



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 3 •

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

Theme: Hope

March 2

Love Songs

***Service Leaders: Scott Miller, Frances Corman,
and UUCSR Musicians***

Take any love song, change a few words, and suddenly it's a hymn of praise or a psalm: a song of the spirit. Maybe romantic love is always already spiritual work, teaching us how to love our ideas of the holy and of God. This music-heavy service will invite us into the space of romantic love to consider whether romance and religion might be doing the same work.

March 16

Finding Hope in Grief

***Service Leader: Bryan Plude
Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn***

When we undergo personal tragedy, as we all have, or will, what sustains us? How do we find hope as we live our grief? Our family, friends and community can support us in many ways, but is this where we find our hope? Or does it come from somewhere within?

March 23

Thriving in Difficult Times

***Service Leaders: Rev. Doug Craft
Worship Associate: Andrew Hidas***

Difficulty can arise in any arena of our lives: with partners, children, friends, work, finances, church, community, the larger world. When things are really bad we just hope we can survive. This morning we'll explore possibilities for thriving in difficult times. The sermon will close with a guided and silent meditation. Choir performs a Simon & Garfunkel classic at both services.

Doug Kraft was a longtime minister at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Sacramento, and is a meditation teacher, psychotherapist, and author of *Buddha's Map*. He lives in Sacramento along the American River with his wife, youngest son, and two cats.

March 9

Looking for Hope

***Service Leader: Rev. Kathy Huff
Worship Associate: Eric Fischer***

The changing nature of hope in times of despair, how to reorient your life when things don't go as "hoped for."

March 30

An Incurable Hope

Service Leaders: Rev. Kathy Huff and Worship Associate Susan Bartholome

Hope sustains us along the tumultuous path. Diana Eck in her book *Encountering God*, calls hope "wakeful, radical and eager. . . It is standing on tiptoes and waiting in expectation . . . leaning forward toward the horizon of the dawn, ready for sunrise".

Monthly Musings from Rev. Kathy



The note we end on is and must be the note of inexhaustible possibility and hope. --Evelyn Underhill

"There's no hope," the police detective said. "Oh." I said still reeling that my home had been broken into, doors smashed in, glass everywhere, rooms ransacked and my most treasured objects stolen in the brief time I was away that morning. "Thieves wear gloves nowadays. We never recover anybody's property after break-ins like this" the officer added trying to put my hopes in perspective. I'd arrived back from a brief errand to witness police officers, guns drawn, advancing on my home. They'd been surprised to get my neighbors emergency call. For just two hours earlier they'd all been at my neighbor's house to arrest someone whose drug induced high had him jumping fences and trying to hide in both our backyards. They couldn't quite believe they were back at the same two addresses and neither could I.

After the shock wore off, I knew it could have been worse. Indeed it has been for some of my other neighbors, those break-ins included not just loss of property but serious bodily injury and in one case loss of life. Ours is just the most recent in a whole long series of neighborhood crimes. And yet, not wanting to give up hope, all week long I kept searching for my wedding rings and family heirlooms as if perhaps I'd put them somewhere else and they had been overlooked. I then took a morning off to scour area pawnshops. A sobering journey giving me opportunities to see and imagine what had happened to so many other people's treasured objects.

All this effort didn't help. I just got madder and sadder and the feeling of hopelessness sunk in completely. It felt strange, even a bit selfish, because I'm not much of a material girl, but these were the only few precious objects I owned, and all totally irreplaceable. I will feel their absence for a long time. I now have nothing like them left to enjoy or pass on to my children. I felt torn and violated. And then I went to church.

On that "Love Fest" Sunday, not only was the message to "love unconditionally" there was a huge sign that said "Forgive Everybody, for everything." I could feel my heart start to break open with just the thought that this might be possible. "What a burden it is to carry anger and resentment around," the preacher said, "life is just too short for that." I remembered what my daughter said when she came home from school "perhaps, whoever it was needed the money to feed their family." With that, and all the understanding hugs and gestures from friends and colleagues, slowly, my anger and sadness has begun to melt. It's true if you give it time hope floats back up.

I will miss my rings and things to be sure, but there are more important things to be concerned about in the world, and the most precious things in life are not things at all. As we enter the month of March with a worship and learning theme of *Hope*, it is a good time to be reminded of the ways hope can restore the soul. We may not get what we hoped for, but with hope's active presence we can make it through just about anything.

At that same Love Fest Sunday a courageous woman shared her journey from homelessness and addiction to a place of health and hope. She said she could not have done it without a congregation of people who loved her and believed in her even when she was at her most down and out. Surely this is what we do for each other here at UUCSR. We do this in large and small ways sometimes not even knowing what a difference we make just by the smiles we share, the hugs we give, or the hands we hold.

The gift of hope makes every person, as well as the whole family of humanity, very valuable; with hope there is always the possibility of a better future. On any given Sunday there is someone among us feeling hopeless and alone. Sometimes we have to hold on to hope when others can't. Our religious ancestors, those "God is Love" Universalists, taught us to search for the good in all things. I'm so grateful to have a place where I'm being called on to do my part. The detective was wrong, there is always hope, you just have to know where to look.

Greetings from the Board President

Sometimes the timing of our Newsletter deadlines is mind twisting. So it is this month as I am writing following our February 16 Congregational Meeting. I know that by the time you read this that meeting will be a distant memory and we will be in the midst of our Pledge Drive. So, with this time warp in mind, I begin.

To say a bit about the Congregational Meeting.....I appreciated the experience of feeling the engagement of you all in the work we were presenting. Such good questions, such rich discussions. I came away with a commitment to working on our GA and DA involvement. Perhaps our pledges will allow for significant support for our delegates and it will become possible for more folks to imagine that they could attend. I would like to pull together a group of members who have attended both DA and GA to discuss with all of us what the experience held for them. Part of getting better at what we do is poking around at spots that are still growing edges. Thanks for lifting up the need to do some work here. The meeting, in total, felt almost like a small group meeting....as if there really could be time and space for many voices. As we have gotten bigger I know we have lost some of that sense of knowing everyone and holding Congregational Meetings that felt intimate, inviting really juicy open discussions. I am hoping that we can preserve the spirit of participatory, lively democracy in the face of getting bigger and more complicated as an institution.

I want to open a conversation here about our upcoming Revival on May 18. You will hear much about it but let me give you a glimpse at what is planned and what

parts of the event UUCSR has agreed to take on. This revival will be a day in a park, the Penngrove Social Fireman's park, with a variety of activities throughout the day. We will join in small groups for discussion, enjoy lunch, outdoor activities for the children, including a jumpy house, come together for worship and then play as long as we wish into the afternoon. There will be table games as well as more active games available. Marin UU is the lead congregation. We will contribute facilitators for the small groups, our Welcoming Team will handle registration and we will develop and implement the collecting of data through Brown Paper tickets. It sounds like a wonderful day. We will let you all know when the registration process is in place. I am thinking that for folks who aren't comfy registering online we can provide some hard copy registration forms. We certainly will also create carpooling information so that we can share the driving. More about this later.

You will read this the first week of March. Soon we will learn of the success of our Pledge Drive. I look forward to learning that we have surpassed our anticipated 5% increase and are able to make some of our dreams come true as well as meet our expected expenses.

In gratitude,
Jeanie Bates
President, Board of Trustees

Meet the Ministers

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 Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Kathy Huff and our Intern Minister, Bryan Plude 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.

MARCH 16



Intern Minister

I am enrolled in a wonderful course at Starr King School for Ministry this semester. Taught by Rebecca Parker, it is called simply "A Course on God." Rev. Dr. Parker is retiring this year after 25 years as president of Starr King. I feel privileged to have this opportunity to learn theology from her.

For our reading for this week we were assigned *God of Dirt: Mary Oliver and the Other Book of God*. The author, Thomas W. Mann, is a United Church of Christ minister and professor of religious studies. In this 60 page book, Mann looks in depth at Oliver's poems and compares her god of dirt with the Biblical God and her understanding of nature with how it is treated in the Bible. I highly recommend it for any of you who are fans of Mary Oliver and/or who wish to enter into a purposeful guided tour of the Bible as it relates to our earth.

In the opening pages, Mann examines Oliver's process for writing poetry. He quotes the great painter Georgia O'Keefe who said that "most people find it difficult to

attend to the world around us because 'it really takes time.'" Oliver takes the time. In an essay, she describes her process of writing. "I listen. What I hear is almost a voice, almost a language...whispering in the recesses where one is less oneself than a part of some single indivisible community." If this sounds familiar, it should, as this is the deep embodiment of our 7th principle of interconnectedness. Oliver "gets" this principle to the core of her being. While few of us will develop the ability to write poetry as does Mary Oliver, I think that many of us can develop this kind of awareness of interconnectedness, if we take the time in our spiritual practice. I also think that in this age of disconnection from nature, that we are called to strive for embodied awareness of our interconnectedness with each other and the earth. May it be so.

In Faith,

Bryan

Intern Minister

Monthly Theme Reflection Questions, Practices and Resources

Our monthly themes invite us to live our faith through a process of reflection and action. Together and individually we consider the ways we can deepen our spirits and work together to build a more just, loving and sustainable world. Our theme for March is **Hope**.

"Hope," the poet Emily Dickinson exclaims, "is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all." Hope helps us transcend even the most difficult of circumstances. Few of us can claim an eternal hopefulness. The path of hope challenges and confounds. Finding the way out of despair or loss is not easy. The case for hope is independent of reason and logic. It does not rely on facts but on a basic human longing for something better.

Questions: In what do you place your highest hope? Where's hope in sorrow? Who or what cultivates the hopeful heart in you? Where is the path of hope in the face of injustice and moral turpitude?

Spiritual Practices: Hope can be learned. There are attitudes that can support and sustain hope. For example: Finding the bright side of every situation; persisting no matter what happens; having courage amidst the

unknown; being patient with change; keeping confident in the face of uncertainty; letting events unfold in their own good time. Breathe in "all will be well." Breathe out "may the best outcome prevail." Light a candle and sit with the light as a signal of hope's presence. Choose a prayer from *World Prayers* and live with it for 21 days. Plant seeds. Focus a meditation on the Chinese saying, "If you keep a green bough in your heart, the singing bird will come." Reflect and journal about where you need to make a place for hope in your life.

Movies & Books for Adults (A) Children (C), Youth/Teens (T): *A House for Hope* by John A. Buehrens, Rebecca Ann Parker (A,T); *The Gospel of Universalism* by Tom Owen Towle (A,T) *The Impossible Will Take a Little While* by Paul Rogat Loeb (A,T); *The Sword of Truth* by *Terry Goodkind* (T); *The Magicians Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo (C) *Sing to the Stars* by Mary Brigid Barret (C); **Movies:** *Mulan* (rated G); *Green Dragon* (PG13); *Kandahar* (NR); *Hope Floats* (PG 13); *The Pursuit of Happyness* (PG13) *Big Fish* (PG13)

Religious Education for Children and Youth

At a recent youth group session we went around the circle and everyone said one thing that gives them hope. Some said YRUU Cons, others said music, babies, old people, and I said the kids in the youth group. Spending time each week with these wonderful youth gives me a sense that the world will be in good hands when their generation comes of age. They are so creative, smart, kind, funny and talented!

This summer the youth group, led by Rev. Chris, Eric Fischer and me, will go on a service trip to Taos, New Mexico to work with Habitat for Humanity. We will travel by van and stay at UU churches along the way. Once in Taos we will help build a traditional adobe home for the Mares Family, a single mom with two young children.

Now, you may ask why we are going to Taos to do this work. After all, there is Habitat work happening right here in Sonoma County. New Mexico is one of the three poorest states in the US and Taos is one of the poorest counties in the state. Almost 21% of the population of Taos County live at or below the poverty level. The need is very high. Service trips provide youth with a total immersion experience in justice work. This service trip will give our youth a unique opportunity to experience and expand notions of what it means to live and work in community, guided by our UU Principles. The trip will give them new insight to the problem of poverty and the understanding that there is a way they can help. Services trips such as this can be the foundation for continued justice work.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a congregation to send youth on a service trip. Our service trip needs the support and participation of everyone. The cost of the trip for 14 people will be \$7,400.00. This is quite a bargain compared to international trips! The youth group is planning several fund raising events over the next few months (see below). Attending fund raising events is an excellent way for the congregation to show our youth that we are behind them. Many of the parents of the youth have volunteered to help with fundraisers, but we will need additional help to make the trip affordable to our youth. Kirsten Olney and Dillon Redican (youth group member) have established a "crowd funding" network using facebook and the "donate" menu on the UUCSR website. The facebook page is called UU Santa Rosa Service Trip. When you go to the website, click on the donate menu box that says Pledge Payment and a list will appear that has Youth Group Service Trip as an option. We hope that members of the congregation will support this effort by making donations at the web site.

This is the first time the congregation has sent a group of teens on a service trip. Our youth are very excited about this opportunity. I have no doubt that it will create memories to last a lifetime and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a citizen of the world. Thank you in advance for your support.

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 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.

March RE class schedule

03/2/14	Children's Chapel all ages together	Theme: Hope
03/9/14	Grades K-2 <i>Love Surrounds Us</i> Session 16: Our UU Principles	Grades 3-5 <i>We Believe</i> : Session 15 Everyone is Special (Principle 1)
03/16/14	Grades K-2 Wisdom Tales Stories that reflect UU Principles.	Grades 3-5 <i>We Believe</i> : Session 16 Caring for All (Principle 2)
03/23/14	Grades K-2 Wisdom Tales Stories that reflect UU Principles.	Grades 3-5 <i>We Believe</i> : Session 17 Weaving Our Lives Together (Principle 3)
03/30/14	Justice Sunday all ages together	Theme: Hope Through Helping

Treasurer's Report

In case you missed the congregational meeting, here are the Cliff Notes...

2013-2014 Six Month Financial Highlights - Good year so far!

- Pledge Revenue is well over budget.
- Expenses are under budget.
- Fundraising revenue is expected to be on target by year end
- Net Income is strong and it looks good for the remainder of the year
- Significant building repair costs are coming up and will be funded from the Building System Replacement Reserve as well as current operations.
- Reserves will be very low once these costs are incurred

Together Through the Decades - Annual Pledge Drive Is Underway!

Let's celebrate the tenth anniversary of our home at 547 Mendocino and the 60 year anniversary of our congregation's existence as a Unitarian congregation – Together Through the Decades! You should all have received in the mail a beautiful brochure designed by Andrew Hidas and an inspirational letter from Jeanie Bates. I hope you enjoy these wonderful documents as much as I do.

This year our pledge drive is being conducted through one-on-one visits with congregants by a dedicated

band of visiting stewards (your friends and fellow congregants) who have volunteered their time and energy hoping to make a personal connection with each of us. I hope you can find the time to meet and talk about what is important to you and your hopes and dreams for the congregation. Please take some time to think about what the congregation and its mission mean to you and make your financial commitment for the coming year accordingly.

UUCSR Can Now Accept Credit Cards Online

You can now make donations to UUCSR on-line by credit card if you wish. There is a "donate" button with a "drop-down" menu on our website allowing you to choose between:

Pledge Payment

Donation to the General Fund

Youth Group Service Trip

Saturday Breakfast

Endowment

Our Communications Team will be working on re-designing our website in the next fiscal year and at that time we will be able to expand our ability to accept credit cards in additional areas and improve the appearance and clarity of the instructions. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding credit card donations, please contact Kirsten Olney.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay

WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

"You generously share your beautiful community, your welcoming homes, your expertise and, especially, your warmth. We will remember this trip always." Ann McCracken, Cincinnati, OH.

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the ninth season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma valleys, e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," (a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience) or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. *UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.*

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 707.363.7552 or barrie001@comcast.net.

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

Music Notes

In keeping with the general service theme for March, which is Hope, you will hear a variety of beautiful music, some sung by the choir and some provided by many of our other very talented musicians. The services on March 2 will be unusually musical, partly because the sub-theme for that service is romantic love. There will be two songs from popular musicals: (1) Bruce Reinik, accompanied by Richard Riccardi, will sing "Some Enchanted Evening" from "South Pacific," and (2) Natalie Brundred and Eric Skagerberg, accompanied by Roger Corman, will sing "Do You Love Me?" from "Fiddler on the Roof." Robin Rogers will sing "Old People in Love." Scott Miller and Robert Howseman will sing and play some Everly Bros tunes. Finally, last but not least, Richard and Sandy Riccardi will grace us with one or two love songs they have written.

The choir will sing a very moving and beautiful piece for both services on March 9: "Solace" by William Bolcom. Here is the story behind this song: "Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom and Connecticut Poet Laureate Dick Allen were brought together by chance when Hartt School band director

Glen Adsit began talking to composers and poets in January about a way to musically and universally respond to the local tragedy that took place at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Mr. Adsit's own motivation was a quote by Leonard Bernstein (made in response to the assassination of JFK): 'This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.' One result of Mr. Adsit's call was a short, deeply touching poem by Mr. Allen entitled 'Solace' which was sent to Mr. Bolcom, who set it for a capella chorus, or women's and children's chorus." In addition, Billie Sue Fischer, accompanied by Roger Corman, will sing "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child."

Robert Howseman, Roger Corman, and Claire Beery will play a special piece for the services on March 16: "Nina's Waltz." On March 23, the choir will again sing for both services a choral arrangement of Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Submitted by Jenny Harriman,
Music Committee Chair

Dharma Day at UUCSR

Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The morning consists of silent sitting and walking meditation, suitable for both new and experienced meditators.

Bring a bag lunch for eating meditation. At approximately 2 p.m. the movie "Dhamma Brothers" will be shown.

This is a documentary of a 10-day silent Vipassana retreat for inmates at a maximum-security prison in Alabama. From the DVD cover:

"The Dhamma Brothers tells a dramatic tale of human potential and transformation. It has the power to dismantle stereotypes about men behind prison bars."

For questions or info, call Rose, 865-0755.

Faith and Fitness

Our March 8 Outing: We are meeting at 10 am March 8, at the Park Trail Drive entrance to Annadel with lunches and/or snacks.

Some will be going about 3-4 miles for a loop to Lake Ilsanjo and back around, with some climbing. Others may head back after a shorter walk of approximately 1 mile round trip.

The Park Trail Drive entrance is off Summerfield Road, turning onto Park Trail Drive, parking on the street

where the road curves to the right. Heavy rain will, once again, cancel this hike. A second midweek hike for March 18 is also planned. Details to follow. If you have questions or concerns, or to let us know you are planning to come, please call Gretchen P. at 889-3007 and/or email fitness@uusantarosa.org or gretchen@sonic.net.

Friday Family Fun Night

DO YOU LOVE PLAYING WITH KIDS or HELPING THEM WITH CRAFTS or READING THEM STORIES? For our UU Friday Family Fun Night Program, some of our Santa Rosa UU congregants set aside one Friday a month (or two) for an hour to spend with the children at Catholic Charities Family Support Center while their parents play Bingo or simply take time for themselves. The children range in age from 2 up to 12 or so. We have a maximum of about ten kids in the play room and there are at least two adult volunteers. We also put on special events like the annual Christmas party with Santa and the Halloween cookie decorating. We have so many special memories of our time with the kids. My favorite was when a new little girl came in. She was a very self-possessed three year old. One of the older children said, "We are so happy _____ is back

today. Her mama just got her back." Another favorite memory is a dad with three little girls. One spends the week with her grandma and another is with her mom. The third is at the shelter with him full-time. But, on Friday they all come back and we have them together in our play room. We especially need help on the second Friday of the month because some of our volunteers have had schedule changes that have left us short-handed. You can e-mail me: Becky Montgomery at montyb@sonic.net or call (707) 573-0103. Debbie Carter Hope is our co-coordinator. Her phone is: (707) 536-9390.



Ever been in a TIE group?

Then save the date—**Saturday, April 19th at 11:30 AM**—for a potluck get-together. Think of it, perhaps, as a sort of reunion. More details in next month's newsletter.

UUCSR Writers—A Stimulating Environment

March 3rd is the UUCSR Writers regular monthly meeting from 1 pm to 4 pm

PLEASE, LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. Send Email to ggdeb@sonic.net

1 - 2 pm Instructional: a half hr lecture and a half hr group discussion.

We are watching the Great Courses DVD "Building Great Sentences: Exploring the Writer's Craft" with Professor Brooks Landon (Univ. of Iowa) in a series of 24 half hour lectures about writing.

2 - 4 pm is the Writers regular monthly meeting: Writer presentations of a work in progress. Novelists, Poets, Memoirs, whatever your chosen work, come and share your written words with us.

If you are not able to attend the Instructional session from 1-2 pm, come for the regular meeting from 2-4 pm.

Our meetings are on the first Monday of the month (except Sept-the second Monday) from 1 to 4 pm at the

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-568-5381.

We meet 10 months a year, Jan - Oct, no meetings in November and December.

Our "UUCSR Writers Presents" Special Events Series: TBA- To Be Announced

For more details about the UUCSR Writers, please visit <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

Best thoughts to Everyone.

Take Care,

Georgette G. deBlois

ggdeb@sonic.net

<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Hot Topic

On Sunday, March 16th please join our intrepid fellow UUCSRers in the RE Common Room from 12:30 to 2 pm to hear about their trip to Haiti last fall. Those who went to help with reconstruction in a small, still devastated town will tell us about what they found,

what they did, and what they learned. And of course, bring your questions!

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

On Sunday, March 9th, one half of the collection will go to The Living Room, our neighbor and the only agency in Santa Rosa open to homeless women and their children during the day. At TLR women can get not only hot meals and an address where they can get responses to job applications but also help with learning to manage money, improve their parenting skills, and to regain their sense of worth through the friendship and support of caring, trained adults. There also

are programs for children to help them transcend the trauma and damage that they may have undergone.

On Sunday, March 23rd, half the collection will again go to sustain our Saturday Breakfast program. As you may know, grant money has dried up so we are supporting this on our own. So when the ushers come around on both these Sundays, please be as generous as you can. Many folk are counting on us! Thank you.

Women Together—Elder Tales

On Saturday, March 15th from 2 to 4 pm, Olga Mayberry will share her life's journey with us - triumphs, tragedies, and all.

We'll meet in the Teen Room in the RE wing. Please bring finger food to share.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 13th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The March selection is *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In April we are reading *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Lampson.

Breath—Mobility—Balance

On Sunday, March 16th, Monica Anderson, the founder of Tone Pilates, Yoga and Dance Studio, will lead her class from 10:15 to 10:50 in the Board Room.

This is a fun and easy way to improve these three vital functions! No special clothes necessary.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2014

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.— April 30, 2014

Coming in March 2014:**" Are We There Yet? "**

A dynamic production by

OFF THE PAGE Readers Theater

will again showcase the works of local writers and musicians. The theme refers to all kinds of journeys; driven by cars, buses, campers, planes, hearts, and minds. This nagging refrain is likely there in all of us as long as we occupy this planet!

Directed by Hilary Moore, Pat Hayes and Mike Hayes

SHOW TIMES, 7:30 PM:

Fri. March 14 and Fri. March 21, at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts

Sat. March 15 at the Arlene Francis Center, Santa Rosa (dinner available at their café before the show)

Sat. March 22 at the Glaser Center, Santa Rosa

(** benefit performances for host organization)

TICKETS: \$15.00, available at brownpapertickets.com after Feb. 15, & at the door.

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
16 January 2014**

Members Present -- Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (President), Lois Bell, Joe Como, Laura Jean Hagemen (Vice President), Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Cathie Wiese, Marge Wright

Members Not Present -- John Farison

Non-Members Present -- Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Joann Cleckner, Sibyl Day (Secretary), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Kirsten Olney

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Jeanie Bates

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting – Readings by Jeanie: From *Welcome, A UU Primer*; "I am only one" by Edward Everett Hale

Agenda Review –Added to the agenda: Intern Committee Report

Timekeeper Volunteer – Sibyl Day

Minutes of 12 December 2013 Review -- Draft minutes corrected in situ. Minutes accepted as corrected

Open Microphone – Alan reminded members of the "Choosing Your Electricity Supplier" forum to occur

4 March at Congregation Shomrei Torah. Joe will moderate the forum; UUCSR is one of the co-organizers.

Intern Committee Report – In Ben Ford's absence, Jeanie read a communication from Ben explaining that an offer had been made to a candidate and a subsequent interview had been scheduled with another. Both candidates accepted internships elsewhere. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the congregation not host an intern in 2014/15 and to advertise earlier for a 2015/17 internship. *Laura Jean moved and Susan seconded a motion that the congregation not host an intern for 2014/15 and that the BOT support the Committee in its efforts to seek a candidate for a 2015/17 internship.* Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Cont. on Page 12

Board of Trustees Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 11

Treasurer's Report – Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Draft Budget – Kirsten Olney and Joann Cleckner, Financial Stewardship (FinStew)

FinStew compiled a detailed congregational committee prior year budgets and actual expenses as well as 2014/15 budget expense requests. The draft budget shows an increase in expenses of \$31K (5.6%). Total estimated pledge revenue is estimated to increase \$38K (10%) but the total revenue is estimated to increase \$21K, resulting in a \$10K deficit. Linda stated that a \$10K carryover surplus is projected from FY2013/14. *Lois moved and Laura Jean seconded to accept the Draft Budget.* Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Treasurer's Report – Linda distributed the handout highlights for the first fiscal 6-months, July-December: (1) Pledge Revenue is 32% & \$58K over budget, largely due to pledgers having already paid their whole year pledge; forecast pledge revenue is \$20K in excess of budget, (2) Sunday Basket revenue is improving, from 24% & \$2.8K last month to 14% & \$2K under budget, (3) Glaser Center net income is \$1.4K under budget, (4) Total Expenses are \$8K under budget, (5) outside of "Other Income", Net Income is \$41K and (6) Cash position remains strong and consistent. Financially, the congregation is doing very well.

FY2014/15 Endowment Fund Distribution –

The potential Endowment Fund distribution for next FY is approximately \$7K. The distribution must be used for a specific program or improvement. FinStew recommends that the distribution be used to fund the upcoming website redesign. *This distribution requires congregational approval.*

Annual Pledge Drive – Annual pledge drive, "Together through the Decades" will kick off 23 February.

FinStew Recruiting – Linda requested that BOT assist in identifying 2 to 3 new members to carry out its responsibilities.

Group Goals

Facilities – John Farison, Joe Como -- Joe had nothing new to report but, speaking for John Farison, Cathie reported that there is an expected \$8-10K increased PG&E cost for the electrical panel installation. FinStew will be

provided additional details.

Financial – Alan Proulx, Laura Jean Hageman, Linda Stabler – Alan requests that Joe & John support a current versus future facilities financial planning effort. A "goal setting" exercise is being planned which will involve the congregation and the Endowment Fund committee. Some specifics to be addressed are facilities, fund raising, charitable giving, cost savings and human resource funding. A handout was distributed delineating a 6-month plan to review and reclassify as appropriate, the job classifications and pay for regular staff members. Primary responsibilities lie with Linda Stabler, Janis Brewster, HR Committee, FinStew and the BOT. A recommendation to the BOT is planned for May 2014.

Community Support & Communications – Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates, Lois Bell, Cathie Wiese, Marge Wright
Susan requested commitments from BOT members to staff the Meet a Board Member Table on Sundays. Cathie mentioned that a notebook has been added to record member suggestions and to help facilitate follow up. A sign-up sheet was distributed. BOT members were encouraged to unilaterally engage with congregational committees/teams. A Saturday, 22 March, 1-4 p.m., "Leadership Assembly" meeting of leaders of committees/teams and BOT members is planned to foster inter-team communications. Cathie outlined the meeting specifics. Laura Jean discussed the in-process web redesign. A 31 January meeting with Andrew Hidas and Sybil Hunt is planned to work toward establishing a content management system, hiring a web designer/consultant and other details. Glaser Center web site will be independently developed.

Congregational Meeting – Jeanie reviewed logistics and BOT member responsibilities for the 16 February meeting.

Executive Session -

Closing Words – Cathie Wiese: Reading "Ode to Age" by Pablo Neruda

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham



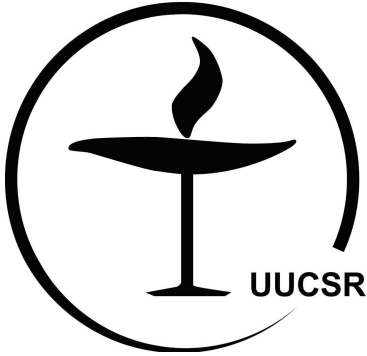
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

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March 2014

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Board of Trustees

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Editor: Janis Brewster
Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

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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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Choir Director: Sadie Sonntag, Pianist: Richard Riccardi
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, Ext.103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org
Sexton: Peter Wilson

Sunday Religious

Education Staff
Shawna Hoxsie
Fiona Mackenzie

Events at the Glaser Center



Saturday, March 1, 8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser for Typhoon Haiyan Relief Efforts

Filipino Comic Relief

Ricky Del Rosario, Ben Del Castillo,
Justin Lucas & Joseph Anolin

\$20 General; \$15 seniors & Students

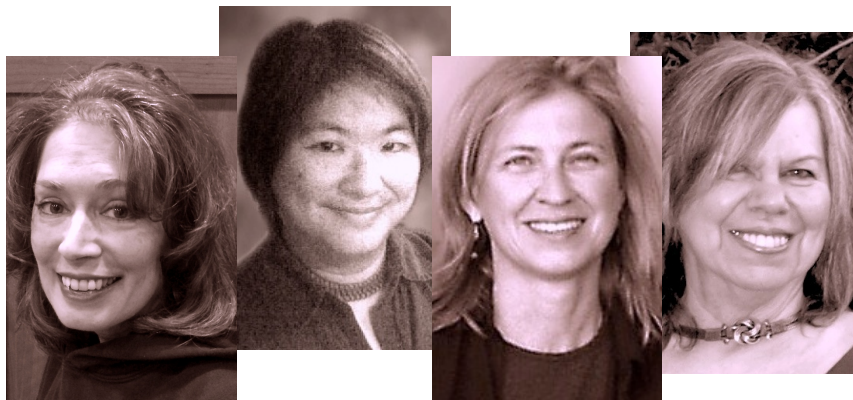


Saturday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Two pianos — Two master pianists

Kirk Whipple & Marilyn Morales

Tickets \$20 general
\$15 seniors & Students



Saturday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.

Showcase Concert Series

Billie Sue Fischer & Nancy Hayashibara plus Sarah Baker & Jan Martinelli

Tickets \$15 advance, \$18 at door

Saturday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.

Off the Page Readers Theater

Are We There Yet?

*Stories of travel, anticipation and arrival,
written by local authors, performed by a
cast of five sensational actors*

All Seats Fifteen Dollars

Sunday, March 30, 3:00 p.m.

Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus

A Gershwin Portrait

Music of George & Ira Gershwin

Complimentary Refreshments

All Seats Twenty-Five Dollars