



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 4 •

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

April Worship Theme: Forgiveness

APRIL 7th FORGIVING OTHERS

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Linda Proulx
Special Music at 9:15 & 11:00 by Cathy Read &
Nancy Hayashibara*

As Micah observed, the godly life involves both the pursuit of justice *and* mercy. We turn now to the latter. A month of exploring forgiveness begins with the challenge – and necessity – of forgiving those who have harmed us or those we love, for it is only after we have purged ourselves of anger or hatred that we are free to heal ourselves and the broken world.

APRIL 21st EARTH DAY

ASKING FROGIVENESS FROM OTHERS
*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman
The Choir performs at both services.*

Now for the hard one. Sometimes, in order to be free, we must humble ourselves, ask forgiveness from others, and make real amends to them. This takes bravery and commitment. Our egos cry, “No, I don’t want to!” but the Divine says, “Oh yes, you do!” And, in a larger context, how about the big “I’m sorry!” that humanity owes the Earth, or that the Developed World owes to the Underdeveloped? We’ll find the way forward together

APRIL 14th SELF FORGIVENESS

*Service Leaders: Intern Minister Bryan Plude,
Erin Howseman, Nancy Hayashibara
The Choir performs at 9:15
The UUusuals will play at both services*

In our second of three Sundays examining forgiveness, we look at self-forgiveness. Our unofficial straw-poll indicates that this may be the most difficult form of forgiveness for many of us. Many of us carry the knowledge that we have hurt someone. What does this mean and should we forgive ourselves? How do we accomplish this?

APRIL 28th MENDING WHAT IS BROKEN

Service Leaders: David Templeton and Susan Panttaja
To be human is to break things. From broken promises to broken windows, broken contracts to broken hearts, broken dreams to broken heirloom china, breakage almost always brings a sense of loss and grief. But breakage also brings an opportunity for mending, for healing, for creating something new and valuable out of all those broken pieces. Today, through song and poetry and reflection, we will celebrate the mysterious transition from that state of brokenness into a new and different whole.

David and Susan have been active members of our congregation since 2000. David is Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director. Susan is a Worship Associate and sings with the choir and UUusual Suspects.

May 5th

FACING THE MID-LIFE CRISIS

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller, Nancy Hayashibara
The Choir performs at 9:15.*

I Am an Optimist



Once upon a time there were twin brothers. Let's call them Jacob and Esau. They were opposites in every way, and their most significant difference was that Jacob was an inveterate optimist, while Esau was an indefatigable pessimist. No matter what the circumstances, Esau would find something about which to worry and complain, while Jacob would choose to look on the bright side and find something to praise. This made both of them annoying at times...

One year on their birthday their parents, who had some strange ideas, decided to put these personality differences to the test. When Esau awoke he discovered that his side of the room was filled to the ceiling with new toys. Meanwhile, Jacob awoke to find that *his* side of the room was piled 3 feet high in horse manure!

When his parents looked to Esau, they found him sitting slouched on the floor, shaking with tears.

"What you so sad, dear Esau?" they asked, incredulous. "Don't you like your new toys?"

"I guess," he said, "but I'm never going to have time to play with them all. And how shall I choose which to play with first? My friends are going to fight over them, and I'll never know if they really like *me*, or just want to play with my toys. These electronic things are going to cost me a fortune in batteries. And, sooner or later, I know that all of them are going to wear out or break..."

Sighing, his parents turned to Jacob. They found him leaping and dancing in the manure with great joy!

"And, why are you so happy, dear Jacob?" they asked.

"Well, just look at all this poop!" he cried. "There's *got* to be a pony here somewhere!"

I'm not quite as cheery as Jacob, but I am an optimist. I have observed, as you likely have, that the attitude we bring to bear on our lives directly shapes our experience of things. If we expect the worst of people, we often experience the worst of people, and vice versa. If we approach a challenging situation without hope or confidence, we are very unlikely to succeed in overcoming it, but if we approach it with hope and confidence, we often find that we can. There are no guarantees, of course, but if you don't believe something can be done, then it surely cannot.

For example, I happen to believe that this congregation is going to continue growing in size, power and spirit for years to come. I believe that over the next decade we will expand our ministries, our religious education and our worship services. I believe we will become ever more connected to each other as friends and neighbors across the generations. I believe we will strengthen our bonds and our coop-

eration with our neighboring UU congregations, and I believe we will found new congregations in the towns around us. I believe through our community organizing efforts we will gain ever-greater influence in the community, further our efforts to create a just society, and find as-yet-undreamed ways to spread our gospel of universal love and connectedness.

Like Jacob, I am an inveterate optimist. I have been accused on occasion of being irrationally exuberant about these matters. I think I am *rational*ly exuberant. Your commitment and your creativity over the last six years have made me so.

That is why I also believe we will raise enough money this year to finally give Nancy Hayashibara, our beloved Music Director, the employee benefits she so richly deserves, as well as meeting our other ambitious financial goals.

On **April 6th**, you will have the chance to prove that my optimism is justified.

I so hope that you are planning to attend our *Fire of Commitment/Pledge of Freedom Gala* that evening at **4:00pm**, when we will celebrate the gifts of our community, bring forward our pledges of financial support for next year, sing some great songs, and eat some great food. All are welcome: members, friends, visitors, and family-members alike. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about our congregation, to stoke the fires of commitment, and to celebrate the blessed freedom that we enjoy that allows us to make our congregation as transformative, powerful and positive as we choose to make it.

Whether you are a member or a friend of the congregation, whether you are young or old, a life-long UU or freshly converted, whether you pledge \$10 or \$100 or \$1000 a month, please know that you are valuable – infinitely valuable, in fact – as a member of this circle of community. Our Unitarian Universalist faith assures us that we are all essential parts of a greater whole, that we are all God's children - whatever our histories, whatever our age or sexual orientation or race or class, our spiritual perspective, our political party, or any other category. My job is to keep preaching that vision to a world that needs it desperately, so that the better world we dream of will come to be. Won't you join me in making it so?

If your answer is yes, come stoke the fires of commitment, and make your pledge of freedom on April 6th. Come choose optimism. Come choose hope. Let's make our vision real.

OK, I've got to go; there's a pony to find somewhere here in my office. I'll see you soon!

Blessings, Rev. Chris

Greetings from the Board

Election of Trustee Officers for FY 2013-14

In concurrence with the UUCSR Bylaws (available on our website) a Special Meeting of the 2013-14 Board of Trustees was held on March 10 and the following officers, whose term will begin July 1, were elected:

President Jeanie Bates
 Vice President Laura Jean Hageman
 Treasurer Linda Balabanian
 Corporate Secretary Sibyl Day

We give many thanks to our two dedicated officers who will be retiring June 30: Cathie Wiese, who has served as Corporate Secretary for the past three years, and Art Rosenblum, who has served as our Treasurer for the past two years.

UUCSR Pledge Gala Celebration Saturday, April 6, 4-6pm

It's not too late! Plan to attend UUCSR's
Fire of Commitment and Pledge of Freedom Gala

The Gala will begin at 4pm with a program in the sanctuary.

Please remember to bring your pledge card. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of UUCSR in your life and your community by pledging as generously as you can.

After the program, delicious appetizers and drinks await you as you roam the halls and view exhibits that represent the richness of our congregational life. You will be amazed at the many opportunities UUCSR offers for you to become even more connected and engaged in our spiritual community.

Please RSVP your attendance to Mary Louise Jaffray at mljaffray@jaffray.us and let her know if you need a ride or childcare.

Other Important Upcoming Events

Pacific Western Regional Assembly - April 26-28 in San Jose (see <http://pwruua.org/pacific-western-regional-assembly-2013/>)

UUCSR Women's Retreat **Signups** begin Sunday, April 7 (the retreat will be May 3-5 at St. Dorothy's Rest near Occidental)



Laura Jean Hageman, Board President

Potpourri—Treasurer's Report

WOW! About 10 days ago I signed a check for \$63,642.86 to Luther Burbank Savings – the last payment on our Mortgage Note to the bank. What a feeling I had that we as a community could accomplish this task. A big thank you to the 31 members who like me made this happen. We are not out of the woods, we owe ourselves \$470,000 in member notes and these will be paid off over time. In the meantime we will save about \$100,000 in interest payments. Way to go.

Double WOW! APRIL 6th is our Big To Do to kick-off (and hopefully complete) our Annual Pledge Drive for members and pledging friends. This year's Goal is aggressive to say the least. To meet our proposed Budget we'll need to step up and all look at increasing our pledges (10% hopefully) to accomplish the goals we have set for ourselves. While you are attending the "gala", take a look at the tables set out by the various groups and activities – find something you're interested in and join up. Remember, lots of hands makes it easier for all of us.

Triple WOW! We are keeping our finances in order as any prudent community should. Thru February our income (\$353,741) is almost 10% higher than we budgeted for and expenses (\$346,440) are running about 1% lower than we expected in the budget. Hopefully, the next several months will be free of "surprises" and we will come close to our budget at the end of the year.

Another WOW! The Legacy Circle, what is it and why is it? If you have questions about the UUCSR's Legacy Circle get your answers from the Endowment Committee members at the Pledge Gala in April (or before if you're really curious). The circle consists of UUCSR members who have decided to leave bequests to the congregation as a continuing presence to their beloved community – you too can sign up for this program that keeps our Endowment Fund growing.

POTPOURI! A little of this, a little of that, all of which adds up to financially healthy community.

Art Rosenblum, Co Treasurer

From the Intern Minister

I write, returning fresh from vacation, descending into Los Angeles airport. I have spent the last few days fly fishing for trout on the San Juan River in northwestern New Mexico. It is a place foreign and familiar—high desert with mesas and escarpments. Sage lends its familiar, welcome smell as each day warms. It is an environment never seen by me, a mid-westerner, until my adulthood, but one I have visited many times since.

I first visited the San Juan about 18 years ago with a new but cherished friend from Cleveland, Ohio. We have fished here together most years since, flying in from Syracuse and Davis to meet in Albuquerque, then driving the 3 hours to Navajo Dam. The accommodations are Spartan and tired, the food okay to poor, but the fishing is phenomenal. The Navaho Dam, completed in 1962, is part of the Colorado River Storage Project, providing high country storage of snowmelt to feed Lake Powell and to generate electricity. The dam tail water provides year round cold water, otherwise an anomaly here, creating habitat for rainbow and brown trout for a few miles downstream. The fishing is catch and release, using barbless artificial lures and flies only. The aquatic bugs, and hence the flies we use in imitation, are tiny. I can't tie them onto my line as easily as I did 18 years ago. Fly fishing is a meditative sport requiring both technical skill and being in the moment. At the start of our first day on the river I know that I am distracted. I don't feel distracted, but the proof is in the line tangles I am repeatedly unsnarling. I

(mostly) don't get angry, knowing that I can't force the release of tension, but knowing that its release is likely. The day flows on, as does the river around my legs, thigh deep in the 38 degree water. The snarls grow less frequent. I begin to notice the buffleheads and Canada geese, the ravens and the muskrats. The rainbow and German brown trout are beautiful. An immature bald eagle flies downstream. Sunset finds us still on the river, tired and at peace.

I make this trip as much for renewal of friendship as for the fishing. Ken and I talk frequently by phone, but these trips give us the opportunity for hours of sharing—on the three hour drive to Navaho Dam, over meals and in the evenings. There is little that Ken doesn't know about me or me him. We share a deep camaraderie and trust and love of fly fishing. I feel blessed.



Save the Date!!!

***2013-2014 Fire of Commitment
and Pledge of Freedom GALA***

4-6 pm

Saturday, April 6, 2013



Religious Education for Children and Youth

Last week I took a field trip out to Westminster Woods with the team that organizes our annual All Congregation Retreat. In a word the place is **awesome!** *Nestled in the hills of Camp Meeker it is truly a wonderland. Soft breezes rustle high above in the redwoods, a creek that is protected for our fragile salmon population bubbles and gurgles making the music of water upon rocks. Hiking trails lead to magnificent vistas. And if the natural beauty isn't enough, Westminster provides a super fun (and huge) play structure that is suitable for older kids and toddlers. There is a terrific swimming pool. And then there is the ropes course. Yes, a zip line, and many other treacherously fun tight ropes and obstacles to master.*

This year our All Congregational Retreat will be held in this wonderland the weekend of August 9. If you haven't been to the Retreat before I hope you will consider coming this year. Spending a weekend among members of this community is more than fun, it is a way of connecting in a deeper way. Getting out of our usual element opens us to new experiences of one another. It is a weekend where the kids of UUCSR are among the elders in a way that just doesn't happen on Sunday mornings.

In a recent conversation with a friend from the congregation we took note of the fact that many people we know do not have a community that they can rely on for companionship, support and caring when they are in need. Less than half of Americans attend worship services on a regular basis and my friend and I agreed that we felt very blessed to have a faith community at our side. It is true that people find community in various places, through work, through their children's schools or extra-curricular activities, or through taking classes to name a few examples. But in all of these cases the relationships are more based on the time and place one is in, and once the class is over, or the job changes, or the child grows up the connections can fade. It is also often the case that while there is a common experience in these groups it doesn't always translate into a connection that

involves sharing of cherished beliefs and sources of faith.

Here in this community we have the opportunity to make connections across ages with people who are on a path of spiritual growth together. When we worship on Sundays we have a common experience that draws us together. But we have other opportunities that deepen our sense of community. When we work for justice, provide services for the homeless, or participate in RE classes we deepen our commitment to our shared principles and to the community of which we are a part.

The annual retreats; Women's, Men's and All Congregation add the most awesome element to our community experience: **fun**. At these retreats we play together; we laugh; we sing (a lot) and we relax together. Late night games of Balderdash are hilarious. The "talent" show always brings surprises, the workshops are fun and engaging, the down-time is simply a gift. At the All Congregation Retreat children play and sing together with adults. It is a time when adults see the children in a more personal way and the children get to know the elders of our community.

To be part of a community one has to put oneself out there and stretch the boundaries of individualism and solitude. The rewards of this stretching are huge. We learn that we are not alone. When times are tough, we are here for one another. When times are good we share in each others joy. When we join in the activities of the community we come to know each other well and our lives are the richer for it. There will be more information coming shortly about the All Congregation Retreat. The kids in RE raised a bunch of money to help offset some of the costs. And my hope is that families with children of all ages – toddlers to teens will join us at Westminster in August and enjoy the fun side of beloved community.

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, Fiona Mackenzie and Maddie Elizondo 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 3-5 classes are using a curriculum called In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program. Middle School Youth meet with Deborah for UU discussion and games.

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Here's What's Happening in RE Classes Cont.

Cont. from page 5

April 2013 Class Schedule:

04/7/13	Children's Chapel - All Ages Together	Theme: God is Nature
4/14/13	Grades K-2: Local UU Justice Makers	Grades 3-8: Preparation for Community Service - Saturday Breakfast
4/21/13	Grades K-2: From Wishing to Doing	Grades 3-8: Earth Interdependence
4/28/13	Grades K-2: The Peace Quilt	Grades 3-8: Earth Stewardship

Annual Women's Retreat

Our Retreat this year is May 3-5, again at Saint Dorothy's Rest. Sign-ups will start Sunday April 7th. On that day and Sunday the 14th, only Members and Pledging Friends may sign-up. Space permitting, others may sign up on April 21st.

We're doing it differently this year. To avoid the mad scramble for room assignments at 4 pm on Friday, May 3rd, we're asking people to choose a room when they sign up. All registrations and room assignments must be paid for at the time of signing up. If there is someone you'd like to room with, you must both be there

with money, or one of you can pay for both and get reimbursed by your 'roomie'. The cost this year is \$20 less than last (can you believe it!?). It is \$145 if you bring your own sheets and towels, \$155 if you want to use theirs. Scholarships are \$70 without linens and \$80 with.

Our theme this year is Gratitude and we've got great workshops lined up!

Hope you can make it!

Linda Harlow/Women Together

REGISTER TODAY!

Pacific Western Region Regional Assembly

April 26 - 28, 2013

Doubletree Hotel, San Jose, CA

Join our four western UUA Districts in making history this spring
as we come together in a Regional Assembly to explore

Big Faith * No Borders!

Come Celebrate, Worship, Connect, Learn, Grow

Registration is Now Open!

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.

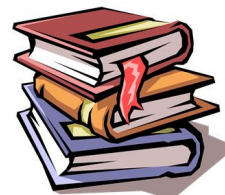
The retreat committee is very excited about all the possibilities this year and will be sharing more information as the time gets closer. Watch for it!

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 11th from 7 to 9 p.m., at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The April selection is **Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for May is **The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harboch.

Submitted by Linda Lampson



Membership

Greetings! On behalf of the Membership Council, when putting away the name badges, please tuck the strings back inside the plastic holder.

It keeps the strings from falling out and keeps the bins neater. Thanks!

Mary Wolfe

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2013

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.— April 24, 2013

Good Things Come in Small Packages—and Often in Pairs

April has finally arrived . . . and man, did it take its time getting here. That seemed like one long winter! And now, to celebrate the arrival of warm weather, longer days, birds on the windowsills, and a renewal of our prescriptions for allergy medicine, the UUCSR Arts & Culture Ministry invites you to two very special events celebrating the ups and downs of togetherness.

First, for four nights only over two weekends, Shakespeare's tragic near-miss romance 'Romeo & Juliet' will be presented by Actors Basement theater co., who will transform our social hall into Verona, Italy for an up-close-and-personal, audience participation treatment of the famous tale of star-crossed lovers. Featuring a gender-blind cast and inventive direction by Merlyn Q. Sell, the production promises to emphasize the comedic aspects of the early portions of the play (which read like an Elizabethan version of 'American Pie or 'Superbad') while finding clever ways to put the audience in the action when things suddenly turn tragic. By special request, Actors Basement has now added a student and senior price (with 50% of all ticket sales going to the congregation), so spread the word, and plan to join us to cheer and boo for the Capulets or

the Montagues on April 12, 13, 19 and 20, all shows at 8:00 p.m.

Then, plan to be back for another Glaser Center Singer-Songwriter Showcase, this time featuring the performances of a pair of pairs. Our 'Duos' show will feature the two-musician band 'Solid Air,' featuring Allegra Broughton on guitar and Sam Page on stand-up base, playing deliciously folksy tunes that include rootsy originals and old-time favorites. Joining them are the folk duo Hopkin & Winge, with vocalist Sarah Winge and guitarist Bart Hopkin, serving up jazz-infused tunes that skip genres into folk, classics and contemporary pop. That's Saturday night, April 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for all shows are available at [brown papertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), at The Last Record Store, and in the Social Hall immediately before and after Sunday services.

We hope to see you there for one or both of these celebrations of companionship and poetry, and don't waste the opportunity to, you know, bring along a few friends.

7th Principle Committee

The 7th Principle Group, a sub-committee of Advocates for Social Justice, is back in full swing now. We are currently focusing all our substantial energy on the issue of Climate Change; also called Global Warming. We are addressing this issue at the National level, working hand in glove with an organization called Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) www.citizensclimatelobby.org

We all know that our climate has been warming for quite some time and that the warming is currently speeding up, even more rapidly than scientist's worst case scenario of just a few years ago. Al Gore's movie, "In Convenient Truth" woke up a lot of people in 2007, including Marshall Saunders who is the founder of CCL. The organization is growing fast; faster than global warming at the moment, and now has 82 chapters in the US, Canada and the UK., many of which are hosted by UU Congregations.

We are busy lobbying congress for legislation that will decrease dirty energy development and support clean energy in order to decrease atmospheric CO2 pollution. As you may know, California is one of the leading states in the US for developing clean energy policy. But California can't clean up the atmosphere by itself. So, our

Senator Barbara Boxer has co-sponsored The Climate Protection Act of 2013 with Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. It is being discussed now in the senate. CCL supports that bill and we are busy lobbying congress for the passage of this bill. You too can write Diane Feinstein about co-sponsoring it.

CCL takes a non-confrontational approach with congressfolk of all parties. We believe that to get such a bill passed we MUST work on both sides of the aisle. And we do.

Our committee meets in the teen room on the first Saturday of the month for a CCL training conference call at 10 AM. After the call we discuss what tasks we intend complete in the coming month. We are an open group and invite anyone who has a concern about climate change to join us.

June is CCL's month to lobby congress in Washington DC and we hope to have at least one person from our group going to Washington this coming June.

We plan to sponsor a free showing of the fabulous new documentary film, "Chasing Ice," once it is released and available. Keep your eyes peeled for the details.

Hot Topics

April 14 Hot Topic: Restorative Justice, an Alternative to Jail for Young First Offenders

Imagine a system of responding to transgressions from a perspective of restoration rather than punishment. That is the model that Restorative Justice offers. Come and

learn about this project on Sunday, April 14, 12:30 PM-2 PM, in the RE Common Room. A light lunch will be available for a donation. Zach Whelan, our speaker, has written what follows as an introduction to this approach that seeks to transform conflict, repair harm and build community.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering:

As you may know, the UU Service Committee has arranged a trip to Haiti for next fall. The Haitians are still in dire straits and can use hands-on help. Several people from UUCSR are planning to go and some folks may need assistance defraying the costs. So on **Sunday, April 7th**, half the offering will go towards providing that help. If you are interested in going, or

would like more information, just talk with Rita Butterfield.

On **Sunday, April 21st**, half the collection will go to support our Saturday Breakfast Program. As you know, the number of guests isn't going down and the price of good food is going up! So when the lovely purple bag comes your way, please continue making this much needed and appreciated program possible.

Breath, Mobility, Balance

On **Sunday, April 21st**, Monica Anderson - owner of Tone Dance, Yoga and Pilates Studio - will again meet with us in the Board Room from 9:30 to 10:45 am to

help us with these vital functions. Those who've been with her before know how useful and what fun this is! No special clothes necessary.

Aging with Grace

Are you feeling disgruntled, pained or joyful in your aging? Perhaps a mix of these and other emotions comprise your experience of growing older. Come explore how we cope with or gracefully embrace aging with Intern Minister Bryan Plude. Discussions will take place from 10:30 am to noon on the following Thurs-

days: April 18 and 25. Some reading will be assigned but not required. Join us for one or all four discussions. Contact Bryan at bplude@internminister.uusantarosa.org or at the church office, 568-5381 x 101.

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.

April 14

May 19

Community Life Team

New Entries for "Let's Do Something" Leaflet

The Community Life Team is currently updating the blue "Let's Do Something" leaflet. Ted Miller, the team leader, is trying to make sure that the revised leaflet will list all appropriate UUCSR committees and groups currently active. If you are a leader of a UUCSR committee or group that's

currently active but not yet listed on the blue "Let's Do Something" leaflet and if you think it should be, let Ted Miller know. You may reach him by e-mail <tjdvml@sonic.net> or by phone at 837-0933. If you are uncertain about eligibility for listing, talk to him.

Adult RE Class—Beyond The Mountain

Beyond The Mountain: UUSC has developed a curriculum, consisting of five workshops, to engage congregations in the underlying causes of Haiti's economic and political struggles. With that foundation, the curriculum also explains the work that UUSC and its partners are doing to support Haitians as they build a more hopeful and sustainable future for themselves.

This series is **highly** recommended for anyone planning to go to Haiti with the congregation in November. We'd like others to attend, too, though. Participation in the workshop will be very beneficial in welcoming the travelers back when they return. The dates of the five sessions are 4/25, 5/16, 5/30, 6/13, and 6/27. Attend as many sessions as you can!

UUCSR Writers

Writers meet on the First Monday of the month from 4 - 6 pm. Free

April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Oct 7, Nov 4.
No Meetings in Sept, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

4 - 6 pm, Writers "Work in Progress" Presentations.

Note: Please see "Agreements".

Poets meet on the Second Monday of the month from 4 - 6 pm. Free

Apr 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14.
No Meetings in Nov, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa..

4 - 4:25 pm, "A Poet's Style" Group Discussion.

4:30 - 6 pm, "Poetry Readings" Read a poem you've written or one from a favorite author.

Time may vary depending on number of Readings.

Thursday Morning Coffee, 10 am - 12 noon at Whole Foods in Coddington, Santa Rosa. Buy the beverage/food

Film meet on the Third Monday of the month from 3 - 6 pm. Free

Apr 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, and Oct 21.

No meetings in Nov, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

3 - 5 pm, "Afternoon at the Movies" Watch a full feature DVD movie .

5 - 6 pm, "Group Discussion"

Authors/Film Titles/Collections may include: Agatha Christie, Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, *Masterpiece Classics*, *Criterion Collection*, *Acorn Media*, *Cartoons*, etc.

Of your choice. We meet once a week for lighthearted conversation about who's doing what in our literary community. Table is not reserved. Look for us.

Parking is free.

Information: UUCSR Writers Glaser Center 707-568-5381
Unitarian Universalist Congregation 547 Mendocino Ave.,
Santa Rosa

<http://www.uusantarosa.org>

Georgette G. deBlois, ggdeb@sonic.net *UUCSR Writers*

Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com

A Stimulatin Environment

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes 21 February 2013

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words: Rev Chris Bell

Meeting Called to Order at 6:30 by Board President Laura Jean Hageman

Members Present: Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (Vice President), Lois Bell, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), and Peter Wilson

Members Not Present: Joe Como, Lois Nagle

Non-members Present: Rev Chris Bell, Bryan Plude (Intern Minister), Linda Balabanian (chair of Financial Stewardship Team), Phil Harriman (chair of Endowment Committee), and Jan Prater (Recording Secretary)

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Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Cont.

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Agenda and Minutes: Minutes Approved with the following additions: Re: Space Use Policy "Occupy Agreement" Jeanie's revision: Advocates for Social Justice will review their sponsorship agreements on a case by case basis. Re: reduction of budget for "Sabbatical Expense" refers to 2013-2014 budget.

One on One Sharing: Lois Bell

Open Mic: (Jeanie Bates) Board Retreat Update - Walker Creek Ranch "is a go." Jeanie and Marge Wright will take a look at Willow Lodge tomorrow. The retreat is for 2 nights - Aug23-25th.

(Linda Balabanian and Alan Proulx): Sunday Service cash donations need to be verifiable with the IRS so Linda made a proposal to place holders on the backs of the pews to hold donation envelopes. Many churches have them and find that it increases donations -particularly from visitors. Our annual donation basket amount is around \$22,000. If this effort increases our intake by 25% that would be over \$5,000. Cost of holders \$400 - a one time expense. Envelopes cost \$500 per year at most. Bryan suggested we might get a custom stamp made to help defray the cost. Financial Stewardship has already approved this idea. Mary Louise made the motion to authorize the purchase of racks and envelopes; Jeanie 2nd; motion passed.

(Linda Balabanian): We have now sold all the notes necessary to pay off the Luther Burbank Savings mortgage from cash on hand. This should take place by 27th of Feb. We now have \$470,000 in member notes - from 31 individuals, 10 of whom contributed the maximum of \$25,000 each. It's going to take about 14 years to pay off. The savings from this approach will achieve about a \$100,000 savings for the Congregation. Much credit goes to Rose St John for getting this program in place.

Treasurer's Report: (No report)

Pledge Drive and Budget Goals: (Laura Jean Hageman)

Music Director Compensation : It's difficult to estimate precisely the number of hours the Music Director is working, but the Minister and the Music Committee believe she is working considerably more than the current 1/3-time classification of this position. Therefore the Human Resources Committee recommends that this position be reclassified as 1/2 time. This reclassification would enable the Music Director to receive benefits provided by UUCSR for all employees working at least 1/2 time. The cost of the benefits plus a 7% salary increase for the Music Director is \$8,500. This item is now at the top of the Unfunded List in the 2013-14 draft budget. Adding this item to the budget requires 10.3% increase in pledge income, and an on-going commitment to pledging at that higher level. The decision to reclassify this position will be made in May when the results of the pledge drive are known. If the position is reclassified the change could commence as early as the 1st of July.

Canvass Gala April 6: It will be a fun program with food and drink - with "200 bites of savory and sweet" from each team. Committees will also have the opportunity to put out info on their groups. All Board members are asked to turn in their own pledge cards by the March Board meeting. At the end of the Gala Program, Board members have been asked to act as ushers while pledgers go forward to turn in their pledge cards.

Review Policy on Requesting Distribution from Endowment Fund:

(Laura Jean Hageman and Phil Harriman, Endowment Committee) A distribution from the Endowment fund of no more than 5% (= \$6,000) of the value of the fund on Dec 31, 2012 -can be requested by the Board as long as that amount does not exceed the appreciation of the fund (excluding additional contributions) during the previous calendar year, We are looking ahead to the May budget to consider what kinds of things such a distribution could be used for. The Board has to 1) Request the money and, 2) State what it will be used for. We are trying to get clarification on the following question before the request is made: Can the use be a line item in the Budget or does it have to be something on the Unfunded List? Alan Proulx suggests the distribution be used for something tangible. Phil Harriman believes that the distribution should not just go into the Operating fund: "People don't want it just trickling away." The Endowment Fund policy states that the purpose of the Endowment is "... to enhance the mission of UUCSR apart from the general operation of this congregation." The Board was in agreement that with current language the money could be used for something that's already in the Budget, but that it should Not be used in the Budget planning.

Creation of Sabbatical Committee: (Laura Jean) A committee needs to be formed with representatives from certain committees - particularly ones that Rev Chris is involved in, such as: Pastoral Care, Committee on Shared Ministry, Worship Associates, RE, plus Financial Stewardship, Human Resources, Administration, and the Board. This committee will create a brochure for congregational members to aid in the understanding of what to expect. It was suggested that we get consult with another congregation that has gone through the sabbatical process.

Evaluation of Jan 19 Team Summit: Each member will give a brief report on the Team Summit by e-mail

Evaluation of Feb Congregational Meeting: Rev Chris requested a better reminder system for "action" type items. It was decided that the Recording Secretary make a list of these and send it out right away to the Board after meetings. There were over 100 members in attendance at he Congregational Meeting - the new time seems to be working.

Goal Groups: Infrastructure: (John Farison) John will put a proposal together for closing in the Breezeway. He will meet with the Endowment Fund Committee regarding this. (This should be done before the June Congregational Meeting.)

Community Within and Without: (Jeanie Bates) A Volunteer Task Force meeting has been scheduled.

Spiritual Life Goal Group: (Rev Chris) We have received over 60 responses on the Adult RE survey so far.

Final Reflections and Appreciations: Great dinner by Alan! Lois Bell appreciates Jan for writing so fast. {whew!}

Closing Words: (Susan Bartholome)

Adjournment: 8:55 p.m.

Addendum: A vote of the Board by e-mail resulted in adding Lucia Milburn to the committee on Shared Ministry.

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April 2013

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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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