



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• June 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 6 •

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

### June 7th

"From Age-ing to Sage-ing"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Maureen Wallace

"Getting old ain't for sissies," Bette Davis is credited with saying, and it's the truth. The wisdom and experience gained from becoming, and being, older can be invaluable to younger folks, if they would take the time to listen! In the midst of a celebration of our congregational elders and their gifts, we will also face some of the challenges and opportunities of aging, with the help of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's fine book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*.

### June 14th

A Humanist's Spirituality

Service Leader: Rick Childs

Worship Associate: Joe Como

What exactly is spirituality to a humanist? What is a spiritual moment? What is a spiritual life? This service will explore what anyone and everyone can do to create greater richness and meaningfulness in our day-to-day lives, framed by a Unitarian Universalist concept of the "Three Qualities of a Spiritual Life."

Rick Childs is a former social worker, teacher, and New York business executive and is the Lay Leader of the Mendocino Coast UU Fellowship, where Rev. Chris recently preached. Rick is here to return the favor!

### June 21st

**NOTE: SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN TODAY. ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00AM!!!**

The Summer Solstice/Father's Day

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Michael Walsh

The religious holidays around the winter solstice such as Christmas and Hanukkah are more well known than those of high summer, but such observances as Alban Heflin, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, Litha, and Vestalia offer us the chance to honor the earth's fecundity, and to call forth our own fertile powers, men and women alike. We shall celebrate the abundance that no economic downturn can affect. You shall go forth with a joyful spirit!

### June 28th

"The Birth of Humanity"

Service Leaders: Leslie Norinsky & Heather Lawton

What makes us human? Is it our large brains and our opposable thumbs? Is it our capacity for loving kindness? Or is it our knowledge of our own immortality? Or is it something more? Are we really very different from the rest Earth's creatures? In this service, we will explore some of these questions and more.

### 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.

## Stand by this Faith—Rev. Chris



I would like to reintroduce you to one of my heroes, the Rev. Olympia Brown and invoke her spirit as we look to the future of our congregation in these challenging and transformative times.

As the Dictionary of UU Biography (<http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/index.html>) notes, "Olympia Brown was ordained a Universalist minister, the first woman to achieve full ministerial standing recognized by a denomination. As a young minister, she took an active role in the women's suffrage movement and was one of the few original suffragists who lived to vote in the 1920 presidential election. After the suffrage victory, Brown dedicated herself to promoting world peace and became one of the original members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. At the time of her death, The Baltimore Sun captured her independence, fearlessness and passionate commitment to justice by stating, 'Perhaps no phase of her life better exemplified her vitality and intellectual independence than the mental discomfort she succeeded in arousing, between her eightieth and ninetieth birthdays, among the conservatively minded Baltimoreans.'"

I'm kind of in love with this tiny, faithful and indefatigable woman, who could easily have kicked back in her last years after a long career of spreading love and justice to rest on her laurels. Instead she continued to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," as the task of ministry is sometimes described. She reminds me of a number of people I know here at UUCSR! Indeed, one of the most delightful aspects of my life as a minister is the inspiration provided me by you older folks who have given so much of your lives and energy to Unitarian Universalism, who are among the coolest people I have ever met. I want to be just like her, and you, when I grow up, should I be lucky enough to have that experience.

I am grateful that Olympia Brown was lucky enough to share in a great victory by voting in her first presidential election at the age of 85. I also know that it was not for her own vote alone that she fought for women's equality for 60 years. It was for all the women who had come before, and most importantly for all the daughters and granddaughters who would come afterward. She was in it for the long haul.

She clearly understood and embodied the later insight of Reinhold Niebuhr, who said, "Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime, therefore we are saved by hope. Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we are saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love." We who work for environmental sanity, equal marriage rights, and economic justice, for peace, for the compassionate treatment of the mentally ill and other oppressed people and every other struggle that our UU values call us to, would do well to remember Niebuhr's words. We who would support and sustain this community should remember them, too. We have got to be in this together, and we have got to be in it for the long haul.

Although I honor Unitarian Universalism's long history and traditions, I believe something new was created in 1961 that is still only in its infancy. We have just begun to explore what an embracing, humanistic, reasonable transformative spirituality that could unite all people really looks and feels like.

In the grand scheme of things, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa is also very new, and there are still many, many people who have yet to discover its great blessings. I want us to leave a seat at the table for all of them, even as we know that growing and changing this congregation will grow and change us, too, and not always in the most comfortable ways. Olympia Brown wouldn't have it any other way.

Certainly being a part of religious community and a faith tradition should sustain and please us as individuals in the here-and-now. Our faith has to feed us personally. But, ultimately, we are here to build a religious community and promote our liberal religious principles not for ourselves, but for the many people who could find meaning and hope and community here, for our children's children, for the Santa Rosa of 2100.

Affirming and promoting that which is worthy, true, beautiful, good, sensible, and virtuous together, to use Niebuhr's words again, is what Unitarian Universalism is about for me.

*Continued on page 13*

## Splinters from the Board

When I was a boy of 8 or 9, my dad would pile the four oldest of our family's five (eventually six) kids into the station wagon and head down to the local Catholic church for the 11 o' clock service. (My mom, being a nominal Lutheran, stayed home to take care of the baby.) The rigors of getting four kids dressed and groomed and marched out the door almost always meant we were late or close to it, which further meant all the sanctuary seats were filled and we were relegated to standing the whole hour in the back lobby, from where we couldn't even see the altar. Instead, the entire service was funneled through a couple of speakers in either corner of the lobby.

It was through those speakers that I was introduced to the fear and trembling and guilt that Father McElhatton tried to inculcate in his parishioners as his voice alternately thundered and dropped to a whisper of righteous indignation at the outrage of our penurious ways. The average basket contribution, he would intone, drawing out each syllable for emphasis, was a pah-thehhtt-ick-fifff-tyyy-one cents!! How could we *live* with our skinflint selves? The parishioners standing around me simply hung their heads and stared at the concrete floor.

So much for my early experience of church fundraising. Many years later, images of weepy televangelists with their arms aloft praying to be blessed with viewers' contributions further colored my mostly jaundiced view.

And now here we are together at UUCSR in 2009, facing a budget shortfall for which your board, accounting committee and financial stewardship council see no solution but to ask members and friends to raise their pledge. No shouting or whispering, no arms aloft, no tears. And most certainly, no guilt. Just a sincere and urgent request to enhance your financial support of this community if at all possible so that our collective vision of who we are and what we do are in accord with the means we put forth to sustain it.

By the time you read this, you will have received a separate mailing detailing our financial problems and

the remedies we have proposed for them. With pledges down and expenses up in this difficult economy, we have hacked and hacked—and then hacked one more time—in attempting to balance the coming year's budget. And we are still short. At this point, we either answer the question (regarding the state's budget) that arrived today with my morning newspaper—"How deep will they cut?"—or we ask the mirror question that begets, we hope, a more expansive vision for the future of UUCSR: "How generous can we afford to be?"

If we are to avoid even further cuts that will drastically affect the health and vision of our congregation, we will, in a fundamental sense, have to "tax" ourselves one more time in this ongoing Annual Budget Drive. Times are hard and among us are those who have lost our jobs or seen our businesses suffer steep declines. Though it is probably the worst time to ask for increased contributions, the painful reality is that your church is suffering too, and like any large family, it thus has to ask whether its members can find a way to sacrifice just a bit more to sustain the family's basic health.

Every member of your Board has made a personal commitment to increase his or her coming year's previously stated pledge by the minimum of the 11% we need to balance this year's budget. We hope—there's that word again—that as many of you as possible will follow suit. If, after a deep breath and careful reflection, you simply can't, we'll wag no fingers, and your minister's voice through the speakers will continue to be as cheerful and inspiring and kind as you have come to know and expect over the years.

Whatever your situation and whatever your ability to increase your financial support for this congregation, we *will* weather this storm and emerge the stronger for it. That's a matter of hope and faith, yes. Those are words I'm ever and again reminded of as I behold this deeply committed community.

*—Andrew Hidas*

*President, Board of Trustees*



## Treasurer's Report

Under normal circumstances, I try to make this monthly report as enjoyable as possible - because, heck, why CAN'T finances be FUN? Why can't adventures in accounting be exciting?? I'd like to think even in difficult times that we can approach our finances as an exciting challenge and an opportunity to determine what really matters to us, and still keep a smile on our faces.

As you know, we have been meticulously mulling over the numbers for several months now, trying to come up with a balanced budget for our new fiscal year. We soon realized that any "dream" items would need to wait for another year - and subsequently, have been working with the different councils to minimize expenses. But even down to the bare bones - we are still going to have quite a shortfall. Pledge income started out looking fine, even having a 1% increase over last year with the first third of the pledge cards turned in. However, when all is said and done, it's looking like we will be a good \$12,000 under last year's pledges. Also, we have a loss of income budgeted for rentals and events, due to our policy change from the property tax issue.

So, alas, with this loss of income (pledges and rentals), along with the normal everyday expenses needed to run our congregation, we are currently left

in an un-balanced state. Financially speaking, that is. Most of still seem to be pretty balanced in our heads!

To further continue this conversation, you will soon be receiving in the mail (if you haven't already) a letter from the Board of Trustees, containing information about this current state of our un-balanced budget. So please be sure to open this letter and read it right away, so you can be up-to-date and well-informed about these budget issues. We have to do some hard thinking, some diligent planning, and some creative monkey-wrestling to get everything to fit together. And it will take every one of us to help solve these fiscal woes. But, well - as all you rock & rollers out there know - hell DID freeze over and the Eagles DID play together again, so, I guess we can still dream of the economy turning around and big windfalls coming in during the next year. But, we can't wait and hope for that to happen; instead, those of us who love and are committed to this place must find the will and the generosity to sustain it ourselves, NOW. So, please be sure to check your mail for this letter, and stay tuned for more info on our budget conundrum.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denese Pender

## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

In June our First Sunday "Share the Basket" will be donated to the Senior Advocacy Services. For almost 20 years SAS has reached out to Sonoma County Seniors by providing advocacy services for seniors and people with disabilities to protect their health, dignity, rights, and quality of life. With a staff of only 13 (now part-time) and some 25 volunteers, SAS Ombudsman Program reaches out to provide advocacy for residents of the more than 170 care facilities for the elderly in Sonoma County. In many cases, the

Ombudsman is the only resource available to assist someone in a care facility with no family or friends available. SAS also sponsors the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) which provides information, counseling and advocacy related to Medicare and other senior health insurance plans, as well as providing Residential Care Counseling services to individuals and families who are evaluating residential long-term care options. When the basket comes your way on June 7th, please be generous.

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

At the heart of religion is story. Call it parable, myth, allegory, or wisdom tale; stories are a way transforming experience into lessons of deep meaning and pathways to action. Through story we can learn to deal with new challenges, mindful of the past and conscious of alternatives for the future. Stories help us develop both individual and collective identities. In a certain way our identities can be understood as a story we weave from a lifetime of stories in which we have been story both tellers and listeners, learning about right action in the world.

UUCSR has been doing a lot of story telling of late. Our community organizing efforts have drawn the adults in the congregation together in small house meetings to tell the stories that inform the things we care about most deeply. As a result we know each other better and are developing paths of action for addressing issues here in the congregation as well as in the larger world.

It is this love of story that has inspired the summer program in Religious Education. Each Sunday session will be crafted around a story that reflects the principles and values of Unitarian Universalism. I have gathered stories from a number of UU collections and have coupled them with fun activities to extend the learning from the story. The schedule of stories and activities are listed below. I am looking forward a really fun summer with our kids in RE. If you are moved to join in and help, your energy and stories are always welcome.

In faith, Deborah



Here's what is in store for summer 2009:

Date	Story - Theme - Activity
6/7/09	Fruits - What is real & what is fake - A game called "Outright Lie" After service: All Congregation Dedication of the Playground
6/14/09	Two Frogs - Keep hope alive - Making ice cream Congregational Meeting after service - child care will be provided
6/21/09	Intergenerational Service - Summer Solstice & Father's Day
6/28/09	The Beautiful Tiger - The truth will set you free - A game called Spud
7/7/09	Walking with Waldo - Ralph Waldo Emerson & Nature- walk to the SR Creek
7/14/09	The Blind Man & The Elephant - Mystery - A game called "Rattlers"
7/21/09	The Two Bobbies - A story of Hurricane Katrina & Survival
7/28/09	Rocky Beauty - Exploring the nature of rocks with geologist Susan Panttaja
8/2/09	All Congregation Retreat: child care with planned games
8/9/09	Ten Thousand Cranes - Hiroshima, War, & Peace - Making origami peace cranes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009

12:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

## A Musician's Summer

For many, spring marks a passage from darkness to new light, stretching days and warming air. Spring follows winter and brings a new flowering of energies. For a musician as well, spring is beautiful and alluring, but it only heightens the anticipation for summer. You see, spring--especially April and May--is the one of the busiest musical times of the year, with concerts of all varieties packed into the schedule. At UUCSR, we've not only been musically engaged in services. Our choir did a big concert in Kensington and joins in at the Interfaith Pride service soon. And I directed the choir at District Assembly as well. So, we have been keeping the faith alive these past weeks!

This level of musical engagement can feel both heady and hectic. So for a musician, summer--like spring--represents the turning point in the year, finishing the long months of labor. Summer represents a true state of extended relaxation for perhaps the first time in 9 months, and that opportunity feels precious.

Most musicians however are unaccustomed to leisure. The idea of spending the summer purely for relaxation (as tempting as it is!) strikes many of us as somewhat of a waste. The summer months are for rejuvenation, to be sure. But musicians who have been dedicating their free time to practice and per-

formance all our lives often see summer as an opportunity for all the "other stuff" they never get to do, the pursuit of which is certainly rejuvenating!

So, what will I be doing? For starters, I'm going to finish reading that book that I read 2 pages out of each night before zonking out. I hope to visit some conferences and workshops for composers and conductors, and I have several compositions that have been waiting for some time: a viola sonata and a concerto for baroque orchestra among them. I hope to further investigate several topics of interest, including Maya studies and concert band repertoire. Studies, composition projects, conferences...it all kind of sounds like work, but I anticipate these with great zeal.

Yet when September rolls around, I will have spent much of the summer in anticipation of the great musical adventures to come in the 2009-2010 season. That fact is the best deterrent to spending the wild final days of spring wishing for summer to arrive. I can then focus on enjoying the high pace of musical life at the end of spring.

To the fullness of the season!  
Ben Taylor, Music Director

## Call to Artists

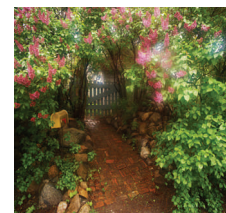
The busy folks who are planning the next phase of our Memorial Garden construction now underway near the rear courtyard entrance are considering its overall appearance and we invite your participation!

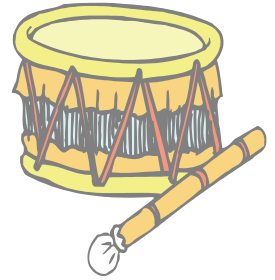
The project will unite both sides of the pathway and probably would have a bench on the (now) green facing wall and an arbor or trellis over the garden itself, maximum height 10 feet. What do you envision on the wall behind the garden—a chalice, a peaceful pastoral scene, something abstract, or other???

We enthusiastically await entries until September 15, 2009.

For questions or more detail, please contact Bob Barrows, 538-3612 (Board member) or Louise Ostlund, 578-8619 (Aesthetics Committee).

Elizabeth





# Calling all Pagans Summer Solstice Ritual and Drumming Circle

followed by a communal meal

Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00<sub>pm</sub>

Please bring a dish to pass, drums, rattles  
and the desire to work a little magic.

For more information contact AnnaLisa Wiley 291-0991  
carfree@sonic.net

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, June 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. This is our annual finger food potluck. Bring a snack or drink to share with the group. At the meeting we will select

books to read for next year, so bring your suggestions. This is also a book exchange if you have books you want to give away.

Linda Lampson

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2009**

**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

## Aesthetics Committee News

During the past two years your Aesthetics Committee has suggested some of the following projects, and in other cases committee members have responded to requests for input in carrying out the ideas of others.

Some of the results are:

- Bulletin board on wall in social hall between restrooms
- Purple accent paint on pillars in Board room
- Provided skilled artisan to make entrance table in Sanctuary - donation in memory of Bob Ottman
- Conceived and oversaw creation of Memorial Tree on rear Sanctuary wall
- Participated in play structure planning
- Look around....there's more!

In process:

- Decoration of small room that will become the Library
- Consulted on bookcases to be built by artisan woodworker and which are a memorial donation
- Consulting regarding Memorial Garden construction now under way near rear courtyard entrance

We find it to be satisfying to be active participants in keeping our building safe and attractive. We meet the last Friday every month at 9 am because daylight is essential for our work. Won't you consider joining us?

Louise Ostlund, chair

## Musings from the Caring Committee



We need two kinds of help. A chairperson for transportation and a chairperson for food preparation. The Caring Committee provides rides as needed, to church, medical a

appointments, etc. I need a person to chair this area of responsibility. All you really have to do is receive a request, and make a call or two. Our UU members are quite willing to help.

We have not had many requests for food, but in the past, the chair of this team has had a group of folks get together and cook a couple of times a year. The dishes are then frozen in individual portions, and

kept available in the freezer @ UUCSR. The help we provide is always appreciated by those in need of an assist, so it's quite fun to be involved. Please call or e-mail me if you can assist with either. Home is 568-3290, cell is 849-6644, e-mail is [gvap@att.net](mailto:gvap@att.net). If you don't want to chair a team, but can assist occasionally, please let me know that as well.

Gretchen Vap, Chair

## Lunch before the Congregational Meeting

The Advocates for Social Justice will be selling a bag lunch before the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 14th. The proceeds will go to the Jewish Community Free Clinic in Rohnert Park This free clinic, a refuge for the working poor, many of them Latino immigrants whose jobs offer no health

insurance, is increasingly becoming a safety net for people who are unable to find work or recently lost a job. With the economic crisis spreading like a virus, the pain is clearly visible at this small clinic whose patient load has soared in recent months. It's a refuge for those whose health care options have been whittled down to

the nearest hospital emergency room, and an indicator of the growing strain on people who can't afford health insurance. The clinic is funded through grants and donations so please buy a delicious lunch for as much as you can afford!



## Appreciation for Legacy Circle Members

The UUCSR community is delighted to say THANK YOU to all those who have made provisions for UUCSR in their estate plans or have contributed directly to the Endowment Fund. We would also like to recognize those who give anonymously, those who are missed but whose legacies live on, and those whose planned gifts have been given whilst they are still alive.

We honor these gifts which affirm a belief in the future of this congregation, and which trust that our work, play, worship, and values will be continued in the Santa Rosa region, even when we are no longer

here.

If you are not on this list but have included UUCSR in your estate plans, please contact a member of the Endowment Committee so that we may recognize your generosity and your faith in our future.

Also, please remember that you can contribute to the endowment anytime at all, just write "Endowment" on the memo line of your check.

Many, many, thanks to all those listed below, and all those who have given anonymously.

Ann Chambers  
 Ollie & Louise Ostlund  
 Lucia Milburn & Joe Como  
 Dorothea Proctor  
 Van & Betty Craig  
 Alan & Linda Proulx  
 Florence Dixon  
 Art Rosenblum & Maureen Rumford  
 Joseph Davis  
 Karen Simmons  
 Bill & Anna Harriette Foshee

Rose Saint John & Pat Craig  
 Jules & Barbara Glaser  
 Calvin & Susan Simons  
 Joseph & Yvonne Hammerquist  
 Eric & Ellen Skagerberg  
 Jan Hess  
 Nancy Steinbock  
 Linda Lampson & Mark Meierding  
 Len & Adrienne Swenson  
 Helga Lemke  
 Pamela Tennant

Karen Lillard  
 Mary & Wells Wagner  
 Robin & Elizabeth Marrs  
 Brian & Kitty Wells  
 Claudia Mayfield  
 Joan Wion  
 John & Kirsten Olney  
 Hillevi Wyman

Rose Saint John and Hillevi Wyman,  
 for the UUCSR Endowment Committee

## 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](mailto:mwallace@scoe.org). We would love many of our congregation to help present this service, and hope all our elders are able to attend.



## UUCSR Writer's

### UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, June 1, 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>



## Women Together

### **Elder Tales with Ruth Crawford Saturday, June 6th 2pm to 4pm**

Ruth Crawford, one of our congregations young-in-heart-and-mind nonagenarians, is recovered from the brief illness that caused the

postponement of her April date, and is ready to tell us about her most extraordinary life through pictures and stories, with help from her daughter Jeanne. Please join them in the Board Room on Saturday, June 6th from 2pm to 4pm at

UUCSR. Men are warmly invited to enjoy Ruth's stories. Feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share. We look forward to this afternoon of history through the eyes of one who lived it!

## Attention Camp Gualala Retreaters!!



It's time to register for the annual All-Congregation Retreat! We hope you can attend this fun and relaxing weekend Retreat from July 31<sup>st</sup> thru August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is held at lovely Camp Gualala, which is on the Gualala River in

the town of Annapolis (about 1.5 hours northwest of Santa Rosa). It's the one Retreat of the year that is for every Member (or Pledging Friend) of the congregation: kids, teens, adults, families, singles, grandparents, couples - everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend! We will have workshops, games, swimming and campfire songs if you want a lively and interactive weekend. And you'll be away from the rest of civilization and electronic devices, and surrounded by wildlife and redwood trees - which is perfect if you want some quiet

time to meditate in peace, acclimate to nature, or alleviate your stress and worries.

Look in this Newsletter for the full-page flyer and registration form. There will be a table set up in the social hall from June 28<sup>th</sup> thru July 19<sup>th</sup> with additional forms - so you can stop by and register then. Or if you prefer, you can fill out a registration form now and mail it to Barrie Noe at 8555 Lawrence Lane, Sebastopol 95472. For more info, call Barrie Noe at 823-5018 or Denese Pender at 575-3229. Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register (and when payment is due). Stop by the Retreat table if you have any other questions. We have a lot of new members this year, so it'll be a great chance to get to know your extended UU family in a casual and relaxing atmosphere. Hope to see you there!!

## Arts and Culture News

Before I talk about why I love yodeling, let me take a moment to revel in the multi-faceted beast that was The Raymond Burr Film Festival. The event brought in close to \$4,000 dollars, after-expenses, which we will be sharing with the SRJC's Disabilities Resources Department. I would like to personally, and genuinely thank the vast crew of volunteers and participants who helped make the event a success. From the set-up crew (John Jaffrey, Michael Walsh, Brian Wells, Phil Butterfield, Jeffrey DeReboam, Chris Bell, and others), to the box-office, concessions and ticket takers (Linda Marie Stubblebine, Karen Lillard, Dorothy Walsh, Kristin Rimal, Sheila Dickson, Jane Fisher, Judy Schwalben, Mary Wolfe, Lisa Casey, Elizabeth Friedeman, Judy Meyer, Sarah Congdon, Ruth Dillman, Paula Hammett, Marilyn Rysiewicz, Mariani, Roger DeBeers, and Tom Mariani), our "personal assistants" to Ms. Barbara Hale and Robert Benevedes (the resourceful and tireless Eric Skagerberg and Lee Ann Fagan), plus my co-host and fellow panel-leader Gil Mansergh, Daniel Read, master of the microphones, mad doctor of the dials, operating sound for the event. Thanks must also go to Dan Zastrow, who assisted in editing our Friday Night "clip reels" of scenes from Perry Mason and various Raymond Burr films, and of course to Mr. Benevedes, who so generously donated wine and collectible items for our raffle, and to Barbara Hale, whose attendance turned our

little festival into a certified "event." And finally, none of this would have even happened were it not for our own Georgette deBlois, whose years of work as Raymond Burr's archivist inspired her to suggest the idea of a festival, and whose knowledge and contacts were invaluable in putting the event together. Thanks Georgette, and thanks to all of you.

And now, while the memory of that success still glimmers in our minds, we are on to our next events. Many of you will remember last year's very-fun Night at the Opera fundraiser, a dinner-and-a-show event that raised some much-needed revenues for the UUCSR. This year, on Saturday, June 20, beginning at 6:00 p.m., we're putting a western spin on the dinner-and-a-show concept, with a special appearance by Grammy-nominated singer Sourdough Slim, an enormously entertaining 'cowboy' singer who plays the accordion and guitar, tells stories, spins yarns, sings classic and original cowboy tunes, shows off his skill at rope-twirling, and even yodels. And people—can this guy yodel! I used to think yodeling was weird, until I heard the Riders in the Sky nearly twenty years ago, and realized that yodeling is supposed to be weird, and when done by skilled professionals, is also beautiful, haunting, jaw-dropping, death defying, thrilling, and very funny. As a yodeler, Sourdough Slim is one of the best. Check out his website at [www.sourdoughslim.com](http://www.sourdoughslim.com). For a flat donation of \$35 per person, you

can attend a great big western barbecue, with tri tip, chicken, and Portobello mushrooms, plus all the fixin's, desert, beer and wine—and the after dinner show. We'll also be screening some Roy Rogers films in the courtyard after dark, and we have other surprises in store for you as well. For those who'd rather skip the food but still want to see the show, we're offering a "show-only package" this year, which gets you entry to the show 7:30 p.m., plus desert and coffee afterwards. This is a fundraiser for the UUCSR, so we hope you will consider your purchase of a ticket as a donation to the congregation, and an opportunity to come together for a fun church-wide evening of fun and fellowship.

We have a summer-long line-up of guests and activities, including, in July, the premiere "test-run" of my long-planned solo performance piece 'Wretch Like Me' (think of it as a 'One Sinner Show,' a theatrical retelling of my life as a teenage fundamentalist in the 1970s), plus plenty of other musical and theatrical events. See the enclosed flyer.

Let's have lots of fun together this summer!

David Templeton,  
Artistic Director  
UUCSR Arts & Culture Ministry

## Committee on Shared Ministry

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

It also coordinates periodic assessments of the shared ministry of the congregation and its leadership, advises the board regarding the health of the shared ministry and supports the minister's planning for continued education, sabbaticals and other professional development.

Please feel free to contact any of us with issues or concerns, we are here for you!

Elizabeth Marrs, Rev. Chris Bell, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Cathy Reid, Mary Wagner.

In fellowship, Andy Levine

## Committee Testimonial

The Committee on Shared Ministry is asking UUCSR committees to do a Testimonial. If you haven't been asked don't worry we will get to you. We realize that not everyone is comfortable speaking in front of a large group, so we asked people to write a testimonial that we would have published in the UUPDATE. **This months Testimonial comes from Gretchen Vap.**

I am the Chairperson of three committees: Caring, Membership Council and Co-chair with Phyllis Heagney of the Saturday Breakfast Teams. I find that working with my fellow UUs gives me a chance to know each individual in a deeper way. This far surpasses the hellos and the chats at Social Hour. When we are working to get the food out on Saturdays, and we all want the whole process to go well, we have laughs, spills and friendships that make the service we provide a lot of fun. The homeless we serve are so grateful, and the homeless who help are so dear, the experience is really full. We live out our principles in these times. The Caring Committee service offers the same richness. Helping a fellow UU in difficult times, or just giving a needed ride to a medical appointment or to service on Sunday, gives me and the others on the committee a

chance to know a person and their special characteristics in such an amazing and very fun way. People share their rich histories with me in those times, and I am grateful for this. The Membership Council sees its overall goal as caretaker of the members, both new and old. We meet over a potluck once a month and search for ways to accomplish this goal. I am, in this time, getting to know each of the council members well, enriching my own experience. In all of this, the fun of volunteering is in the working and laughing together, and in the effort to live our principles. I would wish the richness of my experiences for each member of the congregation, so that each person can have the special qualities that we find in our individual friendships and shared spirituality.

## Rev. Chris Summer Schedule

It is customary in Unitarian Universalist congregations to grant the minister a period of vacation and study leave in the summer. This year I intend to actually take the congregation up on this offer!

Here are my summer plans.

June 22 - June 29: UUMA Ministry Days and UUA General Assembly, Salt Lake City.

July 2 - July 8: Vacation with friends in Boulder, Colorado.

July 9 - July 23: Study leave here in California.

July 24 - July 31: Zen retreat with the Boundless Way Zen Community.

August 1 - August 9: Vacation in Savannah, Georgia (home of our daughter Caitlin).

I'll be back in the office August 11<sup>th</sup> and back in the pulpit on either August 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will be available for pastoral emergencies throughout the summer, of course.

I also strongly encourage the congregation to treat the month of July as collective Sabbath month. Try to hold no business meetings or work parties, if possible. All will be well. Just worship and play together, please, and have a wonderful summer!

## Stand by this Faith Continued

*Cont. from page 2*

I believe with all my heart that when we are striving for such things we are inviting the Divine Power of love and life and creativity into our lives. Because that power - known by many names, and experienced in many ways - is **real**, our hope is justified, our faith reasonable, and our own limited human capacities adequate for the task at hand.

We sing a song to that possibility every week: *Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice. Roots hold me close; wings set me free. Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

It is my genuine hope that the Spirit of Life does come to you here at UUCSR, even as we have only begun to explore the many ways we can invite it in. As I dream us into the future - 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, 50 years, 150 years from now - I imagine fantastic things for us. And I'm not just talking about reclaiming the upstairs, hiring a membership coordinator and an associate minister for pastoral care, expanding adult religious education, decorating the sanctuary, putting solar panels on the roof and all the other really cool things that money can buy. I'm talking about a large, growing, expanding congregation of joyful souls, deeply engaged in spiritual practices, wildly generous with their time, talent and treasure, who know the happiness and

power of working with the Tao in the light of the Great Big Thing and who shape their own lives and the lives of the community in profound and practical ways.

Yes, dear ones, I want us to rule the world. And I'm not ashamed of that fact.

In the end, Olympia Brown is my hero not because of what she accomplished, but because of the strength of her faith. I long to be worthy of her legacy. I hope you are similarly inspired to give and receive this faith with all your heart and mind and soul.

I'll give the Rev. Brown the last word. This is from our hymnal, reading #569:

*Stand by this faith. Work for it and sacrifice for it.*

There is nothing so in all the world so important as to be loyal to a faith which has placed before us the loftiest ideals, which has comforted us in sorrow, strengthened us for noble duty, and made the world beautiful.

*Do not demand immediate results but rejoice that we are worthy to be entrusted with a great message.*

You are strong enough to work for a great true principle without counting the cost.

*Go on finding ever new applications of these truths and new enjoyments in their contemplation, always trusting in the one God which ever lives and loves.*

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa  
presents Its annual Dinner-and-a-Show Fundraiser

# Way Out West



Big Western Barbecue dinner, Cowboy shenanigans, and a special after-dinner concert by

## SOURDOUGH SLIM

The world's best yodeling, singing, rope-twirling, accordion-playing, poetry-sliding, cowboy entertainer

**Saturday, June 20, 6:00 p.m.**

**The Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa**

Dinner-and-show—\$35.00; Show only—\$18.00 (Show at 7:30; includes dessert afterwards)

Tickets available at Copperfields Book Stores, The Last Record Store, Back Door Disc, and online at  
[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

## THIS SUMMER AT THE GLASER CENTER

### RISK DANCE COMPANY

An electrifying evening of modern dance  
Thursday, June 11, 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, June 12, 8:00 p.m. (tickets at the door only)

### A SONG FOR SUMMER

An elegant gala concert featuring the timeless works of Monteverdi, Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Fauré, and Puccini. Presented by Project Applause  
Saturday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets at [www.projectapplause.org](http://www.projectapplause.org)

### WAY OUT WEST with Sourdough Slim

An evening of Wild Western Barbecue and Upbeat Cowboy Music  
Saturday, June 20, 6:00 (Show at 7:30)  
Dinner and show \$35.00; show only: \$18.00

### AN EVENING WITH KRISHNA DAS

Tuesday, June 22, 7:00  
Floor Seating Available: Please Bring Cushion  
Tickets at the door or at [www.krishnadas.com](http://www.krishnadas.com)

### BATTLE OF THE IMPROV GROUPS

Four of Sonoma County's best improv comedy troupes meet up for an evening of outrageous improvisational brilliance  
Friday, June 26, 8:00 p.m. (tickets at the door only)

### CONFESSIONS OF A PULPITEER with Lee Boek

A backslidin', ex-fundamentalist preacher tells all with lots of music, drama, and laughter; a true-life theatrical experience set in the 1960's American South, presented by Los Angeles' Public Works Theatre Co.  
Saturday, June 27, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Suggested Donation: \$15.00

### SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS

Goldoni's classic comedy, served up Commedia Del Arte style. Presented by Dark Room Productions.  
July 10, 11, 12 , 7:30 p.m.  
FREE!  
The actors will pass a hat at the conclusion of the performance

### WRETCH LIKE ME

Writer David Templeton's much-anticipated "one-sinner show," a hilarious and surprising solo performance piece in which the author describes his bittersweet adventures as a teenage born-again Christian in the 1970's. Directed by David Yen, the show will be performed by the author in an experimental "dry run" presentation.  
July 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 @ 8 pm & July 25, 26 @ 2 pm

### TWELFTH NIGHT:

William Shakespeare's beloved comedy-romance  
AND  
CORIOLANUS

Shakespeare's epic drama, told Wild West style  
Presented in repertory by The Narrow Way Stage Company

Twelfth Night: August 13, 15, 21, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30

Coriolanus: August 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20, 22

Tickets at [www.narrowwaystage.org](http://www.narrowwaystage.org)

### The Glaser Center

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa  
547 Mendocino Ave in Santa Rosa

Except where otherwise noted, the above events are presented as part of UUCSR's Arts & Culture Ministry. Tickets, when required, are available after Sunday Services, at Copperfields Book Stores, and on line at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



June 2009

Please Recycle

**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**

**President:** Andrew Hidas, President @uusantarosa.org  
Ex-officio President: Linda Proulx  
**Vice President:** Suzanne McPhee,  
Vice President@uusantarosa.org  
**Treasurer:** Bonnie Daines, Treasurer@uusantarosa.org  
**Co-Treasurer:** Denese Pender  
**Secretary:** Karen Lillard

**Board Members:**

Bob Barrows  
Ann Chambers  
Denese Pender  
Orlando Raola  
Craig Work  
**Recording Secretary**  
Janet Murphy

**Order of Service Announcements:**

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

**UU Update Newsletter:**

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

**Editor:** Janis Brewster

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

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

**Staff**

Minister Rev. Chris Bell, Ext. 108, Minister@uusantarosa.org  
Director, Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 101 DLRE@uusantarosa.org  
Administrator: Janis Brewster, Ext. 106, Administrator@uusantarosa.org  
Music Director: Ben Taylor, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org  
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org  
Sexton: Tony Crevelli

**Sunday Religious**

**Education Staff**  
Sonja Flores  
Kim Bringhurst



# **1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL UUCSR MEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND**

**AUGUST 28, 29, 30 2009**

**SAINT DOROTHY'S REST  
CAMP MEEKER**



**COME, COME WHOEVER YOU ARE, WANDERER  
WORSHIPER, JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF  
"FELLOW"-SHIP, LAUGHTER AND CONNECTING  
WITH ONE ANOTHER.**

(See registration form next page)

# 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL UUCSR MEN'S RETREAT

## August 28, 29, 30, 2009

Please complete the registration sheet. Your check reserves your space. Make check payable to UUCSR (memo Men's Retreat) and return with this form to the UUCSR office. For further information contact Andy Levine at 887-9810.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ 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 carpool? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

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

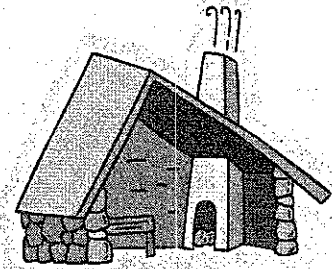
OTHER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

COST: \$158.00; includes Friday evening dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast. Would you be willing to contribute to a scholarship fund to help our brothers who cannot afford the full amount? \$15, \$20, \$25 or any amount will be appreciated. Partial scholarships available, call for information. Please return the registration form before 6/21/09.

# UUCSR ALL-CONGREGATION RETREAT

*Under the redwoods  
at Camp Gualala  
July 31 - August 2, 2009*



Join your  
UU extended family  
for a weekend of  
fun and relaxation

Registration is from June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 19<sup>th</sup>

Visit the "Camp Gualala" table in the Social Hall on these Sundays

*See reverse side for Registration form >>>*



For information contact:  
Barrie Noe at 823-5018 or Denese Pender at 575-3229

# ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT

## REGISTRATION FORM

July 31 - August 2, 2009

*The Retreat is open to UUCSR Members, Pledging Friends, and their Guests*

Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Email Address			
Phone # (Day)		(Eve)	
EMERGENCY CONTACT		(Phn #)	
INSURANCE COMPANY			
Ins Policy #		Ins Co Phn #:	

ATTENDEES	
Name	Age (if under 18)

1) UUCSR Status (please circle one): Member / Pledging Friend / Guest\*  
 (\*If Guest, please enter members' name: \_\_\_\_\_)

2) Would you prefer: **cabin** or **lodge** accommodations?

*(Lodge has inside [shared] bathrooms; no small children. Cabins = 8 per [big] room max; lodge = 4 per [small] room max)*

3) Anticipated arrival time (3pm Friday at the earliest) \_\_\_\_\_

4) Do you require ready access to a restroom, or do you have any other special (or health) requirements?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5) Do you request / prefer vegetarian meals? \_\_\_\_\_

*PHOTO RELEASE & CONSENT: I consent to photography of myself and every person listed on this form, documenting my/our participation in camp life; I authorize uncompensated use and reproduction of these photos and I release all rights & privileges, including financial and editorial, to said photos. If any photos are used, I understand that no names will be included. X \_\_\_\_\_*

If agreed, please sign  
 <<<<<<

Category	# of people	Price per person	Total
Adults: Berger Lodge		\$150	
Adults: Cabins (18 or older)		\$140	
Teenager: (12 - 17 yrs)		\$105	
Students: (6 - 11 yrs)		\$75	
Children: (3 - 5 yrs)		\$35	
Toddlers: (0 - 2 yrs)		--	--
		Donation to Retreat Fund:	
		Grand Total:	

Final payment due by 7/19/09 PAID: CK # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* YOUR CHECK RESERVES YOUR SPACE! \*\*

**REFUND POLICY:** If notified by July 22, a full refund will be given  
 If notified by July 28, a 50% refund will be given  
 NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 28

**REGISTRATION CUT-OFF: July 19**

*Regrettably, this camp site may present accessibility issues to some persons with physical disabilities.*

*If you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact the Camp Director: Tom @ 886-5351*