs space for all new classes and groups and councils!) (Buy our own Magic Bus to travel across country every year to GA!) (Purchase or lease the parking lot next door to make an even bigger RE playground!)

Ah, yes... it's always good to dream. But, ho hum, we must also be realistic. This is probably the hardest economic climate that many of us have ever faced - and although we're actually doing pretty well financially, right now - we will probably face even tougher times in the year ahead. So, the accounting committee will continue to study and work with the submitted requests, both "dream" and "reality", to come up with a workable budget for our new fiscal year 2009-2010. And, as to YOUR job - be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Pledge Drive (formerly canvass) dinner on April 17th. And between now and then, it would be good for each of us to review our own personal budgets, to see what we can offer for our new year's pledge drive. Dreams are for the dreamers and the doers - and we are both of those! They also require a lot of work - which is something we're also used to. So put your thinking caps on, and look over your records and finances, so that you can come to the Pledge Drive dinner well equipped for the task at hand. And, well, let's face it... we probably won't be able to get that Magic Bus this year, or next year either. But, we can still dream!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denese Pender

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

This month we will see the completion our play structure in the courtyard. What an amazing celebration for the kids of our congregation! The process of getting this project completed has been a long and somewhat complicated journey. The greatest challenge was trying to accommodate the varied priorities of the congregation as we designed a fun and safe play area for the kids. The planning committee listened to, and gave careful consideration to the concerns and ideas of the adults and children of UUCSR. We paid attention to the need to utilize the space for events, concerns about aesthetics, and the preservation of the trees and the rocks. We chose a structure that is going to serve the needs of children to play, and climb, and run, while preserving and integrating the oak tree and the rocks. There is no question that the look of our courtyard will be greatly changed with the addition of the play structure. It will still have the beautiful muted earth tones and space to gather and socialize, but it will also have the feel of a place where kids are an integral and important part of the community.

The new playground would not have been possible without the generosity of an anonymous donor from the congregation who has paid for the entire project.

We cannot thank them directly, but we can give thanks in spirit for their huge contribution, and their commitment to the children of our congregation. I would also encourage you to show appreciation for our playground planning committee who gave of their time and energy to make this happen: Mark Sowers, Karen Simmons, Shaun Simmons, David Templeton, Bob Barrows, and Jaime Holloway with consulting input from Dakota Hidas and Aly Holloway.

In addition to the play structure, the RE wing will be adorned with watercolor paintings of children at play, painted by John Dumbrill. The paintings will be mounted on the top windows facing out to the courtyard. Thanks to the Aesthetics Committee for this inspiration, and their interest in making our space more inviting to children.

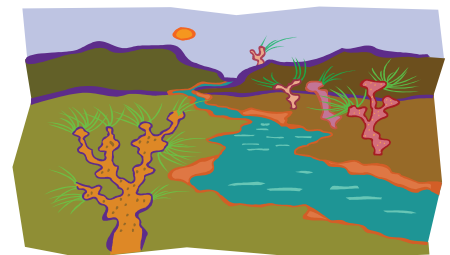
Children are indeed our future, and it is so heartening to see the many ways our congregation has made a commitment to growing our Children's Religious Education Program.

In faith,  
Deborah

## Fun Outing in RE This Month

On Sunday April 26 our All Ages Together Justice Sunday program will be extended and become an RE/field trip. We will be experiencing environmental justice by spending the day with Cotati Creek Critters (CCC), a local non-profit which works to restore Cotati's watersheds, much of their restoration is done by volunteers, especially kids. The program is a Restoration Day for Kids. It will start out with fun games teaching about watersheds, food webs and ecosystems, then a short power point geared towards kids, and then on to planting trees and shrubs along the creeks bank. This is a great project to teach kids about protecting the environment, and bettering there commu-

nity in a fun and hands on way. The program is from 11:00 to 3:00 so we will need to carpool from UUCSR at 10:30 and we will have the kids back around 3:30. I will be contacting parents individually with more information on this. Please consult your calendars to see if your child can spend this extended time with RE that day, and talk to your kids about the program. Have them bring a friend if they want. The more the merrier!



## Who and What is the Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry is a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees.

We are charged with;

Overseeing the general health of the congregation;

Furthering the congregation's mission, vision and covenant;

Ministering to the congregation by helping to resolve conflicts between congregants or UUCSR groups, or between a congregant and the Minister;

Supporting the Minister with his various roles, as well as his personal development.

Members of the Committee are: Chair-Elizabeth Marrs, Rev. Chris Bell, Heather Lawton, Nancy Hargis, Chris Farkas, Cathy Read and Andy Levine.

Please feel free to contact anyone of us with questions or concerns.

In fellowship, Andy Levine

## Prayer Gathering

**Seeking answers? Lost your purpose?**

**Need to express feelings - whether of grief or gratitude, helplessness or hope?**

**Want to feel the Spirit of Life more, and more clearly? Prayer is one option.**

Unitarian Universalist believers, agnostics and skeptics do it together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We start at 5:30 and everyone is always welcome. We check in, we explore different approaches to prayer, we explore our faith, we pray. Led by Rev. Chris Bell.

## New Look for the Canvass!



## The Annual Pledge Drive

Join for the fun  
"Living Our Hope" evening  
Friday April 17 at UUCSR  
5:30 Drinks 6:30 Dinner

Watch your mail for information and your RSVP card.

## Who's Renting the Glaser Center?

I usually use this space to tell you all about upcoming Arts & Culture events and fundraising activities, but in this month's newsletter—aside from this one quick reminder that you should look at the list of upcoming activities elsewhere in this packet—I thought I'd take some time to tell a little about the many folks who regularly rent our building during the week. What's so exciting about our rental efforts is that, as you will see, the work we do as a community facility is helping large numbers of local non-profits and service organizations to extend their own good work to the community at large.

The Ananda Institute, which has been using several of our classrooms in the Religious Education wing, is a fantastic non-profit providing classes to people in transition, from domestic violence recovery groups for women to anger management classes for everyone. Ananda works with the county to help people in difficult circumstance develop the tools they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

The R.E. wing is also the home to several 12-Step groups, including some groups that one rarely hears about: Nicotine Anonymous, meeting every Tuesday night, gives support to people working to cut their addiction to cigarettes, and Debtors Anonymous gives group support to people who are working to better manage their money and to bring their dependence on credit under control.

Once a month, we host a lunch-time meeting of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, who use our social hall for lectures, discussions and presentations by influential local and na-

tional architects. Also once a month, the Professional Photographers of the Redwood Empire, which provides information, guidance and networking help to practitioners of the photographic arts, holds a very lively meeting, in which members hear experts on various photographic techniques, and end the evening showing each other slides of their latest work.

Yoga instructor Cheryl Dobbins, specializing in gentle yoga practices for aging human beings, conducts regular evening sessions in our Board/Choir Room, and the concentrated energy of so many people stretching and breathing can be palpably . . . well, concentrated.

And then, there is the mighty storm of youthful energy that is The Narrow Way Stage Company, using various parts of the building as they rehearse the upcoming plays that will be presented throughout the county (They plan to perform *Noises Off* at Spreckels later this Spring) and here at the Glaser Center, where they will be staging two Shakespeare plays in repertory (*Twelfth Night* and *Coriolanus*) this August, outside under-the-stars in our courtyard.

There are many, many others who join us on a regular basis, all providing important revenues in the form of rent or donations to the UUCSR, as they perform important services to the people of Sonoma County. Always remember that these groups are our special guests. Feel free, if you see them in passing, to extend them a strong, welcoming UUCSR hello!



## Denominational Affairs Corner



Looking for something different to do this summer? Why not consider Leadership School? Leadership School (LS) is offered through the Pacific Central District (PCD). For more information

go to: [www.pcd-uua.org](http://www.pcd-uua.org) and click on Leadership School or e-mail the coordinator Julie Springer; [jul-spring@comcast.net](mailto:jul-spring@comcast.net)

Read on and see what former graduates had to say:

"Leadership School changed my life. I came back to the Fellowship fully committed to UU movement and am now active in PCD." Mary Wolfe, Denominational Affairs Chair, class of 2000

"Leadership School taught me the importance of inviting everyone to participate fully. I learned so much about the UU history and passion of fellow UU's." Ellen Skagerberg, attended mid '90's.

"PCD...rich work, sharing,...friendships and spiritual rejuvenation was special beyond words".

Gretchen Vap, class of 2008

"Leadership School laid the foundation for more active participation in my congregation, and greatly improved my understanding of being a Unitarian Universalist"

Carol Kraemer, attended over ten years ago.

"Picture yourself in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains outside Yosemite. Smell the woods, hear the critters at night. During your leisure time you may nap, swim, hike, read or chat with other attendees. You will also learn about our UU heritage taught by Rev. Cathleen Cox." Carolyn McLeese, class of 2008

So, now don't you want to go? If you are interested, talk to any of the people mentioned in this article or Mary Wolfe (Denominational Affairs Chair) 544-3134 or [mwolfe@sonic.net](mailto:mwolfe@sonic.net).

## Women Together

### Women Together Annual Retreat

The Women Together Annual Retreat is around the corner! This year we will gather at Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker on the weekend of May 15, 16, and 17, 2009. Our theme this year is "Circles of Support".

This is always the most popular event of the year for the women of our congregation. Members and Pledging friends are invited to sign up beginning the Sundays of April 12th and 19th 2009 after the 9:00 and 11:00 services. On April 26th and May 3rd guests, family and friends are invited to sign up as well. Space is limited and we usually fill to capacity so be sure to register early. This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, renew old friendships, relax and have fun. We are planning our usual offerings of workshops, games and festivities! Look for the registration form in the newsletter or check out the Retreat Sign Up Table in the Narthex. For more information talk to any woman who has been there!

More information needed? Call Cathie Wiese at 829-3634 or Linda Harlow at 526-3528.



### Women Together Elder Tales with Ruth Crawford

April 25th from 1pm to 3pm

We are so fortunate to have one of our amazing elders, Ruth Crawford, as our upcoming Elder Tales story teller. Ruth will be sharing tales of her most extraordinary life through pictures and stories with the help of her daughter, Jeanne, on Saturday, April 25th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Lake Room at UUCSR. Men are warmly invited to join us women to enjoy Ruth's stories. If you would like, bring a snack or beverage to share, we invite you to do so. We look forward to this afternoon of history through the eyes of one who lived it!



## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

On Sunday, April 5 we will Share the Basket with UULM, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry. The UULM is a statewide justice ministry which operates as a lobbying and organizing entity. The current issues that UULM is working on include:

- Marriage Equality
- Health Care Reform  
(including Single Payer)
- Water Justice

The revenue for this work comes primarily from individual donors, grants and congregations. We are honored to have Rev. Lindi Ramsden who heads the UULM as our guest minister on Sunday, April 5. She will discuss some of the work of UULM with us. Please give generously as you are able to this important organization when the basket comes around.



### Soldiers of Conscience

A4SJ owns the DVD Soldiers of Conscience. If you didn't get to see it during our recent showings at church and would like to see it in the comfort of your home, you can borrow the DVD for 1 week. UUSC also encourages people to have a house party with friends and relatives to watch the film.

Contact Mary Louise Jaffray or Linda Harlow if you are interested in borrowing the DVD.

### It takes a Team to keep it Clean!

We would like to remind all who use our wonderful facility to remember to leave the space as you found it. Many mornings the office volunteers come into help and find the kitchen in the work room is full of dirty dishes. Please be mindful of others and clean up before you leave.

### Help With Newsletter

If you like to be in the know and get the news ahead of time, we are in need of additional volunteers to help with running off the Newsletter. You would need to be available once a month for a couple of hours to run the press. If we had a couple of people volunteer, it could be every other month. Please contact Janis Brewster at 707/568-5381 if you are interested.



### Donation Envelopes

The offering envelopes that are now available Sunday mornings are meant to be used for "cash" donations only. Your help with putting your checks in the basket and cash in the envelopes is greatly appreciated.

## UUCSR Writer's

**The next UUCSR Writers meeting date** is Monday, April 6, 2009, from 4 - 6 pm 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.



## UU Niagara Falls Experience

**Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 19-22, 2009**

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is con-

ducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site :

<http://www.uunex.net/>

## All Congregation Retreat

And now, here's a public service announcement from your friends on the Family Retreat Committee, who want to remind you to mark your calendar, and start saving your pennies for Camp Gualala. Please check future newsletters for more information. And for your listening enjoyment, please hum along to the tune of (rolling, rolling, rolling...) raw HIDE!!!!.....

Planning, planning, planning  
We've been busy planning  
For Gualala Camping  
For YOU!

We been makin' schedules,  
For a weekend full of  
Fun for your whole fam'ly,  
You TOO!

Join the Gang! (Make a Boat!)

Have a Laugh! (Sing a Note!)

Grab a Pen - Get your Day-timer...

July last - [August 1st], And second - [oh-nine],  
Don't miss out, plan to join us at Gua... la LAH!!!

Thank you,  
Denese Pender

**Jul 31-Aug 2 =  
FUN FUN FUN at  
CAMP GUALALA!!!**



## Take a Course with Starr King

Starr King's on-line courses are open to students at non-Unitarian Universalist schools as well as at Starr King and Meadville Lombard. Lay people, ministers, social justice activists, and people of all faiths are also welcome and will find the courses an exciting way to deepen their theological education. Plan today to register for an online course at [sksm.edu](http://sksm.edu).

### Registration Dates and Course Descriptions

For Starr King Summer On-line 2009: Pre-registration opens May 4 and closes May 8.

### Children's Literature: A Religious Education

Instructor: Keith Kron

For Starr King Fall On-line 2009: Pre-registration opens April 13, 2009 and closes April 24.

### Queers (BGLTQ), Religion and Ministry

Instructor: Vilius Rudra Dundzila

### Unitarian Universalist History

Instructor: Susan Ritchie

### Organizational Systems Thinking for Religious Leaders

Instructor: Helen Bishop

### Contemporary Hinduism

Instructor: Manish Mishra

### Islam, Human Rights, and Shariah

Instructor: Ghazala Anwar

Tuition per course: \$1,664. (This fee does not apply to SKSM and GTU degree students.)

Click here for details on [course descriptions](#), and on [how to register](#).

In grace and gratitude,

Rebecca Parker  
President and Professor of Theology

## *Come hear the UU Choirs of the Bay Area and the Kensington Symphony Orchestra!*

A major benefit concert by the congregations of Santa Rosa, Berkeley, San Francisco and San Mateo featuring the exciting *Gloria* by one of today's best-known choral composers, **John Rutter**, and a world premiere of our own **Ben Taylor's** newest work!

Also on the program, you will enjoy **Saint-Saëns** *2<sup>nd</sup> Piano Concerto*, with UUCB's music director, **Bryan Baker**, at the piano!

The concert also includes the seminal beauty of **Gabriel Faure's** *Cantique de Jean Racine*, and the orchestral overture *The Wasps*, by **Vaughan-Williams**.

This is sure to be an exciting evening! The choirs and the orchestra and soloists have been working very hard for many months to prepare. Come support our music program and raise some money for our congregation.

Tickets are \$20 and \$15 for this blow-out concert!

Saturday, April 4  
8:00pm

Unitarian-Universalist Church of  
Berkeley  
1 Lawson Rd,  
Kensington CA

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009**

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

**E-mail submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
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April 2009

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

**Mailing Address: 547Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381**

**Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: http://www.uusantarosa.org**

**Board of Trustees**

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**Order of Service Announcements:**

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

**UU Update Newsletter:**

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

**Editor:** Janis Brewster

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

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

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Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious**

**Education Staff**

Sonja Flores  
Kim Bringhurst

*WUCSR Women Together Announces  
Our 18th Annual Women's Retreat*

# *"Circles of Support"*

*Connecting With Each Other*



**May 15, 16, 17, 2009  
Saint Dorothy's Rest  
(Camp Meeker)**

*Join us for a weekend of music, song, dance,  
laughter, and connecting with one another.*

**WOMEN TOGETHER RETREAT**

**"Circles of Support"**

**May 15, 16, 17, 2009**

Please complete this **registration sheet**. Your check reserves your space. Make check payable to **UUCSR (memo Women Together)** and return with this form to Women Together table at the Church or mail to: Linda Harlow, 1001 Clark Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404. For further information call Linda Harlow at 526-3528 or Cathie Wiese at 829-3634.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE(home) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ INSURANCE CARRIER \_\_\_\_\_

POLICY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DRUG ALLERGIES \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS? (Accessibility, transportation, etc.)

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DRIVE A CAR POOL? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(You will receive a list of attendees shortly before the retreat to assist you in arranging car pools. Carpooling is essential due to limited parking.)

OTHER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

COST: \$155.00-- includes Friday evening dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

(There are some partial scholarships available. Call for information.)

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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa presents

# 2009 Events

at the

# Glaser Center

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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

May 15 - 16

**RAYMOND  
BURR**

**FILM FESTIVAL**

Rare screenings,  
Panel discussions,  
Guest appearances,

illuminating  
Conversations!

With special  
appearance by  
actress Barbara Hale  
(Perry Mason's  
Della Street)

All the details to be  
announced soon!

Tickets for  
Arts & Culture  
events are  
available most  
Sunday  
mornings,  
before and after  
the service,  
at the Ticket  
Table in the  
Social Hall

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**

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**

Another 20-25 great songs selected by the  
members of the Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation. MARK your calendars now!

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!

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