



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• June 2010 • Volume 54 • Issue 6 •

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

### June 6th

#### ON WORSHIP

Service Leader: Rev. Christopher Bell

Worship Associate: Heather Lawton

It could have been another one of our "Wounded Words." For many, it evokes connotations of submissive obedience, or the demand of a jealous, unreasonable old deity. But the original meaning of worship is simply to give worth to. Emerson said that "A person will worship something." People need centering principles, and yearn to serve and relate to something larger than themselves. In a culture that constantly gives worth to limited or even destructive things - celebrity, wealth, fame, power over others - it remains the duty of religion to name and serve only those things that are of maximum value for ourselves and the world. It is also our duty to invite as many people into that awareness as need it. Come learn more!

### June 13th

#### YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Service Leader: Rev. Christopher Bell

Worship Associate: Joe Como

There is one thing that spiritual practice, interpersonal relationships, the democratic process, community organizing, play, gainful employment, mediation and reconciliation, shared ministry, lovemaking, and membership in a religious community all have in common. As the sign at the casino says, "You must be present to win." You have to show up. YOU have to step forward into the moment. You have to give of yourself. Sure, it's work. But the reward of offering the gift of your self to others is astonishingly good.

### June 20th

#### FIRST SUMMER SERVICE (10:00AM ONLY)

Service Leader: Vicky Combs

Worship Associate: Scott Miller

Since May 2009, UU Vicky Combs has been practicing a form of conscious dance called Biodanza, subtitled "the poetry of human encounter." Biodanza ("Dance of Life" in Spanish) is a system of personal growth that uses music and nature. After the service, all are invited to experience this spiritual practice that has become such a source of joy and personal healing for Vicky and thousands of others around the world. Dress in comfortable clothes!

### June 27th—10:00am

#### WHOSE ARE WE?

Service Leader: Rev. Christopher Bell

Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

From June 20-22, just before Ministry Days and our General Assembly of UU Congregations take place, I [Rev. Chris] will be attending a training in Minneapolis sponsored by our national UU Minister's Association. Two ministers from each district have been chosen from a pool of applicants to learn a method of structured theological conversation around the theme "Whose are we?" We have promised to offer this opportunity to our colleagues, and other leaders, in the district, for the spiritual welfare of our movement. Today I'll present the question to you.

### 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



## House of Memory and Hope



In Reading 435 from *Singing the Living Tradition*, Rev. Kathleen McTigue calls a UU congregation a "house of memory and hope." The very next reading, by Rev. David Pohl, also uses the same phrase. "We come to this time and place," he writes, "to rekindle the flame of memory and hope."

We speak a lot here about staying in the present moment, accepting what is, and working with our actual lives. This common phrase, "memory and hope," reminds us that our lives do - must - relate to the past and the future as well. This is true of our congregation, too.

We kindle the flame of memory by looking to the past for its wisdom and lessons. Recalling that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it, we look at what our ancestors, ancient and recent, held on to and preserved and fought for. We look backward to find instances of courage and perseverance and faith in difficult times, strengthening our own resolve. When our greatest figures - Murray, Channing, Emerson, Fuller, Parker, Thoreau, Brown, Anthony, Greeley- inspire us by their example, we are a house of memory.

Yet, many UUs are uncomfortable with, or ignorant of, the memory of our centuries-long Christian formation. I do not identify myself as a Christian (I prefer Open-Minded Pragmatic Naturalist Theistic Sufi Zen Buddhist UU Seeker, if you must label me...), although I dig Jesus and the Bible. So, I find it ironic to so frequently have to defend the Christian tradition within Unitarian Universalism.

A gentleman approached me on Sunday to decry an article by a "right-wing Christian" in the just-issued *UU World*. That article was written by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, a UU minister jointly ordained by the Methodists, who is the President of our Berkeley seminary, the Starr King School for the Ministry.

Parker does indeed use a healthy amount of Christian language in her piece, entitled "We are already in paradise", from her forthcoming book *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, written with former UUA president Rev. John Buehrens. However, I think describing her perspective as "right-wing" is disturbingly off the mark. Worse was the declaration that "We have to protect the movement from these people."

With what? A putsch? A creedal test? Shame?

"Well, there have always been, and still are, UU Christians," I said. "Yes, whom we only grudgingly tolerate," he replied. Ouch.

Memory has failed, friends, because Christians gave us Unitarian Universalism. It was liberal Christians, within liberal Christian churches, who kept finding the answer to the question of "how inclusive shall we be?" to be "as inclusive as possible." *Because of their Christianity itself*, they stretched to be inclusive of doubt, inclusive of questioning the veracity of the Bible, inclusive of the scientific world-view, inclusive of humanism, inclusive of other traditions, inclusive even of atheism, as long as any of these came with love, memory, and hope.

From one point of view, "we", the non-Christian UUs, stole their denomination and gave them the boot, so much that the UU Christian Fellowship had to be established in 1945 in order to protect the Christian perspective within our movement. We were happy to have the buildings and the polity and the ministers and the Sunday services. Were we really going to throw the memory of everything about Christianity - including hospitals, schools, the social gospel, charity, selflessness - right out the window in a reactionary move?

The answer for too many is *yes*. I've even had people try to tell me Martin Luther King, Jr. wasn't really religious, in order, I think, to find a way to still respect him. Too bad it is a false assertion. Maybe a deeper, more complex view of his deeper, more complex Christianity would help there, too.

Make no mistake, as Pres. Obama would say! My hope is that we are building something much larger and more inclusive than "mere Christianity" here. We want our umbrella as broad as possible. That's why we call it a congregation and not a church. I don't think Jesus, or any other part of Christianity (with the exception of "love your neighbors and your enemies") is *necessary* for realizing your natural freedom and goodness, but he and it can certainly be useful for it. I don't care how you come to live the Principles and be rooted in love, just that you do. Each of our Sources, rooted in the past, facing the future, found in the present, invites our memory and hope. Authentic Christian Unitarian Universalism - as loving and inclusive as any faith expression can be - certainly works, and better than cynicism or fear or apathy or ignorance or materialism, as far as I can tell.

Well, I'm out of space, so I'll take up hope another day. For now, let me just say, I'm all for it!

*Cont. on page 4*

## I Sing the Congregation Electric

*I have perceived that to be with those I like is enough,  
To stop at company with the rest at evening is enough,  
To be surrounded by beautiful, curious, breathing,  
laughing flesh is enough,  
To pass among them or touch any one, or rest my arm  
ever so lightly round his or her neck for a moment,  
what is this then?  
I do not ask for any more delight, I swim in it as in a  
sea.*

—Walt Whitman

When you're poring over spreadsheets in the heat of budget season (a kind of art unto itself, I have come to learn from spreadsheet maven and accounting chairperson Lillian Reid), it can be difficult to conjure Walt Whitman and his celebration of all things earthy, human and true. Brow furrowed, shoulders hunched, lacking only the proverbial green eyeshade, one is put more in mind of a junior accountant at Ernst & Young than of America's Bard. But budget-making can have a curious effect on the makers of church budgets, who are, after all, flesh-and-blood humans all too painfully aware that the numbers they're assessing and moving around on a computer screen or cheap piece of copy paper represent the plans, hopes and even the livelihoods of equally human fellow members.

That effect was quite pronounced last month when your UUCSR Board of Trustees started looking down the barrel of a \$72,000-and-change disparity between initial budget requests and the projected income to pay for them. I'm pleased to report that our deliberations involved neither panic nor avoidance, though an occasional moment of quiet despair managed to poke its head into the proceedings merely to remind everyone in the room yet again to pay very, very close heed.

We had good fortune on our side, however, in our committed fellowship and care for each other, and our knowledge that we were there truly as stand-ins for the congregation, lucky to with "*others we like... surrounded by beautiful, curious, breathing laughing flesh*" that represented the very best of this beautiful religious community.

So please allow me a brief shout-out here to my beloved fellow Board members whose good faith, good sense, good cheer and courage have been ever on display through a challenging, invigorating year. We are a better and healthier congregation for their efforts, and the sense of shared mission and respect for each other that they have displayed has been an inspiration and joy to me personally.

I don't know many people who revel in the actual

process of budget-making. Such a dry, adult activity it is, far removed from the primal impulses of yearning, communion and connection that drive us to seek out religious community. Down there where our native joy seeks dance partners of its own ilk, we don't know nor care from budgets; we just want freedom, in never-ending abundance, without regard for costs. Budgets are just so...constraining!

I can't remember when I first came across the proposition that if you want to know what you really value in life, simply get a dollar bill and a clock in front of yourself, and then begin to note what portions of your income and time go to what purposes. There's no hiding from the truths this analysis reveals. When the Board came to some very difficult portions of our budget deliberations over these past weeks, we began to put our own truest values—and our reading of the congregation's truest values—to a similar test. Which of these items staring at us is truly important in a challenging time? And if it is, how does it stack up against other items the congregation has deemed important as well? To take this completely out of the abstract: if it comes to where the only way to achieve a balanced budget is to choose between cutting employees or cutting UUA/PCD dues (to our national and district governing bodies), what would your vote be? This was a question we went around the table with at a recent Board meeting. It was not fun, but it felt necessary at the time. (I'd so much rather field a question about my favorite poet.) (Whitman, at least today...)

The informal survey revealed unanimous support, by the way, for retaining employees before paying dues or fixing bathroom counters. Keeping the congregational family intact turned out to be the Board's highest value. I suspect it's safe to assume the congregation feels the same way.

As it turned out, with plentiful input from various council chairs and accounting committee members with whom we tugged, poked, pulled and prodded on countless line items, we managed to create a budget that retained employees, avoided salary/benefit cuts, and has a plan for how we are going to raise the required funds for UUA/PCD dues. If you'd like details and discussion, please do come to the June 13 congregational meeting. No need to bring green eyeshades, but if you'd care to tote some favorite Whitman passages in your back pocket or purse that you'd like to share, I'd be grateful.

—Andrew Hidas  
President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

## Treasurer's Report

As it happens, crunch time is definitely upon us, as there has been an awful lot of number-crunching going on throughout various UUCSR meetings lately. The annual canvass has been a success, in that we have raised about 6% more in pledges than we did last year. (Quite an accomplishment in these hard times!) And the huge job of balancing the budget is, as of this writing, finally almost accomplished. (Give us another meeting or two in the next couple weeks). You may ask why it was so tough this year, given the fact that pledges have not only held ground but increased slightly over last year? There are several reasons for this, and to name a few: you may recall that the congregation voted to pass a deficit budget last year of around \$14,000. Your Board of Trustees is determined to submit a balanced budget this year. In addition, we did add \$5,000 to the building budget - because there are problems we know about that will definitely need to be taken care of soon, and so they need to be budgeted for. Also, fund-raising income was adjusted down somewhat, to more accurately reflect our expected revenue over the next fiscal year. But everything is still fluid right now; there may be additional changes before the final budget is presented at the June congregational meeting.

At the May meeting of the Accounting Committee, the April financials were reviewed and found to be satisfactory; it seems that we are holding steady, despite our infamous plumbing problem earlier in the year. Even with that setback, the financials clearly show that

other committees have been cutting back on their spending, or possibly delaying or postponing expenses until later. (Wow.. talk about a community coming together - ain't we something??) Because of the strain the plumbing problem put on our budget (ie, forced us to spend operating funds that were not budgeted for) - it was decided that we skip the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter PCD/UUA dues payments for now. We will review the numbers again near the end of the fiscal year, to see if the final 2 quarterly payments can be made given our available operating cash at that time.

So in the coming weeks, when you see any of the accounting-type folks, you might want to give them a pat on the back and thank them for their hard work in bringing all these numbers together for our new (fiscal) year. There have been many times lately that I have wondered, what in the WORLD did we do before Fine Stew?? Their meetings are always jam-packed with agenda items, many of which are multi-faceted and complex as can be.. yet they continue to shine forth in their tireless efforts. Hats off to all of you, you grand financial stewards of our beloved congregation. And also to the Accounting Committee and the Annual Budget Drive Committee, who have worked so hard to make our budget process such a success. See you at the June Congregational meeting, when the final masterpiece will be revealed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denese Pender

## House of Memory and Hope Cont.

*Cont. from page 2*

Finally, as we move toward summer, I recall Jack Torrence, caretaker of the Overlook Hotel in *The Shining*, endlessly typing "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Not just dull, but crazy! So, once again I'd like to strongly urge every committee and working group to take the month of July off. Get some good work done in June and look ahead to next year, but as long as we're doing this "summer slowdown" thing, we might as well ALL do it and make it a real vacation. But come to worship, please!

In July, Rita and I will visit Cleveland for our 25th high school reunions. We intend to be gone the entire month of July, seeing Yellowstone, the Badlands, and Wrigley Field along the way back and forth. I'll be back in town on August 1, and I'm already looking forward to another year of memory and hope with you. Peace and a Happy Summer to all.

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

Summer is almost here! (Where does the time go?) The Religious Education summer program is shaping up to be a lot of fun. Each Sunday session will be based on a story/wisdom tale/myth and followed by an activity/game/arts or crafts project related to its theme. Teaching through story has great power. Most of us have an easier time remembering and integrating taught material when it is couched in an interesting story. I have chosen stories that will be compelling to all ages of children.

Here are some examples of Summer Program sessions:

A myth about the creation of the sun and moon will be told on the eve of the summer solstice (June 20) and the children will make sunflower hats.

On the theme of overcoming adversity and perseverance, the story of Wilma Rudolph will be told, followed by an active cooperative game.

We will have a session on art and inspiration with a story about Vincent Van Gogh and our resident RE artist, Leeann Lidz, will teach the children *Van Gogh* painting techniques.

The theme of simplicity and priorities will be taught through a story about Henry David Thoreau and will be followed by a walk to the Santa Rosa Creek - a journey from the bustling city into the quiet of nature.

The summer program begins on June 20 when the congregation will go to one service at 10:00 am. Youth group will be taking a summer hiatus. Our final meeting of this church year will be on June 3 and we will come back together on Thursday August 19.

In Faith,  
Deborah

### What's Happening In RE This Month:

Youth Group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 4-6pm.

May 8: Youth Group will walk the Human Race

| Date | Theme  | Teachers                                       |
|------|--|--|
| 6/6  | Preparing for the performance of <i>The Sissy Duckling</i> | Kitty Wells<br>Deborah Mason                   |
| 6/13 | Beginning of Summer Celebration                            | Deborah Mason and Others                       |
| 6/20 | <b>10:00 am schedule begins</b><br>Summer Solstice         | Joy Lonnes<br>Robyn Hidas<br>Elizabeth Wheless |
| 6/27 | Simplicity, Thoreau<br>walk to S.R. Creek                  | Deborah Mason<br>Mindy Graham                  |

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, June 10 at 7:00 pm at 547 Mendocino. This meeting will be our annual finger food potluck. Everyone brings a snack or drink to share with the group and we select books to

read for next year, so bring your suggestions. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Judy Taylor

## Musical Notes for May

### Musical Highlights for June

*June 6:* Do you know the song "Spirit of Life"? I bet you do! How would you like to hear it with fresh ears? We'll hear a version of this venerable UU musical staple that puts a new frame on the tune, giving it new wings to "set you free". Back in the 16th century, it was very common practice to write music that incorporated a well-known tune. Sometimes the tune was at the forefront, sometimes it was subtly woven into the music like a hidden message. We're going to hear a 16th-century approach to our own "Spirit of Life" this day.

*June 13:* The choir wraps up its performance season with their rendering of the Vier Quarttete, op. 92 by Johannes Brahms. These four songs are heart-felt paeans to nature by some of the greatest German poets in history. But the last song of the set is actually a song about how great songs are! Perhaps this is like the kettle rejoicing in its own blackness, but it resonates with so many, this sense that song is somehow able to coax us into moods and thoughts as if we could not control ourselves for the beauty of it. This music by Brahms is our choir's big offering for the season! Let the song move you!

### Interested in joining the UUCSR Choir next season?!?!

Of course you are! 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 (after services, by phone or email) 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 and love getting to know new people!

Rehearsals starting in September!

### Play music during the Summer!

Want to let your solo star shine, or get into the band? We're in need of music during the summer months. Talk to Susan Panttaja about getting into the act! And besides solo musical acts, 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 get 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



## All Congregation Retreat!!



It's time to register for the All-Congregation Retreat! It will take place at beautiful camp Valley of the Moon in Glen Ellen from July 16-18. See the full-page registration form in this Newsletter - and note that there are TWO forms: one for a regular (weekend) registration, and one to register for

DAY USE ONLY. On the Sundays from June 13<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>, a table will be set up in the social hall for sign-ups. You may fill out this form and bring it to any of these services, or else mail it to Pat Wilson at 465 Boas Dr, Santa Rosa, 95409-3616. Or visit the Retreat table on any of these Sundays, where forms will be available. If you have any questions about DAY USE - please stop by the table and we'll be more than happy to answer your questions.

## Hiking/Walking Group

If you would be interested in participating in hikes, walks or nature walks around the Santa Rosa area, there is interest in re-establishing a group at UUCSR to facilitate organizing the events. We are in the initial stages of planning the first outing which will perhaps also allow us to discuss and establish some guidelines for the group's ongoing activities. Our aim is to accommodate everyone who is interested, you need not be athletic to participate; if you do desire challenging

hikes, our group, if large enough, could provide a selection of difficulty levels to choose from in the future. This perfect spring-like weather will not last forever so we would like to start soon. If you are interested, please respond to the email address below or call Peter Wilson at 707-695-3208. Please send your responses and/or contact information to the following email address: [ferns@sonic.net](mailto:ferns@sonic.net)



## Women Together



**Retreat** - Last month the largest number of UUCSR women we've ever had enjoyed a wonderful weekend at lovely St. Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker! Despite the sometimes elevated noise level and bunk-bed sleeping for some, we had an outstanding time getting to know one another more deeply and making new friends!

**Pot-Luck-Lunch** - to celebrate the coming of summer, all are invited to a pot-luck lunch at UUCSR on June 26<sup>TH</sup> from noon to 2 pm. There will be fun activities and time to relax and chat, plus the amazing array of delicious food that we all bring. Feel free to invite friends! Please bring a lunch dish to share.

## UUCSR Writers

**UUCSR Writers** will meet from 4 - 6 pm in the "Green Room" on **Monday, June 7, 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](mailto: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.

### UUCSR Writers August, Monday Editing Study Group

"Editing Your Sentences" Grammar and Punctuation Study Group. Save the following Monday evenings in August if you are interested in editing a "work in progress" word by word, sentence by sentence. Details to be announced in the July UU Update Newsletter.

**Note:** This is a UUCSR Writers Community Outreach Project. It is free and open to the general public.

Four Mondays in August, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Monday, August 2, Forum Room, Sonoma County Central Library, 3rd and E Streets, Santa Rosa

Monday, August 9, Board Room, UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

Monday, August 16, Forum Room, Rincon Valley Regional Library, 6959 Montecito Blvd. Santa Rosa

Monday, August 23, Board Room UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

Georgette G. deBlois  
[GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com)

## "Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action"

You are invited by the 7th Principle Working Group to participate in a screening of the award winning documentary, "Fierce Light," June 10, 2010 at 6:00 PM. Please join us for this 90 minute film featuring the wisdom of Desmond Tutu, Alice Walker, Daryl Hannah, Thich Nhat Hanh and others in the quest for a fusion between spirituality and activism. After the film we'll discuss its relevance to our 7th Principle: the respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. (We'll provide popcorn, you can bring a "brown bag" snack.)

The 7th PWG is planning a number of short and long term projects to create a more environmentally sustainable church and community. We welcome your ideas and participation toward accomplishing this goal. We greatly appreciate your suggestions and other input. Join us in a project that that especially resonates for you!

For more information please contact Susan Bartholome at 887-9810, [bartlev@sonic.net](mailto:bartlev@sonic.net)



## Advocates for Social Justice

### Adrienne Swenson Award

Adrienne Swenson was a long-time member of UUCSR and inspired our community as a lifelong and effective activist for peace and justice. Each year UUCSR gives a \$500 award to a young person who has demonstrated a serious commitment to social justice work. This year the Advocates for Social Justice decided to present the award to a college-bound High School senior recognized by her/his teachers and counselors as meeting that standard. On May 18th, at 9 am, the student was announced at the Elsie Allen High School Senior Awards Program. Reverend Chris and members of the Advocates for Social Justice were there to present the award to the winner. We will invite that young person to a service shortly to receive our Adrienne Swenson Award certificate.

### Share the Basket

On June 6th, half of the non-pledge money from the Offertory will go to support our Saturday Breakfast program. Due to the economy, not to mention the quality of our food and servers, we have over 200 guests every Saturday! When the basket comes to you, please

be as generous as you can to those in need of food and community. Thank you!

### Family Support Center

We have over 30 volunteers so far! We started our Friday Family Fun Night was May 21st. Tutoring and other opportunities are in the works. For more information, and to volunteer, come to the Advocates for Social Justice table in the Social Hall.

### New Bulletin Board

Check out our new, roving bulletin board in the Foyer or Social Hall! It has all the news of Social Justice events in our community. If there is something you'd like to post, please put it in the A4SJ mailbox in the outer office.

### Congregational Lunch

On Sunday, June 13th, the Advocates will be selling a bag lunch right after the 11 am service before the Congregational Meeting for \$5 or more. The proceeds will go to the UU Service Committee to support their effort in the Gulf of Mexico. They are focusing on assuring that BP pays the full cost of the clean-up, rescuing and cleaning injured wildlife, and assisting those who have lost their livelihood due to the disaster.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2010**

**[Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)**

**E-mail submissions  
Greatly Appreciated!**



*Twisted Events and The Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation, Santa Rosa Presents*



Featuring  
Keith Baker  
Eric Burke  
Dodds Delzell



# Till My Tale is Told and Done



Tim Kniiffin  
Allison Marcom  
Mark Bradbury

*The Lyrics of  
the Grateful Dead  
performed live as spoken  
word by the actors of the  
North Bay*

John Moran  
Neil Thollander  
David Templeton

Music by  
Billie Sue  
Fischer  
& Nancy  
Hayashibara

**Friday, July 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**The Glaser Center**  
547 Mendocino Ave.

*\$12 in advance, \$18 at the door*

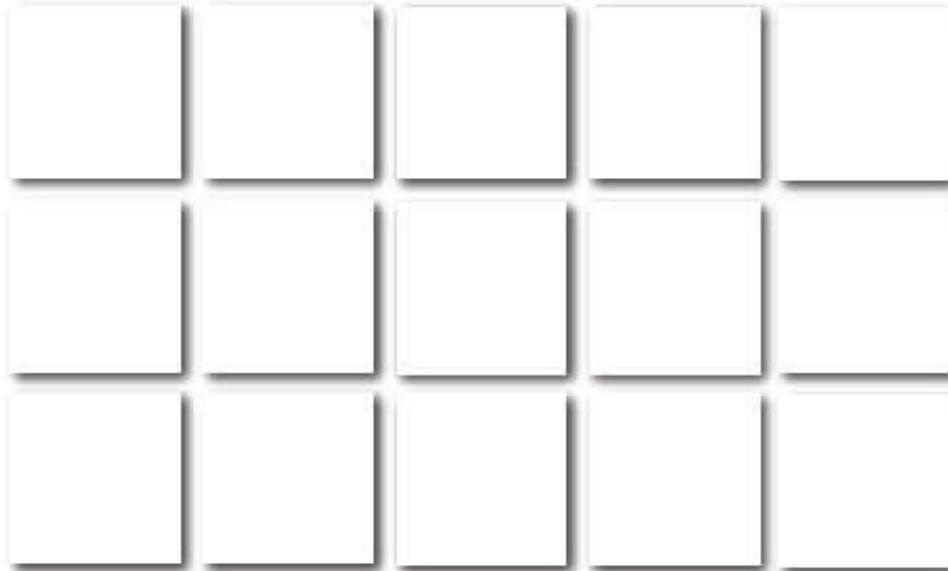


Tix available at Copperfields Book Stores  
and The Last Record Store  
or on [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

*Till My Tale is Told and Done is a benefit for The Living Room and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

*Twisted Events & The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa present*

# THE BEATLES' THE WHITE ALBUM *LIVE*



**SATURDAY, JULY 3, 7:30 p.m.**

A ONE-OF-A-KIND  
THEATRICAL EVENT.  
12 SENSATIONAL ACTORS  
PERFORM **THE BEATLES'** CLASSIC  
**WHITE ALBUM**. EVERY OUTRAGEOUS WORD,  
BROUGHT TO LIFE AS SPOKEN WORD & POETRY

|               |             |                |                 |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Keith Baker   | Tim Kniffin | Allison Marcom | Mark Bradbury   |
| Eric Burke    | Ben Stowe   | John Moran     | Neil Thollander |
| Dodds Delzell | David Lear  | Robin Pressman | And More        |

**The Glaser Center**  
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa  
[www.glasercenter.com](http://www.glasercenter.com)

**\$12 in Advance**  
**\$18 at the Door**  
Available at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)  
The Last Record Store and at all  
Sonoma County Copperfields Stores

## Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry is a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees. It oversees the general health of the congregation, supports the minister and provides conflict resolution. As of this month, Elizabeth Marrs is stepping down as committee chair, while remaining on the committee (thanks, Elizabeth, for your work as chair!). We are pleased to report that Cathy Read has been selected as the new chairperson.

During the past month we have been reviewing all the ideas and comments that were included on the backs of the pledge cards that each UUCSR member contributed during the pledge drive. The committee went over all your comments and compiled them into common categories. The results give us a lot of useful information about what UUCSR functions and activities are the most important to you, as a congregation. You were also asked what ideas you had for improvement, and whether you could assist with implementing those ideas. You gave us a lot of great ideas, and many of you volunteered to help implement some of those.

As a result of our review and analysis, we compiled a spreadsheet of all the answers to the pledge card questions, grouped as appropriate by categories. That spreadsheet (or a PDF version) will be available to committees and interested UUCSR members. We are expecting that each committee will gain some insight from this information.

Some highlights from your comments:

In the first question, which asked what are the most important activities/programs here at UUCSR, by far the largest number of positive responses were for:

- \* Saturday Breakfast (63)
- \* Sunday Services (58)
- \* TIE Group (56)

The second question, how we might improve UUCSR or further our ministry, inspired many good suggestions, on a wide variety of topics. They were sometimes difficult to categorize. When a number of members, even five or six, come up with the same ideas on a question like this, it clearly has some importance to the congregation. Some suggestions which were made six or more times:

- \* Increasing the growth of the congregation
- \* Better welcoming of new members
- \* Campus outreach
- \* Outreach to the Latino community
- \* Outreach to a variety of other groups (a common theme for us?)
- \* Better acoustics in the social hall
- \* More adult RE

We also put together a list of the people who volunteered, and we expect each of them will be contacted by someone from UUCSR in the near future. In the staff feedback section, Rev. Chris received a huge number of positive responses (so many we stopped counting) and all the staff received positive feedback. All that feedback, including any critical feedback, will be reviewed by the UUCSR staff.

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

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH**

**FOLLOWING THE 11:00AM SERVICE**

**IN THE RE WING**

**PLEASE COME JOIN US!!**

# The R.E. Players Present

## The Sissy Duckling



*A parable in which individuals succeed  
when they stay true to themselves*

**Adapted for the stage from the story by  
Harvey Fierstein**

**Starring UUCSR kids:**

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Braden Arnold</b> | <b>Roger DeBeers</b>  |
| <b>Chloe Farison</b> | <b>Dakota Hidas</b>   |
| <b>Celine Reilly</b> | <b>Maia Reilly</b>    |
| <b>Emily Sedeno</b>  | <b>James Skillman</b> |
| <b>Jesse Talley</b>  | <b>Rachel Wheless</b> |
| <b>Zoey Wilson</b>   |                       |

**Sunday, June 6, 2010  
1:30 p.m. at UUCSR**

*Admission is free!*

### Saturday Breakfast

We are so loved that our guests now number over 200 each Saturday. As you probably know, we serve a breakfast of scrambled eggs (usually 35 dozen), english muffins, waffles (260), quesadillas hot off the grill, a special pan of potatoes brought weekly from the home of Dan & Lillian Reid (Healdsburg), juice, coffee, milk, cold cereal, fruit, and at least 4 crock pots of hot oatmeal. Often our wonderful Food Bank Shopper Mac Freeman finds not only staples, but some "take-away" goodies for our guests. We have lots of wonderful volunteers (look for the knife, fork & spoon stickers on their name tags each Sunday). We have a team for each Saturday, and a substitute list. We are grateful to our wonderful dishwashers: David Hope and Eric Skagerberg, who alternate Saturdays (and might love

some help), and our "linen angel" Michelline Justman, who washes all the tablecloths and towels every Saturday. I feel so fortunate to chair this program, the brainchild of Sally Fife & John Dumbrill (probably Shirley Williams was also an inspiration, and others I'm sure). We are always delighted to have extra help. We arrive around 6:15 AM and serve food from 7-8:30 AM, then clean-up. The congeniality among the volunteers and the gratitude of the guests make this work pure pleasure. For more info or to join us: Call (me) Gretchen Vap, Chair: 568-3290, e-mail g-vap@att.net. There is a place for any number of ways to volunteer (scheduled, unscheduled, a whole shift or half) and as the program grows, more help is so appreciated.

## Summary of May Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

UUCSR Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Board President Andrew Hidas.

Members present: Andrew Hidas, Bob Barrows, Craig Work, Bonnie Daines, Mary Louise Jaffray, Ann Chambers, Denese Pender, Lois Nagle, Phyllis Heagney. Absent: Karen Lillard.

Chalice lighting and opening words from the hymnal #728 (Blessed Are Those) were by Reverend Chris Bell.

90-second check-in question: *What is the hardest decision you have ever made?* Discussion followed.

Minutes from April meeting were reviewed and stood as written with no changes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bonnie Daines and Denese Pender reported that the April financials are in about the same position as March's, with a similar cash flow situation. Owing to a continuing budget shortfall, the congregation did not pay 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter dues to the PCD/UUA.

**EMERGENCY FUND POLICY REPORT:** The Financial Stewardship Council is nearing completion of their review of the E-Fund Policy. An unresolved remaining point considers whether the fund should have a dollar cap. Resolution of that issue should be forthcoming very soon. Andrew will then circulate the final FineStew-endorsed policy to the Board, and assuming its unanimous approval, will then post it to the Focus and Announce Lists and the newsletter. He will also place it on the agenda for the June Congregational Meeting for review and approval.

**BYLAWS UPDATE/DISCUSSION:** Bylaw discussion pertained to the E-Fund policy and whether its adoption will require any changes to the bylaws. The Board agreed to consider any changes *after* the congregational meeting and to begin the management of the E-Fund based on the policy established. Mary Louise and Craig will finalize any necessary changes.

**BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:** Accounting Committee Chair Lillian Reid and the Board reviewed this year's proposed budget and its projected shortfall. She offered perspective on ways to proceed. What is clear is that with a projected gap of some \$70,000 between the goal budget and income, only careful examination and, most likely, reductions in the major budget items—the Building Fund, UUA/PCD dues, and Personnel—will yield the potential savings required to present a balanced budget to the congregation.

Several hours of discussion ensued, with an agreement to further dwell on and discuss options via the Board blog prior to the May 20 Board meeting, at which final budget deliberations will take place.

**MAY 20 MEETING AGENDA:** The BOT has agreed to attempt to finalize the budget in advance of the congregational meeting, rescheduled from June 6 to June 13, 2010 in order to avoid a number of conflicts with other congregational activities.

**CLOSING WORDS** by Chris Bell.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Next BOT meeting: Thursday, May 20, 6 p.m.

## Emergency Reserve Fund Policy

*The following proposed policy governing use of the Emergency Fund that was established over the past year has been unanimously endorsed by the UUCSR Board of Trustees and the Financial Stewardship Council. It will be presented for the congregation's consideration and approval at the June 13 Congregational Meeting, as required by Point 8 in the policy.*

Having established an Emergency Reserve Fundraising effort as its primary goal for the 2009-2010 church year, the UUCSR Board of Trustees sets in place the following policies and guidelines for the use and management of what will be referred to here as the "Fund" or "E-Fund":

1. The E-Fund will be utilized for Emergencies only, with "Emergency" defined by the following criteria:

- An unplanned, unpredictable, non-budgeted expense, immediately needed and vital for ongoing congregational operations. This means it *cannot* be used to cover a shortfall in the normal operating budget, to plan a new program, hire staff, raise salaries, or any other purpose that would fall under a normal budgeting process. Nor can it be used to fund items that would fall under the category of normal obsolescence such as an aged roof. (A useful distinction might be drawn here between a failing roof due to normal wear and an otherwise functional roof damaged as the result of a catastrophic natural event such as a severe windstorm. The former cannot make use of the Fund, the latter conceivably could, subject to fulfillment of other criteria as elaborated here. See point 7 below for more on this matter.)

2 . The Fund shall be utilized for specific emergencies as defined above only upon two-thirds majority vote by the UUCSR Board of Trustees. When the Board is made aware of an emergency by the relevant reporting body (e.g. Building Maintenance Committee/Operations Council when the emergency involves a building matter, etc.) that possibly fits E-Fund disbursal criteria, its President or Vice President shall immediately notify the Financial Stewardship Council and solicit input and consultation therefrom. Additionally, announcements of the emergency and consideration of disbursal shall be posted on the congregation's "Focus" and "Announce" electronic bulletin boards (or equivalent vehicle at the time) as soon as possible, with additional posting and announcement of any decision on the matter made in the next issue of the congregation's newsletter. Input will be invited and considered from all members of the congregation, though the nature of an emergency may preclude protracted deliberations.

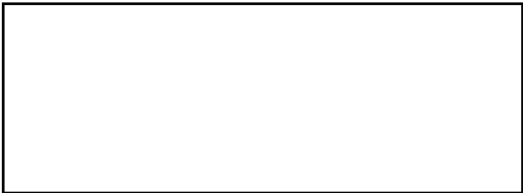
Upon accumulation of information regarding the emergency, the Board shall deliberate on the matter either in a specially called meeting or via email, with a "Reply All" format that records each member's vote. In the case of an email vote, cc notices shall be included to the Chairpersons of the Financial Stewardship Council, the Accounting Committee, and the relevant Council that reported the emergency. Each Board member's vote will also be noted for inclusion in the minutes at the next scheduled Board meeting. After a duly recorded Board vote to release funds for an emergency, funds will be withdrawn from the account only upon specific signed authorization by any two of the following—the Board President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary.

3. The Fund monies shall be placed in a separate account under the management of the Financial Stewardship Council and its designated Fund Manager(s). Monies shall be placed in conservative investment vehicles subject to minimal volatility and low principal risk. At least 50 percent of the Fund monies shall be in completely liquid investment vehicles available for immediate disbursement in the case of an emergency. Fund Manager(s) shall seek to balance Fund monies accordingly.
4. Owing to the very unpredictability of emergencies that the Fund is designed to address, when it is utilized for an emergency need, the Fund shall be replenished over a period of years according to a schedule designed by the Financial Stewardship Council and the Board of Trustees at the time of the emergency(ies). Various vehicles can be used for this replenishment, including regular payments from operating budgets over a designated period of time, special fundraising events, and other means considered achievable by future Boards and Financial Stewardship Councils. The goal is to first amass \$100,000 in establishment of this Fund, and then to maintain it at that level or above in the future, with a plan put in place for Fund replenishment whenever it is utilized.
5. Neither Fund managers, Board members nor Financial Stewardship Council members shall be liable for any losses that may be incurred upon investment of Fund assets except to the extent such losses have been caused by bad faith or gross negligence. No member of the entities above shall be personally liable as long as they act in good faith and with ordinary prudence. Each shall be liable only for his or her own willful misconduct or omissions and shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of any other. No member shall engage in any self-dealing or transactions with the Fund in which the person has direct or indirect financial interest, and shall at all times refrain from conduct in which his or her personal interests would conflict with the interests of the Fund.
6. In the event that UUCSR ceases to exist either through merger or dissolution, disposition or transfer of Fund assets shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of eligible voting members present at a duly called congregational meeting. If no asset transfer proposal achieves a two-thirds majority vote, the Fund shall be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association for the furtherance of its programs.
7. In order to account for building and equipment obsolescence in an orderly manner that will not place undue stress on future operating budgets, the Board shall direct the Operations Council/Building Maintenance Committee to develop a Long-Term Maintenance Plan over the course of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The plan will survey all foreseeable obsolescence of the building, its major systems and grounds. The Committee shall then offer guidance to the Financial Stewardship Council and Board in the development of an appropriate operating budget line item specifically devoted to building maintenance/obsolescence. This line item shall be regarded as central to the financial health of the congregation and thus as important as any other congregational need requiring consistent budgeting.
8. This policy shall be approved by majority vote at the next scheduled Congregational Meeting, provided a proper quorum is assembled there as per UUCSR Bylaws. Any subsequent change to the policy must also be approved by majority vote at a duly called Congregational Meeting.

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June 2010

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**Mailing Address: 547Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381**  
**Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: http://www.uusantarosa.org**

**Board of Trustees**

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**Vice President:** Mary Louise Jaffray  
Vice President@uusantarosa.org  
**Treasurer:** Bonnie Daines, Treasurer@uusantarosa.org  
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**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