



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• October 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 10 •

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

Theme: Embodiment

October 6th "Women of Valor"

Service Leaders: Susan Panttaja and the Worship Associates,
Nancy Hayashibara

Special Musical Guests: Judiyaba (cello);
The UUCSR Women's Ensemble Choir

Our Second Source calls us to root ourselves in "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." Today the women of the Worship Associates will lead a service celebrating female heroes famous and unknown. Meanwhile, many of the UUCSR men will be off on their retreat.

October 13th "Loving the Body You Have"

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome,
Nancy Hayashibara

Special Music from: Billie Sue Fischer, Robin Rogers

Our popular culture seems designed to make people feel bad about their appearance, shape and age, but our Universalist faith assures us that we are all beautiful and good. You really can, and should, love the body you have. So don't go changin' to try and please us – just get on down to worship on Sunday!

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 9:00.

All members should plan on attending both, please!

October 20th

"An Honest Conversation about Drugs"

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman

Drugs have ravaged countless lives and cost billions of dollars. And, the War on Drugs has ravaged countless lives and cost billions of dollars. We love our pharmaceuticals, but we distrust pharmaceutical companies. Marijuana is functionally legal in California (as long as you are taking it as medicine) yet it is still against federal law. We live in a state of perpetual and harmful contradiction when it comes to drugs. Let's start to unravel that with some honest conversation, centered on the largest cash crop in California. It ain't wine.

October 27th

"Near-Death Experiences"

A SERVICE AUCTION WINNING SERMON

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Linda Proulx,
Nancy Hayashibara

The Choir performs at both services.

There is an ever-growing body of serious research examining people's near-death experiences and what they imply. If not exactly "proof of heaven," these experiences do have strong implications about the nature of mind, and the possibility of continuing existence after death. Naturally, people's preconceptions shape how they interpret this data, so come with an open mind. (Your loving heart and helping hands will also be welcome!)

Today is also Nancy Hayashibara's last Sunday with us. Please plan on staying after the service and coffee hour for a celebration of Nancy's tenure with us, and to bless her future endeavors.

November 3rd

"What is Enlightenment?"

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn, Roger Corman

Special Musical Guests from "Legends of the Harp."

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes



The whole grand, diverse and wonderful complex that is Buddhism rests on a simple and fundamental observation. Sitting under the Bo Tree, awakening to life-as-it-is, Siddhartha Gautama saw that existence is marked primarily by fluidity and impermanence. He also saw that most of us resist this. We cling to what we like and we reject the things we dislike. We act like we are going to live forever. We confuse our opinions and preferences with “how things should be.” The net result is endless psychological suffering and a lot of bad behavior. If, instead, we can live without attachment to our preferred outcomes, to our desire for permanence and our need to be in control, the Buddha taught, we can live with freedom and happiness.

I believe this to be true. No, actually, I KNOW this to be true.

But, boy, sometimes it’s easier said than done, and here’s a case in point. Our beloved Music Director Nancy Hayashibara has accepted a full-time position as an accompanist, tutor and coach in the Music Department at Santa Rosa Junior College. It is a long-overdue reward for the years she has spent sharing her skills, her charm, her brilliant playing and her warm, supportive spirit with so many different people in so many different settings, whether here at UUCSR, the Summer Reparatory Theatre at the J.C., Congregation Beth Ami (where she is famed for her unusual Purim celebrations) or down at Cinnabar. This new position will bring her regular hours, strong benefits, significantly increased compensation, and free Sunday mornings!

It’s hard to believe but Nancy has been with the congregation in one capacity or another for 13 years(!), making her the longest tenured staff person, by far. She is one of the most unselfish musicians, and THE most unselfish Music Director, that I have known and worked with. We have enjoyed a working relationship marked by an unusual amount of mutual respect and flexibility, particularly given how strongly opinionated and weird we both are. (Who can forget the crazed hip-hop stylings of Rudy Romero, or those imitations of Mother Hayashibara, or those strange puppet shows?)

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of our working relationship has been our planning sessions. Every week or two Nancy and I would meet to discuss the themes of upcoming services and to consider what kind of music would ensure the integrated approach that we strive for in our worship, where all the pieces add together to make a greater whole. Our initial work was always to brainstorm freely. “Wildly” or “ridiculously”, might actually be better words. We would indulge each other’s strangest notions and bring up the songs on YouTube or Rhapsody or elsewhere, and then consider, over a lot of laughter, whether the Choir could really sing the Geographical Fugue, or if the congregation was ready to sing along with Iron Maiden or Public Enemy. Then we would reel it back in to reality.

The results have been, in my humble opinion, one of the best and most diverse music programs for a congregation of our size and resources. I have particularly appreciated Nancy’s humor and creativity during worship itself; sometimes a well-timed snippet of the Jeopardy theme while Rev. Chris searches

for his notes was just what the doctor ordered.

Of course, I can’t deny that the timing of this particular change is painful, and rather ironic. After all, we just made a major push in the spring to bring the Music Director position up to 20 hours in order to offer medical benefits, which Nancy has worked without for years. The result was our best Annual Pledge Drive ever, measured both in terms of the budget’s bottom line (>\$500,000), and the percentage increase (>8%). I am still so moved by your faith and generosity, and your concern for her.

But what no one expected – least of all Nancy – was the sudden opening of an interim position at the Junior College during that very canvass campaign, nor that the position would then become available on a permanent basis. What I did expect, was that if she applied she would get the job, and I strongly encouraged her to apply and, naturally, gave her a glowing recommendation.

The good news is that we now have the financial resources to ensure that our music program stays at the high level that we have come to expect. And, of course, we are SO richly blessed with musical talent within the membership of the congregation, that we shall continue to sing and play and dance with joy and gusto.

With all due respect for the Buddha, I think that change is not, in fact, the only dependable reality. The changes that experience take place within a container that does have certain reliable qualities, such as, say, gravity and other laws of physics. Or like the enduring power of love and hope, and other inner laws. Whether I call it the Universe, God’s Mind, the Great Big Thing, or the Tao, I live in faith that the foundation of the world is geared toward order, love, growth and evolution, and infinite possibility. I share Julian of Norwich’s faith that “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” Or “onward and upward forever!” as our own James Freeman Clarke put it.

So we move on.

What’s next? Because the relationship between the Music Director and the Minister is too important for us to be hasty, or for us to hire anyone in my absence, a hiring committee comprising members of the Worship Associates, the Choir and the UUsual Suspects has been formed to seek an Acting Choir Director and Acting Accompanist to work with the congregation during my sabbatical. Nancy will serve as a consultant to that committee before she leaves at the end of October. Please talk to me, Jenny Harriman, Susan Panttaja or Sibyl Day if you have any questions or would like to offer your input.

Also, we’re having a big party for Nancy after the service on October 27th. Keep your ears peeled for the details.

And finally, Nancy, I trust that I speak for all of us when I say, we will miss you greatly, we love you very much and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the gifts you have given us!

Greetings from the Board President

I walked into UUCSR on a recent Saturday morning, meeting folks doing breakfast clean-up, arranging flowers, in meetings of several sorts, and I really got it: we are a whole of many parts, each part giving generously and creating a whole that is pretty wonderful, and, that is greater than the sum of its' parts as the saying goes. Supporting that whole community is really the take away from this year's board retreat. Here, in somewhat abbreviated form, are the goals for the 2013-2014 year. Underpinning each of these goals are our intentions to strengthen our financial position, attend to the needs of our facility and enhance the sense of connectedness within our community by refining our communication, creating an easy flow of information. We came up with three general spheres of congregational life as categories for our goals.

Financial. Within this sphere we will work collaboratively with our congregational financial and human resource wizards and we will:

1. Take a proactive role in the salary planning process in order to achieve competitive salary and benefits packages.
2. Work with our Financial Stewardship team to enhance financial resources using usual and new methods.
3. Work with our Financial Stewardship team in doing long range financial planning.
4. Work with the Endowment Committee to increase the fund.

Facilities. Within this sphere we will work collaboratively with our operations experts to:

1. Solve the main breaker problem.
2. Develop a process and a team to evaluate, prioritize and fund the needs of the facility.

3. Provide support, encouragement, guidance, in an ongoing manner, to Operations team in their work to manage building maintenance.

Community Support and Communications. Our goals, within this sphere, encompass a range of projects designed to enhance communication within our community and support members in their particular endeavors within the congregation. We will:

1. Offer annual committee/activity fairs.
2. Increase congregational knowledge of and involvement in NBOP/UUCAN.
3. Create a task force to study the unresolved question of CEO at UUCSR.....this was a piece of unfinished business from last year's work on the bylaws.
4. Develop effective liaison relationships between board and groups/committees within the congregation.
5. Continue the work on governance begun over the past two years....hosting gatherings to clarify and refine roles, policies, protocol. Provide effective communication of these throughout the congregation.
6. Create and offer leadership development opportunities.

You will hear more at the Fall Congregational Meeting, October 13, 2013, 9 AM. Attendance at Congregational Meetings is one of the easiest ways that we all, as individuals, can keep ourselves in the information loop. We have an opportunity to make decisions, hear new developments and express our opinions in community. Your information packet will arrive shortly which will serve as your guide to our meeting. I'm thinking we can top our all-time Congregational Meeting attendance record.....what do you think?

Jeanie Bates
Board President

New Congregational Outreach Team What is Your Passion?

Introducing the new team: our service to the congregation is reaching out to members, especially new members. We hope to fill the need for both a volunteer co-ordinator and a resource service. We'll call all members, starting with the newest. Our goal is to help members find the richest level of participation they wish. For many seasoned members, this is just a courtesy call, but for those who have not found a niche at UUCSR, we hope to provide information and ideas.

The co-chairs of the team are Gretchen Vap and

Phyllis Clement. Team members who are reaching out are: the co-chairs, and Shirley White, Natalie Brundred, Kitty & Brian Wells, Susan Williamson, Patti Somlo and Richard Fung. Betz Miller is providing tracking support, Maggie Noble is handling computer input, and Alan Proulx is seeking information about opportunities within the congregation for members. Any member is seeking information about participation can call either program chair.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Update - As I write this, we are two full months into our new fiscal year and are in good financial shape! Pledge payments have been solid through the summer months and the Glaser Center is right on budget. We have made a strong start to our year.

Endowment Fund Policy Overview – The stated purpose of our Endowment Fund is to enhance our mission apart from the general operation of the congregation. A portion of the earnings (dividends and interest) each year may be spent for a specifically designated purpose, such as enhancement of educational programs, facility improvement, social justice/community programs once such a withdrawal is approved during a congregational meeting. When such a distribution is made from the Endowment Fund into our budget, it is designated and used only for the purpose for which it was withdrawn. Based on my research regarding endowment funds, the annual income distribution appears to be a fairly standard feature. Of course, additional amounts from the Fund may be used for special opportunities (like when we

purchased the building) or emergencies but only after congregational meeting approval.

Now for the news - Our Endowment Fund is over \$140,000! Wow! It hasn't seen that level since before we purchased our building!

Legacy Circle - We've mentioned the Legacy Circle from time to time in these pages. The Legacy Circle consists of members and friends who have included UUCSR in their will, trust, etc., or otherwise directed donations to UUCSR at the time of their death. This is a very meaningful way of helping to sustain our beloved congregation and further its mission long into the future through the Endowment Fund. I hope everyone will consider joining the Legacy Circle with bequests of any size. Because the Fund is very well invested, all funds contributed help it to grow. *And, hey, you don't have to be dead to donate to our Endowment Fund!!!*

Please contact Phil Harriman or any other member of the Endowment Committee for more information.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

UUCSR's Annual Service Auction!!!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd AT 5:30 PM!

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR's biggest social event of the year! Mark your calendars, set your iPhones or just put a sticky note on your front door...you won't want to miss our Annual Auction Extravaganza! Our annual dinner and auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for UUCSR's general operating fund. YOU, our creative and generous members and friends, offer wonderful donations for our silent auction...dinners, yard work, theater tickets, theme parties, dog walking, hand crafted jewelry, trash hauling...the list has no boundaries! Volunteers scour the city and countryside to gather fabulous donations from local business to add to the offerings. So, consider what you might be able to donate this year to the fun! Look for our table display in the Social Hall for donation forms and a list of many ideas. Fill out a form for your donation and return it to the Auction Table or to the UU Office. Ask your favorite places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate or two. Our Auction Boards will be up beginning September 22nd. Watching the bids go up on your donations gets the blood pumping in the ol' veins!

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

Entertainment will be sure to delight the senses. Childcare and "kid food" will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with our live auction starring those masters of auction mischief sure to keep you laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocketbook for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!), Keep an eye out for our table which will be set up in the Social Hall beginning in September. Look for the Top Hat and Tales guy dancing in a sea of star spangled purple! Any question? Call Kitty Wells at 953-0620, Nancy Freeman at 537-1987, Mindy Graham at 850-249-7160, or Lynn Riepenhoff at 525-8424.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Religious Education of children is a cooperative effort. They say it takes a village to raise a child and parents at UUCSR have that village right here. What your children believe, what they have faith in, and the values they develop are shaped in many ways. Parents have, and should have, the greatest influence on a child's faith development. People join a faith community like ours so that the values they hold dear are held in a community, where they are not alone in guiding their children toward faith and wholeness. It is nice to feel that you are not alone on the path of parenting. It is wonderful to have other voices echoing the values you want to teach your children.

There are several ways that the religious education program here at UUCSR provides support for families. Our Sunday R.E classes provide weekly lessons that instill the power of love and faith in the goodness of life. The messages given to the children through story and activities support self esteem and a sense of justice in their personal worlds and beyond. Weekly youth group sessions provide close commu-

nity for high school youth to explore the issues that they face in the high pressured world of adolescent life. There is a freedom there to openly discuss issues that may be left unsaid in another setting. We support parents through the program The Art of UU Parenting, which will resume after the first of the year. This fall we will offer a six session class for parents called Articulating Your UU Faith. This class will help parents develop the ability to articulate the values and beliefs most sacred to them in order to teach them to their children in everyday life. Stay tuned for a schedule and sign ups for the class, it will be revealed very soon.

The cooperative effort of religious education means a give and take of energy and wisdom from the entire UUCSR community; parents and non-parents and staff alike. What will you do to join the cooperative effort of serving families in our congregation? There are many ways, just ask me.

In faith,
Deborah

Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

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

Grades K-8 will gather together for Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of each month. When there is a 5th Sunday all ages gather for Justice or Arts Sunday.

Middle School and High School students who attend on Sunday morning will begin in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship then gather in the RE Wing in the DRE's office for conversation, exploration and games.

October RE class schedule

10/6/13	Children's Chapel all ages together	Theme: The embodiment of love: How to live with love in your heart and in your actions
10/13/13	Grades K-2 <u>Love Surrounds Us</u> Session 3: New Friends	Grades 3-5 <u>We Believe:</u> Session 3 Inner Peace (Principle 3)
10/20/13	Grades K-2 <u>Love Surrounds Us</u> Session 4: Forgiveness	Grades 3-5 <u>We Believe:</u> Session 4 <i>Teachers and Learners (Principle 4)</i>
10/27/13	Grades K-2 <u>Love Surrounds Us</u> Session 5: Love Surrounds Us Without Boundaries	Grades 3-5 <u>We Believe:</u> Session 5 Deciding Together (Principle 5)

Covenant of UU Pagans

POTLUCK November 3rd: 6 pm gathering, 6:30 dinner. Please join the new UUCSR chapter of UU Pagans for a potluck meal honoring our beloved dead. Bring a dish that a loved one used to make, or one she/he particularly enjoyed as a honoring along with a picture or memento of them. We will gather to celebrate and share at this time of year, marking Sahwain, All Souls Day and Day of the Dead.

We are honoring our 7th principle by creating a CUUPs

chapter here at UUCSR. Sonoma County UU Pagans meets at 5:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in the RE Wing. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 15th at 5:00 pm.

Our meetings have both business and rituals honoring our earth and Pagan heritage. Please come and join us.

Contact AnnaLisa.Wiley@gmail.com or call Mel Jones at 529-2489.

UU Thanksgiving Camp

UU Thanksgiving Camp at the Mendocino Woodlands this year is from Wednesday November 27 to Sunday December 1.

Cabins are rustic, each with fireplace. Food is excellent. Activities are great. Cost is small.

Information and registration forms are at the Northern California Unitarian Universalist Camps and Conferences website: NCUUC.ORG.

Adults and teens: \$90.

5 - 12 year olds: \$65.

under 5: \$25.

It is not handicapped accessible.

Feel free to call Rose Saint John (865 -0755) or Mark Meierding (585 -1206).

October: A Rare Month

Ray Bradbury, in the opening words of *The Halloween*, his gorgeous love-poem to friendship, Halloween, and the passage of time, describes October as a rare month. Though all months are rare, in their own way, there's just something special about October, the first month when Autumn really feels like Autumn (sorry September! You always just feel like Summer-lite).

This month (with November 1st thrown in, too), we honor the rareness of October with an evening of stories about the passages of life (a repeat of Elizabeth Welles riveting and lyrical one-woman-show 'Water From the Welles' on Friday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.), the haunting and beautiful music of two acclaimed guitar-and-fiddle duos (Saturday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.), two more performances of my own one-man-show 'Wretch Like Me' (with a matinee performance, by popular demand; Sunday, October 20, 3:00 p.m.,

and Friday, October 25, 7:30 p.m., and a very special, atmospherically staged live reading of, you guessed it, Ray Bradbury's 'The Halloween Tree' (Sunday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.), featuring a tight band of local actors bringing Bradbury's rare and timeless words to life. And finally, on November 1, 7:30 p.m., celebrated Celtic harper Patrick Ball is joined in the Sanctuary by acclaimed harpers Aryeh Frankfurter and Lisa Lynne for an unforgettable evening of theatrical music from the British Isles: *Legends of the Celtic Harp*

Please join us in celebrating this remarkable month of music and magic.

—David Templeton

Tickets for all UUCSR-sponsored events available in the office, at the ticket table in the Social Hall, on line at brown paper tickets (www.brownpapertickets.com), and at the Last Record Store.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013—9:00 A.M.

BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE YOUTH GROUP

AT 8:30 A.M.

Committee on Shared Ministry

We need your input for the upcoming Ministerial and Congregational Evaluation!

This Fall your Committee on Shared Ministry is working to fulfill one of our roles, that of providing feedback to Rev. Bell by means of a yearly evaluation, in a somewhat different way. We hope to make this year's evaluation very inclusive, and to encompass not only the question, "How's Rev. Chris doing as our minister?", but also, "How are we doing as a congregation, in fulfilling our mission and ministering to one another?".

COSM is currently developing an evaluative survey that will be made available to the congregation online, via a tool called "Survey Monkey". Some of you may remember using Survey Monkey to give feedback to the Adult R.E. Committee last year, or to evaluate the all-congregation retreat this past summer. We hope to make this year's evaluation as user-friendly and as useful to our minister and ourselves as possible! We also hope to have the evaluation process completed prior Rev. Chris leaving on sabbatical in January. Watch your newsletter and announcements for more information as to when the evaluation will be ready online, and please help us by filling out your online evaluation survey!

And for more information about COSM...

What is the Committee on Shared Ministry? What do they do?

The mission of the Committee on Shared Ministry is to

oversee the general health of the congregation, support our minister, and provide conflict resolution when needed. We aim to encourage healthy communication, and to address issues and concerns in a safe and respectful manner. The COSM is also charged with coordinating the minister's yearly evaluation, and other tasks. We encourage you to approach us with any other ideas about how we may be of service to the congregation! Look for the lavender nametags to find one of us between or after services.

Who serves on the Committee on Shared Ministry?

The COSM is a committee comprised of five to seven members, plus the minister. Members must have been a voting member of the congregation for at least two years, and shown strong commitment to the well-being of the UUCSR community. Members of the COSM are asked to serve for three years, with an option to "recommit" to another one to three years at the end of the initial term.

The current members of the Committee on Shared Ministry are Rev. Chris Bell, John Chenoweth, Bill Foshee, Judy Hutchinson, Mary Lill Lee, Lucia Milburn, and Cathy Read. We meet at least once a month, and meetings are always confidential. Please contact any one on the committee with your concerns, questions and comments. Your input is vital to the health and well being of our congregation!

Cathy Read
Chair, COSM

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.

October 20 and November 17

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, October 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The October selection has been changed to *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for November is *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa.

Linda Lampson

Music Notes

There will be lots of interesting music in October, both from the choir and also from other musicians. Starting on October 6, which is the Men's Retreat Sunday, we will hear from the women in the choir, who will sing part of Gabriel Fauré's "Messe Basse" at the 11 am service. Also on that Sunday, we will hear beautiful cello music played by a guest artist, Judyaba, accompanied by Nancy, at both services. On October 13, we will hear two songs by members of our congregation: Billie Sue Fischer will sing "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera, and Robin Trimble will sing "Just the Way You Are." Then, finally on October 27, John Chenoweth, Roger Corman, and Mac Freeman will treat us to "Into the Mystic" for both services. The choir will also sing "Stars I Shall Find," a setting of a beautiful poem by Sara Teasdale, at the 11 am service.

October 27 will also be Nancy's last Sunday with us, and there will be a party to say farewell and wish her well after the 11 am service. We are all very happy for her that she now has a full time position as accompanist and vocal coach at the Santa Rosa Junior College, but we will miss her very much. However, we will be able to keep the choir singing, at least occasionally, until we can find a temporary choir director and/or pianist. We will also continue to have other excellent music for our services because we have so many talented musicians in our congregation, as well as guest musicians already scheduled for November.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Save The Date—One Day Retreat

Saturday, November 9th from 10 am to 3 pm will be our annual day-long Retreat at Friends House. (Thank you Yvonne Hammerquist for making this possible!) All UUCSR women and their friends are invited to share this special day. Our theme will be, "That Was Then, This Is Now". This retreat is particularly good for newer members, those who can't get away for our

week-end retreat in the Spring, and those who find Saint Dorothy's topography a bit daunting! It's also a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old ones! Please bring a lunch dish to share.

For more information or to answer questions, contact Linda Harlow, 526-3528 or linda37@sonic.net.

UUCSR Writers

The UUCSR Writers requests the pleasure of your company at one or all of our monthly meetings. Please see date, time, and place of gathering in the "Schedule" below.

N.B. Conflict in dates? No problem. Writers, Screenwriters, etc. are welcome to present a "work in progress" at Poets meetings and Poets at Writers, Screenwriters meetings. **The Film meeting is for anyone who likes to watch movies.** First, we show a DVD full feature film on TV. Then, we have a group discussion about it.

Schedule

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

Oct 7, Nov 4.

No Meetings in Sept, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

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

Note: Please see "Agreements" in our Brochure.

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

Join our UUCSR Writers E-mail list. Always In Progress...

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

Tom J. Mariani • southforkboots@gmail.com
UUCSR Writers • A Stimulating Environment

October Hot Topic—Project Censored

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2013, 12:45-2:15 pm,
BOARD ROOM**

Have you ever wondered about the accuracy of the news you read or hear? What is spin, what is fact? How is it that our society seems to ingest a considerable amount of junk food news.....celebrity trivia, meaningless details, contrived drama/conflict? Where can we find real,

uncontaminated news? Are there stories that never appear in mainstream media but that are critical to our understanding the world we live in? To explore these questions and more join us for a conversation about corporate media, media literacy and the story of Project Censored with our presenters, Susan Rahman, Andy Roth, and Liliana Valdez-Madera.

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

SHARE THE OFFERING

On Sunday, October 13th, one half the collection will go to help the **Cook Middle School Anti-bullying Project**. As many of us know, this is not an insignificant problem and it has serious effects on youngsters, both the bullier and the bullyee. Cook Middle School is trying a promising new approach which we can help them to implement. Think of your childhood and your children and help as much as you can. Many thanks!

On Sunday, October 27th, half the collection will go to sustain our Saturday Breakfast Program. For the last many months your generosity has made it

possible for us to have only one monthly collection for our breakfast, thus allowing us to support other organizations in our community which you folk suggest. So keep it up! Our many guests are greatly appreciative of your generosity!

JOIN US

Advocates invites all who would like to know more about our Social Justice programs and have a hand in creating and implementing them to join us at our regular monthly meeting. It is on the first Monday of the month from 10 am to noon and we meet in the Lunch Box Room in the RE wing. We will welcome you with open arms!!!!

Women Together

ELDER TALES

On Saturday, October, 19th all are invited to hear **Marilyn Beckerbauer** share her life's journey with us. Marilyn is a quiet person and often gets drowned out by some of our more boisterous

friends so don't miss this opportunity to get to know her better! We will meet from 2 to 4 pm in the Lunch Box Room in the RE wing. Please bring finger-food to share. Hope to see you there!!!

Breath—Mobility—Balance

Our wonderful Monica Anderson will again lead us in these fun, easy, and vital exercises that will help us stay and feel healthy and strong! We will

meet in the Board Room from 9:30 to 10:45 on **Sunday, October 20th**. No special clothing necessary.

Nancy's Goodbye

For those of you who don't know I have been hired at Santa Rosa Junior College as the full time accompanist/coach. It is a wonderful job where I can be part of a department dedicated to a high standard of music education. And most of all it is a job where I can do something I love - help people make music. The downside is that due to the amount of work I will be doing there, I will be leaving my work here at UUCSR.

A person can't leave something they've been a part of for 14 years without a great amount of sadness. It was never just a job or a just a place where I played piano. It's people I've shared stories, laughter, and ritual with. People that have appreciated what I've played in a time when not a lot of people sit and listen to classical music. People that cared enough to make sure I received health benefits. People that let me put on silly shows that were some of the truest expressions of who I am.

Playing music here has been quite a journey that has taught me that not one door closes without another one opening. I know that after I leave music will still happen. UUCSR has such a tremendous wealth of talented people. And this pool keeps growing. The UUuals are ever growing in their list of suspects. Even in the last few weeks I have met more members who want to be involved in the music ministry here and some new members have joined the choir.

Since I started accompanying in 1997, the choir has been through four music directors, not including myself. They helped me learn how to be a choir director. I had no clue how to direct a choir, but I did have a lot of experience playing

for choirs. I also knew how I wanted to be as a director. I wanted to be someone who came from a place of love, respect, and gratitude for this group of brilliant people - some of whom have been in the choir since even before I started playing for UUCSR - who gave their time and attention to the unique craft of choral music. I hope that I was that for them and for the various musicians that make up the UUuals as well.

I never leave a service without knowing how lucky I am to play music at UUCSR. Most of my friends in the business have adversarial relationships with their minister. I work with Chris, whose spirit of "yes" has been part of the reason why the music program has grown so much. Most pianists are only allowed to do a certain kind of music at their churches. Here the palette is varied and we can draw on many different styles. And finally I can be who I am. I have played at many different churches and temples and I can say with experience that UU churches are one of the few places where I feel safe enough to be myself.

Thank you for all the wonderful Sundays, holidays, and rehearsals. Just remember, I am only leaving the job. I am not leaving town so let's keep in touch. I want you all to know that I am truly grateful for the family, friends, support and love I have found here at UUCSR. And what do you say to a family that taught you how to be a better musician and a better person? I say, with great love, goodbye for now and thank you for listening!

Musically yours,
Nancy Hayashibara

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions
Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly
10 a.m.— October 30, 2013

Intern Minister

I'm glad to be back! Summer was rewarding and fun and far too busy, but there was not a lot of learning ministry. I'm glad to be back—with you and to learning my calling, with you as my teachers.

Several weeks ago I was finally able to attend a Saturday morning breakfast, our important outreach to the hungry and the homeless. My schedule last year did not permit this, but I hope to be able to attend on a regular basis this year. I arrived late to find things already in full swing. Food was in preparation, the serving line nearly set up. I was offered a place on the table serving cereals and milk, sugar and coffee. My job was to keep the milk and sugar topped off and full coffee urns to the fore. This took some doing, as sugar was in high demand, but I still had plenty of time to converse with any who wanted to talk. Some persons went through the line with their eyes down-cast, accustomed to staying invisible. The majority, however, were willing to look up, even make eye contact. I think this speaks volumes about how our long ministry to this population has made most feel welcome.

As most of you know, I am a veteran of peacetime service with the Navy. My experience in uniform has left me with a tender place in my heart for veterans, particularly those damaged by war. I have read that about 1/3 of our homeless are veterans. As I worked the coffee station, I found myself scanning the tables of hungry diners and wondering who among them were the vets.

I had not eaten breakfast, so after the line finally slowed to a trickle, I got some breakfast for myself and asked if I could join two men sitting at a table by themselves. I don't remember exactly how the conversation started, but it quickly came out that one of them was a vet, deeply traumatized by what our government had paid him to do during his war service. Lettini and Brock, in their book *Soul Repair*, differentiate between Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and what

they call Moral Injury. The man I was listening to clearly had a tormented soul. I tried to remember all that I learned last year during my training as a hospital chaplain. At some point in the conversation I identified myself as one of the ministers of this congregation. "So you're a man of God?" he asked. "I try to be."

By this time the cleanup crew was stripping tablecloths and breaking down tables. My companion had barely touched his breakfast. I wanted him to eat, maybe his one decent meal of the week, and I hoped that there was something I could do which might soothe his anguish. I asked if he would like a prayer. "Prayer is always good," he replied.

I asked to hold his hands and I started a conversation with God, explaining how I was here with Bob (not his real name) and he was feeling a lot of guilt about his actions during the war. I asked for forgiveness. I spoke of other details of his life he had shared with me and how he was feeling about them. When I wrapped up, I looked into his face and he appeared almost peaceful. He looked like he had shed a 100 pound pack. He thanked me. As he went back to eating, I said my goodbye and said I would see him again.

I am still amazed at the power of prayer. I have had similar experiences in the hospital with patients. My personal belief around what is happening is that by my being open to the Divine Love which surrounds and is within each of us, the recipient of the prayer permits herself to open to this Love. The effects are sometimes quite extraordinary.

We are doing amazing work in our ministry to the hungry and the homeless. By being a regular presence, I hope that I can add a chaplain dimension to our ministry.

Blessings,
Bryan

NANCY HAYASHIBARA FAREWELL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2013

FOLLOWING THE LATE SERVICE

Circle Dinner Groups for Fall 2013

Welcome to our Fall Circle Dinner Groups! If your name is in **bold at the top of a dinner group**, please contact the others in your "circle" to arrange for your first gathering. You get to decide on the time and place with your group.

Also you get to decide who brings what (i.e.: appetizer, salad, main dish, dessert, beverages/bread)! Please try to contact everyone within two weeks so no one feels forgotten!! As part of your after dessert conversation, don't forget to decide where and when you all will meet for the next month's gathering. **If, for some reason, you are not contacted by the folks at the top of your "circle" group by the middle of October please call them.** If they don't respond or another problem arises, please contact Lynn Riepenhoff at 525-8424 or Kitty Wells at 953-0620. We'll do our best!

****If you cannot make a dinner, have to cancel, or (as the host) need or want to fill in an empty seat or two, please consider calling someone from the "Substitute List".** They will be glad to hear from you. Enjoy your time together in food, fellowship, and fun!

DAY GROUPS:

Kitty Bownass and Cliff Christensen 282-9223
 Joan Thatcher 544-9130
 Diana and Dave Bower 785-9725
 Lois Bell 568-5113
 Dorris Lee 792-2939

Rose Saint John and Patrick Craig 865-0755
 Phyllis Fitzgerald 595-3808
 Susan Williamson susanrabbit@comcast.net
 Donnah Judah 542-2457
 Dan Nuebel 280-9888

EVENING GROUPS:

Debbie and David Hope 536-9390
 Roger and Luda DeBeers 816-2659
 Sara Jones 527-6257
 Russ Powell 324-3122

Jim and Mary Wolfe 544-3134
 Mark Meierding & Linda Lampson 585-1206
 Jen and Ralph Murray 837-0267
 JoAnn Robson 823-6001
 Reen Kennedy-Williams 799-2639

Gail Alford 843-4466
 Cathie Wiese and Robert Lunceford 829-3634
 Robin and Elizabeth Marrs 528-6939
 Marilyn Holmes 526-6175
 Maureen Rumford & Art Rosenblum 539-5104

Betz and Sam Miller 539-3654
 Carolyn Mcleese and Charles Rettke 875-3542
 Skipper and John Taylor 521-0141
 Joann Cleckner 778-1448
 Shirley Williams 537-9790

EVENING GROUPS (cont):

Leonard and Lynn Riepenhoff 525-8424
 Betty and Sid Gordon 545-0560
 Patty Somlo and Richard Fung 595-1613
 Janice and Olga Lee Mayberry 539-5319

Kitty and Brian Wells 953-0620
 Linda Balabanian and Tim Kennedy 542-0673
 Patricia Chavez 894-3891
 Jo Katon 953-6446
 Robyn and Andrew Hidas 544-6012
 rhidas@sonic.net

Michelle La Voie & Terry Eggleston 575-5757
 Gretchen Paradis 763-1910
 Irene Martin 544-3198
 Diana Thomas and Bruce Gustin 953-2780
 Nancy Fitzpatrick 539-7753
 Jenny Sebastian 520/241-1846

Nathan and Susan Miron 833-4683
 Marge Wright 887-7752
 Alan and Linda Proulx 538-7446
 Bruce and Judy Taylor 217-3325
 Maggie Morley 510/717-4980

Gretchen and Gene Vap 568-3290
 Shayna and Joel Billings 526-0504
 Natalie Brundred 478-2146
 Dave Tauck 479-2223
 Dee and John Ray 843-7816

Carol Weisker 776-4856
 Phyllis Metalis 481-4689/843-5107
 Jessica Blome and Scott Marsh 641/431-0478
 Micheline Justman 569-2072/546-4035
 Anne Bandy 542-0793

Circle Dinner Groups Cont.

Substitute List

Bob and Phyllis Clement	823-0925	Mary Lil Lee	338-2358
Marley Fein	575-8946	Helga Lemke	235-0965
Laura Jean Hageman & Tom Bond	539-3694	Karen Lillard	575-1255
Brian and Nancy Hargis	571-7846	Kathy Norman	523-2787
Linda Harlow	526-3528	Louise and Ollie Ostlund	578-8619
Phil and Jenny Harriman	206-0488	Eric Peterson	843-7425
Diane Harris and Richard Cleverly	545-6333	Cathy Read and Victor Cummings	527-8635
Mary Louise & John Jaffray	538-4668	Dick and Antonia Rodrigues	836-0757
		Calvin and Susan Simons	527-7191
		Stacy Sincheff	528-6603

Greetings from Rev. Kathy



I'm so delighted to be asked to serve as your part time sabbatical minister starting in January. I'm a big fan of UUCSR ever since visiting the church for the dedication of your most wonderful space. Last year, I had the great pleasure to preach for the ordination of

Jamie McReynolds. Rev. Chris and I have been colleagues in the district for many years now so I know something about the splendid congregation you are and can also well imagine how very much you will miss Chris while he's gone.

Your Sabbatical Committee is hard at work planning and looking at all areas of congregational life to be sure the good work of the church continues. My ministry with you is just part of what this fine group of leaders will make possible. They've invited me to preach, provide emergency pastoral care, and work with your Intern Minister Bryan Plude as he completes his final year of student ministry.

We will have time to meet each other on a Sunday in December. The preaching schedule and my availability should be known at that time. That's a ways off so here are a few things you might like to know about me. I am the proud mother of two amazing daughters ages 11 and 16 and have been married for 23 years. We share our home with a Jack Russell named Maggie, a bird called Sir Lancelot and two very old goldfish. We live in a close-knit neighborhood in San Leandro, about 70 miles from Santa Rosa.

I have a BFA in Theatre from Syracuse University and a Masters degree from Harvard Divinity School. After being ordained in 1998 I served as the Associate Minister at First Parish in Arlington, MA. This past July I

completed an eleven-year ministry at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. I grew up in an Irish Catholic family and spent my childhood living on an island in the South Pacific (Savaii, Samoa). As an adult I lived and studied in London, Australia and Mexico.

I especially enjoy going to the theatre, watching old movies, eating vegan, and reading novels and news. I spend a great deal of time supporting my children's activities such as fencing, ballet, and debate team. I occasionally Tweet but rarely Facebook. Pilates helps me keep my physical center while Tai Chi and Yoga my spiritual. I like the early morning hours and usually get up before dawn to walk for an hour up to five days a week. I love God and gardening and attention to both provides me with much inspiration for ministry and life.

Sabbatical time can be an exciting time for congregations and ministers. Time apart gives both opportunities to experience new ways of being. It's a time of continued growth and change with the eager anticipation of being reunited with renewed faith and creativity for the next chapter of shared ministry. I look forward to doing whatever I can to support you in keeping the church thriving during those crucial sabbatical months.

You are sure to see my family and me in church soon. Until then, I'm so happy to be meeting with Rev. Chris, Intern Bryan Plude and your staff and lay leaders to plan for our time together come January. It will be a fun, creative and meaningful time. Though an hour away geographically I plan to be readily available by email, phone, and even Skype. Look for more information about the sabbatical plans soon.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Kathy Huff

Glaser Center Events

Saturday, October 5, 7:30 pm

Showcase Concert Series

Guitar & Fiddle Duo

Featuring Jon Berger and Michael Rofkar

Daniel Kahane and Ed Berghoff

Admission \$15

Friday, October 11, 7:30 pm

Solo Theater

Water from the Welles

Storytelling of the highest order by author-actress Elizabeth Welles

Admission \$15

Sunday, October 20, 4:00 pm

Friday, October 25, 7:30 pm

Encore Presentation

Wretch Like Me

Written and Performed by David Templeton

Directed by Sheri Lee Miller

Admission \$10

Friday, November 1, 7:30 pm

Music in the Sanctuary

Legends of the Celtic Harp

Featuring

Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter

Admission \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door

Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Gorgeous music and spoken word celebrating the Winter Solstice

Ensemble Galilei with Neal Conan

Admission \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

15 August 2013

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: Rev Chris

Meeting Called to Order: 6:31 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (President), Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (Vice President), Linda Stabler, Marge Wright

Members not present: Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese, Peter Wilson

Non members present: Rev Chris, Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Sibyl Day (Corporate Secretary), Deborah Mason, Jan Prater (Recording Secretary) David Templeton.

Minutes from June Meeting: Approved

Welcome to new Board Members, Treasurer, and Corporate Secretary!

Also, announcement that Terry Graham will be the next Recording Secretary starting in October

One-on-one:

Open Mic: (Deborah Mason, RE Director) Deborah reported that our numbers are booming in the babies to preschoolers age group. While this is wonderful news, the challenging part is the little room is getting too full and we want to maintain our child/teacher ratio. We're going to need more volunteers in the preschool room. She will send an e-mail to parents re: which service they plan to attend (early or late.) Also she asks that Board members again each take a turn in the RE program.

REPORTS:

Treasurer Report (Linda Balabanian): Now that the books are closed we know we have \$13,710 net surplus (which includes \$16,000 surplus from last year.) She provided Board members with a handout summarizing year's end figures as well as a 2013-2014 budget preview. Pledge revenue is in good shape - June was low but July very strong, after statements sent out. Financial Stewardship priorities are: Education - toward a generous philosophy about money, increasing Pledging Friends, enhancing the Audit Committee, and Growth of the Endowment Fund.

New Intern Committee: (Jeanie) This committee will now focus on a search for the next intern, and applying for the stipend. The new committee is (with some members continuing): JD Thompson, Andrew Hidas, Ben Ford, Linda Proulx, Bob Barrows, Frances Corman, Elizabeth Marrs.

Sabbatical Committee: (Jeanie) Kathy Huff, as we know, has been approved as Sabbatical Minister. The next business is to create a Sabbatical Booklet. The question has been put out to the various groups, including the Board, in the Congregation, "What needs might you have in Rev Chris's absence?" The Board will take up this question on retreat.

Web Page Update: (Laura Jean) A new member, Sean Freese, who is an IT web designer, has joined the Communications Team. He will create a new web page for us; so everyone should look at our web page and submit suggestions. Also, newer photos are needed. The Communications Team, led by Eric Skagerberg, meets regularly.

Retreat Update: (Jeanie) She provided a folder for each Board member re: the Retreat including a schedule, agenda, goals, and the Walker Ranch rules. Laura Jean requests that all members read the UUCSR By Laws and also look over the info on the Governance Teams for discussion at the Retreat.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prep for Congregational Meeting Oct 13: (Jeanie) The A4SJ would like to be relieved of the responsibility for putting on the breakfast before the meeting. It has been costly for a few individuals and not very successful as a fundraiser. Ideas: might the Youth Group take it on? (Rev Chris will check with them.) Or the Hospitality Committee - in a reduced form? Membership Committee? Women Together?

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Lease with the Islamic Society: (David Templeton) Per the Board's request 3 changes have now been incorporated into the Lease Agreement. This brought up the need to re-write the contract; David provided copies of the old and new versions for Board members to review. Joe and Jeanie will be the liasons between the Board and David on this matter. Meanwhile David will give notice to the Islamic Society on Sept 1st re: the known (already voted on) increase in rent. Lois Bell moved that the Board approve the action plan with regard to the Lease; Marge (2nd) and the motion passed.

HR Business: (Linda Stabler) The subject of Medical Benefits Cost Sharing with Staff was discussed at length. Linda presented possible scenarios. In the end, Marge moved that we do NOT approve the concept of benefits cost sharing with staff at this time; Lois (2nd) and the motion passed. The Board wants the HR Committee to provide statements for each staff member showing their current full compensation and also show the past 5 years.

Bonuses: Lois moved that the Board shall approve proposed bonuses for staff (conditional on Fine Stew's approval); Susan(2nd) and the motion passed. Marge added that as soon as the bonuses money is approved it should be given immediately to employees.

Final Reflections and Appreciations: Rev Chris appreciated the great discussion and heartfelt opinions shared.

Closing Words: (Jeanie)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30p.m.

Submitted by Jan Prater



Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
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October 2013

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Board of Trustees

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Vice President: Laura Jean Hageman
Vice President@uusantarosa.org
Treasurers: Linda Balabanian
Treasurer@uusantarosa.org
Secretary: Sibyl Day

Board Members:

Susan Bartholome	Cathie Wiese
Lois Bell	Marge Wright
Joe Como	
John Farison	Recording Secretary
Alan Proulx	Jan Prater
Linda Stabler	

Order of Service Announcements:

Send submissions to Announcements@uusantarosa.org
Editor: Janis Brewster
Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

UU Update Newsletter:

Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail address

Editor: Janis Brewster

Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.

Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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Director, Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 131 DLRE@uusantarosa.org
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Music Director: Nancy Hayashibara, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, Ext.103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org
Sexton: Phil Butterfield

Sunday Religious

Education Staff
Shawna Hoxsie
Fiona Mackenzie

ANNUAL UUCSR

AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, November 2nd

5:30 - 8:30 pm



- host a feast...*
- walk a beast...*
- mop a floor...*
- paint a door...*
- knit a sweater...*
- tailor a coat...*
- have a party...*
- on your boat...*
- repair a crack...*
- massage a back...*
- shop for cars...*
- chart the stars...*
- share your tickets...*
- whitewash pickets...*
- teach a dance...*
- alter pants...*
- cater a dinner...*
- photo a winner...*
- wash a window...*
- 'til it shines...*
- share your cabin...*
- in the pines*

Add to the evening's delight with your donation:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please describe your auction donation
(Be as specific as possible - and freely add pizzazz!)

If this is an event or dinner, please specify the number of
people _____ and the date it will happen _____

Minimum winning bid (per person) _____

Retail or estimated value _____

Bid Early and Often! You need not be present to win!

Another way to enjoy this FUN-raising event is to join in staging it. If you would like to help or need further information, phone: Nancy Freeman 537-1987 • Cathie Wiese 829-3634 • Kitty Wells 433-1196 • Mindy Graham 850-249-7160 • Lynn Riepenhoff 525-8424
Please return this form to UUCSR office at 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, 95401