



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• February 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 2 •

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

February's Worship Theme: The Divine Masculine and Feminine

FEBRUARY 3rd

HOWARD THURMAN AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLE

Service Leaders: *Bryan Plude, Frances Corman*
Special Music: *The Choir* (11:00)

Howard Thurman, a great Black theologian and mystic of the 20th century, traveled extensively in India and met with Gandhi, was a mentor to Martin Luther King, helped found the first interracial, intercultural church in America and was the first Black dean at Boston University. We will look at Dr. Thurman's understanding of Jesus, and how the religion of

FEBRUARY 10th

Congregational Meeting – 9:00

Be there or be square!

Major decisions will be made!

One Service Only – 11:00

THE GREAT BIG THING

Service Leaders: *Rev. Christopher Bell,
Lucia Milburn, Nancy Hayashibara*
Special Music: *Kendra Light* (both)

Speaking of his "the Church" and its decline, Episcopal Bishop Eugene Robinson said, "The people come seeking God, and instead we give them religion." Call it what you will; what our beings long for is to know and taste the Sacred which transcends and encompasses us. It is beyond male, beyond female, beyond language itself. It is beyond religion, too, yet it is also religion's heart and soul. Rev. Chris calls it The Great Big Thing, and today he'll tell you all about it.

FEBRUARY 17th

WONDER WOMAN

Service Leaders: *Rev. Christopher Bell, Susan Bartholome*
Special music: *The Choir* (9:15), and the *UUsual Suspects* (both)

Yes, that Wonder Woman. The comic book heroine emerged in the WWII to fight Nazism using a "woman's powers" of love and truth and kindness, and she has remained a symbol of the powerful woman ever since. Sort of. We'll examine her origins and history, and the deeper meaning of her image. She is a goddess, after all.

Today's service is a [Service Auction Winner!](#)

FEBRUARY 24th

MAD MEN

Service Leaders: *Rev. Christopher Bell, Scott Miller*
Special Music: *The Choir* (11:00)

And now for the other side of the gender coin. The television show *Mad Men* brilliantly captures the mid-60s in America, particularly the roles that men and women were expected to play in that era, and the many changes since. We are still in the midst of those tectonic shifts. We'll use this pop-culture masterpiece to consider the ever-changing definitions of masculinity, as well as the central place of desire in American culture. Buddha said desire makes us suffer, and I think even Don Draper might agree.

Start watching those back episodes today!



MARCH 3rd

APOCALYPSE WHEN?

WEAVING THE WORLD ANEW

Service leaders; *Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, Andy Levine*
Special Music: *Festival of Friends* (both)

Apocalyptic rhetoric is so pervasive in American culture that we can scarcely imagine a different framework of meaning. Yet it is deeply oppressive and endangers all life on earth. Come hear about an alternative framework--one that offers hope.

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck is a former ecologist who is called to help our culture make the spiritual transformation we need in order to live sustainably--and lovingly--on our beautiful blue-green planet.

Greetings from St. Pete Beach, Florida!



As most of you know, Rita and I are here for the 2nd Institute for Excellence in Ministry, which is offered by the continuing education arm of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. In a couple of days, some 450 ministers will gather here for a variety of programs exploring theology, congregational governance, ministerial authority, time management and more. There will be time for walks along the

Gulf of Mexico, too, (thank goodness), on one of the longest, prettiest beaches I have ever seen. And I have to say, this hammock is perfect for newsletter writing.

Yes, that is called gloating. So sorry.

Now, many of you heard me refer to this trip as “sabbatical time,” and I’ve since gotten so many questions about my Sabbatical that I thought I would take a moment to explain what and when that actually is.

My Letter of Agreement (the document that describes my call, duties, and terms of employment here at UUCSR) annually gives me four weeks of vacation, and an additional four weeks of study leave. I generally take most of my vacation in the summer, and I use much of my study leave throughout the year for various clergy study-groups of which I’m a member, and for Buddhist retreats. A variety of circumstances, and a falsely inflated sense of my own importance, have nearly always kept me from taking all of the time away allotted me. What can I say? I love my work and I love UUCSR.

The Letter of Agreement also allows for the accumulation of one month of sabbatical time for each year served, up to a maximum of six months. As I have been at UUCSR for six full years, and am now in the seventh, I am using a month of sabbatical time over the course of this year in order to preserve the full amount for an extended Sabbatical beginning January of 2014. At that time I will, in fact, be completely away from UUCSR for about seven months. During that period, we will contract with another minister or ministers to provide preaching coverage, leadership advising and pastoral care, as well as the supervision of Brian Plude, our intern minister, who will remain with our congregation during the entirety of my absence.

The thought of such a long absence makes many people nervous, including me. But the practice of the ages has shown the wisdom of an extended period of rest and renewal for the clergy, and sabbaticals have proven to be of great benefit to congregations as well. The temporary absence of the minister compels congregations to step up their lay and volunteer leadership, to reconsider their priorities of mission and ministry, and, by most accounts, to reinvigorate the relationship with the minister upon his or her return. For the minister, it allows time for spiritual practice, reading, restoration, and the pursuit of long-delayed projects and goals.

I don’t actually know yet what I’ll be doing with my time away, but some possibilities include writing a book (or two), guitar and drum lessons, producing my friend Willy’s hip-hop album (and maybe my own), traveling with Rita and Aaron, learning Spanish, and taking pilgrimages to India, China and Japan. That’s all. My ambition nearly always exceeds what reality allows, I’ve discovered, so I’ll just do what I can.

“And you’ll REST, too, you dummy!”

That’s Rita talking. She takes care of me.

What I do know is that, when the Sabbatical does come, the congregation will be in good hands. And I don’t just mean God’s hands, though that is true. We have one of the best, most friendly and cooperative, professional staffs I’ve ever encountered. Our Worship Associates are top-notch, and our Music Director, Nancy Hayashibara, is one of the best in all the land. Religious Education will continue to grow, the Youth Group will thrive, the Glaser Center will be jamming with activities, and Sunday mornings will remain spiritually and musically rich.

Even more importantly, YOU will be here. For as fine as our staff is, it is the volunteer efforts of so many of you that truly makes this place thrive. When I look at the time and energy that just one person, say, our president Laura Jean Hageman, devotes to our community, I am humbled and awed. If I expand my reflection to include the rest of the Board, the Financial Stewardship Team, the Saturday Breakfast volunteers, the Membership Team, RE teachers, musicians, ushers, coffee-makers, building repairers and improvers, the Caring Connections, and the many, many other servants of spiritual community here, I can only bow, and bow, and bow again.

Plus, you gave us \$350,000 to operate this year, and I expect that that number will be more like \$400,000 next year. Bows, bows, and more bows!

In the meantime, as the Monty Python skit goes, “I’m not dead yet!” We’ve still got a year together to expand our ministries, our activism, our spiritual disciplines, our understandings of Unitarian Universalism, and our capacity for joy. Our congregation will continue to grow and change and exert a positive influence on the world around us. We’re going to have a lot of fun together this year.

Sheesh. Here I am on the nicest beach in the world, and here I am feeling homesick. I’m going to go soak in the hot tub to ease my pain. You do the same, if you can, and I’ll see you February 5th!

With love, Rev. Chris



One Billion Rising

**THE ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & WOMEN TOGETHER
HAVE JOINED THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN**

- ONE BILLION RISING -

TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rise Up Dancing

February 14, 2013

3:00 to 5:00pm

Monroe Hall

1400 W College Ave, Santa Rosa 95404

Please join with women around the world for ONE BILLION RISING, the largest day of action in the history of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

ONE BILLION RISING began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. On February 14, 2013, V-Day's 15th anniversary, The Advocates for Social Justice & Women Together invite you to join activists, writers, thinkers, celebrities, and women, girls and men across the world as we gather in an act of

strength and solidarity to show the world and each other that women will stand together and, yes, even dance in the face of adversity.

RISE UP DANCING is a local multigenerational event. Young and old and in-between will dance together and celebrate the connection we have with women all over the world who call for an end to the violence. Monica Anderson of Tone - Pilates, Dance Yoga - will teach us the dance to the theme song "Break the Chain". Dancing expertise is not required, just the spirit of celebration!

You can learn more about One Billion Rising at www.onebillionrising.org.

You can learn more about our local event Rise Up Dancing by contacting Deborah Mason: debmasonuu@gmail.com or Helga Lemke: helgalemke@earthlink.net

SAVE THE DATE: 2013-14

UUCSR's Gala

Fire of Commitment and Pledge of Freedom

Saturday, April 6 from 4-6 PM.

Watch for more details to follow!

From the Intern Minister

On the day after the airing of Lance Armstrong's confession to Oprah Winfrey, I found myself engaged in a conversation about Lance at that time-honored place to discuss the affairs of the day—the barber shop. I've found myself musing on this fallen hero in the days since. To bring you up to speed, in case you haven't been following this bit of sports drama: Lance made history between 1999 and 2005 by winning the Tour de France, the world's most prestigious bicycling race, 7 times in a row. This was after his come back from testicular cancer which nearly killed him. His LIVESTRONG Foundation has helped millions of cancer patients since 1997. Yet through it all, doping allegations swirled around Armstrong, which he had vehemently denied until last week. Finally, in 2012, a report was released by the US Anti-Doping Agency which was the *coup de grace* for Armstrong. He has since been stripped of all of his medals from 1998 to present, including his 7 Tour wins and his Olympic bronze medal.

Where am I going with this? He shouldn't have doped and then lied about it. That's the simple but not easy

answer. Let's add some layers of complexity. The controlling body for professional cycling has been accused numerous times of corruption and taking bribes to overlook doping (including an alleged bribe by Armstrong). The medals stripped from Armstrong will not be given to anyone else because all the top cyclists during that time period have been implicated or convicted of doping. So...by overlooking rampant doping, the governing body wasn't doing its job. Armstrong's choices seem to have been to compete clean and be an also-ran, leave cycling, dope, or blow the whistle on a corrupt governing body. Now add another layer of complexity; the success of his foundation in raising more than \$470 million for cancer patients was undoubtedly due in part to his success as an athlete. Was this part of his calculation to dope, or was his decision made merely from ego and intense drive to win? What choice would you have made? No matter your theology, the words from the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation" seem appropriate.

Bryan Plude, Intern Minister

Treasurer's Report

Despite the cold, it looks like sunshiny weather today -- and the same can be said for the UUCSR's financial status. Half-way through our fiscal year (December) all of the financial reports look positive

BUDGET—We are ahead of our projected revenue (what we looked for in the budget) by \$20,000. (However December is a big month due to tax write-offs).

Thanks to the hard work by David Templeton and others, our Glaser center income from rentals and events is ahead of our budget by \$10K+ .

Staff expenses (salaries and benefits) are a little less than projected.

We have kept our other operating expenses (everything from cleaning the floors to paying our UUA/PCD dues) well within our budget projection -- helped by a \$4,300 reduction in our interest payment on our mortgage (see below).

All in all I can tell you that due to the diligence of our financial stewards and everyone on the staff and committees we are (as I reported to the Board) "in the black."

AUDIT—An extensive audit of our financial processes was conducted in the second quarter. A number of issues were raised by the audit team led by Kirsten Olney. Many of their recommendations were discussed and actions taken by the Financial Stewardship Committee. A big Thank You to all who participated.

MEMBER MORTGAGE NOTE PROGRAM—Last year the UUCSR Board approved a member mortgage note program, the object of which is to reduce and ultimately pay off the long-term mortgage now held by Luther Burbank Savings with an interest rate of 5.9%. The member notes were issued for 2 years (renewable) at an interest rate of 3% (way better than the current CD's are paying). So far members have purchased \$356,000 in member notes leaving only \$116,000 in our LBS mortgage remaining. **OUR GOAL** -- pay it down by March 31 2013!

If you have not as yet availed yourself of this opportunity (got some money stuck in money market accounts?), this is a great opportunity. As I said previously our interest expenses were cut by more than 25% for the first half of this year and will be reduced even more as we go along. When the LBS mortgage is retired, the budgeted interest payments will be used to pay member note interest and pay off notes coming due.

This is a wonderful program which helps us all. If you have not yet done so, get on board and help us meet our goal.

Lastly, our community has weathered the recent tough economic times and is planning for the future with optimism. (When can we buy that building next door - Rev Chris keeps asking!)

In fellowship, Art Rosenblum Co-Treasurer

Religious Education for Children and Youth

There are a couple of important activities this month that I want you to know about.

First, *The Art of UU Parenting* will re-form and begin at a new day and time in February. This is the third time the class has been offered, and it has been very well received by the parents who have participated.

The seven UU Principles provide meaningful guidance for living a spiritually grounded life. So too do they provide a framework for creating loving families. The Art of UU Parenting is a bi-monthly group that addresses the daily stresses and joys of family life in the context of our Principles. Through worship, planned lessons and sharing parents receive support and new ideas for bringing their UU faith into the home.

If you are a parent who would like to create meaningful connections with other UU parents and explore the deepest aspects of parenting, please join the group. **The new days are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30pm. And it will begin on February 4, 2013.**

The group is open to new and continuing participants. And, of course, childcare will be provided. If you are interested and/or have questions please contact Deborah Mason at 568-5381 or email me at debmasonuu@gmail.com.

The other big thing is our annual Cake Auction. Each year the kids in RE pair up with an adult in the congregation to create an amazing, artistically decorated and delicious cake to be offered up to the highest bidder after the 11:00 service. Adults bake the cake and bring it to RE on that Sunday and together with a child they will decorate it into a unique work of art. Last year we netted \$780.00 which was donated to support Free the Children. This year's recipient has not yet been determined, but it will be a worthy cause! **The Cake Auction will be on Sunday, February 10th.** If you are an adult who has not yet volunteered please get in touch with me asap.

In faith,
Deborah



Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

We provide loving childcare for children from infancy through age 4 in our preschool room during both the 9:15 and the 11:00 services. Rachel Alexander and Fiona Mackenzie are our child care providers.

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Rev Chris and Eric Fischer serve as Youth Advisers. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for more information.

During the 11:00 service our grades K-2 and 3-8 classes are using a curriculum called In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program. Jean Smith and Alan Proulx are our volunteer teachers this month.

February 2013 Class Schedule:

02/03/13	Children's Chapel –All Ages Together	Theme: <i>God is Peace</i>
02/10/13	Grades K-2 : Cake Auction Preparation	Grades 3-8: Cake Auction Preparation
02/17/13	Grades K-2: The Web of Interdependence	Grades 3-8: <i>Making Peace and Building Justice – Two Stories</i>
02/24/13	Grades K-2: Partners with Nature	Grades 3-8 <i>Local UU Conflict Solvers</i>

Music Notes

Following a brief time off following the holidays, the choir resumed singing on January 20 with a lively rendition of "Stand by Me," which elicited some congregational smiles and rhythmic participation. This was followed by a lovely Korean folk song, "Arirang," with a beautiful cello accompaniment, which is sometimes considered the unofficial national anthem of Korea. The English translation is: "Crossing over Airiang Pass, dear who abandoned me, you shall not walk ten ji (2.5 miles) before your feet hurt. In heaven above the stars are shining. Our lives are sorrowful and poor." As we continue to prepare more beautiful music through June, we would like to extend a welcome to new choir members. We rehearse every Thursday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm, usually in the Sanctuary.

Coming up in February, we will be singing a variety of musical selections, beginning with a rousing Spiritual, "Plenty Good Room," on February 3. Following that on February 10, we will take you to Scotland by singing a choral setting of a famous poem by Robert Burns, "O, My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose." February 17 will feature a very interesting song –

"Respect." This song was originally written by [Otis Redding](#) in 1965, but it became a hit and [signature song](#) for [Aretha Franklin](#) in 1967. Franklin's version is a declaration from a strong, confident woman, who knows that she has everything her man wants. She never does him wrong, and demands his "respect". This became a landmark for the feminist movement. Also on February 17, you will hear a special performance of the theme song from "Wonder Woman." Finally, on February 24, the choir will present a popular Beatles song, "Blackbird."

On February 28, the choir will participate in a vocal workshop presented by Eileen Morris, who has often sung at our services, most recently at the end of January. This workshop is not just for current choir members, but is open to anyone who would like to attend. It will be held as part of our regular choir rehearsal from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Submitted by
Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

A popular UU course in feminist theology will be presented. The course explores the female half of our Western religious heritage from the Old Stone Age to the present. The sessions also consider the relationship of that heritage to personal issues in the lives of women

today. The leader will be Rev. Shirley Ranck, retired UU minister and the creator of Cakes.

To register call 707/328-8761 or email saranck1@gmail.com.

Time: Six Saturday afternoons, 12:30—3:00 pm
February, 9, 16, & 23rd and March 9, 16 & 23rd

Place: Unitarian Universalist Congregation in the Board Room
547 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA

Thank You from Catholic Charities

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Catholic Charities Family Support Center, we want to thank you for coming to do "Friday Family Fun Night" each and every Friday evening. We also thank you for the Christmas program that you put on. We know the families enjoy your coming every Friday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gratefully,
Jennielynn Homes, Program Director

We thought this letter worth sharing with the Congregation.

From all of the volunteers at FFFN, we invite you to visit our table Feb. 3, to ask questions, view photos of the children at play, and perhaps join our team of volunteers. Sign up for one Friday a month, 6:15-7:30, we guarantee you'll smile while making new friends.

We wish you well,

Deborah Carter-Hope, dcarterhope@yahoo.com
Jeanie Bates, jeaniebmft@gmail.com

All Congregation Retreat

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Plan ahead because you won't want to miss this year's

ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT

Friday, August 9th through
Sunday, August 11th!



We will gather at a wonderful new location, the retreat center of Westminster Woods, near Occidental. This beautiful place is under new ownership and has great facilities to add to our weekend of community and fun. What might these be, you ask? How about a great pool, amazing play structure (think the original Super Playground in Sebastopol) for our youth, good outdoor spaces and a comfy meeting hall for our workshops and talent show, roomy dining hall, ropes course (!) and a lovely stream meandering through the grounds.

The retreat committee is very excited about all the possibilities this year and will be sharing more information as the time gets closer. Watch for it!

Getting to Know UU

Saturday March 9th 9 a.m. – noon at UUCSR

During this 3 hour workshop, Rev. Chris presents information on Unitarian Universalists and our congregation in particular. You will have plenty of time to explore and ask questions. In a fun and informational session get to know each other and members of our congregation. You might learn a little about yourself, too. This seminar is a requirement for membership, even if you were previously a member at another location.

Morning munchies & beverages will be served. Childcare provided.

FREE. Sign up at the Visitors Table.

More questions? Contact Rev. Chris Bell, 568-5381 or organizer, Betz Miller at 539-3654

or BetzMiller@comcast.net

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.—February 27, 2013

Men's Groups at UUCSR

Young men, middle-aged men, older men, all kinds of men, getting together to discuss and connect. It sounds revolutionary, but the men's group tradition has a long and successful history here at UUCSR.

This congregation has many men's groups meeting during the day and in the evenings. Currently several of these groups are open to new members.

The groups offer an opportunity to talk with other

men about topics that affect our lives.

Good things happen when we can get together share our lives with trust and compassion.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups please contact me, Bruce Hope at 707 775 7017 kipsterb@sonic.net. I am leading a short informational meeting about men's groups on Sunday February 10th 9:30 AM in the back of the Narthex (near the Green Room).

Buddhist Practice at UUCSR

There are five opportunities every week for Buddhist practice. The new Practice and Reflection on Aging, Sickness, and Death meets Thursdays, 5:15 -6:15 p.m.

CityZEN, led by Rachel Mansfield-Howlett, Roshi, occurs Mondays 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and includes traditional koan practice and chanting.

Two INSIGHT (Vipassana/Theravaden/non-ZEN) groups consist of meditation, reading out loud,

and discussion. These are Tuesdays 10:30 to noon, and Thursdays 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. All four groups are suitable for both experienced meditators as well as people interested in learning and experiencing Buddhist practices. Additionally, a short, no-frills, silent meditation takes place on Sundays for a half hour between the two services.

Women Together

Readings from the Heart

Come to the Lunch Box Room on **Saturday, February 9th from 2 to 4 pm** to share favorite poems or short writings, either written by you or that have

touched you. This has always been a favorite event so come whether you want to read or just listen! Please bring finger-food to share.

Breath, Balance and Mobility

On **Sunday, February 24th from 9:30 to 10:45 am**, Monica Anderson, founder of Tone Dance, Yoga and Pilates Studio, will lead us in a demonstration

of some simple exercises that can powerfully change our lives! No special clothing required.



Hot Topics

Hot Topics – Southern Poverty Law Center

Now that we have an African-American President and a Supreme Court composed of Catholics, Jews [and women] (not a **White, Anglo-Saxon Protestant** among them), surely that shows that racial and religious prejudices are things of the past! So why is the number of “hate groups” at a record high? Come to the RE Common Room on

Sunday, February 17th from 12:30 to 2 pm to hear Dennis Robinson, the West Coast representative of the Southern Poverty Law Center tell us what’s really happening and what we can do to stem the tide! A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Collection

We are delighted to let you know that we received a small grant for our Saturday Breakfast Program so we can afford to continue giving one-half of the collection each month to an organization of your choice, so please, give your suggestions to the person staffing the Advocates table any Sunday.

This month, **on Sunday, February 10th**, proceeds will go to help those people and communities devastated by **Super-storm Sandy** and **on Sunday, February 23rd** the **Saturday Breakfast Program**. We are continually amazed and heartened by your generosity ~ thank you!

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, February 14th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The February selection is “The Barbarian Nurseries” by Hector Tobar.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

The selection for March is “State of Wonder” by Ann Patchett.

Linda Lampson

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.

February 17

March 17

Women and Religion Retreat

WOMEN & RELIGION, PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Celebrating: Courageous Women

The Women & Religion PCD 2013 Annual Women's Retreat
MARCH 1-3, 2013 at Enchanted Hills Camp in the hills above Napa, California

The weekend includes two nights lodging, 7 meals,
workshops for mind, body and spirit, and
conversations with new and old friends, as well as a
boutique, silent auction, and book swap.

Join a wonderful group of women for a time away
from the everyday world, with beautiful surroundings
and delicious meals in a nurturing community.

Retreat Coordinator: Sally Ahnger
Co-conveners: Beverly Morgan and Phyllis Boyson
Workshop coordinator: Tanya Webster
Affinity circles coordinator: Megan Brooks
Registrar: Beverly Morgan

General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, selected "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling" to be the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue. In recognition of this CSAI we will honor courageous women in all walks of life - past, present and future.

Visit www.womenandreligionpcd.org for more information and to register online

UUCSR Writers

2013 New Direction

Four areas of concentration

1. *Writers*
2. *Poets*
3. *Film*
4. *Special Events*

"Regular monthly meetings are held from 4-6 pm" at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

Writers - Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, **February 4.**

Poets - Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, **February 11.**

N.B. UUCSR Writers Poetry Slams have been canceled. Our Steering Committee will announce a new monthly program for Poetry in the next Newsletter.

Film - Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, **February 18.**

Special Event - "Big Read" 1-3 pm, Saturday, March 9. David Templeton on stage interviewing Tom

J. Mariani, Margo van Veen--our two UUCSR Writers Poet Laureates--and Guests on the subject of Emily Dickinson and Poetry.

Thursday Morning Coffee, 10 am-12 noon at Whole Foods in Coddington, Santa Rosa. Buy the beverage/food of your choice. We meet once a week with other Writers/Poets for lighthearted conversation and talk about who's doing what in our literary community.

Information

Georgette G. deBlois, ggdeb@sonic.net •
Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com
UUCSR Writers, Glaser Center at
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
547 Mendocino Ave • 707-568-5381 •
www.uucsrwriters.com

think about it...

Writing and Publishing
by Georgette G. deBlois

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 13 December 2012

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words: Rev Chris Bell

Meeting Called to Order: 6:40 by Board president Laura Jean Hageman

Members Present: Jeanie Bates (vice president), Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (president), Mary Louise Jaffray, Lois Nagle, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (secretary), Peter Wilson

Members not present: Susan Bartholome

Non-members present: Reverend Chris Bell (minister), Bryan Plude (intern minister), Art Rosenblum (co-treasurer), Jan Prater (recording secretary)

Additions to Agenda: Staff Dental Plan Change, Schedule Board Retreat/Leadership Training, Childcare for Early Service (Rev Chris)

Minutes: Approved with the additional request for recording secretary to include "submitted by..." at end of Minutes

One-on-One Sharing

Open Mic: Rev Chris (with RE Director Deborah Mason's input) reported that a growing group of parents of toddlers find the 11:00 Service conflicts with naptime and would like to have childcare available at the 9:15 Service. The current childcare team is interested as it would extend their hours. This would not include the rest of the RE program. This would cost us \$854.70 for January to mid-June. So, where to get the money? Art Rosenblum will contact Linda on the Financial Stewardship Committee as the first step, with the Board's blessing.

Treasurer's Report: (Art Rosenblum) There was an internal UUCSR audit/review of all personnel expenses. It was concluded that, generally, employees are being paid in a reasonable manner with a few minor changes. Recommendations made were to not carry expenses from one year to the next. Glaser Center expenses way over budget for this year. \$14,000 was received into Endowment Fund. Generally, we are "good at keeping expenses under control." Pledges are coming in well (maybe partly due to end of the year) and basket donations are increasing. Suggestion of Bryan going to staff status...(more on this item under Intern Contract). Laura Jean will ask Kirsten Olney to present a tutorial on Financials

Resolution on Authority/Access to Luther Burbank Savings and Loan (mortgage): Updating signees needed. New authorized signers are: Laura Jean Hageman (President), Jeanie Bates (Vice President), Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Art Rosenblum (co-Treasurer), Amy Young (co-Treasurer), and Chris Bell (Minister.) Lois Bell moved to approve, Jeanie 2nd, motion passed.

Dental Plan: Laura Jean reported that there is a better dental plan now offered by the UUA which is slightly more affordable and a much better plan. Employees affected are in favor of the idea. Mary Louise moved to adopt the new plan, Alan 2nd, motion passed.

Approval of revised Intern contract: Laura Jean passed out an earlier version and a current version with changes highlighted. (Joe suggested some clarification points which were briefly discussed while Bryan was out of the room.) Joe will polish Agreement and send by e-mail to Board members for review and approval.

Revision of Emergency Fund policy: (John Farison) Our current Emergency Fund policy has too many criteria which could eliminate some things from qualifying for funds, defeating the purpose of the Fund. He recommended returning to original clean and simple statement when the Fund was originally presented to the Congregation. Move to approve by Cathie, John 2nd, motion passed.

Report on Pledge Canvass: The Committee has met and new Pledge Team includes: Mary Louise Jaffray, Sibyl Day, Bill Foshee, Phil Harriman, Peggy Jennings-Shaw, Judy Taylor, Ethan Foote, Kirsten Olney (Financial Stewardship rep), Andrew Hidas (marketing materials only). They are considering having a big event here with a presentation in the Sanctuary and a party featuring an hors d'oeuvre competition sponsored by different UU committees and groups. Proposed date Sat April 6, from 4-6 p.m. Board role TBD.

Board Retreat: (Laura Jean) Looking at an extended retreat, possibly 2 nights. There is only \$800 in the Budget so will likely involve some individual expense. Tentatively a Tues/Wed in July (but not the 22nd.) Jeanie will research possibilities of where to go - welcomes suggestions.

Leadership Training School: Aug 4-10 in Alta, Utah. It costs \$900 per person for room and board for a week. There is a grant possibility that Bryan is familiar with; assistance might also be available for transportation. Interest was expressed by three members of the Board. Laura Jean and Jeanie will continue to look into this.

Goal Group Reports:

Spiritual Life - has not met yet.

Community (Jeanie Bates) - Working with Membership around creating a Volunteer Task Force, to do things such as one-on-one meetings with new members. Lois Nagle went to gathering of new (and long time) members asking what was working for them but did not get a lot of info. Membership "Team" could include Membership Committee plus Volunteer Task Force.

Infrastructure (John Farison) - Met with Financial Stewardship and worked on revising Emergency Fund wording, also working on identifying concrete projects that could be taken on- still deciding on HVAC units purchase - and which fund to use. Need a group to help prioritize list of potential projects. Lois Bell is putting together a database on the building usage.

Statement of Conscience on Immigration: Rita Butterfield brought this matter to the Advocates for Social Justice group. UUCSR has a vote as to whether to put this issue on the Agenda for the next General Assembly. Board can decide this time but in future we want to bring these types of things to our Congregational Meeting. Cathie moved to approve putting the issue on the GA Agenda, Jeanie 2nd, motion passed.

Final Reflections and Appreciations: Thanks to John for all his work, Laura Jean for being a great leader, and she is grateful for the laughter tonight!

Closing Words: Lois Nagle

Meeting Adjourned: 9:04pm

Minutes submitted by Jan Prater

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