



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• October 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 10 •

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

October 4th

The 2nd Annual North Bay UU Revival

More Than the Sum of Our Parts

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Bonnie Dlott,
Rev. Chip Wright,

Worship Associates: Joe Como & Lucia Milburn

We'll host the Marin, Napa, Lake & Mendocino County congregations at the Santa Rosa Congregation. Our choirs will sing together, our children will learn together, and after the service we'll all have lunch together. Rev. Chris will give the sermon. This is also *Association Sunday* which is a call by the Unitarian Universalist Association for us to support, both in spirit and financially, a national initiative to create a Unitarian Universalism that is racially, culturally, and economically diverse. Come early if you want a seat!

October 18

"Wounded Words: Language and Power"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Scott Miller

"Unitarian Universalist minister Barbara ten Hove calls those words of religion that may have been used to shame, frighten or restrict us 'wounded words.' But, wounded words can also be beautiful language stolen or co-opted from us, limiting us in our means of communication." So notes UU minister (and dear friend of Rev. Chris) Diane Rollert, who inspired this sermon series, through which we'll consider the power of particular words to shape, distort, confuse, and enrich our spiritual lives, and pick a few to talk about throughout the year.

October 11

Family Values

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

ALL AGES SERVICE

Some would have us believe that a family is only two parents, one male and one female, and their kids. We say that couples without kids, single people, parents of the same sex and their kid(s), one parent of either sex and their kid(s), multi-generational households, foster and adoptive parents and their kid(s), and any other combination of supportive, loving, cooperative human beings are all families, and today we honor them and commit to justice for them as well.

October 25

"High on a Tightrope"

Service Leader: Rev. Kurt Kuhwold

Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

Dr. Cornell West, inspirational, prophetic, and Socratic visionary has called us all to explore the way of hope in a recent book, *Hope on a Tightrope*. He asks, "What must happen for us to stay awake permanently and commit to critically engaging the public interest and expanding the common good?" Join us as we explore these and other questions for our tumultuous times by this good and dangerous man and his modern prophetic companions. Dr. Kuhwold is currently Core Faculty at our UU Seminary Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. He has served eight congregations and two community ministries. He is also a UU anti-racism trainer and was a member of the UUA's Journey toward wholeness Transformation Committee.

Looking Ahead to November 1, "Wounded Word #1"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell, Worship Associate: Michael Walsh. What will it be? God? Faith? Prayer? Confession? Religion? Come and see!

Our 9:00am Service has the same message that is given at the 11am service, plus we have time for discussion of the sermon topic. Childcare is available.

With the Greatest of Ease—Rev. Chris



Like most of us, I'm a bit of a contradiction. Within (or at least near) the limits of reason and safety I really will try almost anything at least once. I've put really weird stuff in my belly. I had my ear pierced with a safety pin, and got a tattoo. I jumped out of an airplane once. Scariest of all, I dared to think I might serve God and people through ministry.

One the other hand, I'm also quite the scaredy-cat. I'm extremely selective about amusement park rides. I've never done a flip off a diving board. I don't like violent sports. I've never broken a bone, and I have no intention of doing so now. It took me 30 years or so to find the will to sing a song I wrote.

Thus, I had some real trepidation last week when a fellow member of the Yulupa Co-housing community invited me and Aaron to a trapeze lesson. But it's not all that often that a spiritual metaphor swings into your life just in time to write for the newsletter, and when it does you had better grab hold of it.

When beginning a maneuver on the trapeze your spotter pulls in the bar with a hook. You have to reach way out with one hand to grab the bar while hanging on (desperately) to one of the platform's supports. Your companion then grabs you by the waist and holds you on the platform while you get both hands set. If he lets go, you fall. He doesn't.

Then the catcher gets in position and sets his timing. You have to go at just the right time. In response to his "Hep!" you step into space in a literal leap of faith, swing forward to the end of the arc and pull your legs up over the bar. After one or two swings upside-down, you release your hands and stretch them above your head. The instructor yells Smile!" (I managed a determined grimace) and the next thing you know you are being grabbed around the forearms by the strong and friendly fellow on the other trapeze and away you go.

I did it fine the first time. The second time, it took me several swings to let go of the bar, because I was thinking way too much. "This is a ridiculous and irrational thing you are doing, Chris," I said to myself, and I believed it for a while. It is strange how the mind can both serve and hinder us. But the third time was charm.

Sometimes we just have to do a scary thing again and again before we really own and integrate it. I'm so glad I kept at it, in spite of my fear.

Fear can be a good warning sign. But it can never be the final word in our discernment. If it were, who would marry, or go to a new church for the first time, or welcome a stranger into our life?

There are few guarantees and random catastrophes and random blessings happen all the time. We're always on the cusp of something new. Relating to people and to the complexity of society, to our inner world, to our best and worst selves, to our mortality, all place us at a boundary line and demand courage. Most of what is truly meaningful and transformative in our lives involves risk. Whenever we push our boundaries a bit and take a leap off the edge into a new way of being, there is bound to be some combination of fear and excitement.

Sometimes life gives us new experiences whether we want them or not. Often, though, we do badly want them: perhaps to join a new community, find new friends or a new lover, effect a career change, find peace of mind or enlightenment, discover reconciliation and healing, or express our own power. No matter how much you desire a new way of being, it will not occur without your own decision to climb up to the edge, expose yourself, and give it a try. That doesn't mean we have to go it alone, however. Only a fool swings out into the void without some kind of safety net, and comrades at hand, preferably ones who know a little bit about what we're trying to accomplish. We are often led to what we need by others who have done this before. Our ancestors trusted us to catch their tradition as it swung out of the past toward us, and we will carry it forward to the next set of hands.

Hey, the longer I write the more I think this circus metaphor for the religious life has all sorts of possibilities. Perhaps next month I'll consider the clowns among us, or mention a few of the elephants in the room. Meanwhile, my hope for the UUCSR trapeze act is that we continually learn to trust each other and push each other, overcome our fears, and have a wild good time doing so. I'll see you in the center ring!

("death defying" pictures on page 13)

Splinters from the Board

Giving Away Grandma: A Love Story

I had the great and rare privilege last weekend of giving the hand of my daughter's grandmother in marriage. I realize that sentence may require some unpacking, so here, sans a great deal of the backstory, are the basics.

When Robyn and I decided to pursue an adoptive child some dozen years ago, the usual uncertainties and travails presented themselves. No one is spared, no matter how well-prepared or psychologically armed. When we were finally acquainted with a birth mother who made the momentous decision to share her baby with us—*us!*—we began a journey that challenged and stretched us in ways we could barely have imagined.

Early on, a critical decision loomed that would shape our entire experience: faith or fear? Offense (which is to say, moving openly forward) or a hard defensive crouch? Living in hope, or wariness?

There are voices—so many (well-meaning!) voices—exhorting you to beware, to heed the horror stories of emotion-charged birth mothers, changed minds and riven hearts. "Don't risk, don't expose yourself, watch out! *It's for your own good.*" And if the adoption does take and you're legally clear on the custody front, limit contact and keep your distance from the birth family.

We chose not to heed those voices. Instead, we made a conscious decision to put love at the center of the whole situation: loving and cherishing the birth mother for her monumental gift, inviting her mother to serve as a third grandmother for our precious baby, for the great-grandmother to have her role, for the birth mother's brother to serve as an uncle, for their entire family constellation to blend, to the degree possible, into ours.

With our daughter in the middle of it all, as the potent symbol of that decision, that intention, for love.

And so it has gone. Not without occasional early doubts and fears, the creeping mid-of-night voice that seeks to put a cold clamp on your heart as you stare into the always contingent future.

But trust and intention and openness to love are fearsome forces in their own right, and last weekend, they culminated, or at least hit another marker, in the joyous spectacle of Grandma's wedding, for which our daughter Dakota served as flower girl while I shared give-away-the-bride duties with Dakota's birth uncle. Made me weep for joy up there, at what love has wrought.

I bring all this up only partly because it feels good to write about it, but also, more importantly, because it so clearly dovetails with and keeps me thinking about the essence of intentional religious community.

Here we are, some 300 of us, having made a decision. Despite the yammering of so many voices—"Religion? Church? You're kidding!"—we have decided to join with each other. We have put aside our doubts, our skepticism, our fears of being played for fools—and perhaps even our lukewarm-at-best feelings toward certain personality traits of our fellow members!

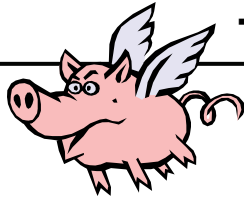
We have done so for varied and multiple reasons—personal, social, political, spiritual. We have turned away from a purely privatized spirituality and said yes, publicly, to a community of (famously creedless!) believers whose core belief is in the power of love and respect and reason to transform human lives right here, right now, and thus to transform the larger society.

This happens only with unwavering attention, with eyes fixedly on the prize. Love is the means and love is the end to that prize; we get there by taking what we're looking for with us, every step of the way. It waits for us, right there at the beginning of our journey, ready and needing to be claimed, to be put to use for our sisters, our brothers, ourselves.

I was chatting with a group of new members recently, struggling to articulate a kind of magic that happens, or that *can* happen, in religious community. We join, we meet, we greet, we put our shoulders to something or other, we *show up*, whatever our fears, our neuroses, our sensitivities, our pasts.

It's impossible to actively love 300+ "family" members as my family loves our grandma and the rest of our birth family. But when we place love at the center of any community, when we intend love and keep our intention there, the conditions become ripe for something deep and lasting to happen. Something bigger than all of us as individuals, yet redounding everlastingly to our individual betterment. This is when we can walk into our building or look around at a Sunday service or sit on down with a committee meeting and think, "This is mine, this is me, this is ours, this love is, truly, the very heart of our community."

—Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Trustees



Treasurer's Report

Pigs with Wings?

Last night I had a strange dream. I was walking along a path, when all at once I could hear something behind me, flying overhead. I turned to look, and it was a pig. It was a purple pig with opaque wings, and its tail was like horsehair. As it got closer, I saw that it had pink paisley spots all over its body, and I could hear the wind skirt against its flapping wings. It looked down at me, and started to speak. It's voice cackled, as if taunting me. It cried out, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows!" And it flew off toward the horizon.

Then I walked into a room, and the pig was sitting on a table, and it was much smaller. But it wasn't alive. And it wasn't talking. Its wings were still. It was hollow. And then I realized that... it was, actually, a piggy bank.

Ok, now, I must confess.. I didn't really dream this. (Although I kind of wish I had, as my dream group might have fun analyzing it.) But, I tell this story to draw your attention to our current UUCSR "Piggy Bank Contest", which is raising funds to help with our recent plumbing problem. The idea was conceived and spear-headed by our own lovely, talented and energetic Building Maintenance Chair Claudia Mayfield. This is such an admirable and worthy endeavor! While we certainly don't expect the Building Committee to come up with all the money to pay for the entire plumbing repair - and, alas, while the contest itself might not quite raise the entire \$20 grand... it warms my heart to no end to see such personal and involved interest in helping to solve a difficult situation.

As you are aware, our current state of finances was around \$23,000 in the red due to unrealized pledges and the budget deficit. Add our \$20,000 in plumbing repairs, and it shows quite a bleak picture. However - I don't for one minute see our situation as hopeless - or even close to that. When I see one of our members making such a concerted effort to help bridge the gap,

I am filled with hope and pride, and a renewed sense that we can all work together to rein in our flailing financial forecast.

As to the status of our cash flow: we have currently paid the bulk of the plumbing repairs. And as you know from my previous monthly reports - we are doing alright cash-flow-wise, at the moment; however, we are not doing so well budget-wise (ie, long-term speaking). In a perfect world, as with anyone's personal finances - it would be great to have in reserves (savings) enough to cover 2-3 months of operating expenses. For the UUCSR, this amount is around \$35-45,000 per month. Over the last several years, we had built up about 1 month's worth of (unrestricted) reserves (Which was a MAJOR accomplishment - and highly commendable!) We call this our "cushion". It means that we have had enough cash flow to cover our normal expenses, plus some, without having to worry about there being enough money in the operating account at any given time. However, after last year's property tax issue, and with this recent plumbing problem - what we are doing is using up that reserve money that we had built up over many years. So while we are not necessarily in dire straits right at the moment... we are depleting our reserves, and this is never a good thing for any budget. It means that storm clouds are gathering, and we had better pay attention. We have had two \$20,000 unexpected expenses in two years - and what will happen should another one come along? Be assured that our Accounting Committee, Financial Stewardship Council, and Board of Trustees are spending a lot of time and effort on this issue. And I heartily commend Claudia for organizing such a fun, creative, age-inclusive, artsy, and humorous way of doing what she can to help our situation. Please check out the piggy banks the next time you're at the UU - the contest runs until October 11th. You will be AMAZED at the creativity and imagination behind these incredible masterpieces!

Respectfully Submitted,

Denese Pender

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

How can we teach social consciousness to our children? As I embark on this year of peace and social justice work with our kids in Religious Education, I am looking at the various ways that children learn, grow, and change. First hand experience and modeling appear to be more successful ways of teaching in this arena than book learning. Providing children with the opportunity to experience concepts of injustice can inform them of how they and others can impact social justice. The development of a sense of social conscience in children can be fostered in school, in religious education, and most importantly at home. As I and our volunteer teachers work with our children on Sunday mornings, we invite parents and friends in the congregation to find ways of helping our children learn how to be justice making people, through service, exploration, and connection with one another.

When parents work for the community good, children follow the example. A national study from the Corporation for National and Community Service (2005) reported that "teens with parents who volunteer were almost twice as likely to volunteer and nearly three times more likely to volunteer on a regular basis". Tell your kids about your volunteer experiences, be sure they know that your value as a contributing member of society does not start and end at your job. Whether you help with projects here at the congregation, volunteer at the school, or work with a non-profit - make sure your children know that these are essential ways that you contribute to making our world a better and more just place.

There are many ways that families can volunteer together. Here are just a few:

- Pack up some clothes and toys that your child has outgrown and take them to a homeless shelter.
- Volunteer at the Humane Society with your child on a Saturday

- Take your child to visit one of our elders who doesn't get out an about as well as they used to.
- Got to your local park and pick up trash *before* you play.
- Volunteer at a pet adoption agency.
- Older children can volunteer at a food bank packing & sorting food for distribution.
- Volunteer with your child for a Saturday Breakfast shift here at UUCSR.
- Have a letter writing session where you and your child(ren) write letters to your state or congressional representative about an issue that is meaningful to you.
- Arbor Day is coming up - plant a tree.
- When you are hiking, always carry a bag and pick up trash along the trail.
- Incorporate charitable giving at the holidays - Guest at Your Table is a great opportunity to give on a daily basis though the holiday season.

Come up with a community service opportunity for the kids in RE - we are always interested in new ideas! Have your child present the idea and we can work out the details.

I would love to know your stories of the volunteer work you have done with your children, or that your children have done on their own. Let me know what you are up to and I will share your stories in the next UU Update. In the mean time have some fun and do some community work.

In faith,
Deborah

Women Together

One-Day Retreat, Saturday, October 24th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at UUCSR

All women are invited to this day of friendship, fun, and discovery. Those who are not able to be at our annual week-end retreat in May are particularly invited to share in the pleasure of being together for inspiration and greater intimacy.

Please bring a lunch dish to share. If you need child-care, please contact Susan Dickey, 525-1740 or susan_dickey@agilent.com.

Music Notes

Just before the Summer break began, I wrote in this column that "I will have spent much of the summer in anticipation of the great musical adventures to come in the 2009-2010 season." And it has been true! I'm so happy to be back with you all, making music, sharing projects and fun, meeting new faces and seeing familiar ones. The excellent efforts of our music committee have been shining through in the music of recent weeks, and I'm thrilled to help build on that foundation.

In October, we'll have some wonderful opportunities for music. The Revival will bring together several congregations and their singers. Getting to meet and sing with folks from around the NorthBay region is really a lot of fun! The music will be upbeat and joyous!

And at the end of October is Halloween, when we begin our trek into the winter season. It's a magical time in Northern California. As the final wisps of regular warmth in our weather dissipate, the rains begin their washing the earth. The flowers recede and everything gets green. It is easy for us to miss the significance of summer's passing here, with the rain so clearly nourishing new life. But we won't see flowers on our trees for months, and all those wonderful summer crops (tomatoes, peppers, zucchini!) will be absent from our gardens. It's important to say your goodbyes, even if you know you'll meet again. Halloween is related to the Celtic tradition of Samhainn, which is a way of saying goodbye to the summer. I'm looking forward to offering music on October 25 to mark the passing of the season.

Choir

Our choir is now in full swing, having a few Sundays under their belts! If you would like to join us for some fun and singing, please talk to me (phone, email, after services) or just drop in at a rehearsal to try it out! It's a low-commitment way to get involved in church life, and it's fun! There are also opportunities each year--like the Revival this month--to interact with UU folks from all over. We cover a variety of musical styles! Regular rehearsals: Sundays, 9am, in the Boardroom

Band

Our UUSCSR band is a splendid blend of unique characters, each with special and various talents. The line-up of musicians is different each time, making it a great way to know new folks in new ways. The music is easy to learn and rehearsed in a friendly atmosphere. We're always looking for new instruments, too! If you would like to be a part of our UU band, please talk to me or to Susan Panttaja. Rehearsals are scheduled based on musicians' availability.

Share your talents?

I know there are many musicians in our congregation. Even if you can't join in the choir or the band, we all want very much to hear your talent in service! Consider if you can offer a short solo or duet with a friend. I'd love to speak with anyone interested in being an occasional musician in our services.



In music and friendship,
Ben Taylor,

Committee on Shared Ministry

What does the Committee on Shared Ministry Do?

- Oversees the general health of the congregation
- Supports the Minister in his various roles
- Provides conflict resolution

The Committee exists to facilitate the smooth running of our congregation.

Our monthly meetings are confidential. If you are concerned about unmet needs within the congregation,

involved in a conflict with another congregant, staff member, committee or the Minister, you can call on any of us to be heard.

We are also happy to learn of what you think is going well!

*Elizabeth Marrs- Chair, Rev. Chris Bell, Nancy Hargis,
Andy Levine,*

UUCSR Men's BBQ and Get-together.

Please join UUCSR Men members and friends to have a BBQ and gathering in the courtyard at the church on October 17, 2009

From 11 to 3, we will supply chicken, sausages and soft drinks and beer. Please bring a dish to share, a few suggestions: Chips and salsa, fruit salad, desserts.

Please RSVP to Andy Levine by October 10 so we know how much food to purchase.

Any questions and to RSVP and to help please contact Andy Levine 887-9810 or bartlev@sonic.net.

In fellowship, *Andy Levine*

Advocates for Social Justice

"Share the Basket" - October 11th will be our Sunday to give half the money in the offertory baskets to a worthy cause. This month we will use it to help the ten members of our congregation attend a crucial North Bay Sponsoring Committee training weekend in San Rafael. The UUA has funds to support interfaith community organizing for social change and they have awarded us matching funds for those who are able to attend. At the week-end, we will choose issues for research/action and form teams of members of each of the NBSC congregations to begin this process. Please support our congregation to participate in this exciting and powerful process!

Forum ~ Save the Date

Sunday, November 1st

Tea and Justice, a film about the experiences of 3 Asian-American women who join the New York City Police Department, will be shown in the Board Room after the 11 am service. Marie DeSantis, the founder and Director of the Women's Justice Center here in Santa Rosa will introduce it and briefly tell us about their program to assist Latina women and girls facing issues of domestic violence, and answer our questions.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

UUSC is the national organization which advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Our congregation members support UUSC, and you can learn more about it by stopping by at the Advocates for Social Justice table in the lobby any Sunday. UUSC is supported primarily by donations.

Guest at Your Table:

In November, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, our congregation will participate in Guest at Your Table, a long established UU tradition. On that day Guest At Your Table boxes and booklets with 'Stories of Hope' will be distributed to the congregation for you to take home for the next few weeks and fill with donations to support UUSC's work.

Holiday Cards:

UUSC also sells Holiday cards which I will be selling in the lobby - probably also in late November. We'll have more about this in the next issue of the UU Update.

Phyllis Clement, UUSC representative.



Dear Members & Friends,



We need you to make our new family album complete

Help us put faces with names. Our Directory Committee has chosen Lifetouch to help us connect our members and tell our story.



Each family will receive a *Complimentary 8x10 portrait & directory* for participating.

Convenient

Lifetouch sets up their photography studio *at our location.*

In your one-hour session you will:

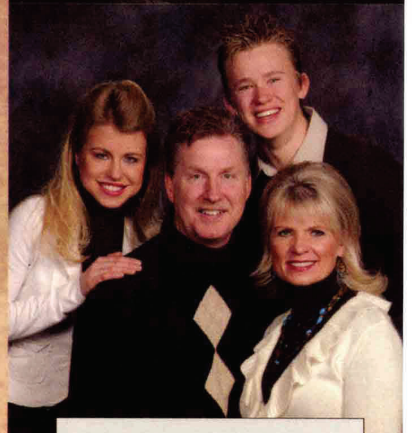
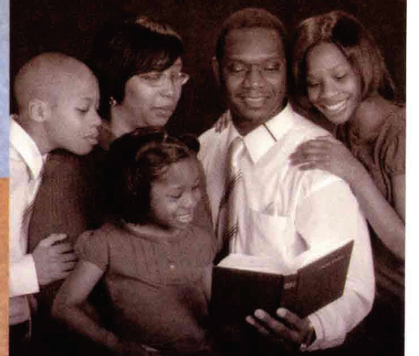
- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed: **No sitting Fees**
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Your portraits are sure to become valued family keepsakes. You will have the opportunity to schedule your portrait session soon. Watch for your **Portrait Guide** or visit www.lifetouch.com for tips on how to prepare for your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you in our new family album,

Your Directory Committee



Greeting cards available in many design choices.

Dear UUCSR Members and Pledging Friends,

LifeTouch photographers will be here in October on the dates listed below to take pictures of *ALL* members and pledging friends for a *NEW* UUCSR photo directory. Family members who are not UUCSR members can also be included in a group photo. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have your photo in our new directory -- we want to have everyone included!

For those of you who are new to this process, there is no charge for the photo session. In fact, you will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo as well as a copy of the directory (at no charge to UUCSR). When you view your photos to select one for the directory, LifeTouch representatives will present you with options to purchase additional photos, but there is no obligation to do so.

All photo sessions will be scheduled online. To access the online scheduling program, use the Web address below and follow the instructions provided on the screen:

<http://tiny.cc/PhotoSignup>

If you receive the newsletter by E-mail, just click on the highlighted link above. If you receive a printed copy of the newsletter, you can either type the address into your Web browser or you can access the newsletter on our Webpage (www.uusantarosa.org) and click on the highlighted link in this LifeTouch announcement insert.

If you are unable to use the online scheduler, or you have any questions about this project, please contact me by E-mail (preferred) or by phone, and I can schedule an appointment for you. The earlier you can schedule, the greater the chance that you will get your first choice of a time.

Tuesday, October 20, 12 Noon to 8 PM
Wednesday, October 21, 12 Noon to 8 PM
Thursday, October 22, 12 Noon to 8 PM
Friday, October 23, 12 Noon to 8 PM
Saturday, October 24, 10 AM to 5 PM

Jenny Harriman
Photo Directory Coordinator
pjharrim@sonic.net
(707) 206-0488

Under the Hill Gang

The Under the Hill Gang is invited to attend the 11am service on November 1 in costume. Let's plan to go to lunch together as a group. Questions? Contact *Linda Marie*, 585-2212

The UUCSR Board of Trustees expresses its profound appreciation to Mary Luttrell Management Consulting Services for the generous donation of Mary's time and expertise as the facilitator for the Board's recent Labor Day weekend retreat.

Coaching /Mentoring/Strategic Planning
Marketing/Organizational Development
Meeting and Retreat Facilitation

(707) 887-2256 luttrell@sonic.net

Fall Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Please come flex your participatory muscles for the benefit of your spiritual community by attending the first UUCSR Congregational Meeting of the church year. Hear what your Board of Trustees has been up to, what visions are being discussed for UUCSR's future, the latest plans for fundraising and the Annual Budget Drive—and much more.

Meeting commences at 12:50.

After the 11:00 service, enjoy Coffee Hour and another Congregational Meeting lunch, courtesy of the Advocates for Social Justice. All proceeds benefit the continuing Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans!

Economic Justice Read/Study

A read/study group is forming to inquire into and discuss economic institutions and ownership structures. Our first read is "The Meaning of Marxism" by Paul D'Amato. (www.haymarketbooks.com)

"Marx's ideas remain crucial for comprehending the modern world and no one does a better job of explaining them and showing how to apply them to contemporary issues than Paul D'Amato. This book is a treasury of powerful arguments illustrating the continuing relevance of class politics." Paul Gasper.

This group will explore hybrids and alternatives as well as classical socialism and capitalism. We are especially interested in how emerging 21st century social and communal forms differ from those of the 20th century.

Meetings are bi-monthly, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at UUCSR, commencing October 13. For more info, call *Rose*, 865-0755.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 8th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. New members and visitors are welcome.

The selection for November is *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. The selection for December is *Olive Kitteredge* by Elizabeth Stroud.

Norman Solomon to Speak at the Glaser Center

October 4, 2009

Norman Solomon is a nationally syndicated columnist on media and politics. He has been writing the weekly "Media Beat" column since 1992 and he is active with the Progressive Democrats of America. Solomon is the founder and executive director of the [Institute for Public Accuracy](#), a national consortium of policy researchers and analysts.

Norman grew up mostly in the Washington, D.C. area, has lived in the Bay Area for about 20 years -- the last 11 in West Marin. He attended Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He is married to Cheryl Higgins, a visual artist and family nurse practitioner.

Norman will speak on "Report from Kabul: The Escalation of Disaster (and what we can do about it)," on October 4th starting at 1:15 pm in the Sanctuary. All are invited. His talk will run about 50 minutes to be followed by a period of questions and answers.

His latest book is "[Made Love, Got War](#): Close Encounters with America's Warfare State" (2007). Solomon's book "[War Made Easy](#): How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death" was published in 2005. The *Los Angeles Times* called the book "brutally persuasive" and "a must-read for those who would like greater context with their bitter morning coffee, or to arm themselves for the debates about Iraq that are still to come." The newspaper's reviewer added: "Solomon is a formidable thinker and activist." The *Humanist* magazine described the book as "a definitive historical text" and "an indispensable record of the real relationships among government authorities and media outlets." A documentary based on the book was released in 2007.

Cassandra Lista

Community Conversations

At a recent meeting (August 26th) of the North Bay Sponsoring Committee, representatives from several churches and synagogues came together at Congregation Shomrei Torah to share the concerns of our various communities. Many Spanish-speaking people were in attendance.

Health care, especially mental health care, and its availability and affordability, arose as a major issue. Other problems discussed included public transportation for the poor and elderly, traffic checkpoints that ensnare undocumented workers, and the disappearance of living wage jobs from Sonoma County.

What became clear was that relationships among our congregations have developed momentum towards becoming active in the larger sphere.

We agreed that forming research/action teams to create a power analysis of each key issue is the next step. This will be the subject of our Leadership meeting at Resurrection Church in Santa Rosa on Monday, October 12th at 7 pm.

Ultimately, the North Bay Sponsoring Committee's goal is to choose a winnable local issue to effect change as well as build our own broad-based organization.

We hope you will join us,

Jo Ann Robson

Kitchen Committee

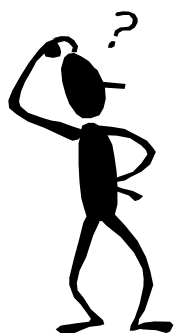
Thanks to so many of you who have donated cookies and other goodies to the Social Hour. I wish I could publish your names every week in gratitude. However, we have another need.

We need more volunteers to commit to making coffee, serving up the goodies, cleaning up the tables, washing and putting away the cups and other utensils. I have some terrific helpers but I don't want them

to get "burned out." Some training is involved, but it is minimal. Try it out after or before the Sunday Service to see how much fun we have. Then sign up for a shift on one or more Sundays.

I can't imagine Sunday without a Social Hour, can you?

Carol Weisker, Chairperson



Inquirers' Meetings

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11 am Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, the Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders. Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room, located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area. The next meetings will be on October 11 and November 8.



Samhain - Halloween



Come all ye wizards and witches!

Dress up in your magical best and celebrate with us.

Friday, October 30th 7:00 pm
at the Glaser Center

Join in a celebration of the end of the harvest and help us honor the spirits of our ancestors with stories, rituals, games and drumming.
Bring a remembrance of your departed loved ones and food and drink to share.

Want to become more involved? Contact AnnaLisa at 836-0758 or carfree@sonic.net.

Annual UUCSR Auction Extravaganza

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Social Hall

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR's biggest social event of the year! Mark your calendars, set your Blackberries, or just put a sticky note on your front door...you won't want to miss our Annual Auction Extravaganza!

Our annual dinner and auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for UUCSR's general operating fund. YOU, our creative and generous members and friends, offer wonderful donations for our silent auction...dinners, yard work, theater tickets, theme parties, dog walking, hand crafted jewelry, trash hauling....the list has no boundaries! Volunteers scour the city and countryside to gather fabulous donations from local business to add to the offerings. So, consider what you might be able to donate this year to the fun!

For the evening of our Auction Extravaganza we invite you to arrive in festive finery...this is a first class establishment! Fine dining awaits you, Roger Corman will entertain us with his piano jazz licks as only he can! Childcare and kid food will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with our live auction starring those masters of auction mischief sure to keep you

laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocket-book for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!).

Keep an eye out for our table which will be set up in the Social Hall. Look for the Top Hat and Tales guy dancing in a sea of star spangled purple! We have donation forms and a list of many ideas. Fill out a form for your donation and return it to the Auction Table or to the UU Office. Ask your favorite places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate or two. Watching the bids go up on your donations gets the blood pumping in the ol' veins!

Any questions? Call Kitty Wells at 433-196, Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, Nancy Freeman at 537-1897, Kirsten Olney at 542-4649 or Linda Farison at 539-3650.



Rev. Chris - With the Greatest of Ease (from p.2)





ANNUAL UUCSR

AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, November 7th

5:30 - 8:30 pm



Add to the evening's delight with your donation:

- host a feast...*
- walk a beast...*
- mop a floor...*
- paint a door...*
- knit a sweater...*
- tailor a coat...*
- have a party...*
- on your boat...*
- repair a crack...*
- massage a back...*
- shop for cars...*
- chart the stars...*
- share your tickets...*
- whitewash pickets...*
- teach a dance...*
- alter pants...*
- cater a dinner...*
- photo a winner...*
- wash a window...*
- 'til it shines...*
- share your cabin...*
- in the pines*

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please describe your auction donation
(Be as specific as possible - and freely ad pizzazz!)

If this is an event or dinner, please specify the number of
people _____ and the date it will happen _____

Minimum winning bid (per person) _____

Retail or estimated value _____

If high bid exceeds estimated value, may we offer this item twice? yes ___ no ___

Bid Early and Often! You need not be present to win!

Another way to enjoy this FUN-raising event is to join in staging it. If you would like to help or need further information, phone: Nancy Freeman 537-1987 • Cathie Wiese 829-3634 • Kitty Wells 433-1196 • Kirsten Olney 542-4694 . Linda Farison 539-3650

Please return this form to UUCSR office at 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, 95401



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• October 2009 • Volume 53 • Issue 10 •

Unitarian
Universalist

Congregation, Santa Rosa

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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

Vice President: Mary Louise Jaffray

[Vice President@uusantarosa.org](mailto:VicePresident@uusantarosa.org)

Treasurer: Bonnie Daines, Treasurer@uusantarosa.org

Co-Treasurer: Denese Pender

Secretary: Karen Lillard

Board Members:

Bob Barrows

Ann Chambers

Phyllis Heagney

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

Guest Editor for this month: Phil Harriman

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

Krissy McWhorter

Kim Bringham