



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2010 • Volume 54 • Issue 4 •

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

April 4th

EASTER AND FLOWER COMMUNION

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

Today we will celebrate the eternal renewal of spring, and explore the possibilities of rebirth and immortality with or without an afterlife. We will also share flowers in our annual Flower Communion ritual. Bring some from your garden or favorite walking path. Come and celebrate Nature's yearly resurrection, and make room for your own rebirth!

BRING A FLOWER!!

April 11th

PUTTING ON THE ROBE

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Rita Butterfield

An inquiry into roles, appearances, postures, costumes and uniforms. How we present ourselves in speech and dress (to ourselves and others) can shape the way we behave, and how others perceive us. How do we live up to those expectations? How do we see through appearances to the essence of things? And what's with that grim black robe Rev. Chris wears all the time, anyway?

April 18th

THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

Service Leader: Andrew Hidas

Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

Cooperation and compassion are fundamental to UUism. We're sensitive to those on the losing end of our hard-edged capitalist system, and tend to recoil from competitive endeavors (Scrabble excepted) that leave losers at the back of a line, nursing damaged self-esteem. But there's another dimension to competition that correlates with calling out the best in each other as we strive to fulfill our highest potential. This can apply as much to 80-year-olds as 10-year-olds, to (supposedly less competitive, but is that true?) women as much as men. We'll explore competition today through the lenses of sanctity, gender, aging, and how we frame it for our children with presenter Andrew Hidas, UUCSR's board president and a former college basketball coach.

April 25th

UUSC JUSTICE SUNDAY

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Joe Como

Economic justice is essential for securing basic human rights, alleviating local and global poverty, and achieving a more peaceful and just world. Today we'll learn more about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work in this area, and find out what we can do to help. The Choir and some of the UUsual Suspects will offer music.

9:00 AM SERVICE

It is a smaller gathering, we have the same readings and message that are given at the 11:00AM service, plus we have time for a discussion of the sermon topic. What UU doesn't like a discussion? There is childcare available. Any questions, contact Andy Levine at 887-9810

May 2nd

IS IT ALL A JOKE?

Service Leader: Bruce Taylor

Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

"I don't want to start any blasphemous rumors, but I think God's got a sick sense of humor!" - Depeche Mode

What WE Make of it!



"All things are given by God, for only the cost of our sincere effort." - Leonardo Da Vinci

You have heard me say many times that our congregation is what WE make of it. As long as we abide by our covenant to affirm and promote the Seven Principles (and make our fair contribution to the denomination!) our congregation will be a member the Unitarian Universalist Association. How we express our UUism is up to us, however. I think we express it beautifully in so many different ways. I am particularly grateful for your willingness to explore ever deeper and more challenging spiritual waters with me, and to then to put your insights and faith into action. Here are just some of the good works happening now at UUCSR that I want to draw to your attention.

Community Organizing/House Meetings. UU-CAN, (pronounced "You can!") stands for the UU Conversation and Action Network. UU-CAN is our in-house community organizing effort, working in conjunction with the North Bay Sponsoring Committee. The UU-CAN Core Team is involved in building a powerful broad-based organization across boundaries of faith, class, color and language to act for the common good, but it also works to strengthen our own congregation.

To that end we will again be holding neighborhood house meetings in late April and early May to allow members and friends the opportunity to discuss local concerns, consider ways to help one another, and reinforce the bonds of relationship that are the heart of our community's power and joy. As we continue to grow, these opportunities to get to know each other better become very important. They help us live our Third Principle, "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth", but they are also just plain fun.

We also intend these house meetings for a few specific community-building purposes. We want to get as many people as possible to the first major public action of the North Bay Sponsoring Committee on the evening of May 25th, which will be attended by many candidates and public officials. We also want to increase the reach of the Caring Committee to our members, and to talk about expanding opportunities for worship at UUCSR.

Caring Committee. We are creating neighborhood "zones" or "pods" whose members, we hope, will pay particular attention to one another. Each zone will have a Caring Captain, who will help coordinate the simple things we can do for each other in times of need, such as rides, visits, and meals. The local Captain will also help me and the Lay Pastoral Associates (Gail Alford, Jewell Ford, Ollie Ostlund, Diane Vidmar, and Gretchen Vap) know if and when people are in crisis. You will have the opportunity to meet your neighborhood captain (or to become one!) at the upcoming house meetings.

Worship Changes. An Expanded Worship Task Force (or EWTF, pronounced "ewtfff" - ha, ha) is currently working to address the crowding we are experiencing in the late service, and the relative lack of visitors and growth in the early service. The EWTF includes members of the Membership Council, the Hospitality Team, the Worship Associates, Religious Education, the Operations Council, the Music Committee and more. We have conducted some focus groups to help us create an upcoming survey to uncover our worship needs and desires, but we also want to use the house meetings for a deeper conversation on the role of worship in creating and growing spiritual community. Some changes to Sunday mornings are sure to come. There will be additional opportunities for feedback and creative thinking about worship throughout the spring.

The Annual Pledge Drive. After only one week we are a third of the way toward our goal of \$400,000 in pledges made toward our annual operating fund, and we are halfway toward our goal of \$100,000 for an Emergency Reserve. I am very enthusiastic about our ability and willingness to meet our goals. Keep up the good work and THANK YOU! We will celebrate our achievement and the generosity of our community with a party on May 8th in the early evening. Mark you calendar and please plan to attend!

District Assembly takes place at the end of the month (4/30 - 5/2) at the scenic and historic (cough, cough) Fremont Marriott. Don't let the location dissuade you; District Assembly is an energizing and challenging weekend that I warmly encourage you to attend. There is worship on Friday night, workshops on Saturday (I'm leading a discussion entitled *God is Love for All*). Finally, there is stirring worship on Sunday morning, which is open and free to all. Come on down!

Cont. on page 13

Splinters from the Board

Tending the Poppy Patch

If I were inclined to believe in God as a helpful, sky-residing fellow lordling it over us all from his perch in the heavens, I would present him with three words of challenge by which he might explain himself and his creation: *fleas*, *mosquitos*, and the (damn) *weeds* that repopulate my poppy patch with unremitting, increasing fecundity every year. Of the three, this last one is the matter that most occupies my thoughts as I write these words at the spring equinox in March.

Let me be clear: I make a habit of bowing deeply to the wonder of the earth's regeneration. The exultation, reverence and passions unleashed by spring? Count me among their staunchest friends. (If spring were on Facebook, I'd post like mad on its wall this time of year.) But *weeds*? And the back-aching, muscle-tensing work required to clear them in order for another of God's masterpieces—the perfectly developed California poppy—to pop through the soil and come into its glory on sunny April afternoons?

How could a compassionate God justify such a severe workload in order for us to behold his creation? Is it merely to balance the fact that we need do nothing at all to enjoy the freely begotten sunrise every morning?

Weeds stimulate this kind of thinking as I stoop low in snatches of 30, 60, and, when I'm really willing to submit myself to God's lash—90 minutes of careful digging, scooping, and pulling. One must wend with exceeding care through a patch that has burst forth—through a winter of blessedly generous rains—with a ratio of probably 90 percent weeds to 10 percent nascent poppies. Not yet flowered, the poppy plants struggle to assert themselves amidst the battalions of encroaching dandelions, winter wheat and weird clovers.

Often, weeds cleverly entangle themselves or share virtually the identical square millimeter of soil with a poppy, so that a barely misbegotten little dig with my tool or an even more painstaking pull with a combination of thumb and index finger results in an entire poppy being uprooted right along with the offending weed. Worse still is to have succeeded in such tender discrimination in one part of the patch only to elsewhere espy more entanglements, and in sallying forth to confront them, inadvertently crushing the freshly liberated poppy plant underfoot. (Double damn!)

No, weeding is definitely not for the spiritually wobbly. It requires both resolution—*weeds bad, poppies good, I don't give a hoot what the world's religions say about the sanctity of all living things*—and exquisite care

and evaluation in order to achieve the sacred object of desire. In a gardener's case, this object is an aesthetic model, a snapshot of the perfectly realized patch of earth to which we commit ourselves in order to midwife our vision into reality.

All gardening begins with a goal. Some vision must call to us if we are to submit ourselves to the toil that elaboration of our vision requires. The vision can range from loosely configured ("some poppies here, let's allow a bunch of coleus to do its thing over there") to highly regimented ("plant six rows of tulips six inches apart, and six feet to the left of the northernmost row, another six rows of hyacinth"). Our world thrives on multiple interpretations and expressions of the Ideal Garden.

Truly, a garden is a canvas upon which our imaginations, our personalities, and our genetic/cultural/aesthetic/energetic endowments can take wing in godly elaboration. It is both intensely personal—"This is what I see and long to bring about, the work in which I hope to be well pleased"—and just as intensely social. Does anyone garden with the strict intention of keeping the creation out of sight, solely for one's own enjoyment? I think not. (*These little poppies o'mine, I'm gonna let 'em shine...*)

"I look forward to your poppy patch every spring!" more than one passerby has sung out to me over the years, some of them longtime neighbors, others strangers heretofore unknown. (My wife garners similar responses to her tulips across the yard.) I'm not sure about the exact quantity of lower back pains or strained calf muscles I am willing to endure in order to reap such seemingly transient rewards as neighbors' smiles and eventually wilting poppies, but if "seeming transience" doesn't underscore the essential predicament we face as mortal humans treading upon this earth for the few years allotted to us, I don't know what else does.

That predicament is eased, if not answered, by the social-spiritual milieu of neighbors and poppy lovers and life lovers with whom I share my tiny corner of this tiny planet in this massively mysterious universe. Along with them—and you? yes, definitely *you*—I take comfort in the vision, attention, and appreciation we all share for a communal life of beauty and bliss and the ever recurring mystery of spring (and its weeds).

—Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Trustees



Treasurer's Report

I grew up in Southwest Florida, and over there we used to listen to a lot of Jimmy Buffett. Great songs about sailboats and sunsets, pirates and piranha, fins and fancy drinks all up and down Key West. The other day I heard one of his songs, and was taken back to my beach-bumming days. In this one, he was talking about the ocean, and said, ".. and in your belly, you hold the treasures that few have ever seen." Ahh, yes.. uncovered treasures... hidden fortunes. Vast seas of unimagined adventure. Reminds you a little of the people who make up our congregation... what you might find in them, if you take the time to look closely. What they might become, given the chance... or what they might be capable of, dare they stretch themselves. Such as our Saturday breakfasts, which started as a mere suggestion between a couple of congregants over a game of bridge. Or our united efforts to fight Prop 8 last year.

Another little treasure-trove of "wow"ness is taking place with this year's Annual Pledge Drive. By now, you should have heard of (what started as) our "Major Donor Drive", which has morphed into a quest for an Emergency Reserve Fund. During the last Board of Trustees annual retreat, we had one little line-item in our "Long Term Goals", which was to "Start a Reserve Fund". But, how much should we shoot for? Well, I must admit...some of us (yours truly included) thought that \$25-30,000 would be great. But - others on the board wanted to shoot higher... "fifty thousand!", someone said... and then, the unheard of amount was shouted out: "ONE HUNDRED thousand!!" I must admit, I thought they were CRAZY, when the rest of the board agreed - "YES! We can DO it!!" "We won't know unless we try!" Well... right now, we are still at the beginning stages of our Annual Budget Drive (as of this writing), and

we are already nearly HALF WAY there, at \$45,000 - eGADS! What treasures we can uncover.. dare we try! I am truly amazed.

By now, most every member should have heard from their Annual Pledge Drive canvass person - and may have already completed their pledge card for the new fiscal year (July 2010 - June 2011). You have already heard about the budget drive, wherein all committees turn in their goal amounts for new year, followed by the Accounting Committee tabulating the numbers to put together a proposed Budget. The big step now is to finish the Annual Pledge Drive, so we can determine the new amount for the "Pledges" account on our budget. What shows up in that line item will determine how much of the goal budget we are able to keep; for as you know, to have a balanced budget, what comes in must equal what goes out.

So what can you do to help with the process? If you haven't met with your canvass person yet, please do so as soon as possible, so that your Pledge Card can be completed. There are still many steps in getting our new year's budget finalized - and those final steps cannot be done until the Pledge Drive has been completed. The final completed budget must be voted on at the June Congregational meeting, and, believe it or not, it's getting close - as Spring has already sprung! Tempus Fugit! And be sure to take a minute and enjoy the gifts of this glorious season... aren't those daffodils just delightful?

Respectfully Submitted,
Denese Pender



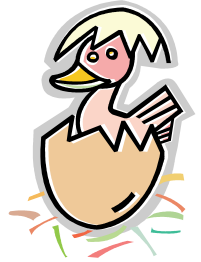
Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Are you ready for the RE Players? Well get ready, because our RE kids will be performing their first play here at UUCSR on a Sunday in June after the 11:00 worship service.

The RE Players was the brain child of Kitty Wells who had the idea of turning one of her favorite children's stories into a play. Kitty has adapted Harvey Fierstein's story "The Sissy Duckling" into a sweet and memorable script. When the kids in our sixth grade class were approached with the idea of putting on a play they took to it like...well... like ducks to water. We will be using part of our time together in RE over the next two months to prepare for the performance. There are parts for kids of all ages.

The theme of the play is acceptance of everyone, even when they might be considered different than the rest. It really goes beyond mere acceptance and shows how our unique qualities can be exactly what make us special and important in the world. I hope everyone will mark their calendars now and make plans to attend this special presentation.

Speaking of Kitty Wells, let me use this column to express my appreciation for the wonderful folks who have volunteered their time to teach our kids in RE. Kitty has taught our 6th graders the first two quarters of the year and will stay with us through the RE Players show. Thank you so much Kitty for such dedication. Joy Lonnes and Robyn Hidas have taught the grades 3-5 and K-2 classes this quarter and I appreciate their flexibility and caring for the children. First quarter was lovingly staffed by Kirsten Olney and Linda Farison in K-2, Rita Butterfield and Michael Walsh in 3-5, and Elizabeth Wheless co-taught with Kitty in the 6th grade class. The RE program would not even happen on Sunday mornings without volunteer teachers. I am so grateful to all of these teachers. Please let them know you appreciate them too!



In Faith,
Deborah

What's Happening In RE This Month:

Youth Group meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 4-6pm

Date	Theme	Teachers
4/4	Children's Chapel	Deborah Mason Billie Sue Fischer
4/11	Intergenerational Worship Kids in Sanctuary for Worship	Rev. Chris Deborah Mason
4/18	Children's Chapel Play Rehearsal	Kitty Wells Deborah Mason
4/25	Children's Chapel Play Rehearsal	Kitty Wells Deborah Mason

Musical Notes for April

Music

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dreams burns each enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling-place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
And from Time's woods break into distant song
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.
--Walter de la Mare

Music-Enhanced Reality

Walter de la Mare makes it clear that music holds a special power over him (and, apparently, Naiads!). He likens the best moments of music to a transcendent moment, even a final resting peace. I am reminded of the main character in Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land*, who upon having a beautiful experience (his first bath), figures it is so good that he prepares to die. Wonderful music can truly transfigure the human being to a different state of being: magnified, transcendent, enraptured even! I do hope that you find such spiritual fulfillment on occasion. Music can be a doorway to the best of our worldly experience. I encourage you to open that door: enjoy a symphony concert, hear some jazz at Yoshi's, go bang on some pots and pans! Invigorate your reality!

Musical Highlights for April

April 4: I've written a new choral work for you all.

I hope you enjoy it! Also enjoy a song from Robin Marrs!

April 11: choral music about integrity: "be yourself!"

April 18: a variety of music to enliven the spirit!

April 25: a choral number by our former choir master, Doug Bowes!

Join the UUCSR Choir!

Our choir is now learning new music of all sorts for upcoming services. The choir is a fun bunch of people and an uplifting way to start a Sunday morning! 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! We cover a variety of musical styles!

Regular rehearsals: Sundays, 9am, in the Boardroom

Join the Band!

We routinely welcome new folk into our UUCSR band. The 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.

Musically yours,
Ben Taylor, Music Director

Getting to Know UU—April 24th

New to our UU community? Join us at our **SPRING NEWCOMER WELCOME: Getting to Know UU and UUCSR** on April 24th from 9:15am—12:30pm. This orientation session is designed primarily for those new to our denomination who are considering becoming members of UUCSR. Those new to our congregation who

have previously been members of other UU churches, congregations, or fellowships are also welcome to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet fellow seekers, get to know a bit more about UU and our congregation, and explore why we are here. Please look for fliers and sign up sheets at the visitor's table.

Don't Miss IMADA! (Important Meeting about District Assembly)

Are you going to District Assembly? Are you curious about D. A. but don't know what it is and whether it's worth your time and money? Do you have questions but don't know who to ask? You're a delegate (or might like to be?), and aren't sure what that entails? Are you new to UU and interested in a wider view of our denomination?

Then come to an informational meeting April 18 at 12:30. after the service. We'll discuss: workshops, the notable speakers, where to stay, the whole PCD weekend, what's involved in being a delegate (but you don't

need to be a delegate to attend District Assembly), and anything else you have questions about!

Whether you're an old-timer, a newer member or a visitor, you'll be entertained, inspired and informed at this gathering of several hundred UUs from all over Northern California, part of Nevada and Hawaii!. So come to our informational meeting and find out more!

Mary Wolfe, Denominational Affairs Chair:
mwolfe@sonic.net or 544-3134

All Congregation Retreat!!

Hey all you (formerly) Camp Gualala lovers! The annual all-congregation retreat will be a little earlier this summer, so please be sure to mark your calendars: July 16-18, 2010. New time, and a new place. Your friendly Retreat Committee has been busy working out the details at VALLEY OF THE MOON - a great retreat center that is only 30 minutes from downtown Santa Rosa (20 minutes from Oakmont). Similar in many ways to Camp Gualala, with a few exceptions, one being everything is MUCH closer together. (And no river, but a great swimming pool!) One new change is that we will offer a DAY PASS for the weekend - so if you'd like to come and participate in all the fun and excitement of the retreat,

but aren't crazy about rustic cabins, bunkbeds and camp mattresses - you can still enjoy the weekend, while sleeping cozily in your own bed at night. If you'd like more details, please see any of the folks putting on the retreat this year: Barrie Noe, Pat Wilson, Denese Pender, Dorris Lee or Anna Lisa Wiley. So don't forget to mark your calendars! A registration form will be in the next newsletter, and the Retreat table will be set up in the social hall from June 13th until July 4th.

Denese Pender



Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga. Newcomers and visitors are welcome.

Linda Lampson

Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry is a subcommittee on the Board of Trustees and is to oversee the general health of the congregation, support the minister and to provide conflict resolution. We meet once a month. Recent topics have been the Memorial Garden, expanded worship services, the ministerial and congregational evaluation, and the sabbatical for Reverend Chris Bell, (which is available to him after 7 years of service in our congregation).

After the canvass drive we will look carefully at the comments solicited from each of you. We will make sure that those comments get passed along to the appropriate people. You may also contact anyone on our committee knowing you will be heard and that what we discuss in our meetings is confidential.

Elizabeth Marrs (chair), Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Cathy Read and Mary Wagner

UUCSR Writers

UUCSR Writers will meet from **4 - 6 pm** in the "Green Room" on **Monday, April 5, 2010** at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-568-5381, Can't attend monthly meetings? Live in another City, State or Country? Request an Invitation to join our Online Writer's Blog. Information: UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

"TaP" Thursdays at Peet's

The UUCSR Writers meet once a week for Peet's coffee and conversation in Copperfield's located in Montgomery

Village at the corner of Montgomery Drive and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Parking is Free.

Come, join us on Thursday mornings at 10 am. Buy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, add a Danish pastry and enjoy the pleasure of chatting with writers about writing. We have no set agenda. Also, be sure to save some time to browse the books at Copperfield's.



Georgette G. deBlois

Greeting from the Program Council

Hi, greetings from the Program Council.

The Council members are hard at work putting together a booklet or circular listing UUCSR committees and groups offering or engaged in programs and activities relating to hobby, recreational or cultural interests of congregational members. When completed, the publication will be made available to visitors, new members and anyone interested in knowing more about the groups or how to join one.

To date, the Council has identified 17 committees and groups within the congregation offering programs that

deepen our connection with one another through activities that enrich and entertain. The range is very broad and includes book, bridge, circle dinners, fiber arts, meditation, movie group, small group ministry, social, men's and women's support and writers groups. If you think your group should be included in the publication but aren't sure it is, please contact me. Also, we'd like to hear from anyone who wants to organize a group covering an activity not included in the above list -- such as hiking or golf or art.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Wolfe, Co-chair of Program Council—mwolfe@sonic.net or 544-3134

In Concert

The Potaje Trio

traditional & contemporary flamenco

Chus Alonso - flue, laud, & cajon

Tregar Otton - violin & mandolin

Mark Taylor - flamenco guitar



Un Deux Trois

French Music Trio

Lisa Iskin • guitar & vocals

Robert Sunceford • accordion

Josh Fossgreen • bass guitar

Music from Spain & France

SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD • 7:30 PM

THE GLASER CENTER

AT THE UUCSR

546 MENDOCINO AVENUE • SANTA ROSA

**\$7.00 - \$15.00
SLIDING SCALE**

www.glasercenter.com

(707) 568-5381

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Room For Change?

Take Note of These New Facility-Use Policies

Our congregation is growing. And growing. Every day, many of you are finding new ways to make yourselves a regular part of UUCSR life through committee work, TIE groups, volunteering and other fun things. Some of you are even discovering ways to bring together your congregation lives and your various passions out in the wider community. The result is more and more requests for use of rooms at the Glaser Center. As one of the folks responsible for scheduling community and congregational use of the building, I've seen this evolution firsthand—and been part of the process of developing new procedures as demand for room space grows. This is an exciting time for us, and these new changes will allow us to grow and adapt with maximum clarity, shared responsibility and ease.

POSTED "SCHEDULE PAGES" ON ALL ROOMS

Starting in late March, we began posting "schedule pages" outside of each room. Each page lists the date (please look closely to make sure the page has been changed) and indicates each of the meetings and events scheduled to take place in that room that day. The time of each event is also listed, so please take note if there is someone scheduled to use your room immediately after you, and make way for the new arrivals with the same courtesy they will certainly show toward you. If, as your event or meeting is coming to a close, you would like to have a friendly conversation with someone from your group, please take it out to the social hall or lobby so that the incoming group has time to set up. By posting these schedules on each room, it will be easier to identify the room your meeting will take place in, and reduce the confusion that sometimes happens when a group ends up in the wrong room.

EQUIPMENT REQUESTS

Our projector, television, DVD player, and laptop are, as always, available for your in-house use. Since these items are in increasing demand, however, you must make a reservation. Use of this equipment will be offered on

a first-come, first-served basis. Please know that some regular room-users have standing requests for some of these items on a monthly or weekly basis. There is a book located on the television cart, in which you can check to see if an item is available, and can schedule your request.

ROOM REQUESTS

We've gotten away from using our old "Room Reservation Request" forms. Starting this week, we are returning to the idea of having a form filled out for each new request for use of a room. Primarily, this is so we can help make each event run smoothly, identifying such things as conflicting needs for specific items—tablecloths, chalices, tables, chairs, movie screens, etc. These forms are available in the Congregation office. Janis (our Administrator) or I can fill the form out "over the phone," should you not be available to come into the office.

"SPONSORED" EVENTS

Our Facility Use Policies allow for the occasional "sponsoring" of an outside group or event. For example, some church committees and groups often ask if an outside group might meet here, or have a public event here, under the sponsorship of that group. One advantage of sponsorship (for the sponsoree), is that they are not required to pay rent. This is fair and good, when such events are truly representative of the sponsoring committees' values, and not merely a way for friends and colleagues to be granted free space. With capacity issues constantly being weighed, this is a very important distinction. According to our original Facility Use Policies, sponsorship must mean actual hands-on involvement of the committee. Members of the sponsoring committee must be present for the events or meetings, and must take responsibility for that event, including security and set-up.

Cont. on page 11

Facility Use Policies Cont.

Cont. from page 10

REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS

Sometimes a UUCSR group wants to hold an event that will be open to the public, or (as described above) wishes to sponsor such an event with another organization. Beginning in early March, we've implemented a new policy regarding public events. Because these events often involve significant set-up, food service, security issues, or use of microphones and other equipment, there must now be a paid events staff-person on site to open, close, take care of set-up as needed, and keep things safe. The cost of this staff person is \$20 per

hour, to be paid either by the sponsoring committee or a member or members thereof, the co-sponsoring non-UUCSR group, or through a collection taken during the event.

Thanks to everyone for their help, cooperation and suggestions as we continue together to expand and improve our facility use policies. Together we will further our goals of making this building a major part of our ministry to the local community and the wider world.

Thanks so much,
David Templeton

Advocates for Social Justice

Hot Topics

Issues Facing Immigrants in Our Community

On Sunday, April 4th, from 12:30 to 2 pm, Davin Cardenas, a dynamic activist in the Latino community, outreach worker with the Graton Labor Center and community organizer for national immigration reform, will describe some of the issues confronting his community, documented and undocumented alike. These include racial profiling in DUI stops, breaking up families through unnecessary (and sometimes unconstitutional) arrests and detentions, the growing movement for comprehensive reform of our immigration laws, and how we can help to protect the rights and human dignity of our friends, neighbors, and colleagues. "This is a controversial issue and there will be time for your ques-

tions and discussion." We will meet in the Board Room where there will be a light lunch, donations gratefully accepted.

Share the Basket

On Sunday, April 4th, one half of the money in the collection will go to The Women's Justice Center, an organization that assists Latina survivors of rape and domestic violence. The Center has put out an SOS for funds for their newest bilingual guide, *An Activist's Guide to Improving the Justice System's Response to Violence Against Women*. The guide is already written but money is needed to pay for translating it into Spanish and for web production. So when the basket comes your way, please be as generous as you can to help educate people on what needs to be done and how to do it!

Pacific Central District of the Unitarian Universalist Association's

District Assembly 2010

April 30 - May 2, 2010

Newark / Fremont Hilton, Fremont, CA

Join 400 Vibrant & Vital Unitarian Universalists

for a weekend of laughing, learning, networking and worship.



Planned events include:

- Banner Parade and Opening Celebration
- Keynote Breakfast with the Rev. Stefan Jonasson, Director for Large Congregations, UUA
- Banquet Dinner with our Featured Presenter: Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor,

Director for the Center of the Study of Religious Freedom

- Workshops for everyone • YRUU Worship • 5 levels of Child & Youth Programming •
- PCD Annual Meeting • PCD Bookstore • Old friendships • New faces
- Engaging conversations and Discoveries and More!

A Taste of Oakmont

Hello UUCSR and FRIENDS,
I wanted to let you know of a wonderful fun opportunity...A not to be missed event! UUCSR's first annual

A TASTE OF OAKMONT

May 23rd, Sunday from 4-7or 7:30 pm.

This event, hosted by families of the UUCSR Oakmonters, will be a fun, social, culinary, and a roving experience for all. Here is how it works. Five of the homes will serve a small plate of their favorite culinary experience and a glass of local wine or other drinkable concoction. After a bit of socializing each participant then moves to new host (ess) home for a new culinary experience. At each new home you will try something different, while also mixing with the random social characters of UUCSR and friends. At the end, all participants and the hosts (esses) will meet at the Oakmont Berger Center for dessert, coffee, and other libations to top off a wonderful experience. All homes are located within a few miles of each other.

Don't miss the fun. The first annual Taste of Oakmont was presented at our Annual Auction Extravaganza.

The hosts of this event have agreed to allow a few more guests to participate, for those who missed signing up at the auction. Donations to the UUCSR fund raising service auction of \$30 and be willing to have a good time are all you need for a reservation. Tickets will be out soon! So please sign up by emailing or calling Kirsten Olney 542-4694 or olney@computer.org. Please leave a message. (If you already signed up at the service auction you are still IN).

This event was recommended by our sister and brother Congregation in Walnut Creek and has been a big hit there for many years. Don't miss the fun and help us start OUR annual tradition.

Hosted by:

Tom Bond and Laura Jean Hageman
Sally Fife and John Dumbrill
Art Rosenblum and Maureen Rumford
Pat Warner
Bonnie Daines and Bob Boone
Marge Ottman at the Berger Center



Women Together

Annual Retreat

May is fast approaching and the sign-ups for our **19th Annual Women's Retreat** will begin on Sunday, April 4th. Mark your calendars, **May 14-16, Saint Dorothy's Rest**. This year our theme is **Women and Power**. There will be a variety of workshops, singing, games, great meals, (which we do nothing about but enjoy!), a silent auction, a Sunday Service we create, and the company of the finest, funnest women ever collected in one place! There will also be plenty of opportunities for quiet conversations, and just relaxing in the beautiful hillside setting. Look for the Women Together table in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the RE Wing between services and after the 11:00 service. Bring the Registration form from last month's Newsletter or pick one up at our table. Our policy is that on the first two Sundays, April 4th and 11th, only members and pledging friends may register. On the following two Sundays,

April 18th and 25th, family members and friends may also register if there is room. The cost is the same as last year, \$155, and again, partial scholarships are available. Your check guarantees your place. Our Retreats have proven to be a wonderful way to deepen old friendships and make new ones. New(er) members are particularly urged to come!

Elder Tales

How many winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor do you know? Come and meet one on **Saturday, April 17th** from 2 to 4 pm when **Floss Wheeler** will tell us about her many-faceted life up to and including her honoring by the President last month in Washington, D.C. as one of the women who flew airplanes in World War II! We'll meet in the Board Room and please bring finger-food to share.

Wine Country Holiday

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses."

Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce a new season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3

nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for similar services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilson-s1dog@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

What We Make of It Cont.

Cont. from Page 2

Ethical Eating Study/Action Issue. The Commission on Social Witness is that arm of the UUA that helps us determine our collective position on the moral and social issues of the day. Our denomination is currently looking very deeply at food and environmental justice. Look for a workshop after the service on April 25th.

I could go on and on, although it isn't the number of things happening here that is so moving to me, it's the spirit behind them. The Advocates for Social Justice with their "Hot Topics", the "Aging with Grace" class that is bringing our elders together, the Youth Group, the Seventh Principle Working Group, the Diversity Task Force, our prayer group and meditation groups and TIE groups, our Arts & Culture Ministry. What good work speaks to your soul? Come and make it happen with us!

SAVE THE DATE

May 8th

Congregational Party

Come celebrate our community!

EVERYBODY IS INVITED!!!

4:45 - 5:30

Pre-event Reception for APD Canvassers and Captains

5:30 - 6:45

The Main Event (drinks and appetizers)

Summary of February Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2010

Present: Andrew Hidas, Ann Chambers, Bob Barrows, Bonnie Daines, Craig Work, Denese Pender, Karen Lillard, Lois Nagle, Mary Louise Jaffray, Phyllis Heagney, Rev. Chris Bell, Janet Murphy (recording secretary)

Guests: Lillian Reid, Rose St. John

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. At check-in, board members reflected on the question: "Can you remember when you first began to 'wake up' to the magnificence and mystery of things? When you first began to realize, 'Oh, my my my...' And when gratitude for that began to kick in?"

Review of Minutes from January 21: Approved as read.

Open Mike (Member Notes): Rose St. John of the Financial Stewardship Council presented Board members with written guidelines for the terms and conditions of a member notes program to pay down the mortgage. She asked Board members to read the guidelines and offer any suggestions they may have. She reported that the Financial Stewardship Council had voted unanimously to accept the conditions. The Board committed to reading the text in the next two weeks, with any clarifications/concerns to be reviewed at the March meeting.

Memorial Garden: Bob Barrows moved and Karen Lillard seconded that the Memorial Garden Policies be accepted as proposed by the committee. Unanimously approved. No abstentions. There will be a dedication of the Memorial Garden after services on February 28th.

Treasurer's Report: Bonnie Daines distributed a report on general data regarding UUCSR Pledging. There was discussion regarding the statistics that 20 percent of members give half the pledge total. There was some question about how the statistics added up. Bonnie reported that the way reserves currently stand we can continue for another year without serious repercussions.

Pledge Drive and Building Reserve Report: There was much discussion on the Board's primary goal of establishing a \$100,000 reserve fund for emergencies. A question emerged on whether it should be specified as a Building Reserve Fund or a more general Emergency Fund, since some emergencies (such as the property tax payment last year) do not involve the physical building. There was also discussion on the need for a plan to replace emergency funds as they are used. There was further discussion on restricted funds versus reserve funds. Denese Pender moved and Bob Barrows seconded that the Board's goal of raising \$100,000 should be dedicated to an Emergency Reserve Fund. The funds to be distributed based on a 2/3 majority vote of the Board. There was unanimous approval. No abstentions.

North Bay Sponsoring Committee: Mary Louise distributed a flyer announcing a leadership gathering on Tuesday, March 2, from 7:00-8:45 p.m. at UUCSR. The goal is to have 50 UUs present.

Rev. Chris's Evaluation Update: Andrew reported that the review process is coming to a conclusion and that he and Mary Louise are scheduled to meet with Chris and representatives from the Committee on Shared Ministry, Elizabeth Marrs and Nancy Hargis, to review the final evaluations before they go to UUA.

Cont. on pg 15

February Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Cont.

Goal Budget Review: Accounting Committee Chair Lillian Reid reported on the budget process. She said all council budgets have been handed in with the exception of the Glaser Center. After all budgets are in, they will be compiled into a spreadsheet. Expenses will be added up and that number will be the budget goal for the Canvass Committee. The goal budget will be presented at the congregational meeting. The Accounting Committee and Finance Council will review the budget and make suggestions for cuts if needed. The Board will review once this process is finished, and will vote on the final budget.

Congregational Meeting Planning & Assignments: Various tasks for conducting the congregational meeting were discussed, and volunteers were solicited and assigned.

Goals Update and Review: Reference was made to the ongoing work of the Emergency Reserve Fund. Craig Work has reviewed the bylaws and will be giving a report in March. Mary Wolfe and Mary Louise had a meeting regarding DA/GA preparations in April. Karen is planning an Awards Presentation for Volunteers on March 14th. Lois reported that the Caring Committee had handed out forms to the entire congregation asking what each individual member could do to help out. Karen reported that the Membership Council has expressed interest in leadership training. Mary Louise reported that the Advocates for Social Justice have updated their charter.

HR Committee: The HR Committee has requested a Board Liaison. The committee meets every month but does not anticipate needing a Board member there for every meeting, just when certain issues come up for review. Andrew is consulting with HR's Laura Jean Hageman on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

WANTED: Board Recording Secretary

The UUCSR Board of Trustees is in need of a recording secretary. The position requires the ability to attend to the conversation at monthly Board meetings and tri-annual Congregational meetings, and distill the material into official minutes in a word processing program. This

is a wonderful way to be drawn closer into the life of your congregation and make a significant contribution to its historical record. Interested? Open to being drafted? Contact either Rev. Chris or Board President Andrew Hidas for more information.

Aging With Grace

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Facilitated by Rev. Chris Bell and you

There are 8 sessions scheduled, but the group may continue beyond that.

This group offers:

Support and discussion with other elders.

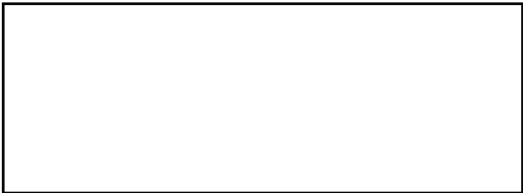
Spiritual and practical resources for facing such challenges of aging as disability, loss of independence, and the Immanence of death.

A different vision of being older based on Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book From Age-ing to Sage-ing. Participants are urged to purchase a copy as soon as possible.

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

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



April 2010

Please Recycle

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
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

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

Krissy McWhorter
Jeremy Cummings