



UUCSR

UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• August 2010 • Volume 54 • Issue 8 •

Sunday Services are at 10:00am

August 1st—10:00am

ARE OUR VALUES AND ETHICAL MODELS IN CONFLICT?

Service Leader: Jeffrey Melcher
Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

Ethical models often bring cherished values into conflict. In our UU Principles we are challenged to hold several values in creative conflict: a strong tradition of upholding personal rights and a deep commitment to communitarian ethics. How does this play out in our congregations and social justice work? Come, engage questions, and leave inspired.

August 8th -10:00am

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell
Worship Associate: Andy Levine, Calvin & Sophie

Nearly all people find awe and wonder in animals. The life in their eyes shows us that there are other ways of experiencing the world that we can never know. Imagine a sense of smell twenty times more powerful than your own, for example! For many of us, our animal companions are like family. Bring them to worship today (in the courtyard, of course) and we'll give thanks and sing their praises.

August 15th - 10:00am

EATING MERCIFULLY

Service Leader: Will Tuttle
Worship Associate: Rita Butterfield

At the 2008 General Assembly, the delegates voted to make Ethical Eating our Study Action Issue. This vote commits UU congregations around the country to explore this issue, leading to a Statement of Conscience that the delegates at the 2012 GA will vote upon. Today Dr. Will Tuttle, an educator and a former Zen monk, will share his perspective on this complex issue. Dr. Tuttle is the author of the highly acclaimed book *The World Peace Diet: Eating for Spiritual Health and Social Harmony*.

August 22nd - 10:00am

INGATHERING!

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

This family-oriented service is an annual ritual celebration of our shared journey as a congregation - where we've been, and where we're going. Because the divine is uniquely expressed in each of us, we all add something to this UUCSR caravan of wanderers, worshippers and lovers of learning. Bring a small object to represent you, or what you've done or become over the last year, and we'll create an artifact from them, as seen on the table in the foyer.

August 29th - 10:00am

WHAT HAVE UU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

Service Leader: Rita Butterfield
Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

Each year congregations are asked to make a contribution to our Unitarian Universalist Association. Our requested contribution amounts to almost \$18,000! In this service, Rita Butterfield, our District's representative to the UUA fundraising committee, will address where that money goes and what the UUA does for us, and explore how giving to our Association connects us to UUs around the world.

September 5th - 10:00am

YOU WANNA TAKE IT OUTSIDE?

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that proudly enters the public sphere. Our call to service and justice compels it, as does our ever-hopeful celebration of life. Today we'll go public in a different way, with a short worship at Galvin Park followed by an all-day picnic with singing, softball and other activities. Bring some food and a friend!

Road Trippin!



Simply looking out the window at the world passing by gives me great joy, and the seeing and experiencing of new things is one of the great pleasures of my life. I feel very fortunate to have been able to travel a good deal in my life. The discovery of new plants and animals, new landscapes, new architecture, new people and new cultures all seem to stretch the soul. I feel that as the world grows around me in my imagination and experience, I literally grow inside too. My regret that I won't live long enough to see everything and meet everybody is the primary source of my gut-level longing for some kind of eternal life in the mind of God. But if my short span of years is all there is (the most likely scenario) I still feel profoundly grateful to have participated even for just a moment in this glorious Universe.

Over the last 26 days, Rita, Aaron, Max (his buddy), and I have seen the emptiness of Nevada, the Great Salt Lake, Park City, Dinosaur National Monument, and Rocky Mountain National Park. We spent three days in Boulder, and then drove through more wheat and cornfields than the mind can comprehend. We spent 11 days in Cleveland, relaxing with family, and catching up with old friends at our high school reunions. We biked in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Coming home we saw a Cubs game and the top of the Sears Tower in Chicago. On the epic return drive we visited the Badlands (and Wall Drug, of course), the Black Hills, and Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The whole idea of National Parks, it must be said, ranks with baseball, jazz and Unitarian Universalism as the greatest of American contributions to the world.

It's good to see places where people have not yet taken over, even if it's often only because there wasn't much there that we could consume. So many of these places inspired awe and wonder in me at the power, creativity and age of the Earth, but particularly those vast Western mountain valleys in Wyoming, with the patches of white still adorning the tops of the high peaks sitting on their laps of rolling green, some simply impossible to go over. And just when you lift your jaw up again, here's yet another range of mountains, another shining river, another rugged canyon pass. A sign casually tells you the rocks next to you are 550 million years old, or that you are 10,000 feet above sea level. We're flying by at 55 or 75mph; imagine the scope of those mountains to the many people who moved through and across on horseback, or by foot. Only 200 years ago, a

mere drop in the bucket of the human history, most of it was known only to the native people, and there were no roads, only trails, and plenty of bison. Now there is a McDonalds and a Wal-Mart nearly everywhere. One sincerely wonders that this is sometimes called "progress". Humans are, I dare say, often rather like weeds on a ecological scale, and I suspect the ideal future of the planet probably has considerably fewer people on it.

I don't mean to sound like a curmudgeon. I love people, and I love going to new cities and towns. I like to imagine who I would be if I had been born into that house, or that one, or that one. I like to imagine what the insides of those houses are like. I like to try to figure out what the people here or there do for fun, how they find meaning, and how they make their living. I wonder where would I found a congregation, and how I would manifest Unitarian Universalism to the locals. I think of the restaurant I would own. I wonder what music folks listen to, and how they vote. And what *is* that guy doing with all those rusting tractors in his yard?

Meaning no offense to people in general, however, I must say that the real stretching of the soul comes from the land itself. The scope of this continent is truly awesome. Sometimes, thanks to the Internet and TV, it seems like Texas, Washington, D.C., or even South Africa, are just over yonder, an Internet click or channel switch away. But once you start going down the road across Nevada, Utah or Wyoming you begin to realize just how expansive and diverse the continent, and by extension, the planet, really is.

And then you look up at the galaxy, a great swath of, well, milkiess across the clear and limitless sky of a Colorado mountain road, and realize that the Earth is absolutely huge and awesome, and yet so freaking teeny-tiny at the same time. What a remarkable Creation this is! After this trip I feel as strongly as ever that That-Which-Is-In-Charge is creative, beautiful, good, and worthy of the highest praise and the most tender care. Even if it does blow up all of Yellowstone every couple of million years! So, here's to the classic American road trip, carbon emissions and fast food and all. But, also, here's to finally being home to share it with you. I'll see you soon.

Blessings, Rev. Chris

The Light of Community

In Philip Roth's otherwise dark and terrifying Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *American Pastoral*, there is an improbably lovely sequence of imagery during which the protagonist, Swede Levov, is romping over hill and dale on his gentleman's country estate, caught up in reminiscences about his boyhood literary hero Johnny Appleseed. Youthful, vigorous and successful before Roth begins to turn the vise of multiple tragedy tighter and tighter on his neck, Levov is concluding his jaunt by cheerfully pretending to toss apple seeds across his beloved land from an imaginary bag on his shoulder. Observing him from an upstairs window, his wife asks him upon his return to the house what he had been doing. He doesn't answer, but Roth does on his behalf: "What he had been doing out on the road—which, as though it were a shameful or superficial endeavor, he could not bring himself to confess openly, even to Dawn—was making love to his life."

Making love to his life.

The line gave me long pause, both because of the unexpected play of substituting the rhyming "life" for the common parlance of "making love to his wife," but also for the far more arresting matter of Roth capturing the heart of a certain mood and ardor that I suspect all humans feel to varying and intermittent degrees: that sense of being enraptured, enchanted, inexhaustibly taken by the sheer wonder of existence, the gift of incarnate life. The sense of being surpassingly happy merely that things *are*, and that we possess the life force to appreciate it.

Making love to life. The sexual image of "making love" denotes a corporality and embodiedness to the experience, but this is of course metaphorical; Roth is suggesting a state here that combines or sweeps up physical vitality into a transcendent state of mind. Is this perhaps what fully realized prayer is?

The converse of this are the beaten down, staggering, morally compromised lives Roth winds up sketching in this perhaps darkest of modern American novels. Blown about by forces of politics, culture, and familial oppression, none of the characters in *American Pastoral* are poised for the grace that can come only by living in and practicing forgiveness—of both themselves and others. In the face of human weakness, which I would posit as the UU version of original sin, we have no choice but to

live in forgiveness if we are to make something more of this life than a bitter contest of resentments. Some Rothian characters see and expect the worst of each other, and that's exactly what they get. Others mean well but lapse into self-delusion or one fateful compromise after another that makes the life they would otherwise want to make love to seem ever more unattractive as a mate.

To make love to one's life, striding over one's land playfully evoking Johnny Appleseed in the blush of full physical vigor, is easy enough at age 26, provided one's health is intact and the future stretches out in seeming perpetuity. Harder at 46, 66 and 86, as the slings and arrows of mature existence and its attendant pain steadily advance against our firewalls of hope and contentment.

I have been struck recently by the seemingly increasing use of our congregation's Focus List to ask for and share circumstances of pain, illness and grief. It can be hard out there in the various communities of home, neighborhood and workplace where we hang our hats of everyday life. Bodies fail, jobs are lost, homes are invaded. It is both the most simple and most difficult thing to ask for support at such a time, to allow that we are not—and don't want to be—up to the task of coping alone with the forces buffeting us. In our capacity to admit frailty and need, we become strong, held up sometimes literally by those whom we have committed to in a community embracing sickness and health, individual identity and interdependence.

Roth's dark despairing characters make me think, among others, of our own Mike Reid, at 92 not moving around with quite the spryness of his youth but whose eyes are ever alight with a playfulness and depth that stand in contrast to Roth's painting of the human condition as crushed and beyond hope. To behold Mike in the full glint of his mature whimsy is to see life still being made love to, in a community of lovers bound together by a covenant and intentionality absent from a Rothian universe of ultimate and unflagging isolation. Here, forgiveness and interdependence represent choices made by a community where hope is a way of being and love is a state of mind and body, led most assuredly by the fathomless goodness of our very human hearts.

— Andrew Hidas
President, Board of Directors

Heroes and Villains, Beauty and Ugliness

A brave poet with a ridiculous nose. A tyrannical hunchbacked king. These indelible images are immediately identifiable to anyone who's even heard about *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1619-1655) and *Richard III of England* (1452-1485). Real historical figures, these men live on in a pair of plays that are generally considered to be two of the greatest works of English literature: William Shakespeare's '*Richard III*' and Edmond Rostand's '*Cyrano de Bergerac*.' This month, our resident theater company *Narrow Way Stage Co.* will be presenting both plays, in repertory, in our outdoor courtyard, and as I've watched their rehearsal process over the last few months, I've been impressed with the directorial visions of each piece.

Mainly, I've observed that on a certain level, both plays explore what we might call first principle issues, examinations of the inherent worth and dignity of all people. What makes someone beautiful, or ugly? What makes them a hero, or a villain?

Cyrano, of course, is best known as the soldier with the over-large nose, a source of life-long shame to poor *Cyrano*, and the reason he is reluctant to pursue the love of his life, the beautiful *Roxanne*. Beneath his physical form, however, we know that *Cyrano* is a beautiful person, brave and open-hearted, kind and fearless (fearless, at least, on the battlefield). It is his own inability to see passed his outward appearance, to see his own inner worth and beauty, that keeps *Cyrano* from following his heart, instead agreeing to help another man woo *Roxanne*. Only then, through the poetry of his thoughts and words, can he feel free to tell his love what she means to him. It is a tragic story, and remarkable in that the plot hangs on one man's view of himself.

In the *Narrow Way* production, directed by Lito Briano, *Cyrano* is played by local actor and comedian *Matt Caddigan*.

In this production of '*Richard III*,' directed by *Beulah Vega* and featuring *John Browning* in the title role, similar issues are explored. Taking a U-turn from the usual depictions of *Richard* as a deformed hunchback, we are given a handsome, outwardly attractive *Richard*, and learn that his disability is his own inner view of himself as "less than" those he must now compete with. As *Richard* gradually commits uglier and uglier acts of violence in order to attain and keep the throne, only then does his physical form begin to gradually match that of his own inner idea of himself.

It's a fascinating idea, and one that, if *Narrow Way* can pull it off, will provide a great deal of grist for thought and discussion. As anyone knows whose seen my own stage work (specifically my one-man play '*Wretch Like Me*'), I am deeply moved by explorations of the ways in which we keep ourselves captive to unhealthy choices whenever we lose the ability to see our own inner worth and dignity. Sadly, there are many institutions and environments in our world that thrive on keeping others from seeing their worth. It is our commitment to recognizing this worth and dignity that draws so many of us to Unitarian Universalism.

I am proud that we are able to host these provocative productions this summer at the *Glaser Center*, and I hope that many of you are able to attend. Remember that 50% of every ticket sold goes directly to the *UUCSR*.

--- David Templeton

'*Richard III*' runs August 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 19, and 22 at 8:00 p.m., and August 14 at 2:00 p.m. '*Cyrano de Bergerac*' runs August 12, 14, 20, 25, 27, and 28 at 8:00 p.m., and August 22 and 28 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 students and seniors. Tickets available at the door, and on-line at www.narrowwaystage.com.



Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

I have just returned from six days at the Western Unitarian Universalist Karmic Youth (WUUKY) annual summer camp. It was an amazing week of experiencing the high energy and creativity of Unitarian Universalist Youth. There were nine youth from our congregation there, an increase of *eight* from last year, which made my experience even richer. It was a very good thing to witness our youth connecting with youth from other congregations in a meaningful way. I think relationships with UUs outside our home youth group deepen Unitarian Universalist identity and provide greater insight into what this UU thing is all about. Over the course of the week the WUUKY youth played games (some of them kind of scary - like Ghosts in the Dark - which is Capture the Flag in the forest, in the dark - yikes!), worked on communal projects, got physical activity, engaged in discussion, and participated in deep and meaningful worship. All of this was planned, led and implemented by the youth.

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) program is all about youth empowerment. At camp this year there was an adult advisor from the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) who had been on staff at the youth camp at DeBenneville Pines. Throughout the week he was amazed (and perplexed) by how much power the youth had in running the camp. Apparently, in the PSWD the adults do much more of the hands on running of camp: cooking the meals, overseeing the schedule of activities, and handling problems that arise. At WUUKY all meals are prepared by youth, all activities are conceived by and led by youth, and if problems arise (and they do) they go first to youth leaders (the Deans and Chaplains) with support from the adult advisors and adult chaplains. Adults participate in all programs as equal participants and are there for advisement when needed, and to help in the case of emergencies. To me this approach is the essence of youth empowerment.

When youth know that they are responsible for the entire program and that the rules of the community are conceived by them for the betterment of the community, some amazing leadership emerges. Does that mean that the camp is run like it would be by adults? No. There were moments of frustration among the adult advisors when the schedule was not even close to timely. For example one evening dinner was 2½ hours late because a key ingredient was missing and the "runner" (the youth who is in charge of trips to the store) had to make the hour long round trip to the store. Possibly such a thing wouldn't have happened if adults were in charge, but by leaving it to the youth many lessons were learned. Nobody picked up the pieces for them and the whole community learned about being prepared, what it means to have to revert to plan B, and to take responsibility when things don't go as planned. I have to say that the youth were not so bothered by the delays in the schedule, they found fun ways to fill the time and even if it was late, every activity on the schedule happened. So, I suppose the lesson for the adults was patience, flexibility, and faith that the community would prevail.

The truth is it wasn't easy to relinquish my position of power at WUUKY. There were times during the week when I felt totally superfluous. But I know I wasn't. My job was to *be* with our youth, to trust in them to do the right thing, to stand aside and support their leadership, to be present with them, and to let them know that they could count on me for anything they might need. By relinquishing some of my adult power and privilege, I was an instrument in the creation of youth empowerment. And I feel blessed to have that experience. I feel blessed to be able to play that role with our youth.

In Faith,
Deborah

What's Happening in RE this month:

8-1-10	Theme: Peace <i>Sing-a-long with Rev. Chris and Billy Sue Fischer</i>
8-8-10	Intergenerational Worship Service - Blessing of the Animals
8-15-10	Theme: Circles of Light - How the Flaming Chalice was started Activity: Making magazine mosaics chalices
8-22-10	Ingathering for a new congregational year

Women Together Farewell To Summer!



Save the date...**SATURDAY, AUGUST 28!** Women Together is hosting our annual **FAREWELL TO SUMMER** Gathering. All women of our congregation are invited to join for food and conversation at the Sebastopol home of Cathie Wiese on Saturday, August 28th from noon to 3:00 pm. We will soak up the summer sunshine, share summer stories, take a dip in the pool if you want, and enjoy those great Women Together potluck dishes as we say farewell to summer in Cathie's spacious

backyard. There will be plenty of shade, too! Bring your favorite potluck lunch dish to share, a beverage of your choice, and a swimsuit and towel if you think you might like to have some wet recreation.

Plates, utensils, and iced tea will be on hand. We would love to have you RSVP at 829-3634 or cathie@sonic.net so we can look forward to your company,. Spontaneous gatherers are welcome, too! The address is 220 Frankel Lane in Sebastopol. It is in town and very easy to find. Call for directions if you'd like.

**Interfaith Council of Sonoma County presents
Fourth Annual**

Peace Fast and Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday, August 28, 2010

6:30 - 9:30 pm at the Glaser Center

Families of all faiths are welcome.

Peace Fast - Sunrise-Sunset

Pray or Meditate for Peace, as you feel led

Gathering and Ceremonial Program - 6:30 pm

Breaking of Fast (Sunset)

Muslim Prayer (all welcome)

Community Pot Luck Dinner



Vegetarian encouraged. No pork, alcohol or spirits, please. (Label any meat dishes).

For information call David Hoffman (707) 206-2650

Co-Sponsors: Applesseed Friends Meeting (Quakers), Sebastopol; California Muslim Institute and Center for Interfaith Studies (Santa Rosa); Congregation Ner Shalom, Cotati; Humanity Check Interfaith Peace and Reconciliation Project, Santa Rosa; Forum Group of the First Congregational Church of Sonoma/United Church of Christ; North Bay Muslim Community; Redwood Forest Friends Meeting (Quakers), Santa Rosa; Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

UUCSR Writers

UUCSR Writers August, Monday Editing Study Groups (Please help spread the word...)

"Editing Your Sentences" Grammar and Punctuation Study Groups. Save the following Monday evenings in August if you are interested in editing a "work in progress" word by word, sentence by sentence.

Note: This is a UUCSR Writers Community Outreach Project. It is free and open to the general public. We will have three groups working at the same time at different tables.

Writers working with Writers, Poets working with Poets and Credentialed teachers available to work with Junior High and High School students, who need/want Remedial English assistance. Diane McCurdy, M.A. English and KRCB Film Reviewer, has put together a team of our local Credentialed teachers to volunteer their time to be available for all three groups. Our Latino Community is encouraged to participate.

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

Would you like to help at the Writers', Poets or Remedial English tables? Send me an e-mail.

Georgette G. deBlois
GGdeB@aol.com

The UUCSR Writers will not meet in August for our regular monthly meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting will be on **Monday, September 13**, 2010 from **4 - 6 pm** in the "Green

Room" 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 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

North Bay Sponsoring Committee

If you missed last years trainings offered by our Community Organizers, here's your chance to participate in this summer's offerings here at UUCSR. Return students are welcome.

On Tuesday, August 31st, 7-8:30pm (in the Board Room) Anna Eng will discuss "Power."

On Tuesday, September 7th, 7-8:30pm (in the Board Room) Michael Saxe-Taller will discuss "The Art of Public Conversations."

RSVP to Jo Ann Robson at 823-5122 if you plan to attend one or both of these classes.

1 Day Silent Meditation Retreat

Join the UU Meditators for a day of mindful sitting and walking meditation on Saturday, August 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some instruction, some guided meditation, and some gentle Chi Gung will occur. This is suitable for

beginners as well as seasoned meditators.

BRING A BAG LUNCH.

If you plan to attend, or for more info, call Rose, 865-0755.

Fall Newcomer Welcome!

GETTING TO KNOW UU AND UUCSR
Saturday, September 11, 2010
9:15 am to 12:30 pm

Those of you who are new to our denomination, who are considering becoming members of UUCSR, or are new to our congregation are cordially invited to join us for a morning workshop designed to further your understanding of who we are as a church community. Topics for the day will include: activities to explore why we are here, a brief history of Unitarian Universalism, how to

become involved in congregational activities, and Unitarian Universalist diversity and the meaning of membership. Come meet others who are searching for answers, too, to the question, "What is this place all about, and do I belong here?"

Please look for information at the VISITOR'S TABLE in the Social Hall. You will find fliers and registration forms there. Please register by SEPTEMBER 5TH by turning your form in at the Visitor Table or call Cathie Wiese at 829-3634.

Circles of Community

UUCSR CIRCLE DINNERS are re-forming again and will begin this October! Shirley Williams and I (Cathie Wiese) are excited about this wonderful program and "Growing our Circles!" What are they, you might ask??? Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a pot-luck meal. As participants in Circle Dinners since our old Todd and Stoney Point days, Robert and I have really enjoyed getting to know folks we might never have otherwise. We have had some wonderful times visiting other members' homes (large and small---it doesn't matter!) and always look forward to great food and conversation. Some of our groups have even kept on meeting after the official Circle Dinners period has ended just because we enjoyed getting together so much!

How do they work??? Members and Friends (interested in membership) of UUCSR let the Circle Dinner organizers know they want to be on the list. We then take all the names and shuffle them into groups of 7 or 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a "Circle Dinner Group" for the 4 months of the Circle Dinner period. In the October Newsletter we post the Fall/Winter Circle Dinner Lists. The groups then contact each other, decide on a date, time and place to gather and who will bring what. The rest takes care of itself! Before the

fun is over, the group decides the who, what, where and when for the next month's gathering.

You DON'T need dinner service for 8, a family sized dining room, linen napkins, or even a room with a view! All you need is an enjoyment of meeting new friends, connecting with old friends, and the love of a good meal and conversation (maybe even playing games or music... 'cause that can happen, too).

Interested? We are taking sign ups beginning later in August through September 12th. Look for Shirley's artfully crafted poster in the Social Hall on Sundays or please contact Shirley Williams at 537-9790, Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, or Cathie's email at cathie@sonic.net. We will need your name, phone number and email (if you have one) to post on the list so that your Circle can connect!

We will do our best to accommodate special needs this time (daytime groups, geographic areas). Participants already in the Circle Dinner program will continue unless they let us know otherwise.



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions
Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly Aug.25,2010

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket

On Sunday, August 1st, one half of the collection will go to support our **Saturday Breakfast** program. For over 400,000 Californians, unemployment insurance has run out so their resources will be meager. We are now serving around 200 neighbors a delicious and much appreciated meal every Saturday. And the supplies at the Food Bank are running low. When the basket comes your way, please be as generous as you can. Thank you!

Hot Topics

Conflict is one of the ways we grow, by learning to understand another's reality. It doesn't have to be violent. Come hear two experts on Mediation on Sunday, August 1st at 11:30 in the Board Room.

Mediation is a process that gives people in conflict the help they need to come up with creative alternatives both can agree on. RECURSE Mediation Services is actively engaged in creating a healthy, more peaceful Sonoma County by providing skilled volunteer mediators

who help people to work through their disagreements with each other in a respectful way. We have been committed to this work since 1992 and last year served more than 2,500 people.

Cate Griffiths and Steve Miksis will facilitate a discussion on mediation and offer their experiences in the value of the mediation process, which can be used in ANY situation of conflict.

Bios

Cate Griffiths is Executive Director of RECURSE Mediation Services and has mediated hundreds of disputes in matters such as divorce, eviction, restraining orders, neighbor conflicts, family trusts and guardianship.

Steve Miksis is a C.P.A and is a trained and experienced mediator. He recently was appointed as a panel member to the Sonoma County Superior Court No Fee Mediation Program.

Visitors' Table—Volunteers Needed

Do you like to welcome guests? And do you feel like you know your way around UUCSR reasonably well? Those are the only qualifications needed to do this special job of greeting new guests. We try to keep a schedule for each quarter, and would welcome a few more willing persons. If you can do this, even once a

quarter please call Gretchen Vap @ 568-3290 or e-mail gvap@att.net.

Staffing the table consists of 1/2 hour before service, and also after to greet, offer name tags, and information, and we provide a lot of support information to our table staff.

Saturday Breakfast for our Neighbors

We love to have new volunteers for this fun and special service we provide for homeless, those in shelters and anyone in need. Summer substitutes are especially helpful when the usual helpers travel. We would particularly love a few once-a-month folks who don't want to get up

and arrive early (6:30 AM to cook), but could come at 7:30 or 8 to relieve the early birds, and assist with clean-up. This is a fun and congenial group to join and especially if you want to make new friends in the congregation. Call Gretchen Vap 568-3290 or e-mail .

Aging With Grace

Aging with Grace Group will continue meeting on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss the transition from Retirement to Elderhood. The group has forty areas of Aging they want to discuss. All those who want to enter into the conversation are welcome. Bring a "Brown Bag"

lunch at 11:00am to 1:00pm for discussion and social conversation. The opening Topic: "How do you define your aging profile?"

Submitted by Bob Watkins—775-8627

ANNUAL UUCSR AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Social Hall

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR's biggest social event of the year! Note that the date is one month earlier than last year.

Mark your calendars, set your Blackberries, or just put a sticky note on your front door...you won't want to miss our Annual Auction Extravaganza!

Our annual dinner and auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for UUCSR's general operating fund. YOU, our creative and generous members and friends offer wonderful donations for our silent auction...dinners, yard work, theater tickets, theme parties, dog walking, hand crafted jewelry, trash hauling....the list has no boundaries! Volunteers scour the city and countryside to gather fabulous donations from local business to add to the offerings. So, consider what you might be able to donate this year to the fun! Look for our table display beginning in September in the Social Hall for donation forms and a list of many ideas. Fill out a form for your donation and return it to the Auction Table or to the UU Office. Ask your favorite places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate or two. Watch-

ing the bids go up on your donations gets the blood pumping in the ol' veins!

For the evening of our Auction Extravaganza we invite you to arrive in festive finery...this is a first class establishment! Fine dining awaits you with added room to accommodate our ever-growing popularity.

Entertainment will be sure to delight the senses. Childcare and "kid food" will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with our live auction starring those masters of auction mischief sure to keep you laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocketbook for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!).

Keep an eye out for our table which will be set up in the Social Hall in September. Look for the Top Hat and Tales guy dancing in a sea of star spangled purple! Any questions? Call Kitty Wells at 433-1196, Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, Nancy Freeman at 537-1897, or Kirsten Olney at 542-4649.

Volunteers Needed

On the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00am the Newsletter is folded for mailing. It takes five (5) people to accomplish this task. We fold 160 newsletters, apply stickers and labels to prepare

them for mailing. If you are free to work on this Wednesday, come to the Board room, we need more helpers.

Bob Watkins, Publisher



Summary of UUCSR Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

UUCSR Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes June 17, 2010

Meeting Called to Order at 6:07 p.m. by Board President Andrew Hidas

Members Present: Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Bonnie Daines, Denese Pender, Phyllis Heagney, Mary Louise Jaffray, Karen Lillard, Lois Nagle, Craig Work **Guests:** New members Cathie Wiese, John Farison

Opening Words: Chris Bell, comment on and reading of a selection from Ralph Waldo Emerson

90-Second Check-In: Managing the word "goodbye" in your life

Minutes of 20 May 2010 approved as submitted

Open Mic: ▪ June Congregational Meeting well-received

- An improved sense of community in the RE atrium
- Suggestion to block out back of sanctuary for future congregational meetings to achieve increased seating concentration

Treasurers Report: Bonnie Daines & Denese Pender

- UUA membership checks signed but issuance on hold subject to approval by Financial Stewardship Council
- Mortgage Pay Down—Status report of 10 June 2010 submitted.
- Projection is that mortgage holder Luther Burbank Savings to be paid off by 2027; member notes by 2029

Board Summer Planning: ▪ No July Meeting

- Retreat scheduled Friday evening and Saturday of Labor Day weekend, 3-4 September at Bob's residence (possibility of Ann's home for Saturday)

ACTION: Chris to determine if North Bay Sponsoring Committee will provide facilitator for the meeting

- 19 August meeting - 2nd meeting in August or early September TBD -

ACTION: Andrew to post possible dates on blog

Board Review of Past Year: Positives/Lessons Learned

- Good progress toward goals established for the year
- Financial Stewardship Council aggressively proactive
- Councils progressing, generally taking time to develop
- Board generally successful in delegating day-to-day responsibilities
- Retreat effective at defining short & long term goals
- Congregational Meeting—Members picked up on & showed interest in selected Board goals
- Goals that showed progress had individual Board members assigned to shepherd them
- BOT well-run—Spiritual centering a positive, also a sense of reality gained about what can be accomplished in a single meeting
- Board visibility increased at Congregational Meetings

Negatives/Lessons Learned

- Councils progressing, generally taking time to develop
- Plan to have periodic Council reports to Board was not fully realized
- Councils' authority & responsibilities not yet clearly defined—a work in progress
- No established protocol for Board & Councils relationship
- Board activities not communicated effectively enough to members. **ACTION:** Cathie to post Board minutes on Bulletin Board; Andrew to continue recent practice of publishing meeting summaries in newsletter
- Better to elect Board officers in June rather than August, prior to start-up of next FY
- Selected plans/goals not broken down into discreet measurable tasks
- Bylaws require rewrite; how we operate not consistent with bylaws

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August 2010

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Board of Trustees

President: Andrew Hidas, President@uusantarosa.org
Vice President: Mary Louise Jaffray
[Vice President@uusantarosa.org](mailto:VicePresident@uusantarosa.org)
Treasurer: Bonnie Daines, Treasurer@uusantarosa.org
Secretary: TBD

Board Members:

Bob Barrows
Ann Chambers
John Farison
Laura Jean Hageman
Phyllis Heagney
Lois Nagle
Cathie Wiese
Craig Work

Recording Secretary

TBD

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.

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Jeremy Cummings