



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• May 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 5 •

Sunday Services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

May 6

WORSHIP IS LIFE

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine

Worship means "to give worth to." Today we'll deconstruct our worship service, and consider what spiritual truths and longings underlie the different elements of our ritual form. There are good reasons why we *do* worship as we do. Bluegrass music, and a guest vocalist will add to our celebration.

May 13

MOTHER'S DAY

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman, Linda Proulx

Our relationship with our mother is primary. A good mother nurtures us, even as she lets us become our own unique person. So, too, the Tao. Indeed, people have nearly always personified the Earth as our sacred Mother. Today we'll celebrate the gift of mothers (biological and more) and consider how to strengthen and support them. A Children's Choir performs at 11:00.

May 20

CHALICA

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason, Bev Helfer-Grand

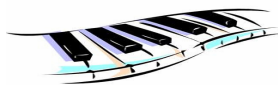
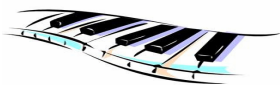
Chalica is a fun but powerful way to integrate our UU Principles more deeply into our daily lives. Today we kick off a seven day observance whereby families of all sizes and kinds take time each day to light a Chalice, reflect on one of our Principles, and commit to following the Divine as we know it through living out our own highest values. Join us as we kick off this week of practice! The Choir performs at 9:15.

May 27

WHO IS THE MONSTER?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer

Today we'll let the life and work of Stefani Germanotta (aka **Lady Gaga**) lead us into an exploration of bullying and how to fight it. Through that, we'll talk about finding the inner strength to face up to injustice and unfairness, and how we can further the spirit of tolerance and peace. This is the other Service Auction winning sermon topic. Yes, we will dance. No word yet on whether Chris will wear his bubble suit.



Roger Corman Jazz Quartet—Saturday, May 19 at 7:30 pm

Tickets (@ \$20) for the concert donated by our own Roger Corman are going fast. Buy yours from Tom Bond before or after the service. A number of "angels" have purchased packets of five for their families and friends, and as a donation to the congregation. All funds raised in this way will go toward meeting the \$30,000 in fund raising that was part of the 2011-12 budget we passed in October. Those who cannot afford a ticket should see

Tom about helping out at the concert so we can surely have this be an all-congregation event. Please note that an early announcement in the order of service incorrectly listed the starting time.

Joining Roger will be Jordan Wardlaw, tenor and soprano sax, Rick Fulkerson on bass, and George Smeltz on drums. As a special treat Hal Forman will join the group on trumpet.

Tense Questions



“Do we want to be a comprehensive means of faith? Or do we want to be a covenanted group exclusive to the saints?”

One of my colleagues, quoting famed Harvard UU historian Conrad Wright, asked those questions of the Pacific Central District’s ministers last week at our annual Spring Retreat two weeks ago. The whole group was grappling with how to articulate Unitarian Universalism to a new generation, and how to bring its spiritual power to greater life here in Northern California and Nevada. Her questions have stuck in my head ever since, because it so clearly illuminates the great tension at the heart of our merged faith, one that often keeps us stuck.

On the one hand, our Universalist ancestors suggested that we should be a comprehensive means of faith, as they boldly declared a universal power of love and creativity that is available to all people, in all times, to follow and heed as they are able and willing, and it cannot be restricted. In this understanding, one attends a congregation in order to access this Power, to see examples of others who are embracing it and living by it, and to celebrate this free gift of the Universe by offering its hope to any and all who seek it.

Ultimately, our Christian Universalist forebears went through a remarkable process of realizing that there wasn’t only one true path into the life of the Spirit. This pluralistic approach really was, and is, revolutionary for a group that was still trying to be a coherent and distinguishable faith. In fact, some authors have suggested that the Universalists succeeded themselves out of their own need to exist. After all, if any path will do and God loves me already, why would I choose a Universalist Church? Why not just stay where I am? Or stay at home on a Sunday? (More and more Americans choose to do just that.)

Over on the other hand, our Unitarian side emerged from the Puritan churches, which were forged in an effort to purify and perfect the religion of their day. The Puritans were rejecting what they perceived to be the many egregious abuses of the Church, and sought to return to the true, pure, church. They were very clear that not everybody was fit to be welcomed into the fellowship. Drawing on the New Testament, they argued in the Cambridge Platform that a church had to be able to restrict its membership. Allowing drunkards and adulterers and so forth to come to the Communion table defiled it. Sure, there would be preaching on Sunday for everyone, saved and unsaved alike, but church leadership and the rite of the Lord’s Supper was only for those who had demonstrated that they were worthy. This usually involved a very emotional display that showed that one was aware of one’s sinful nature, and had accepted the essential role of Jesus in saving us from

the eternal fire. A congregation was made up of only the “right” people, whom they called “saints,” following the Book of Acts.

You’ve probably noticed that we don’t do that anymore. Thank God. But our basic church form - covenanted, local, and autonomous - is directly inherited from these folk. Such an understanding allows for a very strong community, but it does keep people out. A critique of many who come to us from communities of color or from disadvantaged backgrounds is that many UU congregations still do this informally. Today you prove you belong by having the right political views, by having gone to college, by listening to NPR and recycling. Most importantly, you prove you belong by not talking about God or the Bible or religion too much, and by not taking spiritual matters too seriously or enthusiastically.

Indeed, I find that even the commonly used phrase, “He was a Unitarian all these years and didn’t know it!” suggests that it is holding the right set of views that makes one belong, instead of the simple act of coming together in humility to wake up to and serve that which is good for all.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t have membership requirements, or that we should allow just anybody to sign up for the Board of Trustees. I like our covenant. Any organization has to have rules and boundaries. Thoughtful and moral people should be in charge. But I do think that when we lift up the “community of like-minded people” as our highest good, we are in danger of allowing ourselves to stay only in our comfort zone. The scriptures of many traditions, and history itself, declare that the life of faith is not, by any means, necessarily a comfortable one. Not with all these broken, troubled people around needing the power of love. (And I place myself in that number...)

A comprehensive means of faith is not comfortable, because it proclaims an offering for *everyone*, whether or not they already have their act together. If we leaned more in this direction, we would not only serve a breakfast for the homeless, but invite them to services, too, in the confidence that our practices and our teachings will be of real benefit in their lives. Can we do this? I myself sometimes fear that our upbeat, often tongue-in-cheek services might not actually offer something for a wounded person to use in order to change their lives.

That said, I am fully confident that the heart of our community - whether you call it the Tao, or the Principles, or God, or Love - can save a person’s life. However you name the Great Big Thing, I hope you share my determination to share it with anyone who needs it, including ourselves. I hope you will help me make Unitarian Universalism a comprehensive means of faith.

Take care, and I’ll see you on Sunday!

Greetings from the Board

A special meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, May 3 for the purpose of finalizing the Preliminary FY 2012/2013 Budget to be presented at the spring Congregational meeting. This meeting is in addition to the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Thursday May 17. As with all Board meetings, with the exception of rare executive sessions, these meetings are open, and are in the Board Room from 6:30-8:30pm.

One of the Board's goals this year was to increase attendance at our three Congregational Meetings that traditionally follow lunch after the late service and last until 2-2:30pm. In response to this goal, our past president, Andrew Hidas, suggested we consider scheduling these meeting earlier in the day. In January over one hundred members responded to a survey on changing the time of our Congregational Meetings to 9:00-10:30am, and on those Sundays having just one Worship service at 11am. The vote was 101 to 23 in favor of this earlier meeting time. Of those in favor 35 indicated they were more likely to attend if the meeting were scheduled earlier in the day. As a result, the

spring Congregational Meeting will be **June 10, 9:00-10:30am**. We anticipate that the earlier meeting time will generate a significantly larger turnout. With over 330 members, some of you may be sitting in the aisles! Preliminary discussions on offering a continental breakfast beforehand are underway.

Good progress is being made on several other Board goals. Rev. Chris has led several well-attended and productive meetings on the formation of an Adult Religious Education program. A Communications Team is being formed to coordinate and enhance all of the communication channels of our congregation: the website, newsletter, e-lists, brochures, Sunday bulletins, etc. Finally, an enthusiastic Pastoral Care Team has been formed and is busy developing plans and recruiting helping hands. It is very exciting to see the energy, commitment and optimism of these emerging groups.

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President

Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11 a.m. Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders.

Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged!

Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room,
located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.

May 13

June 17

Treasurer's Report—We Just Keep Moving On

As previously reported in this column, we are doing well in the Operations Account and the Audit Team found no major issues when we reviewed the March figures. However all is not champagne and roses - there are a couple of thorny issues still with us financially.

First our "Funraising" (it's really fundraising.) We based our approved annual budget on the premise that we could raise \$30,000 through fundraising events. As in past years, the Ladies of the Auction (our major fundraiser) performed wonderfully, raising almost \$23,000 and leaving \$7-8,000 to be gotten from other events. Unfortunately we have not had any group or individual volunteer step up to the plate - which makes the upcoming Roger Corman Event even more important. (See Tom Bond's article).

The other area that the Audit Team is keeping it's eye on is the Glaser Center events and the rentals of our building. This area also provides a significant part of our annual operating expenses and is necessary for us to meet our goal of balancing our budget. David is working very hard to meet this budget goal and it appears we will get close by June!

A last note - it is to be noted that the Treasurer did NOT use any UUCSR funds to finance his recent trip to London and Paris (although reimbursement requests may be forthcoming if he visits UU congregations in those countries)!!

Happy spring to all,
Art Rosenblum Co-Treasurer

UUCSR Writers

Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4 - 6 pm, Monday, May 7, at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa.

Next Poetry Slam - Friday, 7 pm, May 18, Video Droid "Haven Cafe", 1901 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

Thursday Mornings at the "Haven Cafe" 10 am - Meet once a week for coffee and conversation.

Information - Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Help us Sponsor the Poetry Slams

The UUCSR Writers sponsors the Poetry Slams. Your financial support accounts for 100% of the funds needed to provide the Prizes at each Slam.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 before June 10th. Any amount donated shall be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your contribution.

Please make your **Tax Deductible** check payable to: UUCSR. Please write "UUCSR Writers" on the memo line. Mail to: UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The selection for May is Major

Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

Linda Lampson

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.—May 30, 2012

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Religious Education this Summer:

The first source of Unitarian Universalist faith is direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder affirmed by all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life. This summer we will encourage the blossoming of transcending mystery and wonder through creative expression.

Children's R.E will be in full swing throughout the summer months: June through August. Each Sunday we will have Children's Chapel, a morning worship that includes the lighting of the chalice and the sharing of joys and sorrows, then an engaged experience in:

- dance/movement
- painting and other forms of visual art
- improvisational drama
- music.

We will need the help of adults in the congregation who will share their talent with our kids. If you are able to dedicate one Sunday morning this summer to our awesome kids,

PLEASE contact DRE, Deborah Mason: debma-sonuu@yahoo.com or 707-568-5381

It will be a lot of fun!!!

Youth Group and Family Pot Luck:

Our YRUU Youth Group has invited their parents to attend a special pot luck supper on Friday, May 11 at 6:30. The youth group is planning a worship service to follow our shared meal.

Secret Pals Great Reveal Potluck

Secret Pals will culminate with the disclosure of the identity of participants on May 20, 2012. We will celebrate with a potluck lunch in the RE Common Room after the 11:00 service.

Here's what's happening in RE Classes this month:

Date:	Grades K-2: <i>Wisdom Tales</i>	3-5: <i>Bibleodeon</i>	6-8: <i>Neighboring Faiths</i>
5/6/12	Children's Chapel	All ages worship together	Theme: Something Special for Mom
5/13/12	<i>Mother's Day Mice</i> by Eve Bunting and Jan Brett	<i>Protestantism: Exploring our Christina Roots</i>	<i>Protestantism: Exploring our Christina Roots</i>
5/20/12	Intergenerational Service Chalica	<i>All children will attend</i>	the 11:00 worship service
5/27/12	<i>My Diary from Here to There</i> by UU author Amada Perez	Theme: Importance of the Bible today	<i>Who Is the Monster?</i> Middle Schoolers will attend Rev. Chris' worship about Lady Gaga and an exploration of bullying.

Child Care is provided in our Preschool Room every Sunday during the 11:00 service for children infancy through age 4.

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4 - 6.
Youth Group Advisors are Rev. Chris Bell and Deborah Mason

Happy Birthday Friday Family Fun Night

Thanks to the Advocates for Social Justice, who were looking for a "hands on project", Friday Family Fun Night (FFFN) evolved. Jeanie Bates contacted Carol Kemplon at the Family Support Center, within the walls of Catholic Charities (our neighbors at 465 A Street.) Many meetings later, Jeanie Bates, Linda Harlow and Cassandra Lista were my regular Friday evening volunteers setting up board games for adults and children.

It looks a little different these days. Bingo is set up in the dining room for Adults and Older children (who doesn't enjoy receiving a prize.) The younger children

play in the childcare room where volunteers set up playdough, art projects, games, puzzles etc. Upon arriving and walking through the doors, adults cheer "Bingo" and children greet you with a huge smile.

Those with pioneering spirit laid the groundwork for a program that continues to grow and benefit all who participate.

I thank you for your vision and advocacy.

Debbie Carter-Hope
Volunteer sign-up for FFFN
Advocates for Social Justice Table

Getting to Know UU

Sat. June 16, 2012 9-12 noon here at UUCSR

Rev. Chris Bell will present information on Unitarian Universalists and our congregation in particular.

There will be plenty of time for questions. This is a 3-hour workshop, not a drop-in session. This is one step

towards becoming a member or just getting to know one another. Beverages & morning food will be provided. Sign up at the Visitors Table, or contact Betty Miller, organizer, millerbetty@comcast.net 539-3654. Childcare provided, indicate ages.

Bylaws Forum—May 20 Please Come!

The Bylaws Task Force cordially invites all interested members to a Bylaws Forum on Sunday, May 20, following the 11 o'clock service. We will discuss and take feedback on proposed revisions to our Bylaws,

Articles I-III, which concern our purposes as a congregation, and which would clarify the requirements for general membership, establish two new membership categories (Youth and Emeritus), and clarify the category of Pledging Friends in this particular congregation. The final version of the proposed changes

will be presented to the congregation for approval at the June 10 Congregational Meeting. If you would like to have a copy of the proposed changes to consider carefully before the forum, please contact one of the members of the Bylaws Task Force. Any of us would be very glad to assist you in participating fully in this forum. Our current bylaws are available online at <http://www.uusantarosa.org/bylaws.html>.

Bylaws Task Force: Mary Louise Jaffray, Carol Kraemer, Ellen Skagerberg, Cathie Wiese, Craig Work

4th Annual Men's Retreat

Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual UUCSR Men's Retreat. It will be held again at St. Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker, the weekend of August 24, 25 & 26. This is open to all members and friends of UUCSR.

If you have questions please contact the retreat committee, Andy Levine, Eric Fischer, Scott Miller, Ethan Foote, Sam Miller, Art Rosenblum, Peter Wilson.

In fellowship, Andy Levine

All Congregation Family Retreat—Don't Miss Out!

What: Annual All-Congregation Family Retreat

Where: The lovely Valley of the Moon Retreat

When: Fri., Sat., Sun., July 13, 14, 15

Who: All UUCSR Members & Pledging Friends

Why: FUN, FELLOWSHIP and more FUN!!!!!!!

If you have been following the news, you may have seen that Valley of the Moon Retreat Center, may not be available in the future because of a sale. This wonderful site, with a meadow, redwoods, and history, is not to be missed. This year may be our last at this special place.

As always, we will have workshops, hiking, swimming, an outdoor worship service, and plenty of good food and time to just rest and enjoy ourselves. The annual talent show on Saturday always surprises and delights. Watch for the registration forms and flyer in the June newsletter or look for the registration table that will be available every Sunday in June. Call Barrie Noe 823-5018 or Leslie Norinsky at 373-7944 if you have any questions.

Submitted by Carol Kraemer



2012 UU Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage

The next UU Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage is scheduled for October 6-13, 2012, and registration is now open. This unique bus trip is much more than a Civil Rights history tour through Alabama and Mississippi. We will be visiting historic sites and meeting veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, and but will also be spending time together and with guests exploring what racism, white privilege, and barriers to equality look like today in Southern towns we visit--- and in our own hometowns.

Beyond experiencing first-hand the civil rights legacy, our goal is to develop commitment, vision and mechanisms within our group to work on issues of

race, injustice and inequality that still bedevil our congregations and our society. The Living Legacy Pilgrimage is hosted and organized by the Reverend Gordon Gibson and Judy Gibson; the Reverend Hope Johnson; the Reverend James Hobart; Janice Marie Johnson; Annette Marquis; and Donna Sequeira, and co-sponsored by the Southeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

For more information and to register, please visit www.uulivinglegacy.org. Don't miss your chance to be on the bus! Register early - costs are discounted for those who register before May 15th.

21st Annual Women Together Retreat!

"Heritage and Legacy" is the theme for this year's Women Together Retreat in the beautiful setting of Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker. We will be gathering the weekend of *May 4, 5, and 6, 2012* for exploration, conversation, good food and good fun! Important Information: Registration begins on Sunday, April 8th after the 9:00 and 11:00 services at UUCSR. You will find our Registration Form in this newsletter and are welcome to complete it and return it to the UUCSR office with a check for your payment made out to UUCSR (note Women Together) before April 8th if necessary. Your early registration will not be processed until sign ups begin on April 8th. Please understand that, because this is such a popular event, and we want to accommodate everyone possible, priority registration will be given

to Members and Pledging Friends of UUCSR April 8th through April 15th.

Guests/non-members' registration will be processed as space remains on the last sign up day, April 22nd. Registration forms will be processed as we receive them, so please don't delay as this wonderful weekend often fills up quickly. The first 50 people to register will be guaranteed a bed in a double room. After that you may be in a bed in a dorm room (which is not bad). Look for the Women Together Retreat sign up table in the social hall by the stained glass chalice panel near RE on April 8, 15, and 22! Please look for us there with any questions, requests, and to register. We look forward to another amazing weekend together in the redwoods!

What's happening this month with UUCSR's Arts & Culture Ministry? Differently-abled artists bring art to our walls and theater performance onto our stage

Laura, 30, describes herself as a writer, a poet, and actress, and sometimes, as she described herself when we met two weeks ago, "pretty much just an inspirational person." Laura has Down Syndrome, and as one of two narrators in the upcoming stage musical 'The Adventures of Pin Pin,' she proudly demonstrates that having a developmental disability does not deter a true artist from finding ways to express her thoughts, her feelings, her dreams, her disappointments.

You can read some of Laura's poetry now through May 27, as a number of her poems currently adorn our walls, along with 49 paintings created by the artists of Alchemia's Art for Life program. Better than that, you can see Laura on stage right here, when Alchemia's award-winning Theater for Life Company brings 'The Adventures of Pin Pin' to the Glaser Center on May 4 and 5.

Alchemia is a very special day program, operating in Novato, Petaluma and Santa Rosa. Under the direction of Liz Jahren (some of you saw her as Pinky in the recent production of my play of the same name), the non-profit works with differently-abled adults who identify as artists. The participants, age 21 - 38, are encouraged to use their artistic talents in a number of ways; in addition to the theater troupe, Alchemia has its own art gallery in downtown Petaluma, called Art Without Labels (AWOL), a dance company, and several different classes in a range of disciplines, which have produced published books of poetry, play scripts, dance recitals, musical cabarets, and lots and lots of art.



I was privileged to spend a couple of weeks with these amazingly confident and driven artists, as they rehearsed their upcoming play, loosely based on the story of Pinocchio. An educational fable about the dangers of bullying, 'Pin Pin' (title character played alternately by Ahleli, shown to the left, and Danny, the son of our own administrator, Janis) is one of several musical shows developed by the actors of Alchemia. In a recent article I wrote for the North Bay Bohemian, I described the power of the whole Alchemia program. More than merely a space

for people with Down Syndrome, Asperger's and various learning disabilities, the staff of Alchemia work hard to affirm the participants place as artists.

Proceeds from the sale of their art work go to the artists, and all performers in the play receive a stipend (supported by your donations when you come to the show). It's an empowering thing, to be recognized, and I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to recognize these artists this month

through the ongoing art display. I hope many of you choose to come see 'Pin Pin' in one of its four performances.

As Shane, 24, one of the displayed artists (and also the Red Fairy in 'Pin Pin'), puts it, "I love to be an artist, because I always am an artist. Every day, I am an artist, and every day I am cute."

Absolutely.

There is a book in the foyer where you can leave your comments for the artists. Please tell them what you think.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GLASER CENTER

Friday, May 4, 10:30 & 7, May 5, 2:00 & 7:00 — The Adventures of Pin Pin — \$8-\$15 donation

Sunday, May 6, 4:00 p.m. — Concert: Sonoma State University Choir — Admission \$8 - \$12

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. — Annual SRJC Spring Choral Concert — Admission \$4 - \$10

Saturday, May 12, 2:00 p.m. — New Horizons Band of Sonoma County — Free Admission

Saturday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. — Jazz Concert — The Roger Corman Quartet — Admission \$20

Saturday, June 15, 16, 22, 23 8:00 p.m. — Actors' Basement with Jean-Paul Sartre's 'No Exit'

Sunday, June 17, 4:00 p.m. — Kitka — The world-renowned choral ensemble - Admission \$20

Advocates for Social Justice

International Workers Day: On Tuesday, May 1st, come to come to 665 Sebastopol Road to show our support for Immigrants' Rights and Economic Justice, both of which are currently under siege! The Rally will start at 3:30 and the March at 4:30. We will march to Julliard Park where there will be entertainment. UUCSR's banner has been prominent in the march, rain and shine, for many years and the Advocates for Social Justice is a sponsor of this event, so let's have a great turn out to demonstrate our commitment to the worth and dignity of every person!

Share the Offering: On Sunday, May 13th, one half of the collection will go to the Earle Baum Center, a nonprofit regional community center in Santa Rosa serving people with sight loss from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border. It opened on October 1, 1999 and focuses instruction in these three areas:

Independent Living Skills: Teaches adaptive skills for cooking, hygiene, shopping, financial management, cleaning, clothing color matching, and more.

Orientation and Mobility: Teaches the physical and communications skills required to travel independently, safely and confidently through one's environment.

Assistive Technology Services: Evaluates a person's skills and needs, and offers individualized recommendations and training, including the use of adaptive computer hardware and software that enable full participation in today's world of electronic communication and information storage and retrieval.

The Earle Baum Center places special emphasis on Senior Services. Since 1999, the EBC has served

thousands of senior citizens through California Title VII grants, activity and fitness programs, support groups and a wide variety of other social and recreational programs. In addition, sports, recreation and social opportunities are fostered at the EBC, including summer barbecues, holiday celebrations and a limited fitness program.

The property's rural expanse also features a beep baseball and recreational field. Supporting the belief that people with sight loss are best served by those who share their condition, the majority of the EBC faculty are highly trained individuals who are themselves either blind or visually impaired. The EBC is a vendor of the California State Department of Rehabilitation and the Veterans Administration and receives referrals for education and training. Our facility also provides meeting space for local support groups and other organizations that serve the blind.

The Sonoma County Office of Education, Teachers of Visually Impaired, works with the EBC to provide opportunities and activities for children with sight loss. The EBC also interacts with schools from Marin, Lake and Napa Counties.

This is the only agency that provides services to the many folk in our community with vision problems. Imagine what that would be like and be as generous as you can. Thank you!

On Sunday, May 27th, half the collection will again go to support our Saturday Breakfast Program. As you know, there is an ongoing and, unfortunately, not decreasing need for this wonderful meal and shared hospitality. When the lovely purple bag comes your way, please sustain your miraculous generosity! Thank you.

Hot Topics



Hot Topic ~ there will be none in May
but on June 3rd, come learn about
trafficking and slavery in California in 2012!



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 15, March 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Board President Laura Jean Hageman.

Members Present 2011/12 Board: Jeanie Bates, Ann Chambers, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Lois Nagle, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Peter Wilson, Craig Work

Members Present 2012/13 Board: Jeanie Bates, Susan Bartholome, Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman, Mary Louise Jaffray, Lois Nagle, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese, Peter Wilson

Members Not Present: None

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister, ex officio Board member), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Betz Miller, Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), Millie Tripp

Special Meeting of the 2012/13 Board
Election of Board Officers for 2012/13

- Office of President: Cathie nominated Laura Jean, Joe seconded. No additional nominations. Laura Jean elected unanimously viva voce.
- Office of Vice President: Peter nominated Mary Louise who declined. Mary Louise nominated Jeanie, Laura Jean seconded. No additional nominations. Jeanie elected unanimously viva voce.
- Office of Co-Treasurer: Laura Jean nominated Art, Cathie seconded. No additional nominations. Art elected unanimously viva voce.
- Office of Co-Treasurer: Laura Jean nominated Amy Young, Joe seconded. No additional nominations. Amy elected unanimously viva voce.

Office of Corporate Secretary: Peter nominated Cathie, Jeanie seconded. No additional nominations. Cathie elected unanimously viva voce.

Laura Jean will host a gathering of the members of both Boards on a Saturday, 21 July.

Schedule: Monthly Board meetings will be conducted the 3rd Thursday of each month, commencing 16 August.

In Laura Jean's absence, Jeanie will preside at the September meeting. An informal gathering will occur in July where potential topics/activities include: member binder update, liaison positions determined, September retreat planning, address current BOT goals, review yearend financials and preliminary Fall Congregational Meeting planning. BOT Planning Retreat is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, 31 Aug & 1 Sept.

Special Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda Review: No changes

Minutes approved as corrected.

Opening Words by Rev. Chris: "Leadership as a Spiritual Practice"

Cathie accepted the role of meeting timekeeper.

One-on-One Sharing

Open Mic:

North Bay Sponsoring Committee (NBSC) Status Report

Chris reported that meetings are being held this week with the future of NBSC likely to be determined within a week.

- Chris reported that Izzy Fischer is creating a documentary re the weekly breakfast program.
- Chris reported that the Youth Group is investigating creating a courtyard wall chalice mosaic.
- Betz Miller of the Membership Council invited BOT members to greet 13 new members at Green room at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Financial Reports: Art observed that the good news is that Operating financials are healthy but the bad news that the congregation's Hillevi Wyman of FinStew will be relocating out of the area.

The preliminary financial report handouts indicated a Jul-Feb 2011 P&L Net Income of \$8K for Operations, \$12K for Restricted & Endowment and \$9K for Glaser Center. The Jul-Jan 2011 Budget vs. Actual report indicated a Net Income of \$43K for Operations and <\$8K> for the Glaser Center.

Cont. on page 11

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 10

Art provided a handout of FinStew's recommended revision of the "Emergency Reserve Fund Policy", 13 June 2010. In addition to non-substantive wording changes, the recommended revision (1) deleted the requirement that the funds be placed into a separate account, (2) deleted the requirement that at least 50% of the funds be in completely liquid investment vehicles, (3) deleted the planning/goal statement that the fund amass \$100K and maintain the fund at or above that level with a plan for replenishment as required, (4) deleted directions to the Operations Council/Building Maintenance Committee regarding the 2010/11 fiscal year, (5) added that the funds not be co-mingled with other Congregational funds and (6) added that earnings be transferred to the Operating fund. Discussion led to revision of the recommendation, viz. deletion of the last words of Section 3, "when received". Mary Louise motioned to accept the recommendation as revised and to present to the Congregation for approval, seconded by Peter. Motion passed unanimously viva voce.

Pledge Drive Task Force: Alan Proulx, co-chair of the task force, announced approximately half of the pledge cards are still out. He expects that the drive will be >90% complete within a week. The drive had more first-time canvassers than the last 2-years combined.

Progress Reports from Goal Groups: Spiritual Life Group Cathie discussed an Adult RE conceptual planning meeting had taken place Saturday, 10 March. Approximately 15-20 attendees discussed potential programs and idea resources. The first meeting of a Steering Committee is forthcoming.

Community Group: Jeanie offered that greater participation in the congregational meetings is expected due to the rescheduling to prior to the Sunday service.

Infrastructure Group: John mentioned that a number of sound system upgrades are being considered that would enhance the sound within the sanctuary for the hearing impaired. Write-ups in the Newsletter and FOCUS will be addressing various considerations.

The Governance team will be redefining leader positions and roles and identifying candidates.

John Chenoweth is attempting to achieve a website update by June.

An Emergency Fund vs. Obsolesce spreadsheet update is forthcoming.

Request from Advocates for Social Justice (A4SJ) to Waive Sponsoring Requirements

The continuing issue regarding the rent-free use of the facility by Occupy Santa Rosa Steering Committee garnered much discussion. Many unresolved questions were posed, including insurance coverage and the position of our insurer, Church Mutual. The group has been using the facility since December with no written agreement. Alan moved that the Board extend permitting the "Occupy Santa Rosa Steering Committee" permission to meet once a week, as available, for 3-months while the issues are being clarified. Laura Jean seconded. After further discussion, the Motion was modified by Alan to read: *The Board extends permission for the "Occupy Santa Rosa Steering Committee" to meet once a week, as available, for 3-months while the issues are being clarified. A written agreement will be signed specifying the terms, including the 3-month period. The BOT Task Force Committee will provide a report to the Board, addressing the unresolved issues not later than the expiration of the 3-month period in question.*

John seconded. The motion passed 10-1-0, Lois opposed.

Designated Task Force Committee members included Laura Jean, Joe and Mary Louise.

Closing words proved by Lois. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. Next Board meeting is on Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Terry Graham



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May 2012

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**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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2012

Gardens with SCULPTURE

A tour of seven Western Sonoma County gardens
with world-class local sculpture

Sunday, May 6, 2012
10am - 5pm rain or shine

ARTISTS INCLUDE Sara Schomp, Beth Hartmann, Karen Ryer, Robyn Spencer-Crompton, Peter Crompton, Carolyn Horan, Warren Arnold, Susandra Spicer, Jan Schultz, Jane Lang & John Christian

COST \$5 per garden, \$25 for all seven gardens TICKETS visit www.sebarts.org
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Illustration and design by Dennis Bolt

THIRD ANNUAL

Gardens with SCULPTURE

SUNDAY
MAY 6, 2012
10am-5pm

rain or
shine

A tour
of seven
Western
Sonoma County
gardens with
world-class
local sculpture

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6780 Depot St.
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Gardens

- Sara Schomp - 501 Sandretto Dr.**
Colorful unique pool/cabana garden oasis with contemporary use of bamboo and corrugated metal in gates and fences. Sculpture by Sara, Beth Hartmann and Jane Lang.
- Michael MacLean and his sister, Tamara MacLean - 452 Sandretto Dr.**
Deeply wooded with a canopy of mature trees, vibrant rhododendron understory and a central glass house for orchid collection. Marble sculptures by Karen Ryer, water sculptures by John Christian.
- Gale Kissin and JoAnn Smith - 854 Martia Ln.**
A feel of the southwest, with crushed gravel paths flowing past oceans of meadow grasses. Lively plantings throughout. A sinuous wall embraces the fire pit and leads to long views. Sculptures by Robyn Spencer-Crampton and Peter Crompton. Garden design talk by Matt Arnold at 2 pm.
- Ann Chambers - 8499 Occidental Rd.**
Ann, a Master Gardener, has developed many garden rooms: one of natives, another dedicated to shade

lovers, a food garden in apple boxes, and a trellis area with pipe vine, hops, and kiwi. This is home to Greencraft Studio, originator of "woven" wisteria and figs. Carolyn Horan will display her whimsical sculptures.

- Jackie and Tim Reuling - 8600 Templeman Rd.**
A mature English-style garden which reflects the joy of outdoor entertaining. Raised cinder block beds, sweeps of lavender and roses, surrounded by award-winning vineyards. Sculpture by Warren Arnold. Enjoy poetry in the garden 3 pm.
- Carole Lansdown - 5728 Pride Rd.**
One has the feel of being in Europe here - the only garden of such design in our area. Focused on the well laid out perennial shrubs and trees, the garden includes: a tea house, green house, trellises, fountain, parterre, and pebble mosaics all designed by Carol. This garden is a sculpture.
- Kathy and Ted Klopp - 1855 Laguna Rd.**
This very large garden, embraced by Klopp Ranch plant noir grapes, has many areas to explore: perennial flower beds, veggie beds, a green house where starts are begun, unique container gardens. Metal sculptures by Susandra Spicer and Jan Schultz, and antique plantings by Theresa Joyce will be displayed.

Tickets

\$5 per garden,
\$25 for all
seven gardens

For tickets &
more info call
707.829.4797
or visit
www.sebarts.org

www.brownpapertickets.com

Design by Dennis Bolt
www.dennisbolt.com