



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• July 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 7 •

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

July 5th

"Art and Spirituality"

Service Leaders: Larissa Dahroug,
Erin Howseman, Scott Miller

We humans are artisans: on the walls of caves, in the windows of cathedrals, on canvasses and paper, in textile and stone and wood, we make our spiritual longings and principles concrete and visible by making. In this service, three UUCSR members share how and why their religious lives are inextricably bound with art, both the making and appreciating of it. We celebrate the artist's way, exploring the lessons that art and artists have to teach us about walking one's path and enacting one's values.

July 19th

"Singing, Reciting, Playing the Living Tradition"

Worship Team: Andy Levine, Susan Panttaja,
Maureen Wallace and the entire congregation!

Lucky Unitarian Universalists - our faith tradition encourages us to sing the spectrum, from Bach to the Beastie Boys. Music and singing can lift our hearts, souls and bodies to the heights of spiritual experience; witness the Sufi spinning tradition. Today, we will explore together the power of music and singing from traditional, popular and religious musical paths.

All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing. Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong

July 12th

"Corridors that Call"

Presenter: Carole Czujko
Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

Carole Czujko shares some surprising experiences, observations, and yes, even joy, discovered while serving as a chaplain to patients and their loved ones. What is it like to be up close and personal daily with religious and spiritual outlooks from all over the world? What nourishes each of us spiritually in times of distress? What about spiritual practice while we're healthy?

July 26th

Worship Associate: Orlando Raola

Come together to celebrate the rich cultural diversity and vibrant spirituality of the peoples from South of river Grande. The principles of the inherent dignity and worth of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all guide us in building bridges across cultures, ethnic backgrounds and languages, both to welcome the newcomers as well as to extend a friendly hand beyond our borders. The participants will share experiences and memories, as well as poetry and songs in Spanish and English.

Summer Sabbath—Rev. Chris



I just enjoyed a very busy weekend at UUCSR welcoming in the summer. And I mean enjoyed! On Friday night we gathered outside, naturally, for a full pagan ceremony around the fire with drumming and singing and then, also naturally, there was a potluck. It seems like whenever people are gathered with a bunch of food waiting on the table nearby, something good is happening, doesn't it? All evidence suggests that the heart of human community has been worshipping and feasting together as long as we have been *homo sapiens*, which is about 200,000 years or so. So it's no wonder we love potlucks!

Hats off to Michael Walsh for planning the Friday service, and then for stepping up to grill for the feast we had here on the very next night. After a delicious barbecue we enjoyed Sourdough Slim's *Way Out West* show. *I collect lots of music, but I will confess to a lack of familiarity with the "yodeling cowboy" genre. I'm a fan, now. Not only did Slim have a beautiful voice and play the guitar and accordion with aplomb, he was hilariously droll. And his yodeling was like "the sound of angels" as someone put it afterward (without irony!). He could yodel a line non-stop for at least 45 seconds, if not a minute, and it was like the loudest purest bird call imaginable, surprising and delightful.*

Finally, in our Sunday worship service, in a time of raising voices to joy and of giving genuine thanks and honor to the life force of the sun, we sent two burning (well, turning) wheels down through the sanctuary to catch our blessings and send us into the next part of the year. And here we are: summer at last.

Summer is a quieter season for our congregation. We still worship together, thanks to the Worship Associates and other lay leaders. The Caring Committee still keeps an eye out for us, and the staff works in preparing for next year, but in general things slow down. Many of the varied ongoing groups that meet here take a break in July or August. I am given a nice chunk of time off to refresh and restore, and this year I will really take it. And I have asked all of the folks who are directly involved in governance to forgo their regularly scheduled meetings in July, and if they must meet, to do so in somebody's backyard with some food at hand. With many bows to all of you who make our community's life so rich with your generosity of time, talent and treasure, I politely ask you to take a break. I would like July to be a Sabbath month for our congregation as much as possible.

I am increasingly drawn to the deep wisdom of observing a Sabbath, and have recently turned again to Abraham Heschel's *The Sabbath, a consideration of Jewish ritual living that invites any reader into considering what setting aside time might mean for one's life. I strongly commend it to you.*

On the first page he throws out the challenge: "He who wants to enter the holiness of the day must first lay down the profanity of clattering commerce, of being yoked to toil. He must go away from the screech of dissonant days, from the nervousness and fury of acquisitiveness and the betrayal in embezzling his own life. He must say farewell to manual work and learn to understand that the world has already been created, and will survive without the help of man."

It is essential to good human living to devote some time to restoration and relaxation on a regular basis. With these big cerebral cortexes we've been blessed with, we need time to reflect and to make connections. Thoughts take time to mature. Wisdom takes time for its insights to occur. Emotions take time to process. If we go full speed ahead all the time (as our imbalanced society too frequently demands of us) we don't make space for a vital part of human life to occur.

This is true for an organization, too. We can spend 11 months of the year working hard to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another and help to build a better world. I love doing that with you! But we all need a little time to set that down and let the mind/body do its own work in the background, to be creative, or to just enjoy the pleasure of each other's friendship. Why, instead of a meeting pick up the directory and call or visit someone in it. Have 1 or 5 or 10 people over, some you know and some you don't. There's "no fancy styling at the welcome table" as we sing from our hymnal, so a simple casserole will do just fine. It's summertime, and the living is supposed to be easy.

I know that summer can't be a time of relaxation for many. You may be struggling to find work, or to make sense of some suffering. You may be facing illness, in yourself or in one you must care for. Your kids may keep you very busy, or the restrictions of age keep you from recreation you once enjoyed. But I still hope you can still find some time for play, for connecting with others or with yourself, for letting long, hot days and birds and blooms and fireworks and music and the sun on your face bring you joy. And I pray that balance and harmony and strength come to all of you, all of us. And I'll see you soon, my dear friends!

Splinters from the Board

Since I am certain most all of you have by now read and digested *every word* of our congregation's Annual Report (that's a Focus List inside joke...), I won't offer any quickie recaps of our Board year in this space. Instead, I'll offer some reflections growing out of the budget snapshot that my fellow Boardie Denese Pender provides in her Treasurer's Report a few pages hence.

As you know, in these difficult economic times (a phrase now so common that I propose we shorten it to ITDET in future discussions), we fell a little short of our budget needs this year. With costs up, Glaser Center revenues down and our Annual Budget Drive at least initially short of last year's total, the Board and the Accounting Committee donned their green eyeshades in the spring and rarely looked up from their hunched postures over a couple of months of line-by-line reviewing and pruning and projecting (and reviewing again).

Though our "Enhanced Budget Drive" ultimately yielded an additional \$20,000+ that substantially improved our budget situation (thank you!), we still wound up a bit short of our budget needs—hence the carrying over of a deficit that Denese elaborates upon in her column.

The budgetmakers' agonizing over this situation gave rise to many discussions, analyses and soul-searching. A few items of a statistical bent made us ask some stark questions about our congregation's (and, indeed, our entire denomination's) giving patterns, and what those patterns portend for the vision we hold of our future. So herein are a few choice morsels from our statistical stew, freshened up with the latest figures among those I shared at our June 20 congregational meeting:

UUCSR Operations Expenses (excluding Glaser Center): \$456,855

2009-10 Budget Drive Total: \$328,000

Expense per Member: \$1,498

Avg. Pledge per Member: \$1,075

Avg. "Loss" or "Subsidy" per Member: \$423

Those somewhat sobering numbers reflect a kind of "hope" that fueled our move from Stony Point to downtown: that the refurbishment and revisioning of a large new space and its associated costs would be offset to an adequate degree by a thriving rental and events business and the growth our congregation would experience with a downtown presence.

While growth has indeed occurred and our rentals/events business has helped greatly to meet the financial challenges we face, the key word above is "adequate." To wit: Can Glaser Center revenues and our membership growth make up for the gap between the average pledge per member and the cost associated with each member? To the tune of \$423 for each of us?

The math there is highly problematic. After many discussions with fellow Boardmembers, Financial Stewardship

Councilmembers and others, sober analysis suggests that unless we are successful at substantially reducing or even eliminating the "subsidy" revealed in the numbers above, we will continue to agonize and backfill every year over the gap between our vision of a healthy congregation that is active and generous in our community and the reality of a budget that severely constrains that vision.

Which brings us to an integral part of that vision: the cultivation of a "culture of generosity" that, among other things, seeks to emulate the more generous giving patterns—let us all take a deep breath and acknowledge a hard truth here—of evangelical, Mormon, and other denominations of a generally (far) more conservative but no more affluent nature than our own. Yes, there are entire books and dissertations waiting to be written on the intriguing fact that on virtually every survey of such things, conservative religious practitioners give substantially more of everything—money, time, and even to blood drives—than do religious liberals.

What is *that* about? you might be asking. It's a chewy question, one for which I won't even dare broach an answer in the few words remaining in this column.

Suffice to say for now that in the matter of our long-term financial health, we can adapt a phrase from the comic strip character Pogo in saying, "We have met the solution, and it is us." While we must certainly allow for reduced circumstances that make financial generosity difficult or impossible for some members, ultimately, enhanced generosity among those who are able will be the key to lifting this congregation far above any temporary financial challenges we face at the start of our 2009 budget year.

That generosity will require the willingness and resolve to overcome the fear that is undoubtedly at the heart of all our decisions to withhold, to give less than we otherwise might, lest we fall into some financial abyss.

Mormons all but guarantee their members, asked to tithe at a full 10% level, that God will reward them not only in the hereafter, but in this very life with enhanced prosperity. You won't get any such guarantees from this UU corner of the world, but the evidence for generosity of spirit radically enhancing one's experience of life is certainly compelling enough to posit the idea that enhanced financial generosity would do the same.

Giving of ourselves—in all its forms—simply feels good, and when we feel good, we tend to want to do more of the things that got us to feel that way. That's a pretty fair recipe for a successful spiritual life, and for the success of any religious community whose members have adopted that recipe as a regular feature on the congregational menu.

Andrew Hidas

President, Board of Trustees

Treasurer's Report

I like landmarks. Landmarks are good. Landmarks in time can help you later tell stories with better definition and clarification. Last week I (personally) may have had a landmark happening.. I'm not sure. On my car radio, I changed one of the pre-selected music stations from classic rock to jazz... and I've been a little surprised at how easily my listening ears have kind of fallen into this different mode whilst traveling to work every day. I don't know if that's really a landmark or not, but, it's definitely a subtle change. Your UU Board of Trustees, accounting, and financial folks have also passed something of a landmark recently. We have completed our budget for the new 2009-2010 year! (Yeah!!) And none too soon, seeings our new year begins... right about when you'll be reading this - July 1st. Now, whether this is a real 'landmark' or not could be debatable. It is something we have to do every year. But, like all budgets around the state and country these days - it was a little more challenging this year, for sure.

You might recall that back in the beginning of this process, after we had turned in our "dream" budgets - we started out this balancing act with a budget SHORTFALL of around \$50-55,000. That means we were planning on SPENDING a LOT more than we were planning on RECEIVING (in pledges, events & fundraising, etc). And in accounting terms... you would like your spending (expense) to pretty much match your receiving (income). So... there was a bit of whittling to be done. Unfortunately, some big items had to be put on hold... further sound-proofing of the social hall.. replacing the sinks & counters in the woman's bathroom... some things that we really want and need to have done, we have concluded, will just have to wait. The Board and the Accounting Committee continued to pinch and prod to save money here and there, in attempts to balance this big ol' thing we call our congregational life. Many committees made sacrifices. And after all that, we still came up around \$32,000 short. It was tough. We searched and searched, line item by line item, for ways to cut out any unnecessary spending. While still continuing to operate, of course, and hopefully continue to attract new visitors. But, when it came down to the nitty gritty - the only items left on the budget with significant dollars to achieve our goal - were the PCD/UUA dues, and the salaries of our staff (our small but significant, magNIficent staff, I might add). Which - of course - are so close to

being "not an option", that we had to come up with a Plan B.

So we turned to you, our loving members, with our quest for further funds. And, hallelujah - we received an additional \$15,000 from our wonderful congregants!! (You all are so beautiful!) With this, plus some final adjustments to expenses by the Accounting Committee, our shortfall was brought to a much more manageable amount to work with - around \$14,000. Therefore.. with blessings from the Accounting Committee, and as difficult a decision as it was, the Board proposed that we balance the budget by cutting the annual pledge to the PCD/UUA. We had reviewed cutting salaries by a percentage, or even (goddess forbid) cutting a staff position - but of course any options such as this were immediately turned down. We cannot possibly do without our staff, and cutting salaries that are already below UUA guidelines is out of the question. So, we believed that our only option to balance the budget was to cut the annual PCD/UUA dues.

This budget was presented to the congregation at the June 14th congregational meeting. However, democratic as we are - this led to much discussion. It was engaging, and polite, and extremely intuitive - and I was proud to be a part of it. So, the bottom line: it was voted by a majority of those in attendance to keep our budgeted pledge to the PCD/UUA in tact (a full 100% pledge), but to have the budget out of balance by our shortfall. It is not unheard of to have an unbalanced budget. It's not a best-case-scenario, but, it does show that we have every intention of making up the shortfall somewhere over the next year, so that we will be able to make our full pledge. Paying our "fair share" to our district and national organizations is of utmost importance - and we know that it will be quite a challenge this year.

So, whether or not this is a major landmark... we have passed the 2009-10 budget! All of us who have been working on it for the past 3-4 months are certainly quite relieved, and we would like to thank everyone for helping in getting these numbers to fit together. But we know we have our work cut out for us - that deficit isn't going to go away. However, right up to this moment - word has it that our requested "additional pledge drive" has brought in another \$5,000! That makes our shortfall around \$9,000 - even better!

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Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

What do you want your child to have gained by participating in Religious Education at UUCSR by the time he or she graduates from college? Your answers to this question are crucial as I am ever working to improve and deepen our RE program. Unlike more traditional religions where the curricula for children's programming are based on doctrine and dogma, the scope of Unitarian Universalist RE is wide. The problem is that it can be so wide that programming becomes bland, and the end result frequently turns out graduates who have a flimsy sense of their own spiritual selves, and little understanding of Unitarian Universalism. In our tradition there is much richness to teach; from UU history to world religions; social consciousness to spiritual practice; UU principles to principles of leadership; and more. The questions are these: What is the most important part for *you*? What part of *your* experience as a Unitarian Universalist do you want to be sure is passed on to your children and the children yet to come? How do you envision an RE program that will instill a foundation of UU principles and faith to guide your child into the adventure of becoming an adult?

My answer is "*We need to talk!*" It has been a long time since RE parents (and other interested congregants) met to take a look at the values and goals of our program. If what is being taught in RE is to affirm and enhance lessons taught in the home, I must know your heart. To that end I am planning an RE Visioning Retreat and I ask that you mark your calendars now and dedicate this day to a process of defining and planning our religious education program. Rev. Chris and I have scheduled the retreat for Saturday, September 26 from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. I do not ask you for a full day of your time lightly, and I pledge to you that I will provide a meaningful and productive time together. There will be child care provided so that all can attend. As always, good food will be in abundance. I am looking for an off site location for the retreat. If anyone has ideas about that please let me know. More details will follow as the time draws near. But I bring this to you now so that you will "pencil it in" your calendar in **INK**. We want every family to be to be a part of this. If **you** show up, it will be really fun!

In faith,
Deborah

This month in RE Date - Story - Theme - Teachers:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 7/5/09 | <u><i>Walking with Waldo</i></u> - Ralph Waldo Emerson & Nature- walk to the SR Creek
Teachers: Michael Walsh, Deborah and as yet unfound others |
| 7/12/09 | <u><i>The Blind Man & The Elephant</i></u> - Mystery - A game called Rattlers
Teachers: Maureen Wallace & Deborah |
| 7/19/09 | <u><i>The Two Bobbies</i></u> - A story of Hurricane Katrina & Survival
Teachers: Ellen Skagerberg & Deborah |
| 7/26/09 | <u><i>Rocky Beauty</i></u> - Exploring the nature of rocks.
Teachers: geologists Susan Panttaja & John Durr |

Treasurer's Report Continued

Cont. from page 3

So... what we can do individually is to keep our eyes and ears open for new ideas to generate income over the next year. Also... reach out to any guests or visitors you see on Sundays - help to make this a warm and welcoming place that people will yearn to be a part of. And lastly (nudge nudge), please do your best to keep up with your pledges! As the month of June is winding down, the last

month of our fiscal year - there are still many current year pledges that have not been sent in. Please try your best to send in your final year 2008-09 pledge, so it can be counted in the current fiscal year. And then - continue to dream! Dreams are for the dreamers. And I, for one, can't imagine life without 'em.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denese Pender

T.I.E. Groups Contribute Service Projects

Our T.I.E. (Together In Exploration) Groups wrapped up their final sessions in May and also completed their chosen Service Projects.

These facilitated groups, part of our Small Group Ministry program, form in the Fall and meet through the Spring. Toward the end of their time together, the members of each group choose a service project. This years projects are described below.

Facilitators Marie Fox and Joanie Reid - "Our group baked cookies for Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 24."

Facilitators Tom Bond and Bonnie Daines - "Our TIE Group got together after service Sunday April 26 to clean and varnish the wood outdoor furniture in the patio. This was our second attempt because our first, to do weeding and plant removal for the new play structure was scrapped when we arrived to find the work all done - so we adjourned to a local Mexican restaurant for lunch and fellowship!"

Facilitators: Diana Breslich and Mary Louise Jaffray -- "Our group has not yet performed our service project. However, the project we decided upon is to help the A4SJ with the fundraising lunch they are providing the congregation on the day of the Congregational Meeting on June 12th. The proceeds of the lunch will benefit the Jewish Free Clinic."

Facilitators: Barrie Noe and Frances Corman - "Our TIE group, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, will be helping with the Saturday Breakfast on May 30 which is a fifth Saturday for May. Linda Harlow, one of our members, suggested the project because fifth Saturdays (which are fairly rare) are not regularly scheduled for volunteers. By our volunteering for this Saturday, some regular volunteers will not have to work an extra shift."

Facilitators: Art Rosenblum and Carol Kraemer - "The Thursday evening TIE group is sponsoring an effort to provide supplies for the Transitional Housing complex behind the Mall Parking Lot. Our members are

providing some items requested by the housing staff, and Art put a note on the Focus list, which has already elicited items from other members of the congregation. Hopefully this can be the beginning of another UUCSR outreach to our neighbors."

Facilitator: Bob Barrows - "My TIE group assisted at the Newcomers lunch on Saturday April 18th. We supplied all the food, either bought it or made it. I, along with Betty Miller and Claudia Mayfield, arrived at 9:30 to set up the tables and put out cookies for morning coffee. We stayed until about 1 PM. Then John Jaffray, Don Ford and Jules Glaser, who arrived about 12, took over for cleanup. Nancy Fitzpatrick was still recuperating from knee surgery but brought food. Susan and Nathan Miron, who are new but not yet members, participated in the program."

Facilitators: Dorris Lee and JoAnn Robson - "Our group agreed that each of us would bake or buy cookies or some other kind of dessert or snack for the Coffee Hours following each Sunday Service in the month of May. We subsequently did exactly that."

Facilitators: Mary Wagner and Jeanie Bates - Our group led discussions about the worship service after the 11:00a.m. Sunday service during March, April and May. Typically a small group met in the R.E. wing from 12:15 until 1:00 and shared thoughts and feelings about the topic discussed during the service. We enjoyed providing an intimate alternative to the social hour and an opportunity to get better acquainted with some new people

Are you interested in belonging to a TIE Group when they begin again next Fall? Do you have questions about how they function? Do you want to know why they're so popular? Then call a member of the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee: Bonnie Daines, Marie Fox, Dorris Lee, or Carolyn McLeese, all available at Coffee Hour and/or listed in your directory.

Submitted by Dorris Lee.

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 31st thru August 2nd. 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. *And the music!!* Our weekend camp is getting to be known as a music weekend, because of all the musicians we have who love Camp Gualala! So plan to bring your guitar, violin, mando-

lin, flute, tuba, tambourine - or even just your vocal chords - because you can count on plenty of virtuosos rising from the river during our retreat!

Look in this Newsletter for the full-page flyer and registration form. Also, there will be a table set up in the social hall from June 28th thru July 19th 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 19th 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!!

Denese Pender,
Retreat Committee

Summer Newcomer Welcome! Getting to Know UU & UUCSR

Saturday, August 15, 2009 9:15 am to 12:30 pm.

Those of you who are new to our denomination, who are considering becoming members of UUCSR, or are new to our congregation are cordially invited to join us for a morning workshop designed to further your understanding of who we are as a church community.

Topics for the day will include: activities to explore why we are here, a brief history of Unitarian Universalism, how to become involved in congregational activities, and Unitarian Universalist diversity and the meaning of membership.

Come meet others who are searching for answers, too, to the question, "What is this place all about, and do I belong here?"

Please look for information at the Visitor's Table in the Social Hall. You will find fliers and registration forms there.

Please register by August 9th by turning your form in at the Visitor Table or call Cathie Wiese at 829-3634.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2009

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

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 11th and back in the pulpit on either August 16th or 23rd. 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!

Advocates for Social Justice

Many of us at UUCSR would like to generate another 'HANDS-ON' PROJECT. Our Saturday Breakfast has been such a satisfying success for our volunteers and the community that it's not fair to limit that satisfaction to early risers! So the Advocates are eager to explore ideas that any of you have about exciting and feasible projects that would engage our members. We invite you to share your ideas at our next meeting on Sunday, July 12th at 11:30 am in the Green Room, or talk with Jeanie Bates or Linda Harlow in person, by phone, Jeanie ~ 824-0530 or Linda ~ 526-3528, or e-mail at jeaniebmft@yahoo.com or lmh1937@sbcglobal.net.

Share the Basket

We start off our fiscal year with one-half of the cash in the baskets going to support our Saturday Break-

fast. As most of you know, our numbers are consistently high as more and more people find themselves out of work, homeless and short of money. Our delicious breakfast has brought UUCSR into favorable public view throughout the city! When the basket comes your way on Sunday, July 5th, please be as generous as you can.

Join Us

All members, friends and guests are invited to attend the Advocates meetings. For many of us, our principles inspire us to work for social justice, peace, and a healthy planet. Those are the causes the Advocates for Social Justice lift up and your ideas, experience and hopes will help us to create these realities in our city, county, state, nation, and world. Our next meeting is Sunday, July 12th at 11:30 in the Green Room.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group is on summer break for the months of July and August.

We resume our regular schedule of second Thursday of the month, 7 to 9 p.m. in September. We welcome new members and visitors.

Here are the books we have selected so far for the coming year.

Sept. 10 The Shadow of the Wind, by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Oct. 8	The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
Nov. 12	The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski
Dec. 10	Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Stroud

Linda Lampson

Presented by Darkroom Productions and Il Teatro Calamari
and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

"Lifted" from the works of Carlo Goldoni

The Servant OF Two Masters

Directed by Tim Giugni

A comedy of true love, hidden identities and dinner interrupted. Lifted from the works of Carlo Goldoni, the Italian Shakespeare. Done in the very physical and slightly improvisational Neu-Commedia dell'Arte style.

FREE!

The performers will pass a hat, literally, following the performance

This performance held in the Glaser Center's OUTDOOR courtyard; please dress appropriately!

These performances of 'A Servant of Two Masters' are presented as part of the UUCSR's Arts & Culture Ministry to Sonoma County



July 10 & 11, 8 p.m. and July 12, 2 p.m.

The Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, SANTA ROSA
& TWISTED EVENTS PRESENT

Wretch Like Me

A TOTALLY RIGHTEOUS ONE-SINNER-SHOW
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY DAVID TEMPLETON



THE OUTRAGEOUS TRUE STORY OF A FORMER FUNDAMENTALIST, AND HOW HE WAS SAVED FROM BEING SAVED

DIRECTED BY DAVID YEN

SIX DAMNATION-PACKED PERFORMANCES

July 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 at 8 pm
& July 26 at 2 pm

The Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa

SUGGESTED DONATION \$7- \$11 (DONATIONS OF ANY AMOUNT ACCEPTED)

Tickets Available at Copperfields Book Stores, The Last Record Store,
Back Door Disc and online at www.brownpapertickets.com



A "Wretch" like David, at Long Last

Since slipping a small notice about my upcoming autobiographical show, *Wretch Like Me*, into a recent Newsletter listing, I've been hearing a lot of spirited questions and comments. Seems a lot of you are very curious and excited about what I'm up to, wanting to know more about what this show is, and whether I know that the word 'wretch' sounds a lot like the word 'retch.' *Wretch Like Me* is a project I've been hoping to do for the last 20 years, and since I'm so grateful and pleased to be presenting this phase of the project here within my UU community, I thought I'd use this space to answer some of your questions.

First of all, yes, I certainly know about the *Wretch/Retch* connection, and it is entirely intentional. *Wretch Like Me* is a comedy, after all. This is my long-planned solo performance piece, a monologue-driven "one-man-show" (some of the posters call it a "one-sinner-show," with tongue-in-cheek) in which I will recount my experiences as a young man growing into and out of a very colorful series of fundamentalist groups in Southern California in the 1970's. Many of you have heard some of these stories over the years. In this piece, directed by local actor David Yen, I take those stories and more, and bring them to life, acting out choice bits from my teenage days among the true-believers. Although

some of my experiences are hilarious, my hope is that this show will be more than just funny. I want to raise awareness about the way young people are attracted to fundamentalist groups, and how the mixed messages they sometimes receive do weird things to a young person's head.

This project has been very close to my heart, but would not now be happening without the support of my friends Dan Zastrow and Julia Lander, who co-produce our annual *Twisted Christmas Live Show*, and the additional support (and gentle butt-kicking) of our own Reverend Chris Bell. When Reverend Chris, who attended an initial workshop of my show, heard that I was considering staging my first performances somewhere other than at the Glaser Center, he strongly encouraged me to have its premier performances here. "You belong to us and we love you," he said. "You need to do it here." How could I refuse an offer like that? This initial series of performances will be used to hone the show, putting it before an audience so we see what might need changing or tightening. In other words, we need you!

Adding to the excitement are two other recent announcements. On July 15, the North Bay Bohemian will be taking the unprecedented step of publishing the entire script

(or major excerpts) in that issue of the paper. This will put my little "personal project" into the spotlight in a huge way. *Wretch Like Me* has also been accepted into the new Sonoma County Fringe Festival, taking place this September. It will be performed, in what I hope will be its fully-polished form, at Sonoma County Repertory Theater in Sebastopol. From there, who knows? There appears to be a great deal of interest in this show, and a number of theater companies and festivals have called to ask about it. Our ultimate dream is to present *Wretch Like Me* at the annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2010.

Please join us at one of the July performances (which I admit may still be a bit sketchy) as, with your feedback and continued support, I move this piece forward toward whatever future awaits it.

Be well, and thank you all.

David Templeton
Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director

Wretch Like Me runs July 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25 at 8:00 p.m. and July 26 at 2:00 p.m. A donation of any kind will be accepted at the door.

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 28th - July 19th

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
cccc

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)		--	--
		<i>Donation to Retreat Fund:</i>	
		<i>Grand Total:</i>	

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 60% 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 @ 886-5361*

The UUCSR Writers Present • July Write-Ins!

Monday Nights in July, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm

In the Board Room, UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

Whatever your writing endeavor, fiction or non fiction, you are invited to spend Monday evenings in July at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa, *writing, talking with other writers, and enjoying brief presentations by experienced writers.*

Socializing and Open Writing time begins at 5:00 pm

Experienced Writer Presentations: 6:00 - 6:30 pm

Open Writing time to work on your own Work in Progress: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Guest Speaker Presentations 6:00 - 6:30 pm

July 6 **Georgette G. deBlois**, Host

“Welcome” Q and A • Open Discussion

The Pleasure of Company, “Writing”...

July 13 **Reverend Christopher Bell**, Unitarian Universalist Minister

Writing Sermons and Prayers

July 20 **David Templeton**, Writer, Journalist, Actor

“Wretch Like Me” *Writing about my “self”*

July 27 **Dorris Lee**, Author, Educator

“Reader’s Edge” *Writing Less to say “More”*

Focus

Whatever your creative endeavor: fiction, non fiction, memoirs, letters, history, biography, short story, the Great American novel, poetry, essays, dissertation, thesis, song lyrics, report, term paper, cook book, web pages, blogging, twittering, 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.

Information

UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Coffee will be available. Please bring your own sandwich/snacks, beverages.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

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July 2009



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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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