



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• May 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 5 •

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

May 3rd

"CATCH A FALLING STAR AND PUT IT IN YOUR POCKET: THE MIRACLE OF FORGIVENESS"

Service Leader: Karen Melander-Magoon
Worship Associate: Orlando Raola

We all have stars in our pockets. We merely need to reach for them and offer them to others and they will be constantly replenished. When we live within the spirit of forgiveness we never need to forgive for our lives are full of love. The service includes a number of original songs.

May 24th

"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME"

Manager: Rev. Chris Bell
Coaches: Andy Levine, Lucia Milburn

Baseball is the greatest game. It's stories tell as much about the American experience as our art, literature, and music. What's more, baseball offers surprising insights and lessons into the meaning of life itself. Really. And we'll prove it after the service with a big picnic and a friendly game in Bennett Valley! This is the winning sermon topic from our Service Auction last November.

May 10th

"COMING OF AGE"

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris and the Youth Group
Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

Ten of our young people have spent the year in a district-wide coming-of-age program. They have attended three retreats, forged a relationship with a UU mentor, and developed a credo: a statement of who they are and what they believe now. Today we'll hear them, as we celebrate their transition from childhood to adulthood. We'll also bridge our graduating senior into the next stage of her life. What better way to celebrate Mother's Day?

May 31st

"ROOTED IN SHARED HISTORY"

Presenter: The Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr.
Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

On this Sunday we will explore the historical background of both Transylvanian and U.S. American Unitarianism and Universalism, and try to find shared thoughts not merely in theology and ethical teachings, but also in what provides the indescribable grounding of our day to day lives: Unitarian (and Universalist). Spirituality. The goal is to understand that once history is shared, our present is also a shared one.

The Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr. is the 2008-2009 Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. Endre is minister at the Gyergyószentmiklós fellowship and the Csíkszereda church in the Székelyudvarhely District of Transylvania. His passion is church music, and he hopes to return at the end of his scholarship year with new ways of implementing music in worship and church life.

May 17th

"MEN TOGETHER!"

Service Leaders: Scott Miller
and the men of the Worship Associates

The men of this congregation have long aspired to the level of support and community that Women Together, the UUCSR women's group, have created for themselves. Over two recent retreats we have discovered that such relationships are different, occasionally harder, but no less valuable, for men. This service will explore some of the particular challenges and possibilities for men in religious community and celebrate men's shared or distinctive journeys on lifelong paths of the spirit. Invite a friend.

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.

Some Assembly Required—Rev. Chris



This is a busy time in our congregational calendar! In addition to everything happening around the Glaser Center, we also have both a District Assembly and a General Assembly looming. Allow me to take a moment to tell the newer folks what those events are about, what happens there, and how they relate to what we do here.

Unitarian Universalists practice congregational polity, a fancy way of describing our institutional relationships. Each UU congregation is an autonomous entity in terms of its self-direction, its leadership and its resources, but is also in a binding covenantal relationship with every other UU congregation in order to joyfully share the duty of affirming and promoting the liberal religious view in general, and our Principles in particular. Our form of organization reflects our commitments to democracy, freedom, and the power of the local community.

Our national denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association, brings all the UU congregations together, serves them with resources, professional staff and funding opportunities, and represents the democratically-determined will and opinion of the congregations on the national stage. The UUA is headquartered in Boston at the famous address of 25 Beacon St., right next door to State House. It's well worth a visit some day, pilgrim.

One of the great challenges when the Unitarians and Universalists merged was determining the structure of a new organization. The Unitarians had had the stronger national bodies - the American Unitarian Association and its annual National Conference - but were less organized regionally in comparison to the Universalists, who had consolidated their power primarily in state conventions. The eventual compromise was the establishment of regional districts. Ours is the Pacific Central District, or PCD.

But we still like to get together for a big family gathering every June. The legal business of the UUA, and the establishment of our priorities and positions in our justice work, is conducted at General Assembly. Congregations send official delegates to represent them in the plenary sessions, but many non-delegates attend for other reasons, for GA has evolved into far more than a mere meeting. Daily worship, hundreds of workshops and trainings, spirited debate, famous speakers and widespread revelry await attendees. Many UUs can speak to the transformative power of this gathering. If you think "We'll Build a Land" rocks already, wait until you hear 4000 people singing it! If GA has a drawback, it is the large sum of money it costs to attend after a week's lodging, transportation and food are included.

District Assemblies are much smaller affairs, but mirror the overall program of General Assembly. Elections are held, awards given, workshops attended, sermons heard. District Assemblies usually occur shortly before GA, and indeed ours is probably occurring even as you read this, so come on down to the Fremont Marriot! The Sunday service is free and open to the public.

Finally, a word on governance. The UUA is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of district trustees elected at the various DAs, and at-large trustees who are elected by the delegates at GA. Trustees include both clergy and laity. Our chief governance officer is the UUA Moderator, always a volunteer layperson, who presides at the General Assembly and at meetings of the Board. Gini Courter currently serves as our most capable (and hilarious) Moderator, and will continue for a couple more years. Our chief executive officer is the UUA President, who is responsible for the programs and policies of the Association and is the Association's chief spokesperson.

The Rev. William Sinkford will end his tenure as our president in June. Essential conversations about our shared language of reverence and our approach to multiculturalism and anti-racism have occurred under his watch, and he has been a passionate and visible advocate for justice. He also helped to finally get a UU faculty person back at Harvard, a position I fought for while a student there, though I graduated before it was fully realized. I will miss his leadership.

Of course, Bill's departure means the delegates to GA must vote in a new President. The two current candidates are Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Laurel Hallman. I am withholding my own judgment until GA, but I urge you to learn more about them now and tell your delegates who you think they should vote for (or consider being a delegate yourself.) Your delegates are Rita Butterfield, Cathy Read and Hillevi Wyman. Talk to a UUCSR Board member or a member of our Nominating Committee. You don't know who they are? Well then, friend, you need to get down here on some Sunday and I'll happily introduce you!

Peter Morales' webpage:

<http://www.moralesforuapresident.org/>

Laurel Hallman's webpage:

<http://www.hallmanforuapresident.com/>

The General Assembly page:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

Splinters from the Board

In his tidy little 1999 book, *The Real American Dream: A Meditation on Hope*, the Columbia University sociologist Andrew Delbanco gets right to his point in the book's prologue:

"...Human beings need to organize the inchoate sensations mid which we pass our days—pain, desire, pleasure, fear—into a story. When that story leads somewhere and thereby helps us navigate through life to its inevitable terminus in death, it gives us hope. And if such a sustaining narrative establishes itself over time in the minds of a substantial number of people, we call it culture."

I was put in mind of these words recently as our Annual Budget Drive and its slogan of "Living Our Hope" coincided with two projects coming to fruition on our "back 40"—the new children's playground structure and the Memorial Garden. It's a coincidence and a function of available space, of course, that these projects are within a few steps of each other. But I can't help but reflect on the sweetness of a Memorial Garden, repository for the ashes of our beloveds, barely under the shadow of a playground structure from where the whoops of our children's delight may well raise dust from the top layer of the garden's soil.

I can take this meditation even further, to a time when my ashes, mingled in there with perhaps many of yours, vibrate ever so slightly as my (yet to be born) great-grandchild ventures down the slide for the first time, into her waiting parents' arms. (I'm hoping to be around long enough to be there and help catch my grandchild...)

The symbolism of these two projects sharing both nearby space and a nearly parallel timeline is almost too rich. They also both evoke, I think, a central narrative of UUCSR and our budget drive's slogan of hope. Both projects were hatched as ideas on the part of a congregant or two, who talked to another congregant or two, who talked to others, who went to a committee who

talked to the Board who sent it back to committee which convened a larger group that resulted in a newsletter article that engendered more discussion and more listening and consideration and analysis at a congregational meeting and then more discussion and finally, wait...whoops, just a little more discussion and presentation and then...DECISION!

Or something like that.

So in April of 2009, we find a playground structure gracing our courtyard and most all the initial preparatory work complete so we can finish up the Memorial Garden. Two ideas, two processes, two expressions of hope for a certain kind of future, one that encompasses, side by side, an honoring of our dead population and the servicing of our most exuberantly alive. Both of them born via a process, a set of negotiation and communitarian principles, one that we occasionally poke fun at as involving typically UU talk talk talk process process process, but which, I will submit, reflects an integrity that is at the very heart of our congregational culture.

What "stories" about UUCSR could more richly illustrate our "sustaining narrative" of hope than the process we undertook to create the children's playground and Memorial Garden, and before that, the decision to move downtown?

Bare seeds of ideas, germinating first in one mind, then shared with another, their host soil made richer by nutrients contributed by still others who come to share and expand the original vision. That is the essence of community, it seems to me. Long may it send out its shoots of precious hope tied to *The Real UUCSR Dream*.

—Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Trustees

Treasurer's Report

The State of the Budget

Budget, budget - who's got the budget?? Seems like that's the only thing on our minds these days in the halls and back-alley rooms of the UU. By now folks might be getting tired of hearing about it; but, the budget really pretty much decides how money can be spent and what things can be purchased over the coming year - so it really is a big deal. We are well on our way of winding down the 'expense' side - as all the committees and groups have submitted their 'dream' budgets. Those are in the process of being prioritized and "wish-listed" by the councils, so that decisions can be made when the final pledge tallies come in.

Just a few nights ago (as of this writing), we had a grand and glorious gala event - dubbed the "Annual Budget Drive" dinner, which was attended by about 2/3rds of our membership - hooray!! Hat's off to Frances Corman and her group for a terrific job well done.

A free beautifully served and scrumptious catered dinner is always nice but the company and companionship was stupendous! Tables and tables of our dear fellow-congregants, filling the social hall, the breezeway, the courtyard.

Later in the evening, we broke off into groups of 8-10, and talked a little about our hopes here at the UU - hopes we've had in the past, hopes fulfilled by our loving congregation, hopes we have for the future - 'Living Our Hope' every day. We heard some special stories of personal experiences, and we learned things about each other that were both heartwarming and encouraging. It

just amazes me, time and time again, how much love and warmth fill my heart from our wonderful congregation, and its meaning, and its mission - and its importance in my life.

We ended with a few words from Rev Chris, who is, I think you will agree, really getting to be somewhat of a hero to us. Remember in the 70's, the comic craze... when Steve Martin was 'on tour'. He could come out on stage, and just stand there, and stare at the audience - and they'd laugh uncontrollably for 5 minutes. And he wouldn't have said a word. Well, comedy aside - when Rev Chris comes up to the mic to speak - he certainly draws our full attention, our admiration, our respect. He doesn't have to say a word - and he's got it. And on an evening such as this - an evening primarily about money, with people who hate to talk about money, you'd expect a kind remark like, 'thank you for your generosity with your pledges', etc etc. But no, our esteemed leader thanked us... thanked US - for having faith in HIM these last few years. Huh?? And all this time, I thought it was the other way around. That WE were the lucky ones.

So - it was an evening to savor - a memory to add to our 'warm and fuzzies' catalogue. And to finish up the monthly 'state of the treasury' report... over a hundred pledge cards have been turned in (as of this date), and we're awaiting the rest. Once they are all received, we'll determine how and where we'll have to make final adjustments to the 2009-10 budget. So - more to come in next month's issue!

Respectfully Submitted,
Denese Pender

Women Together

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 18th, 2009 after the 9:00 and 11:00am 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, tollk to nay woman who has been there! More information needed? Call Cathie Wiese at 829-3634 or Linda Harlow at 526-3528.

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Does your child, (or do you) suffer from "nature-deficit disorder"? This is a term coined by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, that describes the disconnect between our busy lives and the natural world. A study from the University of Maryland revealed that between 1997 and 2003 there was a 50% drop in kids who participated in outdoor activities like hiking & fishing. The Nature Conservancy has reported that kids under 13 now take part in freestyle play outdoors for only *one half-hour per week*. Whether this trend is attributable to highly scheduled lives or parental anxiety about dangers in the outside world, lack of outdoor activity and connection with nature is having a negative impact on our children's physical and mental health. According to Louv, children have a natural affinity for the natural world and when children spend most of their time indoors they miss out on experience that enhances their lives in a variety of ways. Research points to a correlation between exposure to nature and reduction of stress and increased attention span. Being in nature activates the senses and a child is immersed in something bigger than himself. Psychologist and author Edward Hoffman advises parents to actively reveal nature to children because it can have a profound effect on their spiritual development. He says, "From nature children learn that all life is connected. When children trust that all life is connected, they respect and appreciate themselves and the people around them. Kindness, empathy, compassion and love grow from appreciation and respect."



The children's version of the UU Seventh Principle reads "We believe in caring for our planet, the home we share with living things." Unfortunately this version, while its terms are easier to grasp by our youngest children, takes the mystery out of the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part. Edward Hoffman's advise puts it right back in. When we take our children into nature they are opened up to a spiritual connection with all of life. They are opened up to wonder and mystery, beauty and transformation. Once they step outside the confines of the trappings of urban life children learn about themselves in new ways, they learn new ways of interrelating with one another, and with the world they live in. Through open exploration in nature children learn about the cycle of life and their place in it. And these experiences produce children who are better stewards of our planet.

Last month our UU kids enjoyed a Sunday field trip to Cotati Creek to help with a restoration project. Though it was *very* hot (90°!!), the children got a chance to work on an environmental project, learn about the natural world of our local watershed, and explore the creek for its amazing creatures. With a palpable sense of wonder they caught tadpoles in the creek and saw the budding legs of a soon-to-be frog. It was a great day and I intend to schedule more nature field trips in the near future. My hope is that we all will make time to play in nature, to fill our spirits with the beauty of this earth, and revel in the magic and mystery of the interconnected web of life of which we are a part.

In faith,
Deborah

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket

On my last visit to the Living Room we were told that for the first time in their history, women in their 60s and older are coming in. These are women whose mortgages have been foreclosed as a result of a job loss or a drastic reduction in their 401(k) retirement funds, or in the returns from their investments. This on top of the growing

demand for help and support for women and children facing this tough economy!

On Sunday, May 3rd, one half the collection will go to help The Living Room, so when the basket comes your way, please help as much as you can.

Thank you!

Linda Harlow/Advocates for Social Justice

Community Organizing at UUCSR

How is the economy affecting you, your family, friends, and community? This is the question we'll be addressing in small group conversations at UUCSR this May. These conversations or "house meetings" are an important part of our congregation's community organizing effort and all are invited to participate. Those of us who attended House Meetings in the last six weeks know that these conversations are an effective way to get to know one another on a deeper level and build trust. They also provide an opportunity to learn about the concerns that are important to us as a congregation and as part of a larger community and to build a shared commitment to address those concerns.

If you were unable to come to a House Meeting, we hope you will start your participation at one of the meetings in May. If you attended the first round of house meetings, we hope you'll return to continue the conversation. There will be two opportunities to join with others and share our stories and experiences. We'll meet at UUCSR on Saturday, May 9th, from 10 am to noon and

on Wednesday, May 13th, from 7 to 9 pm. We look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings. Please call the office, 568-5381, to tell us which meeting you'll be attending.

Next Up: Northern California Economic Conference - "Reclaiming the Public Good". Our conversations at UUCSR will help us prepare for an important Economic Conference in San Rafael on May 17th from 2 to 6 pm.

Organizing committees from throughout the Bay Area have invited leading economists and community organizers from all over the country to explore with us how we can act to impact our economic challenges in the areas of health, housing, employment and education. This is the next step in growing our power and using it effectively to change our world. We hope that many of you will be interested in attending. Car-pools will be arranged from UUCSR and from the Women's Retreat.

Linda Harlow for the NBSC
Steering Committee



Men's Groups on the Move

UUCSR Men's groups have a new coordinator as they grow and seek out new members and new opportunities.

Bruce will be working with men who are interested in joining a men's group and in coordinating activities and communications between groups. Bruce can be reached at kipsterb@sonic.net or 707/792 0538.

A men's group is a opportunity to meet with men and as a group explore men's spirituality while offering social support in a safe atmosphere. Even though we strive for personal growth we want to have fun and be comfortable. I was impressed by the words of The Rev. Tom Owen-Towle of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, CA. describing the role of men's groups.

"There are many reasons, as women have long realized, for gender-based dialogues. First, there are male concerns that are properly and beneficially shared man to man. (For example, fathering and being the son of a father.) Second, there is considerable healing to be

achieved between men, because we have been pounding upon, even destroying one another, ever since Cain slew his brother Abel. We can learn respectful, loving ways to be brothers—not to be our brother's boss, keeper, or lackey, but to be our brother's brother. Often we men build bonds with each other only to run into deeply ingrained fear about intimacy. Or we may feel comfortable being open and intimate with our buddies during a men's group, but then revert to negative, distancing patterns when back at work amid the "good old boy's network." The best way for us to heal our wounds and befriend our fears is to spend time sharing aches and aspirations, telling our real stories, face-to-face, brother to brother, as peers in supportive, open places."

Arts & Culture News

Last Sunday morning during announcements, as I was presenting a few details about the upcoming Raymond Burr Film Festival (please see insert), I let a few important and exciting things be known.

1. The proceeds from the Raymond Burr event will be split with the Santa Rosa Junior College's Disability Resources Fund, which presently assists over 3,000 students with a range of disabilities.
2. This is not the first time our arts & culture events will have donated portions of our proceeds to worthy community organizations outside the UUCSR.
3. In the future, the Arts & Culture ministry will be greatly expanding these "share-the-take" efforts.

This information was received with an enthusiastic ovation, and afterwards, many of you approached me to express some combination of pleasure, congratulations, curiosity, support, and surprise. Apparently, I and the members of the Events Committee have not done a terribly effective job at spreading the word regarding the important things we have been accomplishing through our annual line-up of music, film, theater and arts events. In the future, I intend to use this space each month to do just that: I will be telling some of the wonderful stories of what we are accomplishing, who we have touched, and how our efforts are benefiting, not just our own congregation—which has always been the primary beneficiary of these events—but also the wide community which we serve (and by we, I mean you, me us, all of us here at UUCSR, because one way or another, we all help to make this work possible). This month, I'd like to focus on our share-the-take projects.

Five years ago, when I brought *Twisted Christmas* Live to the Glaser Center (its previous debut had been at the Raven Theater in Healdsburg, where it was a benefit for the Food For Thought AIDS Food Bank), we decided to make the event a joint fundraiser, splitting the take between our own congregation and the Food Bank. Five years later, we have raised nearly \$10,000 for this spunky organization that helps feed children, women, and men with AIDS throughout the county. *Twisted Christmas* has raised the same amount for the UUCSR! (*Twisted Christmas* 2009, BTW, will take place on December 5, so mark your calendars!)

Gradually, we have introduced more and more share-the-take events. For example, last year's run of the play *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom* was shared 50/50 with the Sonoma County Chapter of the Veterans for Peace; *The Telephone Show* proceeds were shared 50/50 with the American Foundation on Suicide Prevention; the annual *Ghost Readers in July* storytelling events have been shared with a number of organizations including KRCB public radio, the North Bay Theater Group, and others.

The wonderful thing is, much like our share-the-basket Sundays, we have found that when we are generous with our revenues, we almost always end up making more (for all of us) than we would have done otherwise. Through recent conversations with Rev. Chris (who has never hidden his own hope that someday we will give every Sunday's basket collections to different local charities!), the Events Committee has decided to escalate this share-the-take program, and from here on out, with occasional technical exceptions, we will be sharing our revenues on every major Arts & Culture event—beginning with the Raymond Burr Film Festival.

If you are glad to see these efforts moving forward, I invite you to participate in one of the following ways: spread the word (tell your friends and family about upcoming events that you think might interest them); volunteer to help out at events (are you in a TIE Group or other church organization looking for a service project? Why not "adopt" a particular Arts & Culture Event?); buy a ticket (please always consider spending some of your own entertainment dollars here, where the price of admission touches many, many deserving people.

Be well, see you at the film festival!

David Templeton

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 8, 7: 30 p.m. - The New Horizons Band

Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16 - Raymond Burr Film Festival

June 11 & 12 — Risk Dance Company

Friday Saturday, June 20 - Annual Dinner & a Show Fundraiser - a big western barbecue, with a performance by the comedy-folk accordion-harmonica master Sourdough Slim.

A Special Benefit for Santa Rosa Junior College's Disability Resources Fund
and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa



Raymond Burr Film Festival May 15 & 16



SPECIAL LIVE APPEARANCE
BY SPECIAL GUEST

BARBARA HALE

Della Street
on the
*Perry
Mason*
television show



Friday Night Reception & Show

6:00 p.m. - Pre-show reception with tastings of wines from Raymond Burr Vineyards in Healdsburg.

7:30 p.m. - Film salute to Raymond Burr, with live appearance by Perry Mason's **Barbara Hale** followed by the twist-packed crime-and-punishment drama

Please Murder Me

starring Raymond Burr & Angela Lansbury

**Friday night gala tickets: sliding scale of \$10-\$25
All Saturday Events Free**

(Donations accepted at the door on Saturday)

Tickets for Friday Night Gala available at all Copperfields Book Stores,
The Last Record Store, Back Door Disc and on-line at www.brownpapertickets.com

Presented by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa in association with
Raymond Burr Vineyards and the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center

Saturday Screenings & Events

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

Raymond Burr's *first film* in a very special rare screening

San Quentin

1:00 p.m.

Saturday Double Feature Matinee of two classic B-movies

Bride of the Gorilla

plus

Godzilla!

King of the Monsters

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Raymond Burr takes on Barbara Stanwyck in

Crimes of Passion

Saturday 7:30 p.m.

We honor the great screen villains played by Raymond Burr with a special screening of Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 masterpiece thriller!

Rear Window

All Saturday Events FREE (Donations gratefully received!)

Join us for a pair of spirited panel discussions

Saturday 11:30 a.m.

What Would

Raymond Burr Do?

An insightful discussion of Raymond Burr's numerous philanthropic efforts and the life-long philosophy of generosity he inherited from a surprising Hollywood legend

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Justice and the Underdog

A conversation on the issues of social justice and defense of the underdog as explored in the Perry Mason T.V. show and other Raymond Burr films

The Glaser Center

547 Mendocino Ave.

Santa Rosa

(Convenient parking in the 7th Parking Street Garage)

www.glasercenter.com

THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIBLE ITEMS WILL BE RAFFLED OFF IN A WEEKEND-LONG CONTEST

The cane used by Raymond Burr's character in the Oscar-winning 1951 movie, A Place in the Sun

A Necktie worn by Raymond Burr in an episode of Perry Mason

Select bottles of wine from Raymond Burr Vineyards

Perry Mason DVD set, autographed by Barbara Hale

Leather bound sets of the Perry Mason novels by Earl Stanley Gardner, with introduction by Raymond Burr.

Raffle Tickets \$5 each, or five for \$20

Funds raised by your generous donations support two important Sonoma County non-profits:

The Santa Rosa Junior College's Disability Resources Fund (which Raymond Burr contributed to often throughout his life), makes educational opportunities available to over 3,000 community college students with disabilities.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa, has been active in numerous grassroots human rights activities for over 50 years, and is the sponsor of the Breakfast With Our Neighbors Program, feeding hundreds of hungry and homeless men, women, and children every Saturday morning.

UUCSR Writer's

UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, May 4, 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,



Honoring our Elders

On Sunday, June 7th, we will celebrate our congregation's beloved elders with a special service. As we acknowledge that the children of our congregation are our hope for the future, our elders represent the foundation upon which hope for a liberal religious community first flourished in Sonoma County. Do you have a special relationship with an elder, great story or funny anecdote about one of our elders that you would like to share? Got a song to gift our elders with? Want to get in touch with your "inner elder?"

If any of the above appeals to you, please get in touch with me by May 15th - Maureen Wallace, 578-7665, mwallace@scoe.org. We would love many of our congregation to help present this service, and hope all our elders are able to attend.

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 Gualala LAH!!!

Thank you,
Denese Pender

Jul 31-Aug 2 =

FUN FUN FUN at
CAMP GUALALA!!!



Music is for the Birds?

Spring is now well-sprung upon us and I've been hearing new bird-song on the air in recent weeks. These birds have the most delightful variety of timbre, tone and style. In their effort to communicate, they have rather distinct sounds and patterns of musical tones, the differences discernible to anyone. Camp yourself out near a bird feeder for a while and enjoy the different birds' songs!

Many musicians over the centuries have been charmed by bird-song. The trilling violin of Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* is meant to emulate a bird. The French composer Olivier Messaien focus much of his music on not just emulating bird-song but actually capturing the tones and rhythms of bird-song and infusing it right into his music. This is perhaps best evidenced in Messaien's works for pipe organ. Messaien was an extremely devout Catholic, but he seemed to draw his most reverent

feelings from the natural world. And the Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Cantus Arcticus* is a concerto for orchestra and recorded birds. He goes one step further in bringing the audio recordings into the orchestra, pitting the broad sounds of a large orchestra in contrast with the alternating cacophony, mournful sighs and sparkling buzz of various birds' calls.

I too am enjoying the dazzling sound of bird-song. It makes me feel quite alive to hear another species being so exuberant! While I don't plan to start writing down their sounds and tweeting them during Spirit of Life, I am enjoying their arrival with our Spring season. And you may just be treated to some bird-inspired sounds in service some time soon!

with trills and tweets,
Ben Taylor, Music Director

Upcoming music in services

May 3 District Assembly in Fremont: Ben Taylor will be leading the multi-congregational choir
May 10 Music for Coming of Age
May 17 *Calling all men for a special men's chorus!*
May 24 Is Baseball like a Fugue? (and have you seen Jackie Robinson hit that ball?)

Special Men's Chorus on Sunday, May 17

Calling all gentlemen who would like to give the choir a try for this one Sunday! We'll be singing an old favorite tune that many know and love. No need to RSVP--just show up on May 17 at 9am. Come enjoy a unique camaraderie with your fellow fellas!
9am rehearsal in the board room
11am service

Recycle and Find a Bargain!

**Clothing Exchange, May 23,
at the Glaser Center,
10:00am to 3:30pm.**

We have all purchased clothes that no longer fit or that were never or hardly worn. Bring five items of clothing in wearable condition to the Glaser Center and take home five. Clothes may be purchased with cash donations (pay what you can) or by clothing exchange.

Suggested entrance donation for this event is \$1 per person. Proceeds will be applied towards reducing the Glaser Center's carbon footprint. Left over clothing will be donated to the Welfare League Clothing Store in Railroad Square. Please call Elizabeth Olsen at 573-0543 with any questions you may have or if you wish to volunteer to help. Recycle and find a bargain! Limit five (5) items per person.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009**

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

**E-mail submissions
Greatly Appreciated!**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



May 2009

Please Recycle

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

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

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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

Northern California organizations of the Industrial Areas Foundation*
Invite you to join us for a:

Northern California Economic Conference

“Reclaiming the Public Good”

Sunday, May 17, 2009, 2:00 – 6:00PM

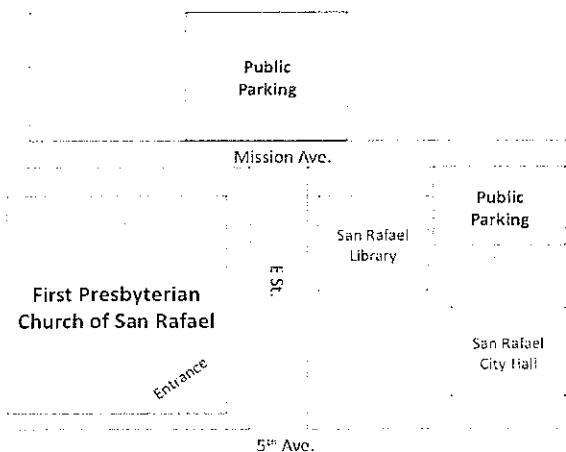
1st Presbyterian Church of San Rafael
1510 5th Ave. (at E Street), San Rafael, CA 94901

Together with local and national economists:

- Learn about current economic shifts;
- Share how our communities are effected;
- Reflect on what our traditions have to say about the economy;
- Plan how we can act together during these challenging times.

Confirmed Guests include:

- Dr. Dowell Myers, Professor of Urban Planning and Demography, USC
- Dr. Paul Osterman, Dean, Sloan School of Management, MIT
- Stephen Levy, Director, Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy
- Scott Graves, Senior Policy Analyst, California Budget Project
- Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director, Just Congregations, Union for Reform Judaism
- Ernesto Cortes, Jr., SW Regional Director, Industrial Areas Foundation



PARKING:

Street Parking: metered parking is free on Sundays

Public Lots are located at:

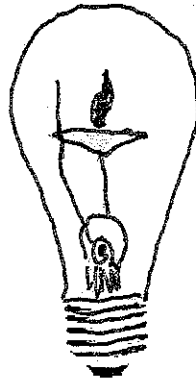
- Mission Ave. and E Street
- Mission Ave. between E and C Streets
- 5th Ave and D Street
- 5th Ave and C Street

*★ Handicapped accessibility
From Mission Parking lot*

Please register your attendance with your institution!
Contact the Bay Area IAF offices for more information at (415) 563-0262

*Marin Organizing Committee (MOC), Bay Area Organizing Committee (BAOC) in San Francisco, North Bay Sponsoring Committee (NBSC) in Napa and Sonoma Counties, Communities Organized for relational Power in Action (COPA) in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, and Sacramento Valley Organizing Committee (SVOC) in Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

Congregational
Conversations
Continue



Please make plans to attend
our next round of
Community Organizing
House Meetings

We will gather at UUCSR and break into small
groups to share our personal reflections
about the current economic crisis

Please come to one of the following sessions:

- Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 am to Noon
- Wednesday, May 13 from 7 – 9:00 pm