



UUCSR

# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• November • Volume 54 • Issue 11 •

## Sunday Services at 9:15am and 11:00am

### November 7th

#### **The Path of Action**

*Choir at 9:15*

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn

The first in a series exploring the perspective of the Hindu philosophy of Vedanta, that, like Unitarian Universalism, dares to dream of uniting the world's faiths. Vedanta posits multiple, distinct but equally valid paths to discovering and honoring the sacred. Some people use their intellect, some use their hearts, some use their bodies. We'll look at a path most dear to UUs, which is the Path of Action (aka our 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle), which is to serve The Great Big Thing by serving others.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—FALL BACK**

### November 21st

#### **Jacob Wrestles with an Angel**

*Choir at the 11:00 service.*

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine

It only takes ten sentences in the book of Genesis to tell the story of Jacob's famous wrestling match with someone or something out there by the river Jabbok, but thousands of years later it still speaks to the spiritual struggles of doubt and despair that most of us go through at some point in our life, and to the way through. Today we'll also kick off the *Guest at your Table* program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

### November 28th

#### **What have UU done for me lately?**

*Some UUsual Suspects will perform at both services.*

Service Leaders: Rita Butterfield, Erin Howseman

Each year every UU congregation makes (or should make) a sizable contribution to our Unitarian Universalist Association as our "fair share" of our mutual responsibility to keep our movement strong. Why do we do that? In this service, Rita Butterfield, who helps the congregations in the Pacific Central District make those contributions to the UUA, will address all the good things the UUA does for us and how our Association connects us to other UUs and progressive religious folk around the world. We'll also share the basket today with the "Standing on the Side of Love" social justice program of the UUA.

### November 14th

#### **Theodore Parker: An old hero for a new day.**

*Some UUsual Suspects perform at both services.*

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller

One of the great public figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was Unitarian minister Theodore Parker, whose life and thought have much to teach us still. Parker was a renowned preacher, a scholar, an active abolitionist and, often, an outcast from his ministerial brethren for being too radical. Come celebrate and learn from an important figure in our history. Today we'll also share the basket with our Saturday Breakfast Committee.

### December 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **Jazz - a Musical Metaphor for Living**

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman

*Guest pianist: Roger Corman. The Choir performs at 9:15.*

## Green and Brown



We've entered the rainy season, I read the other day. Not that I needed the paper to confirm it, after one of the wettest weekends I can remember in my four years here. As a native Mid-

Westerner, I'm still not used to the cycle of seasons here in Santa Rosa. At the very time that the colors on the vines turn to red and yellow, and the rain and the cold nights declare "Here comes winter!" many of the plants on my patio are suddenly starting to come to life again. Um, things get greener in the spring don't they? You know, after that long desolate period? Not everywhere, apparently. Over the weekend the sheets of rain tipped over a big bambooeey thing by our sidewalk that is so thick with bright green leaves you nearly have to crawl to get under it.

In New England the cycle of dying, death, rebirth, and vigorous life clearly follows the "normal" four seasons. My mentor James Ford describes the two seasons here in Sonoma County as "green and brown." Although our autumns and winters may not be as dramatic as in other parts of the continent, they still invite us to reflect on the turning of the wheel of life in a similar way. Whether you count them as four or two, the seasons speak to us of the great engine of this expanding and evolving Universe, change, driven by the twin forces of creation and destruction, of becoming and returning, of birth and death.

We emerge out into the world, have our effect upon it and are effected by it, send our ripples forward through time and space, and then sooner or later we roll back into the world. Things come into being, they change, they fade. This is happening all around us, and in us, all the time. The leaves fall and turn back to soil, the same soil the cat will be someday until she slowly turns into that avocado tree. The Buddhist Scriptures, which I'm studying with some of you this year, teach that this creation and destruction has no beginning and no end. Big Bang - Big Crunch - Big Bang - Forever. So even the Universe has its winters, perhaps, and its springs.

Another Buddhist teaching is that resisting this fact of change causes ourselves (and often others) suffering. Change is neither good nor bad from this perspective, just naturally and neutrally the way things are. We are free to respond to it in loving, wholesome and creative ways, or not. We have our freedom and our power in this equation, our will and intention and imagination. I can move some of those plants inside when I need to. I can help the Universe preserve and create life. I can feed that cat.

Anyone who has belonged to a congregation for a period of time has some experience of this. Elders pass on. People move. The building changes. Ministers come and go.

The time when we could "know everybody and do everything" ends, and the spirit of community must be built more intentionally. It takes work, but we value life and growth and so we plant seeds and ready ourselves for the future. We teach the children and each other about Unitarian Universalism, we study together, we sing together. We plant that others may harvest. Certainly one of the best things about belonging to UUCSR is the experience of being a part of something that was born before you got here (true for *almost* everyone), and will last beyond our lives (true for all).

Since death and decay are already covered by Nature - since I don't have to do anything to make sure that the destruction part happens - I think the best use of my energy is growing myself, and encouraging growth in others. Indeed, I think our divine purpose is to grow. I thought the daisies on my patio were dead, but turned out they needed more water. I am those daisies. So are you.

No one can stop the seasons, but that doesn't mean we just sit and blindly endure life. Indeed, the trick is to work with the energy of change, and have faith in it. My faith in Nature, and the power of creation and rebirth, is rooted in my senses. The full cycle of the seasons is needed for the seeds to blossom. I know that even under a giant pile of snow in a Maine field, the work of spring is already taking place, because I've seen grass in Maine, too.

I take great comfort from this when I'm having hard times. This is Buddhist teaching, too. As much as possible, in times of conflict or fear or sorrow, try to stay with the experience, not to hurry it or push it away. Try to let the cold and dark come for as long as it needs to come, but to always maintain the awareness that new life, new growth, is always possible. This is redemption. Everything changes, but don't forget spring. This view really helps with grief, or when you are fighting with someone, or when you can't quite kick that bad habit, or you can't start up that new one.

I know it's not always that simple. Life is hard and complex. We can be growing in some areas, and receding in others. For example, my belly is growing, whilst my biceps are shrinking. But even as a person's body might be falling apart, their mind may be expanding. And even as death itself approached I've watched people's hearts grow as quickly as the Grinch's.

Green and brown. Growing or dying. These are the seasons of the Earth, the seasons of the soul, too, and perhaps even the seasons of our common life as a community. So do not lose faith. Do not give up. Even when the rain is hardest and the sky is darkest, there are new shoots already peeking out from the ground.

## With Head and Heart, Body and Soul

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. —Deuteronomy*

*The only dance masters I could have were Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Walt Whitman and Nietzsche. —Isadora Duncan*

I am writing this still somewhat in the glow cast by the "revival" service of October 10, when we hosted three other North Bay congregations in a kind of hallelujah-hand-clappin'-feel-and-songfest that was a bit short, I must say, of our usual standards of carefully nuanced theology. Nope, this was not an hour for peeling the onion of our Christian/Buddhist/Humanist/Earth-Based/Agnostic blend of religious/spiritual understanding. For one thing, we sang too much—and too joyously—to engage our brains in any heavy intellectual lifting. We'd have no doubt pulled a muscle up there somewhere if we'd tried.

We don't tend to be a noisy denomination here in UUville. Our median age, somewhat north of the shakin'-and-vibratin'-all-over stage, is one factor shaping the relative serenity of our worship services. So is our median IQ, weighing us down as it does with lugging around all those diplomas of higher education. So it's something of a stretch for us to collectively get those hands clapping, those feet moving, and those throats unfurled in a full-on joyous songfest vibe. But golly, is it fun when it happens.

The words "revival" and "religion" both cause a certain recoil in many of us. We're understandably wary of the religious hucksterism that can accompany "revivals," and often still wounded and repelled by the stern patriarchal "religion" we endured as children. We've seen what dark currents can be unleashed by both unthinking inspiration and "think like this" authoritarianism.

That said, the claiming of our whole selves—head and heart, body and soul—beckons us to let down some of those well-honed defenses against excessive emotion. Yes, our spiritual lives have to add up for us intellectually; they have to pass a sniff test that doesn't violate our critical faculties. But religion based on and limited only to the intellect is dry as dust. We may as well enroll in philosophy and religion classes at Santa Rosa JC or adult ed weekends at SSU Extension. Religion surely involves an intellectual critique of life as it is and a projection of life as it should be, but it just as surely is a dance, a song, a poem, a gathering up and offering of all that we are, of all that we wish to be. Right down to our tappin' toes.

I was struck during our recent service on "Poetry As Prayer" (thank you Maureen Wallace!) by the extraordinary boost given to most of the recited poems by the addition of music (variously piano, guitar and drum). I wondered why even the rhapsodic emotion of Pablo Neruda's poetry seemed to be doubled by the backdrop of subtle guitar chords. The answer, I think, is that the music represented just riches piled upon riches, the crowning glory of actual music used to punctuate the inherent musical rhythm of language itself. Poetry goes prose one better in being, at its best, the highest, most intentional form of music-in-language—but it has to manufacture its own rhythms and still lacks the critical element of notes. Once we add a drum to intensify poetry's rhythm or a guitar to adorn the words with color, we ratchet up the emotional temperature; we engage yet more of what makes us fully, unabashedly human.

"It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing," goes the first line of the Duke Ellington song of the same name. True living involves rhythm, swing, emotion, heat and moisture and assent. "'Yes' is my favorite word" is a popular sentiment that even finds support on page 6 of our UU hymnal: "If they ask what I did well, tell them I said, 'Yes,' to life."

This "Yes," I would venture to say, involves claiming the full continuum of our humanity, from the Apollonian to the Dionysian, the objective-rational to the emotional-ecstatic. Both prose and poetry are essential to the full function of a life, be it a person or a religious community. Thus does Deuteronomy's injunction to love with "all our heart and soul and might" find a kindred spirit in the occasional blow-out-the-engines experience of a "revival" or a music-supported "poetry as prayer" service.

Our intellects serve us well as a foundation from which to venture forth in the world, wise to its occasionally foolish ways. But there comes a point when, as much as we may be fed and guided by our books and brains and emotional acuity, we need to get up from our desks and pews and, following the lead of Isadora Duncan, make it into a dance.

— Andrew Hidas  
President, Board of Trustees

## Treasurer's Report

The first quarter reports of the 2010/2011 fiscal year show our operating expenses exceeded our income by about \$8,200 which is very typical. Pledge payments tend to lag in the summer months and surge in the second quarter when many members pay their full pledge. When separated from the other operating income and expenses, we see that the Glaser Center posted a net income of about \$4,400; otherwise, the deficit would have been larger. Fortunately, our \$37,000 of unre-

stricted monies at the end of June, provided a nice cash-flow cushion for the first quarter.

Of course, our very successful Auction on October 2, made possible by the dedicated work and enthusiastic participation of so many, will give a big boost to our income for the second quarter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Jean Hageman, Co-Treasurer

## The Joy of Sexton?

What is the joy of being Sexton?

It has been the opportunity to temporarily fill the position of Sexton as it allowed me to meet so many wonderful people, and get a sense of what UUCSR is, and the love and care that is shared.

When people asked me if I was the new Sexton I thought they were referring to Tony Sexton, your previous custodian. Since then I have learned that "Sexton" was not Tony's last name. It has been a learning process.

I have had the opportunity to learn much about being a custodian as it reinforced a sense of pride in taking on any task and trying to do what is required to do a job well.

I immediately felt welcome, and a sense of appreciation from everyone, which I thank you all for.

As much as I would have liked to have the position for a long term, it is not possible for me to make the commitment because my business in construction often requires that I work out of town.

I had the pleasure of working with Art Hernandez, who is your new Sexton, to teach him what I have learned, and I am confident that you will appreciate the "work of Art" that he will provide. I have the impression that he is very personable, dedicated, and willing to take on all that is required to perform all tasks necessary, and the "Joy of Sexton"

Bill Brewster

## Please Welcome Art Hernandez—Our New Sexton

Please welcome our new Sexton, Art Hernandez. He is very personable, enthusiastic and hardworking. He will be working 25 hours per week and reports to our Administrator, Janis Brewster. Currently, he is working Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday but these hours are flexible. Following are his responsibilities and duties:

- To perform tasks assigned by the Administrator.
- Responsible for maintaining building as part-time caretaker
- Understanding the operations of most if not all building equipment such as air conditioner, skylights, dish washer etc.
- Security of Building including opening and locking the building
- Handling emergency and safety issues as they arise

- Overall setup and breakdown for services on Sunday (may be responsible for additional setup and breakdown on one other evening during week)

- General Janitorial

Duties:

- Set up and/or arrange tables and chairs
- General Janitorial duties such as empty trash, wet mop kitchen and bathrooms, vacuum carpets, wash windows, and replenish restroom supplies
- Light Building maintenance and grounds keeping duties as needed
- Other duties as assigned

Art reports to the Administrator, Janis Brewster. Any and all requests for Art's help need to go through the Administrator.

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

How do we survive parenthood with the many transitions, both small and huge, our children go through on the journey of growing up? We experience their passages with a mix of pride, terror and even frustration as they learn new skills, stretch boundaries and rebel, becoming closer and closer to the independent person they were born to be, and further from the need for mom and dad. With each new milestone our children reach, it feels like a bit of them is being torn away from us. I remember the first time my son crossed the street by himself to go to a neighbor's house to play. He must have been about 5. I had been preparing him for that feat for many weeks: walking him up the sidewalk, instructing him on the necessity of looking both ways before crossing and the perils of not. Then the day came when he was ready to try it alone. I remember surreptitiously peaking around the side of the house to watch him make it safely to his destination, then returning to my kitchen with tears streaming. I dare say that it was a small step for my son Jake, a giant leap for Deborah.

Isn't this just what we signed up for? Were we not aware of the planned obsolescence inherent in the job of parenting from the start? Yes, we knew they would eventually leave us, but the process of that leaving can be wrenching at times.

Author Annie Dillard says "We teach our children one thing only, as we were taught: to wake up". From the time they enter the world we implore our children to wake up, to grow, to learn, to thrive, and to find their good place in the grand scheme of things. This means taking risks, it means finding their own way (maybe a different way than we would propose) and it means rebellion. From the tumultuous twos to the triumphant and sometimes torturous teens our kids explore new ways and re-

sist ours. Testing limits is how they find out what the limits are. And we are left to pull our hair out (or grow it gray) as we stand by and watch. But we don't *just watch* do we. With steadfast love and challenged patience we stay in it, dancing the delicate waltz between asserting our authority and accepting theirs, between setting boundaries and encouraging flight.

This month we begin the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for two groups: grades 4 to 6 and 7 to 9. OWL is a magnificent sexuality education program that is designed to be developmentally appropriate, comprehensive and UU values based. The junior high curriculum is 27 sessions long and delves deeply into aspects of sexuality beyond anatomy: gender identity, dating, decision making, sexual orientation, and sexual responsibility, just to name a few. Herein lies the dance: A 12-year-old child on the brink of adolescence, ready (or not) to move forth in the realm of changing bodies and emerging curiosity and interest dancing with parents who hold their breath, take a deep gulp of reality and know that this information can literally save their lives, absolve a world of future guilt, and set the stage for the healthy unfolding of a beautiful and critical part of their adult lives. And the unison cry goes out, "But she/he is *only* a baby!!!!!" I applaud the parents of our OWL students, for taking part in the dance, and for engaging in the waking up of their children, even when it is hard, even when it is scary.

How do we survive parenthood? I think we do it by faith; faith in ourselves, in our children and faith in a world that will ultimately see them through.

In faith,  
Deborah



## Advocates for Social Justice

### Share the Basket

On *Sunday, November 14th*, half the money collected in the Offertory will go to support our Saturday Breakfast. As those of you who volunteer know, our numbers continue to rise. We are serving close to 200 every week! We are known throughout the community for this wonderful program, and our guests are continually appreciative. When the basket comes your way, please be as generous as you can toward this uniquely UUCSR creation!

On *Sunday, November 28th*, half the collection will go to support the UUA program, "Standing on the Side of Love." This is a campaign promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It pursues social change through advocacy, public witness and speaking out in solidarity with those whose lives are publically demeaned. We have seen and participated in their work to promote marriage equality and to support immigrant families by working to prevent racial profiling and harassment in Arizona. This is an exciting, new program that deserves our generous support!



## Hot Topics—What's on your Plate!

*Sunday, November 7th*, from 12:30 to 2 pm in the Board Room as the various occasions for holiday feasting approach, the 7th Principle Working Group thought it appropriate to offer an informative presentation by Hope Bohanec, an environmental and animal protection

activist. Please join us for a "safe, no guilt imposed" discussion on our food choices and the Interdependent Web. A light lunch will be available for a modest donation.



## Guest at your Table

This UU tradition will again be introduced by Rev. Chris at the service on November 21. We will distribute colorful cardboard boxes and "Stories of Hope" booklets for each congregant to take home and fill with donations for UUSC. Each year we share our holiday spirit with symbolic Guests at our Table, thereby benefiting UUSC and, if we choose, giving generously enough to become an

individual member of this outstanding internationally focused Rights organization.

Your donation boxes will be collected after the holidays.  
Phyllis Clement for the Advocates for Social Justice

## BUY Unitarian Universalist HOLIDAY CARDS

The Advocates for Social Justice will sell these beautiful cards in the lobby on Sundays in November and December. The proceeds will support the work of UUS Service Committee in its cause of Advancing Human Rights Worldwide.

This is a win/win opportunity;

- lovely UU cards at \$10 a box and
- support of UU rights efforts worldwide

## Building for Change in Congressional District 6

### North Bay Sponsoring Committee

#### Research Action Teams - Taking the Next Step

**NEXT STEPS** - Following up on the North Bay Sponsoring Committee's three successful Cross-Institutional Conversations last month, a "Taking the Next Step" meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10th, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Congregation Beth Ami, 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa CA. Take this opportunity to learn where we go from here. We'll sift through issues such as the local economy, the job market, the housing crisis, schools, immigration and foreclosures. Then we'll form Research Action Teams that will contribute to the creation of an Agenda for Community Action.

**SUCCESS STORIES** - Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey addressed a Joint Leaders Assembly on Tuesday, October 19th in Petaluma, where 275 leaders from the

North Bay Sponsoring Committee and the Marin Organizing Committee shared their successes with one another, and committed to working together on important community issues. The continuing foreclosure struggle our Central Coast sister organization is waging, and the work of the Marin Organizing Committee (MOC) that resulted in Marin County investing nearly a million dollars in Shelter and Supportive Housing services for the homeless in Marin County, are inspiring examples of what happens when people get organized.

**UUCAN** (Unitarian-Universalist Conversation and Action Network), which is UU's core team of the NBSC, meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 3 pm to 4:30 pm in the Board Room. We encourage all of you to attend our meetings and contribute to our work. Who knows? You might find out that you are a leader!

For more information call Jo Ann Robson at 823-5122

## A Heartfelt "Thank You

### *THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS COMMUNITY*

### *DONORS TO THE 2010 AUC- TION AND RAFFLE*

6th Street Playhouse

Applebee's

Café Gratitude

California Luggage Company

A Caring Touch Massage

Cinnabar Theater

Community Market Natural Foods

Copperfields Books

Dinner My Way

Flavor Restaurant

Gaia's Garden

Hank's Creekside Restaurant

8KRCB Radio

Kim Krueger, Belleza Salon

Kindred Fair Trade Handcrafts

La Gare Restaurant

Jhanthong Banbua

Jojo Sushi Bar and Restaurant

Linda Shea Designs

Mac's Kosher Deli

Mission Hand Car Wash

Muffin Street Baking Co and Café

Randevous Bistro

Santa Rosa Symphony

Shelton's Market

Sift Cupcakery

Tone - Pilates, Dance, Yoga

Trader Joe's

Trattoria Cattaneo

**PLEASE VISIT THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION WHEN YOU DO.**



## Sunday Hospitality! Read this you must!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Due to our ever increasing success as we spread the good Word about UUCSR, we now have two full services every Sunday. Hooray, you say....but alas! Who bringest the goodies to sate our bellies' hunger after our souls have been fed? We must rise up and feed the masses! To that end, we will begin a NEW SYSTEM in November! We will be sending out requests each week to several fortunate souls as their names are listed in the Book of UU (ie. the Directory) via email. The Subject line will read, "SUNDAY HOSPITALITY. Please, do not delete! Check it out to see if you are one of the bringers of good things to eat for Sunday Hospitality after whichever service you attend. Bring your

offering to the kitchen (and while you are at it, ask the Kitchen Goddess or God if you can lend a hand!). Cookies are terrific (packaged or created) but folks really enjoy other creative (and healthier) offerings as well. Let's make our Sunday Coffee Hour one of plenty! With gastronomical gratitude....Cathie W.

Oh, yes....You don't have to wait to be invited to bring donations to the coffee hour. We have a nice little cupboard for storing cookies and crackers, etc. in the kitchen. Plenty trumps scarcity in my opinion!

Submitted by Cathie Wiese



## *Holiday Faire and Quaker Tea*

*Saturday, November 20, 2010*

*10 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

*684 Benicia Drive, Santa Rosa*

*Handmade Gift Items*

*Baked • Beaded • Canned • Knitted • Quilted*

*Guatemalan Crafts and Clothing*

*Craft Demonstrations*

*Rug Hooking • Spinning Wheel • Creativity in Wood*

*Albino Pachyderm Thrift Shop*

*and much more!*

*Experience a Quaker Tea*

*\$15 per person for morning or afternoon sittings*

For more information call

707-538-0152

Or email: [pcoreris@friendshouse.org](mailto:pcoreris@friendshouse.org)

Friends House is a nonprofit Continuing Care Retirement Community



## Friendly Faces Needed

Friendly faces needed for the 9:15 service!

We are getting good attendance, but we need a few more greeters and ushers to help with the early service. They are easy jobs and it's a great way to get to know people.

Greeters get there a little early and stand near the door to welcome people as they enter.

Ushers pass the offering baskets and then help the worship associates count the money at the end of the service.

And for those who like a cup of coffee before the 9:15 service..., any possibility you could come in a bit early to make a pot of coffee? The instructions are posted by the coffee pots.

A few more regular volunteers would really make a big difference!

Thanks for your assistance.

Contact Paula Hammett, [kipster@sonic.net](mailto:kipster@sonic.net), 707-658-1563 for more info.

## Women Together—Elder Tales

Sally Fife is hoping to feel well enough to tell us her story one Saturday afternoon in November. We'll let you know as soon as we can, so you may want to keep your Saturday plans flexible if you'd like to hear about her wonderful life! Stay tuned!

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 7:00 pm at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Deborah Dean. The December selection is *Jane and Prudence* by Barbara Pym. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Linda Lampson

## Friday Night Game Night

Each Friday night since mid May we have offered a game night to the residents of the Family Support Center, Santa Rosa's only homeless shelter for families. We play bingo and offer activities for the children from 6:15-7:30. It's gratifying to bring a bit of lightness into lives that are filled with the stress of homelessness.

This is a project of hands-on community service developed by the Advocates for Social Justice. When we introduced this project in the spring, we posed the question:

Is there enough interest in the congregation in this program to launch it, fine tune it and sustain it?

We have launched, fine tuned and are now at the sustainability question. We staff these game nights with 2-4

folks. We have a wonderful, dedicated core of 13 -not enough to keep each Friday well staffed. We have recently added 3 new people to our crew but need more of you to step forward if we are to continue beyond the end of November. Without more volunteers we will have to conclude that this project didn't hold enough interest for members of the congregation to keep it going. If you have any interest in learning more or volunteering now is the time!

Call or email me at 824-0530  
or [jeaniebmft@gmail.com](mailto:jeaniebmft@gmail.com).  
Jeanie Bates



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2010**  
**[Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)**

**E-mail submissions**  
**Greatly Appreciated!**  
**Newsletter Assembly Nov. 30, 2010**

## Small Group Ministry Program/Together in Exploration (TIE) Groups

We are off to a good start with the sixth year of our Small Group Ministry Program at UUCSR. While planning this new program in 2004 we decided to call the groups Together in Exploration (TIE ) Groups. Both names describe what we are doing in our congregation to help members and friends get to know one another in a safe and nurturing environment.

For those who are new to UUCSR or who have not been in a TIE group before, each group follows a set format. The elements of the TIE groups are as follows:

1. An opening reading.
2. A check in period for attendees to share briefly what is happening in their lives.
3. A time for focus on a discussion topic among the group members,
4. The closing check-out. The facilitators ask each person for a word or phrase that says something about how she or he is feeling as the meeting draws to an end.

5. A closing reading.

Groups range in size from 6 to 10 members. The facili-

tators who lead the groups attended a fall workshop for a day and a half to learn the process of facilitating. Each group works together in the spring on a service project for the congregation or the community. This gives the TIE group members the opportunity to get to know each other on a different level.

The following quotes lets you know the experiences of former TIE Group members:

We started out as almost strangers and by the end had developed a real sense of trust and intimacy.

It was wonderful to get to know people on a deeper level than is possible at Sunday services.

I enjoyed getting to know these interesting people. I very much enjoyed knowing the oldest members of the group, whose contributions to the group were very valuable.

In January there will be some openings in some of the TIE Groups. If you have any questions about TIE Groups, call me at 707-875-3542.

Carolyn McLeese, member of the Small Group Ministry/TIE Groups steering committee.

## UUCSR Writers

**UUCSR Writers will not meet on Monday, November 1.** The next regular monthly meeting will be from 4 - 6 pm in the "Green Room" on **Monday, December 6, 2010** at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-568-5381. Information: UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

### NaNoWriMo

"one day, i'd like to write a novel" **November is National Novel Writing Month.** Join the Write-In's! Bash out a 50,000-word novel in 30 days every Monday in November 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Board Room at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Avenue. Free - Open to the General Public.

Monday, October 25 - Introduction & Guidelines Meeting  
Mondays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - **Write-In's!**  
Read Chris Baty's book, NO PLOT? NO PROBLEM! A

Low-Stress, High-Velocity Guide to Writing a Novel in 30 days. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2004. Visit [NaNoWriMo.org](http://NaNoWriMo.org) to register.

### "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  
GGdeB@aol.com

**Did you know -- we're on TWITTER as uuSantaRosa.**

**Email tweetable news or links to Ellen Skagerberg.**



# Mark Your Calendars!

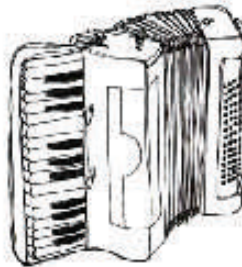
**For these "Don't-miss" Holiday Events!**

Tickets on sale in Social Hall before-and-after every Sunday service

**Sunday, November 14, 5:00 p.m.**

## FRENCH & ITALIAN MUSIC TRIO **LA GUINGUETTE**

Christine LeLaure on Vocals  
Al Haas on Guitar & Vocals  
Robert Lunceford on Accordion



*All Seats \$10*

Close your eyes and let the music of La Guingette transport you into the heart of Paris, or the small towns and villages of southern Italy. In this Holiday kick-off concert, an accomplished trio of players interpret beloved and enchanting melodies made famous by the likes of Edith Piaf, Fabrizio di Andre, Luciene Delyle and Mireille Athieu.

**Friday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.**

## **The New Horizons Band of Sonoma County Annual Holiday Concert**

The acclaimed ensemble of sassy senior-citizens, performing tunes of the season, plus marches, ballads, and favorites from Broadway

*Donations in any amount accepted*



**Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.**



The unpredictable Annual Lit-Comedy-Variety Show returns!

## **Twisted Christmas Live 8**

Off-beat holiday tales read aloud by satirist Will Durst, the RSC's Reed Martin, comic Debi Durst, authentic Englishman John Moran and more—plus a very special pre-taped performance by Josh Kornbluth! Music by the Twisted Christmas All-Ukulele Orchestra, accompanying the outrageous Holiday Hula-Hoop All Stars!

*Tickets \$15 in advance - \$20 at the door*



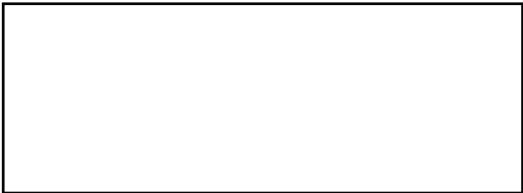
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November 2010

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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**President:** Andrew Hidas, [President@uusantarosa.org](mailto:President@uusantarosa.org)  
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Cathie Wiese  
Craig Work

**Order of Service Announcements:**

Send submissions to [Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org)  
**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**UU Update Newsletter:**

Send submissions to [Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)  
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to [Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto: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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**Sunday Religious Education Staff**  
Jeremy Cummings  
Aly Holloway

**UUCSR Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2010**  
**Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 p.m. by Andrew Hidas**

Members Present: Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Bonnie Daines (Co-Treasurer), John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (Co-Treasurer), Phyllis Heagney, Andrew Hidas (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Craig Work

Absent Member: Lois Nagle

Non-members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary)

Opening Words: Chris Bell, comment on and reading of "Let us be united..." from the Rig Veda

Minutes of 19 August 2010 approved as modified.

Minutes of 4 September 2010 approved as submitted.

90-Second Check-In: What music most moves you and why?

**Open Mic:** None

**Executive Session:** Personnel matter

**Corporate Resolutions/Signatures**

Authorized signers for bank and investment accounts must be modified to reflect current responsible signatories. Passed unanimously viva voce.

Mary Louise moved and Cathie seconded that a reallocation of the minister's compensation package be made to more closely reflect anticipated costs. It involves no change in the total package amount. Passed unanimously viva voce.

**Board Goals Refinement**

Short-range goals refined. Eliminated three from preliminary list and turned them into Action Items instead: (1) Create Board member name tags, (2) Support congregational hospitality by actively and consistently engaging visitors, (3) Direct Operations Council to review and modify as required, facility use practices with outside groups (John as lead, Craig as support). Board added the short-range goal regarding transparency (see below). Decision not to prioritize goals given the following Board ownerships:

- Develop policies and practices which increase Board transparency and congregational participation – Andrew and Cathie
- Maintain sufficient volunteer and/or staff to maintain a dynamic, up-to-date website – John as lead, Craig as support
- Invite a Youth Group liaison to the Board – Mary Louise lead
- Enhance and secure the financial health of UUCSR through:
  - Supporting an earlier Annual Budget Drive – Bonnie as lead, Laura Jean and Mary Louise as support
  - Develop a long-range maintenance plan – John as lead, Craig and Ann as support
  - Establish a budget line item for equipment and infrastructure obsolescence – John as lead, Craig and Ann as support
- Establish committee to revise Bylaws including process for naming a Board president-elect to better prepare for upcoming year – Mary Louise as lead, Craig as support
- Address minister's compensation vis-à-vis UUA guidelines – Laura Jean as lead, Bonnie as support
- Develop plan/process to establish individual meetings with new members and existing leaders on a regular basis – Phyllis as lead, Craig as support

Mary Louise suggested giving the goals high Board visibility by including them in each month's agenda.

Action: Recording secretary to distribute short-, medium- and long-range goals and request eliminations, additions and refinement

### **Sunday Hospitality**

The volunteer-provided food snacks between/after Sunday services is unreliable. Board (Craig) will suggest to Membership Council that a process such as surname alphabetical assignments and encouragements in the OoS and/or Newsletter be used to promote snack contributions.

### **Financial Report - Mortgage Pay-Down Program**

Status report of mortgage pay-down program was presented by Bonnie and Laura Jean.

Mortgage projected to be paid by 2029. Details to be discussed at future meeting.

#### **Bylaw Revision**

Bylaws prohibit Board from expenditures greater than \$10K without prior membership approval. This sum is impractical in emergency situations. Mary Louise moved, Bob seconded by Bob that policy be modified as follows (change in italics):

Article 5, Section 5, Subsection (d): The Board shall not enter into any notes, contracts or commitments requiring expenditure in excess of \$10,000 or three percent (3%) of the operating budget, whichever is greater, without prior membership approval except for those cases covered by the Emergency Fund Policy.

Motion passed unanimously viva voce.

### **Reserve Funds**

Bonnie will consult with Financial Stewardship Council regarding establishing reserve funds in addition to Emergency Fund to address operations, emergencies and obsolescence.

Closing Words: Chris read "To live content with small means" by William Ellery Channing

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

## **Special Meeting 4 September 2010**

Meeting Called to Order at 2:30 p.m. by Andrew Hidas

Members Present: Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Bonnie Daines, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman, Phyllis Heagney,  
Andrew Hidas, Mary Louise Jaffray  
Lois Nagle, Cathie Wiese, Craig Work

Non-members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary)

Special Topic: Sexton resignation and temporary hire

Discussion: Chris related that sexton has resigned due to family responsibilities and resulting schedule conflicts. Bill Brewster, husband of UUCSR administrator Janis Brewster, has offered to fill the position on an interim basis. Discussion ensued on HR procedures for filling position on temporary basis while posting the job for later permanent hire.

Motion: Bob moved that Bill Brewster be offered the position on interim basis until the Human Resources Committee posts it for permanent hire. Craig seconded. Motion unanimously passed via voice vote.

Adjourned: 2:45 p.m.