



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• August 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 8 •

Sunday Services at 10:00am



August 2nd

"Another Country"

Worship Leader: Rev. Jane Ramsey
Worship Associate: Maureen Wallace

Another Country - the country of the elders. This is a sermon about aging, a sermon about who we are or will be soon enough, a sermon with humor, a sermon about life and hope.

Jane is an ordained UU Minister, who works part time as a hospice chaplain and is affiliated as a community minister with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB). At UUCB Jane facilitates a Grief support Group, a Facing Aging and Dying Group, coordinates a Chaplain team and provides a monthly Thursday evening worship. Jane's special interests in ministry are those of older folks as well as all people facing death. Jane says it is not as depressing as it sounds.

August 9th

"A Transforming Power"

Worship Leader: Jamie McReynolds
Worship Associate: Orlando Raola

Where is the power in Unitarian Universalism to transform our lives? My answer to this question has changed over the years since I found this faith in the mid-1990's, most recently at our June 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

Jamie McReynolds is a 2009 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. He "grew up" in this congregation before embarking on his seminary journey in 2005, and moving to San Leandro, CA.

August 16th

"Where Love Is: the Bible and Same Sex Marriage"

Worship Leader: Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers
Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

This Sunday, the Reverend Ben Kocs-Meyers will preach a sermon entitled, "Where Love Is, the Bible, and Same-Sex Marriage," and examine scriptural references which are often used as a case against same-sex marriage. He claims many of the arguments from the religious "right" claim to be Biblically-based but, asks whether these arguments are either religiously or culturally sound. The sermon will offer both a critical eye and a spiritual interpretation to help us in our respectful and rightful engagement to counter these arguments and to support the rights of all people to marry, "Wherever Love Is."

August 23rd

"The Heart of the Matter"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Joe Como

Love is the most sacred thing in the Universe, the essence of our common humanity, and the heart of Unitarian Universalist faith. Today Rev. Chris will reprise the sermon on this theme that he delivered at our Pacific Central District Assembly this past May. We will also recognize newly joining members with a special ceremony.

August 30th

"Between and Beyond"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

U.U.s pledge to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, even those who challenge us or make us uncomfortable. The moving stories of transgender people, for example, compel us to examine our assumptions, prejudices and preconceptions, and to move into a more honest relationship with "the other" (and ourselves) beyond the limitations of categories and labels. The band Coyote Grace will provide music today.

Summer Sabbath—Rev. Chris



Rev. Chris Bell is on vacation, but he suggested these articles from uua.org and says, "Hi, everybody!"

Unitarian Universalists Elect New President, Take Stand Against Torture

June 29, 2009

The Unitarian Universalist Association's 2009 General Assembly concluded with the installation of a new president and the passage of several social justice resolutions.

Rev. Peter Morales, of Golden, CO, has been elected the eighth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Morales, 62, won with 59 percent of the vote, defeating Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman of Dallas, TX. Morales, who succeeds popular outgoing president Rev. William G. Sinkford, will serve a four-year term with the possibility of running for a second term.

Morales campaigned on a promise to make Unitarian Universalism more racially and culturally diverse. Morales believes that national demographic shifts present this liberal, non-dogmatic denomination with both a challenge and an opportunity to become "the religion for our time." To accomplish this goal, he said, "Unitarian Universalism needs to reach the millions of people who share our theology and values."

Morales becomes the first Latino president of the UUA. He was born in 1946 in San Antonio, TX, into a family with Mexican-American and Spanish heritage, and he is bilingual. Before hearing a call to ministry, Morales had successful careers in academia and publishing.

The General Assembly passed several social justice resolutions, including a demand for "Clean, Honest, and Fair Elections in the United States," a commitment to work for "U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty," and a "Call for a Commission of Inquiry into U.S.-Sponsored Torture." The torture resolution concludes with these words: "Nothing less than the soul of our nation is at stake in confronting U.S.-sponsored torture and completely renouncing its use."



The UUA launched a new public awareness campaign, called "Standing on the Side of Love," to counter acts of exclusion, oppression, and violence based on the perceived identities of victims. The campaign promoted several related public events.

Attendees at the General Assembly, along with interfaith partners in the Salt Lake City religious community, organized a rally on behalf of immigrant families. The Unitarian Universalists also hosted an intergenerational "Prom for All," to show support for Salt Lake City's bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender community.

A Letter From UUA President Peter Morales

Friends,

As you know, I have just been elected President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). I have trouble expressing how profoundly I am touched by the confidence people have placed in me. I can only say, in the Spanish phrase, *mil gracias*, "a thousand thanks."

I am humbled and grateful. The challenges before us are great. We continue to live in a world where fear and hatred cause suffering and violence. Greed and acquisitiveness threaten life on our planet. We are surrounded by millions of people seeking a spiritual home that is free and open. We face historic cultural and ethnic change in America.

We must learn to express our love and values in new cultural contexts. We will build on the great achievement of President Bill Sinkford in social witness. Ours will be a presidency passionately engaged in the great moral issues of our time: economic justice, peace, and human rights. I would like to thank and praise the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, the other candidate for president, for her deep insights and inspiring contributions to our faith. Her concerns for spiritual depth, covenantal relationships and stewardship are values I share.

Cont. on page 4

Splinters from the Board

Notes on GA and “That Vision Thing”

I'm writing this at some 37,000 feet above central California, bound for my first-ever trip to Texas for some family time with a sister, another sister's son, and their respective families. I'm accompanied by my wife, daughter, and a thick sheaf of notes I took at UU General Assembly last month, which I haven't yet had one spare moment to review. Soon as I finish this more pressing task of meeting the newsletter deadline, I plan to sift through those notes, because there was a precious—and at times overwhelming—amount of material to be gleaned and reflected upon later from GA 2009. I'm looking forward to revisiting the experience.

That said, the most compelling memories of my first GA have little to do with any grand insights from the theological track I was on at UU University, nor any practical tidbits of advice from the financial stewardship workshop or any of the dozen or so other sessions I popped into in a mostly vain attempt to maximize my haul of take-home knowledge. That's because GA is about so much more than the sum of its workshops, and even more than the sum of its magnificent and inspiring worship services.

The basic content of our faith—its creedlessness, its principles, its sources, even the bylaws of our own congregations—should never be minimized. But at GA, one also comes face to face, heart to heart, on a grander stage, with the emotional backdrop to this whole UU-as-religion thing, as a movement thing, as a deeply shared sense of solidarity even amidst the not insubstantial diversity of our tradition. (It was fun at GA chatting up the UU Christians just a couple of booths down from the UU “Polyamorists.”)

One of the many things to admire about Islam is its directive that all Muslims make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lives. Such a purposeful and devout gathering of the tribe focuses the mind and heart in a way not easily available in our daily lives. So it was for me at GA, surrounded by several thousand more or less like-minded pilgrims, belting out “Gather the Spirit” with unequivocal gusto, all of us there to seek not only knowledge and tips and perspectives, but also that *something more* that is always at the heart of every reli-

gious enterprise, of every solitary soul's quest to join with something larger and more emphatic and visionary than itself.

That “vision thing” is something easily relegated to background when we rise every morning to meet the exigencies of our day, whether as an individual, a family, or as, say, your UUCSR Board of Directors. Indeed, the pothole-filling needs of our lives never relent, and it is good that we give them their due. But the life of a religious congregation, just like our own lives, is about more than fulfilling daily needs. Sure, we've got to keep the bills paid and the water running and the copy machine copying, but toward what end? What are we driving at with this forming and sustaining of an official liberal religious congregation in a notably challenging time for religious liberalism? What do we all want out of all this?

Our Board this year is welcoming three vibrant new members (Phyllis Heagney, Mary Louise Jaffray, Lois Nagle). Three energetic new visions to do their interactive dance with the vision of eight returning members in forming a new collective vision for our Board. We won't be the same Board this year as we were last year, just as we will not be the same church. Flux is the only permanent, and flux is good.

We've talked informally thus far—formally beginning with our first meeting on August 12—about the importance of vision, the big picture, the depth and dimension that can engage us body and soul in helping articulate and then move us toward our deepest hopes. One needs to take both time and a step or two back for that vision to emerge. (Sometimes, stepping *up* to 37,000 feet helps speed the process along.) May all of us remember to take our flights of vision and fancy in the year ahead. We won't get where we want to go—because we won't even know where *we want* to go—without it.

—Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report

Ah, lazy Saturday mornings... opening windows wide and doors athrust to welcome the cool summer breezes as they trickle by, gently coaxing Mother Nature sweetly indoors. I sit at my computer, listening to birds cackle away to one another, while a plane floats calmly by, thousands of miles overhead. And I study beautiful, multi-colored, 2-dimensional flowcharts that sing out to me - as months and months of history are whittled down to clear, succinct monolithic structures on bright white 20 lb bond paper. My, what beautiful landscapes Lillian creates. Yes, thanks to our esteemed financial-goddess-wizard Lillian Reid, one such flowchart portrays 3 years of cash flow, gently cascading across a 12-step field marked in horizontal 20-thousand dollar increments. And while I would truly love to share these glowing flowcharts with you right here in this article... I can sort of understand that not EVERYone is as enamored as I. So, I will just have to give you an overview in plain, boring English.

We have just recently finished the annual budget process - and I would like to congratulate everyone for a job well-done! While the budget isn't exactly what we had hoped for - everyone did a great job in being financially conservative with their plans for the coming year. We are now at the beginning of a new fiscal year, and our new budget will help us to see how our estimated cash flow will look over the next 12 months. In studying it with comparisons of the last 2 years' cash flow - we see that we normally start sort of average - but usually dip down in August or September. That tells us that these next couple of months will be very difficult on our cash flow. Then we generally peak in December - when

pledges are at their highest as folks pay up their dues before the end of the calendar year. But the calm after the storm (of year-end) brings lulls and dips into our southward-cruising chartline. However, the last month of the 2009 fiscal year (June) did bring some wind in our sails, as the cash flow cruised slightly northward, to end the year with a little bit of an up-beat.

All in all, our year-end (June 2009) operating cash flow ended at about \$20,000 short of where it had been at the beginning of the year. Which is a concern; but not a catastrophe. To our benefit, our year 2007-08 was quite strong financially, in which we had ended that year with about \$18,000 more than what we had started with. So with that, along with a really great Nov + Dec 2009 - we are not doing too badly.

So, what we can all do is to keep on paying our pledges in a timely manner. As we know from prior years, August and September are very difficult months for cash-flow, which makes paying our pledges even more important.

There are still a few folks who have not pledged for this year - and also, some of the final year-end pledges (June 2009) have not yet been turned in. So please do your best to catch up on your payments - or contact Francis Corman to make your current pledge. (We want you to be counted!) So - keep active, keep happy, and keep paying those pledges... and I promise I won't make you look at any flowcharts.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denese Pender

Summer Sabbath Continued—Rev. Chris

Cont. from page 2

To Laurel's supporters, I offer my warmest welcome. There are no divisions in our movement, only complementarities. Your call for spiritual depth has always been a call that leads us to work together to make a better world. Together, we are answering the same call heard by Servetus, Ballou, Channing, Parker and Susan B. Anthony—a call to leave behind what is outmoded and to let compassion guide us as we shape a future together. The challenges we face are great. However, together we

have the passion, the spirit, the determination and love to face the tests of our times. Together, we can grow our faith and help heal the world. We can be, we must be, the religion for our time. Together we are beginning an exciting new chapter in Unitarian Universalism. We are on a journey of faith together.

—Peter Morales

For more UU news, visit [the News page at uua.org](http://theNews.page.at.uua.org).

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Picture this in your mind's eye: It is midnight in the forest, seventy youth and seven adults form an enormous circle under the dark sky. Surrounding them is a circle of towering redwoods, the full moon barely visible through spiraling foliage. Hands are joined and the deep silence is broken as voices sing out: *"Come sing a song with me....and I'll bring you hope when hope is hard to find, and I'll bring a song of love and a rose in the winter time"*. In the center of the circle a huge pewter chalice glows. The service leader, a brilliant 17 year old girl, kneels to catch its light and begins to read Thoreau. An inspiring connection is made: with the awesome night, with the glow of the chalice flame, with nature, and with one another.

This is what happened at WUUKY (Western Unitarian Universalist Karmic Youth) camp, last month. And I was privileged to be a part of it. It was six days of youth organized/youth led programming and worship set in the awe inspiring splendor of the Mendocino Woodlands. It was an amazing example of leadership and cohesive community: youth together in the spirit of caring and love. It was young people who gather together as Unitarian Universalists; wearing chalice pendants and t-shirts, and intentionally living our principles: honoring inherent worth by accepting one another, gathering to seek spiritual truth in their lives, and honoring our sacred and fragile earth.

The community was governed by a covenant to follow some very specific rules: No drugs, no alcohol, no tobacco, no sex, and no violence. Their system for ensuring that these rules are honored is youth to youth with adult back-up when needed. Three "Deans" were first in command and through their leadership a culture of trust and self responsibility was established. There were trained youth and adult chaplains always available to help with any emotional or spiritual needs that arose.

The rules were obeyed. Not because an adult was the enforcer, but because a promise was made peer to peer, and it was understood that their community was only as strong as their individual commitments to do the right thing. And they did the right thing.

The leadership put together an ambitious schedule of youth led workshops including a discussion of UUA policies on YRUU, crafts, wilderness survival, story telling and many more. Every youth and adult was assigned to a "Touch Group" which met each day for group-building games and discussion. These groups provided a wonderful way to get to know new people and to split up cliques. The community was widened and deepened through sharing stories and laughter.

Each night - late night- worship was held under the dark sky. Two talented girls crafted worship that was deeply spiritual, uniquely UU, and emotionally stirring. Youth worship is experiential; with movement, singing, hugging, and connecting. It is both lively and grounded in ritual. We sang hymns, pagan chants, and gospel. Hearing youth (boys and girls) chanting with emotion and gusto *We all come from the goddess...* was truly moving.

In truth the whole experience was truly moving. We have a unique and awesome YRUU community here in our district. I didn't mention all of the uproarious fun and laughter, or the youth planned and cooked meals - but be assured it was a huge part of it. These youth know how to have fun together and work together. My experience at WUUKY certainly *'gave me hope when hope is hard to find'*. It is my hope that more of our youth will participate in the youth group here at UUCSR and in the District Conferences through the coming year.



Lets' Talk about Mental Health

We are promoting mental health awareness by creating a space for people who live with mental illness to support one another as we deal with prejudice and work to build positive self-images. This is not a therapy group and there is no charge. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-11am at the Glaser Center. The

group is facilitated by AnnaLisa Wiley and Larissa Dahroug. The next meeting is August 15th. All are welcome.

Mental Illness is nothing to be ashamed of, but stigma and bias shame us all. - Bill Clinton

Together In Exploration Steering Committee

Members Added to TIE Steering Committee

Three new members have joined the TIE (Together in Exploration) Group Steering Committee. They are Jeanie Bates, JoAnn Robson and Mary Wagner. Continuing members are Bonnie Daines, Marie Fox, Dorris Lee, and TIE Founder, Carolyn McLeese.

The TIE Steering Committee coordinates the activities of this very active UUCSR Small Group Ministry program, beginning its fifth year in the Fall. They manage the selection and training of group facilitators, monthly facilitator in-service meetings, and the formation of the popular structured discussion groups.

The purposes of the groups are:

- a.. To explore important and engaging topics.
- b.. To deepen our spiritual lives.
- c.. To foster and deepen positive connections among newer and long-time members of our congregation.

d.. To extend the ministry at UUCSR by caring for and ministering to one another.

e.. To expand our understanding of the world and of ways to demonstrate our UU principles in our lives.

f. To engage in service projects to benefit the church community, the neighborhood, and/or the larger community.

The TIE Group program is an ongoing, church-wide activity that involves the minister, administration, the Board, and all members and friends of our congregation. The groups, usually composed of eight to ten people, form early in October and meet twice monthly through May.

If you are interested in being a member of a TIE Group next Fall, or if you have questions, please call Dorris Lee, (707) 795-7131.

New Book Discussion and Meditation Group

Patrick Gabriel, group facilitator for the Santa Rosa area, will be hosting a "The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment" book discussion and meditation group. Starting the first Thursday evening in September at 7:00 p.m. and proceeding each week following (same day and time) for ten weeks. We will meet in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, at 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5241. "The Power of Now", a #1 New York Times Bestseller, has been translated into 32 languages. Pre-registration is required so that we can know how many people are interested. Our group will loosely follow Eckhart's recommended silent group format. The Group will begin with thirty to forty-five minutes of silence (silent meditation), 1 to 1 ½ hours of Eckhart Tolle in the first ten audio or visual recordings, ending with twenty minutes of silence (silent meditation); its best not to engage in discussion, as it tends to stimulate the mind and ego. I am requesting a small donation of \$5.00 to help cover my costs for materials.

I would like to give thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, especially to Mary Wolfe, former co-worker, mentor, current friend, and member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation for opening the door leading to this opportunity of sharing and spreading the powerful, joyful, and transforming messages of love in which Eckhart Tolle was able to articulate so incredibly in this book. If you "get it" you get it with your soul! It's an ancient message that many of us are receiving for the first time from this book. All are welcome. Please contact me at p.f.gabriel@att.net for information on the series of discussions and meditation group. My cell phone is 686-8655 or call me at home at 539-3840. Or, you can call Mary Wolfe (member of UUCSR) at 544-3134

Who and What is the Committee on Shared Ministry

Here is some information about the Committee on Shared Ministry.

Who are we? We are Elizabeth Marrs, Chairperson, Rev. Chris Bell, Cathy Reid, Nancy Hargis, Mary Wagner, and Andy Levine.

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

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

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

In fellowship, Andy Levine

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



OUR ANNUAL SERVICE AUCTION IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH!!

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.

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 August 23rd. I will be available for pastoral emergencies throughout the summer, of course!

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket - On Sunday, August 2nd, half the cash in the basket will be donated to The Living Room. As many of you know, UUCSR voted to be part of their Circle of Support, and our help has never been more needed! The combination of budget cuts, recession induced lowering of contributions, and increased demand for services will make every dollar we can share count! It's summer and many young children are out of school. Where to go, what to do all day? Help keep The Living Room strong for the homeless women and their children in our community! Thank you for your generosity.

Colin Close, a GLBT advocate, will share his life experience and engage us in conversation about the challenges and injustices facing Transgendered people. This event will take place after the service on Sunday, August 30th.

Living Wage Coalition - Save the Date. On September 6th, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, Ben Boyce, the co-coordinator of Sonoma County's Living Wage Coalition, will talk to us about his work and how we can help. As many of us have learned through participating in the North Bay Sponsoring Committee, one of the first steps to effective action is to find specific 'issues' that make up a 'problem'. Certainly the 'problem' of poverty is huge and can be overwhelming when seen as an amorphous whole. But if we can clarify different 'issues' that make up the 'problem', and begin to tackle them, we can begin to make change. Below poverty level wages contribute mightily to poverty. What a fitting time to learn about the activities and successes of the Living Wage Coalition. Join Ben Boyce and the Advocates for Social Justice at 11:30 in the Board Room!

NBSC - Community Organizing

On the evening of Wednesday, August 26th from 7:00 to 8:45pm at Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Road here in Santa Rosa, there will be a gathering of members of all the churches and synagogues who are interested in moving our organizing forward. We will share stories from our work, learn skills, and explore what the possibilities are for moving into public action. Those of us who attended the meeting in Petaluma last spring will remember how stimulating and energizing it was to share our experiences, concerns and hopes with those from the wide range of denominations

and community groups who were there. Everyone who has participated in any of our previous gatherings - neighborhood meetings, one-on-one conversations, the Bay Area meeting in San Rafael, summer training sessions - is urged to keep the momentum going. And those who haven't yet been able to participate but are intrigued by the possibilities of informed, effective, county-wide action on shared concerns are particularly encouraged to take the first step. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to 578-5519 or to Deborah Mason at UUCSR, 568-5381.

Nearby UU Retreat Center Available for Rent

The men's group to which I belong has been using the UU Berkeley's retreat center on a ridge off of the Bodega Highway near Freestone for many years. It's a geodesic dome, nestled in the woods with a nice view west of a peaceful valley. The dome has a full kitchen, two bathrooms and three attached bedrooms. The central dome area can be used for more sleeping area. I'm told that in nice weather some folks even sleep on the deck under the stars.

The Berkeley church rents it out to nonprofits and of course other UU groups and families. They would love to

have it used more often.

You can read more about the center at <http://www.uucb.org/freestone/> or give me a call at 206-0488. Their price structure has been undergoing some changes lately, so the web information isn't up-to-date. Weekdays are cheaper than weekends and more likely to be available. For current rates and availability, call Bob or Jean Moore at



Phil Harriman

Circle Dinner Job Listing

Someone is needed to take over the management of Circle Dinners. This entails making out the lists and putting them in the newsletter—two days a year—usually 2 to 3 hours work (January & September). It also means putting at least two announcements in the newsletter (December and August) letting people know that it is time to make any changes in their status if they wish to do so—and for new people to join. The only other thing that comes up are phone calls from people who may have lost their lists or are unhappy about something—generally minor.

Joan Thatcher will be unable to continue making out the Circle Dinner lists. She's been doing it for over 10 years and it's time to quit.

Shirley Williams is willing to continue, but prefers to work with someone with a little more confidence in their computer skills than she has.

If you might be interested in helping Circle Dinners to continue, please contact either Shirley Williams (537-9790) or Joan Thatcher (544-9130).

We will instruct whoever decides to carry on this work.

Submitted by Joan Thatcher

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Building toward a Nuclear Free World

On Sunday, August 9th, at the Glaser Center, The Peace Crane Project will present its annual Hiroshima Nagasaki Remembrance Day in its mission to abolish nuclear weapons from the face of the planet. Even as we've held this event for nearly 30 years, the need for a nuclear-free world becomes ever more urgent as more nations seek to acquire these weapons of terror, capable of mass-destruction and carnage. This year, our program will feature the noted activist Norman Solomon, a nationally

syndicated columnist and author of such best-sellers as *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us To Death*. Also on the list of the distinctive program: Sonoma County Taiko Drummers; Japanese tea ceremony by Mario Uribe; shakuhachi flute music by Elliot Kallen; Children's Choir; and film clips from *White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* by award-winning filmmaker

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

UUCSR Writers

UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, August 3, 2009, from 4 - 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

Whatever your creative endeavor: fiction, non fiction, memoirs, letters, history, biography, 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. 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? 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,
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>



It's a Summer of Music and Theater at the Glaser Center

As the summer continues, there is still plenty of entertainment and cultural eye-openers planned for the remaining months. Please check out the following list of upcoming events at the Glaser Center, presented as part of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation's ongoing Arts & Cultural ministry to Sonoma County.

On Tuesday, August 4, the Mark Zaleski Band, featuring Boston-based composer and jazz saxophonist Mark Zaleski appears in their Santa Rosa debut. Zaleski, a master improviser renowned on the East Coast for his smoking sax performances, will be bringing his incredibly tight-knit band to the Glaser Center for a rare weeknight performance, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, available only at the door. Come witness the power and excitement of the Mark Zaleski Band. Check out the website at www.markzaleskimusic.com or check out their popular You Tube video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBn9lvmNFD0)

August is Shakespeare Month at the Glaser Center, as the increasingly innovative Narrow Way Stage Company returns to the Glaser's outdoor courtyard for a pair of the Bard's best plays (even if you've never

heard of one of them!). Performing in repertory (more theater-speak meaning back and forth performances of two or more shows), Narrow Way brings us the frothy comedy-romance Twelfth Night and the riveting drama 'Coriolanus,' the latter play staged as a Wild West drama, keeping Shakespeare's gorgeous text but moving the action to post-Civil War America. 'Coriolanus' runs August 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20, 22 at 8:00 p.m. 'Twelfth Night' runs August 13, 15, 21, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general/\$15 students and seniors. These are outdoor shows, so come prepared with a jacket and blanket in case of cool weather! Tickets for this event available at the door (while supplies last) or in advance at

http://web.me.com/illusionslighting/Site2/12_tics.html.

Look for another announcement soon listing our Fall and Winter events.

For more information on any of these events glasermanager@uusantarosa.org or call 707-568-5381.

The Life in a Week at the Glaser Center

One evening last week, during rehearsals for *Wretch Like Me*, I stepped outside of the Sanctuary and encountered Reverend Chris, who'd just finished a meeting in the Board Room. It was about 8:00 p.m. As we walked through the building, we marveled at the amount of life that was going on all around us: in the courtyard, a band of actors from Narrow Way Stage Company was rehearsing their upcoming production of Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night,' out on the covered patio, some other actors were blocking a scene from the same company's *Wild West* staging of Shakespeare's 'Coriolanus,' the social hall was full of activity, with clusters of actors mumbling lines to themselves, a couple of visiting kids watching videos on their dad's laptop, another actors strumming tunes on a guitar as he leaned against the wall near the sanctuary door. From across the courtyard, music drifted in from a group of UU choir members, rehearsing for a Sunday service, and a couple of gentlemen from one of our weekday men's groups were conversing with a homeless fellow who'd wandered in off the street looking for someone to talk to.

"I love this," I told Chris, waving my arm around at all the activity.

"A day in the life of an active church," Chris smiled back.

More and more, the daily life within the walls of our church building is resembling that of the thriving community center we dreamed it would become when we moved in just over five years ago. Most days, there is a low thrum of activity all day long, occasionally rising to a loud and vibrant song, packed with chatter and purpose. It is very exciting. Last month, Bill Montgomery led a couple of tours of local residents through unfamiliar locations in the downtown area, stopping at the Glaser Center. Each time, the majority of those visitors admitted they had never stepped inside, and had no idea what happens here. On their way out, many filled their hands with church literature, the monthly newsletter, flyers for upcoming events. One woman said, "It feels so good here. You can tell this is a place where good things happen."

It is important to remember how many people

we serve each week, and how richly rewarding that is. In addition to our very-busy Sunday morning activities (services, R.E. classes, book tables, writing tables, visitor tables, conversation, music in the covered patio after the service, and whatever special classes, meetings or workshops might be taking place), we offer a sanctuary and landing pad for hundreds of people every week, within and without our congregation—and these communities are now blending in remarkable ways. Last month, several members of the Narrow Way Stage Co., for example, showed up for one of our monthly UUCSR work parties, spending the morning changing light-bulbs and pulling weeds in the courtyard. Another group, a back-to-work support group that meets here twice a month, have started volunteering their services for various events and happenings. Just yesterday, everyone stopped to watch a young woman practice her "first dance" for her upcoming Quincinera, which will be held here in early August. The dance included a moment where several young men form themselves into a human pyramid, and she—holding the hands of her father and mother—scales the pyramid, stepping from back to back before touching down on the ground for the beginning of her waltz. It was beautiful to watch her practice, and when she hugged her father after the first run-through, there wasn't a dry eye in the courtyard. Though there was a bit of a language barrier, that moment transcended language, and we were all united in witnessing it.

Starting next month, we will be hosting a weekly group of multi-generational Spanish-speaking folks engaged in ceremonial Aztec dancing, a practice that serves both as an entertainment and social happening, a spiritual practice, and a way to give young people an alternative to the dangers of the streets.

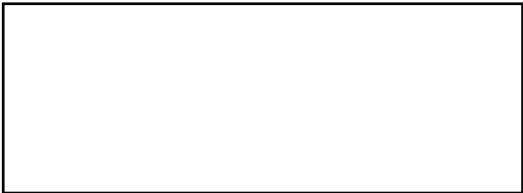
What we are creating here is a beautiful thing, a space where our principles come to life every day, as we provide a place for the inherent worth and dignity of all people to be affirmed in wonderful, living ways. Even if you aren't here to see it every day, as I am blessed to do, I hope you feel it whenever you enter the building. I hope you agree with me that it is truly something to love.

David Templeton

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

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
Mailing Address: 547 Mendocino 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,
VicePresident@uusantarosa.org
Treasurer: Bonnie Daines, Treasurer@uusantarosa.org
Co-Treasurer: Denese Pender
Secretary: Karen Lillard

Board Members:

Bob Barrows
Ann Chambers
Phyllis Heagney
Mary Louise Jaffray
Lois Nagle
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 Bringham