



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• July 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 7 •

**Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.**

**Theme: Home**

July 6, 2014

**Breathing Deeply: Coming Home to Our Bodies**

**Worship Leader: Adam Dyer, Ministerial Candidate,  
Pacific School of Religion  
Worship Associate: Andrew Hidas**

In today's world, people spend a lot of money, time and energy "working out" or "getting fit." (Or at least thinking about it!) But when and how do we take the time to simply be *spiritually* present in our personal dwelling...our bodies? Adam Dwyer is an accomplished wellness professional and 30-year veteran of the entertainment industry, first as a Broadway performer and then as cruise director for various international cruise lines.

July 27, 2014

**Disability: Crisis, Danger and Opportunity**

**Presenter: Lucia Milburn  
Worship Associate: Scott Miller**

The Chinese symbol for crisis has embedded in it two other symbols, one for danger and one for opportunity. Using her experiences as the mother of a child with a disability, Lucia will explore the nature of personal crisis and how danger may become opportunity.

July 13, 2014

**A Decade of Dreams, Determination and Devotion**

**Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman**

Today we will celebrate the 10 year anniversary of our move to UUCSR and The Glaser Center at 547 Mendocino Avenue. Please join us to honor the members of our congregation who years ago imagined a spiritual home where we could practice our principles of spirituality and social justice in the heart of our community.

We also welcome Rev. Chris back from his sabbatical, and celebrate those who have nourished UUCSR over the past 10 years and those who will carry our mission into the future.

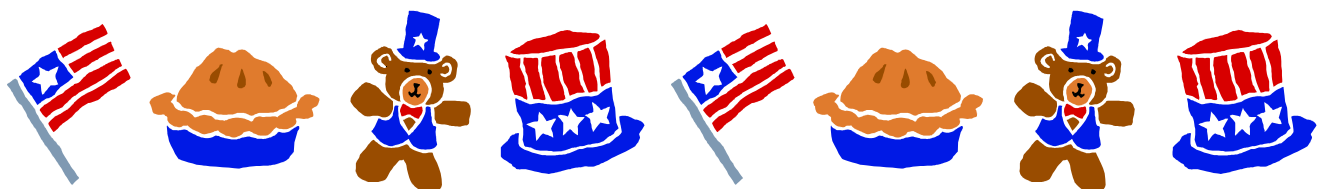
Sunday Worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by a family-friendly party in the social hall and courtyard.

July 27, 2014

**Home Is Where I Want to Be  
but I Guess I'm Already There.**

**Service Leaders Susan Bartholome and Andy Levine**

This Sunday, in the middle of the "Moving Season," we will explore the effects of growing up in one's home town versus spending a nomadic childhood in a military family. What impact can these differing experiences have on one's sense of home and sense of self?



## Greetings from Rev. Chris

Greetings from Rhode Island, where I am attending the annual General Assembly of the UUA, and where I am writing my first newsletter column in six months. Time does fly when you are having fun, but six months was a really long time. I missed you!

I want you to know how I have spent this incredible time of rest and renewal that you gave me, for which I am so truly grateful.

My sabbatical began in January with a period of pure relaxation. My roommate of the past year took a trip to South America, leaving me space to be purely alone for the first time in ages. I read. I sat in the hot tub. I napped. I napped more. I snuck in my last bit of official work, conducting my portion of Bryan's final evaluation, and then got ready to hit the road, after a quick nap.

I spent the next five weeks on an old-fashioned cross-country road trip. First, Boulder, Colorado for a week, where my family lived for seven years in the 90s. I drank craft beer, saw lots of old friends and caught up with the editor of the paper where I was a restaurant critic once upon a time. There was a huge snowstorm.

On to Chicago, where I was reacquainted with three high school friends I hadn't seen in 29 years! This included my high school sweetheart, who generously forgave me for "unceremoniously dumping" her after senior year. We both agreed, in retrospect, that it had been for the best for everyone. I went to the Art Institute, ate pizza, got a tour of the Divinity School from one of my first ministers and checked out the local UU churches. There was a huge snowstorm, which finally forced the purchase of winter boots. You forget, living in Eden, what it feels like to sink your feet into 12-inch deep slush while you wipe sixty pounds of snow off your car. Good times.

After Chicago came Columbus, where I visited my aunt Cyndi. She was my dad's baby sister, and only 8 years older than me, so we often connected at weddings and funerals. The visit was a rich time of story-telling and getting to know her grandchildren. Oh, and there was a huge snowstorm. Again.

Next off to Cleveland for time with my mom's side of the family, with whom I'm much closer, and still more old friends. I got to spend a lot of time with my 96-year-old grandfather, whose mind is only now reluctantly succumbing to his many decades. He can't really remember anything from day-to-day now, but as is so often the case, he remembered the distant past, and so still had many stories to tell.

There was a huge snowstorm there, too, and I began to wonder if I was legitimately cursed. I moved on to North Carolina to see my then-pregnant daughter and her husband, hoping for the best. And guess what? Even in North Carolina, there was a huge snowstorm. It took me and Caitlin 3.5 hours to drive 14 miles home from a lunch

date!

After that, I drove to Boston, visiting friends along the way, and again getting hit with a huge snowstorm. By this time, I have to admit, that was beginning to get a little old. But it didn't matter too much, for I spent most of March indoors in retreat in Worcester, MA. The Zen school that my mentor (and UUCSR alum) Rev. James Ford co-leads owns a temple there. The retreat was an intense period of self-inquiry (and Self-inquiry) with 10 hours of sitting each day. That was useful and ultimately liberating, though not exactly pleasant, for as a person in the midst of a divorce I had a lot of questions for myself, and I didn't always like the answers. Fortunately the "vast, inconceivable source, which can neither be faced nor turned away from," as the Zen liturgy puts it, was there to support me.

After the retreat I drove home through Memphis and went to Graceland and the National Civil Rights Museum, which preserves the very site of King's assassination. Heart-breaking. Finally, I added Arkansas and Oklahoma to my list of states visited, and then picked up Aaron in Colorado on the way home. We went to Zion National Park, a must-see, and then finally rolled home, 8000 miles the wiser.

When we returned to Yulupa Cohousing in Santa Rosa, Rita had moved out, so I moved back in, and that's pretty much where I've stayed since April. I've been taking on-line guitar lessons, hiking, reading and writing, hanging out with my son, gardening, watching lots of baseball and soccer, attending a number of fine rock-and-roll shows, and reorganizing and redecorating the house to make it my own. Also, our long construction project at Yulupa has finally ended, and there has been plenty of work as we rebuild our community.

In recent weeks I've attended and helped to lead another 5-day Zen retreat, with our own CityZen group. I also attended the Pacific Central District Board's annual retreat, and a short retreat with the clergy support group to which I belong. A trip to Mexico was not an option financially, so I remain tragically unilingual.

Daughter Cait has since delivered Rose Louise Butterfield-Moody, my first grandchild. (Yes, friends, your youthful rock-and-roll minister is a grandpa.) After G.A. I'll be heading back to North Carolina to see baby Rose for the first time, and then return home just in time for our celebration on July 13, my first day back on the "job." I am very eager to see you all and start serving our community together again. I feel full of creativity and clarity and faith, and I'm tanned, rested and ready. Thus, I declare the sabbatical a success, at least from my side, and I hope you had a positive experience, too. My warmest thanks again for the delight of being your minister, and for your generosity. See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

## Greetings from the Board President

### HEADLINE NEWS: OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS JULY 13!

Inside this newsletter you will find a flyer with information about our celebration. You will want to check it out and reserve the day for a spectacular service and party following the service. We will be inviting people who have been important to the congregation over the past 10 years so it is a chance for you to say hello to these folks. What an opportunity for all of us to share stories, hear UUCSR history, look at where we are now and envision our future. All this and good food. **Not a pot luck**, we have a yummy menu planned that involves some contributions from members. You may receive a call from a friendly food captain asking for donations of food for the party. This will be a wonderful event, celebrating our work together all these years.

#### Goodbyes

This has been a season of goodbyes. I am writing this on the evening of our farewell to Bryan. What a sweet ceremony. The ceremony, the receiving line and the social mix following the service seemed to be such an outpouring of affection and appreciation from all of us and a truly meaningful experience for Bryan. The photo album and the words from all of us in the lovely box will keep us near to him as he goes the last mile toward his goal. Susan's beautiful glass piece will find a special place in his world of things I am sure and will be another reminder of his time with us. We did well with Bryan....he grew and we grew. That's about as good as it gets. We say goodbye for now.

Just the week before, of course, we said goodbye to Kathy Huff in a very touching ceremony. I am sure she took with her the knowledge that she made a difference here and created bonds of affection she couldn't have imagined. She didn't just stand in as "Sabbatical Minister", she showed up in a big way, embracing us all and believing in us. As with Bryan, we say goodbye for now.

We said our goodbyes to the outgoing board members, Laura Jean Hageman, Cathie Wiese, John Farison and Lois Bell, at our Congregational Meeting, June 8.....with standing ovations of appreciation for the hard work each put in to keep our institution thriving. The good news: they aren't leaving UUCSR!

#### Hellos

Time now to welcome our new board members and slate of officers as we begin our new congregational year. Our new board members, elected at our February Congregational Meeting are: Marilyn Beckerbauer, Pam Tennant and JD Thompson. They join continuing board members Linda Stabler, Marge Wright, Joe Como, Alan Proulx, Susan Bartholome and me. Our officers for this year are: me, as President, JD Thompson as Vice-President, Linda Balabanian as Treasurer, Sibyl Day as Corporate Secretary. Terry Graham will continue as Recording Secretary. Looks like a great bunch and we look forward to a productive year.

With wishes for a joyful summer.

Jeanie Bates, President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

## Caring Connections Presents: In Memory of Fausto G. Murragai How I Discovered the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

One Sunday in 1988, I awoke at 5:30 in the morning and started listening to a Santa Rosa radio station. It was a weekly Sunday religious program in which a man was interviewed. The interviewer was asking the man, if he believed in God.

Later in the program I learned that the man interviewed was Dan O'Neal, the minister of the UU Fellowship, which I had never heard, so I continued to listen.

Dan O'Neal said that many (members) did not like to be associated with a "church" and preferred to belong to a "fellowship" where people could have a life of

social responsibility and compassion without the need to be associated with a dogma.

My wife of 33 years had been diagnosed with cancer and she had less than a year to live. I was busy with her illness and in June of 1989 she died. My two sons and I had the sad experience of saying goodbye to her.

In October I visited the UU Fellowship. I was very glad that I was received with open arms. Soon after, I became a member.

Submitted by Deborah Carter-Hope  
From the Archives—Caring Connections Corner

# Events at the Glaser Center

Saturday, June 28,  
6:30 p.m.  
Dinner and a Show

**Broadway  
Magic  
Kelly  
Brandenburg  
Sings songs  
of Broadway**

\$50 dinner + show  
A delicious chicken and polenta  
dinner created by Worth Our  
Weight, with dessert & coffee  
\$25 show only  
(8:00 p.m.)  
(dessert & coffee)



**Kicking off  
Glaser Center's  
10-year anniversary  
celebration**

Saturday, July 12, 7:00 p.m.

**Summer Concert**  
Presented by the  
**Joyful Noise!  
Gospel Choir**  
A Celebration  
of Life & Spirit



Sunday, July 13, 10:00 a.m.

## **Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**10 year Anniversary of "the Move" to downtown Santa Rosa  
and the establishing of The Glaser Center**

Special music, guests, reflections, and a message on the future  
by Rev. Chris Bell, with a gala party to follow the service

Saturday, August 30  
7:30 p.m.

**Gabe & Mimi  
Pirard**  
plus  
**Cascada De Flores**  
All seats \$15  
\$18 at the door

Saturday, September 27  
7:30 p.m.

**Lorin Rowan**  
plus  
**Allyson Paige &  
Jesse Brewster**  
All seats \$15  
\$18 at the door

Saturday, October 25  
7:30 p.m.

**Craig Corona**  
performs  
the songs of  
**John Denver**  
All seats \$15  
\$18 at the door

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa

707-568-5381

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

Habitat for Humanity here we come!! At the end of the month nine members of the youth group will make the trip to Taos, New Mexico to work on building an adobe house for a family in need. Rev. Chris, Eric Fischer and I will drive the youth on a route that will take us to Las Vegas, where we will sleep on the floor of the UU Congregation, Las Vegas and on the way back from Taos to the Grand Canyon and an overnight at Beacon UU Church in Flagstaff, Arizona. In Flagstaff our youth will get together with Beacon UU youth to share stories about the trip. We will have another person on the trip with us. Former youth group member Izzy Fischer will join in the effort and document the experience through film. The plan is to present Izzy's film and stories from the youth in a Hot Topic in the fall.

The service trip will provide many first experiences for our youth. None of them have spent a week doing intensive physical work in the service of others before. Most have never seen this part of the country and all but a few have never seen the Grand Canyon. Aside from these amazing experiences the group will also learn what it is like to live in community together

out of their comfort zones. As a group they will learn to make collective decisions by consensus, keep each other in tune with our Principles as we do justice work together and deepen relationships. This will indeed be an adventure with a mission – to celebrate life, empower both the family who will live in the house being built and the youth themselves, caring for one another as we wade in the deep waters of close relationship, and making the world a better place by the gift of time and effort.

The youth group has put in a good effort toward fund-raising for the service trip and the congregation has been incredibly generous in their support. Fund-raising has brought in \$3,869.00 well over our original fund-raising goal of \$2,600. These extra funds will allow for additional scholarship money, a cushion for unexpected expenses and (hopefully) seed money for next year's trip.

The youth group members express their thanks for the support of the congregation in making this trip happen. Stay tuned for stories of this adventure.

In faith,  
Deborah

## Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

The Summer schedule for Sr. High Youth Group is irregular during the summer. **In the month of July the group will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.** PCD Youth Camp – WUUKY is from July 7 to 12. Youth Service Trip is from July 15<sup>th</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>. Deborah Mason, Rev Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah [REDACTED] for more information.

### Summer program RE sessions and the worship service at 10:00am.

All ages grades K-6 meet together during the summer months. Sessions include worship, a brief lesson, games and crafts. We keep it fun and simple!

Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers will be provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie.

### July RE class schedule – Children begin in the sanctuary. All ages meet together in one class

Date	Theme
07/6/14	<i>Love Collages</i>
07/13/14	<i>Beloved Comunity</i>
07/20/14	<i>Enemies: Reader's Theater</i>
07/27/14	<i>What is Real and What is Fake</i>



## Treasurer's Report

Happy 10 year anniversary – 547 Mendocino!

### ***Odds 'n Ends***

Summer is upon us and we successfully survived and flourished during Rev Chris' first Sabbatical. Our fiscal year 2013-2014 is behind us and from a financial perspective, although it isn't final as I write this, it looks like we did pretty well with revenue coming in as expected. We were able to fund a number of building maintenance projects, large and small, because we had adequately budgeted for repairs and maintenance and had a reserve in place that covered a large part of the cost of the electrical panel replacement.

A donation from generous members of the congregation paid for a new ceiling mounted projector in our sanctuary – just in time for our 10-year anniversary celebration! Thank you very much!!!

Since our congregational meeting last month, several members have asked about increasing their pledge and wanted to know the process for doing so. There are a few different ways to change your pledge amount. One way is to call Janis Brewster, our office administrator, and ask her to change it for you. Another way is to fill out a revised pledge card. There are blank cards at the visitor table on Sundays and you can always ask Janis or me if you need one. Please print "Revised" on the top and leave it in the "key lock" box next to the work room door. Any questions, please let me know.

A few months ago, I mentioned using Scrip as a good way to raise funds for UUCSR without any addi-

tional cost to you. Merchants, including many on-line merchants, will make contributions to UUCSR based on a percentage of the purchases you make from them. Soon we will have a table on Sundays where you can learn more about it, find out about participating merchants and get help signing up to use Scrip. In the meantime, you can visit the website - [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) - to register or call Janis and she can help you sign up.

### ***Giving as a Spiritual Practice***

I've been reading a book called "Cultivating Generosity: Giving What's Right, Not What's Left" and it is helping me to understand a different way to think about giving. Every Sunday our worship associates remind us that generous giving is a spiritual practice. But do I really understand what that means? A spiritual practice takes effort and should require significant depth of thought and feeling. It is intentional. And there is a degree of difficulty involved, sacrifice made, mindfulness and awareness. The result of spiritual practice is change - one is not the same as one was before, there is a positive effect to one's life from ongoing spiritual practice. And ultimately the sacrifices feel good.

Giving what is comfortable to give is not a spiritual practice. How many of us pledge at a level that makes us feel that we have really given meaningfully in relation to what we have? At a level that is difficult for us, which requires us to prioritize differently. These questions are leading me through considerable introspection. What are your thoughts?

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

## UUCSR Summer Camp

**August 15-17** is the weekend for the All-UUCSR Summer Camp and we hope you will want to join us! All-UUCSR means that everyone is welcome, whether families or singles. Summer Camp means we will be staying at a beautiful retreat center, Enchanted Hills, on the ridge between the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. There will be all kinds of relaxing activities, including craft workshops, music, dancing, swimming, and softball. Food is prepared by the retreat center. We bring ourselves and our bed linens, our instruments, our poetry, and our games. Cost varies from \$170 for

an adult to free for children under the age of three. There are also scholarships available for up to 50 % as needed. Please let us know what your interests and needs might be so that we can have a wonderful retreat that includes as many of us as possible! Carol [REDACTED] can tell you more. Watch for our signup table starting July 13, after the service, or contact one of us if you can't be at a service.

## Music Notes

The theme for services this month is "Home," and for the first service, July 6, we will hear Bruce Reinik sing "Goin' Home," which is a song based on Dvorak's famous Largo theme from his New World Symphony. The words were written by one of Dvorak's pupils, William Arms Fisher, who described it as follows: "The Largo, with its haunting English horn solo, is the outpouring of Dvorak's own home-longing, with something of the loneliness of far-off prairie horizons, the faint memory of the red-man's bygone days, and a sense of the tragedy of the black-man as it sings in his spirituals."

Then, on July 13, we will be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation's move to Santa Rosa. We will have some very special music for that service. The choir will sing "Journey Home," which was written by Doug Bowes for the dedication of our building. Doug was our choir director for several years both before and after the move, and his wife, Coley Glover, who wrote the words to that song, was also both a composer and choir member. Robert Howseman and

a group of other musicians will also sing and play the piece he wrote for Rev. Chris's last service before his sabbatical, "The Great Big Thing." Then, many of our talented musicians will provide music during the party after the service.

For the service on July 20, we will hear Susan Panttaja, Robert Howseman, and a few others do two songs: "Streets of Gold" by Robin & Linda Williams, and "Weave Me the Sunshine" by Peter, Paul, & Mary. Finally, on July 27, we will have an opportunity to hear our Choir Director, Sadie Sonntag, sing another song called "Home" by American Idol winner in 2012, Phillip Phillips, which will also definitely fit this month's theme. Here are the words to the first verse: "Hold on to me as we go, as we roll down this unfamiliar road, and although this wave is stringing us along, just know you're not alone cause I'm going to make this place your home."

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

## Faith and Fitness

Faith and fitness: Potluck picnic supper on Saturday, July 12th at Upper Jack Rabbit picnic area in Spring Lake Park, 6pm to 8, for lovers of the outdoors whether hikers or not. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share and beverage of choice, we'll have a barbeque going and enjoy some outdoor fellowship. The next day we celebrate our building but on Saturday evening we will celebrate our outdoor home. RSVP to [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org), or Gretchen at 889-3007. We'd like to know what you are planning to bring and if you would like to meet at a carpool outside the park or meet there. There is a fee to park inside if you do not have a county regional parks pass. Our location is under the oaks, next to an accessible restroom and also

close to the lake.

Also in July, on Sunday July 20, an outing to Point Reyes is planned with a carpool starting at the Rohnert Park Park and Ride (RP expressway and 101 on the West side) at 8:30am (with a possible Bovine Bakery stop en route) or at the trailhead at the Visitor Center, (no fee to park) meeting about 10:30. Hike will be easy to moderate with no difficult footing or climbs, lots of trees. Bring lunches, we'll eat at a picnic area on the trail. Planned and led by Roz.

Contact [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org) or Gretchen [REDACTED] with questions or concerns or let us know you are coming.



## Hot Topic

We will take a break for the vacation month of July, but In August we will start up again with a fascinating talk about SAY (Social Advocates for Youth), followed by a program on Elder Services in September and Election Pros and Cons in October.

## Advocates for Social Justice

**Share the Offering:** On Sunday, July 13, half of the collection will go to the Task Force for the Homeless, an agency which strives to end homelessness in Sonoma County. It acts as a catalyst and leadership resource, bringing the community together to promote affordable housing, preventing homelessness and assisting people who are homeless. Our Congregation has a special interest in this effort.

On Sunday, July 27, half the offering will be given to our Saturday Breakfast Program, which provides our homeless neighbors with a delicious hot breakfast once each week. We have supported this breakfast for years with both our time and our money. Please be generous.

## North Bay Organizing Project

Mark your calendars for our upcoming "Noche Sabrosa" (which means Tasty Night! ) on Saturday August 2nd. This is a festive fund-raiser, an afternoon and

evening of dinner, dancing and a silent auction at the Sebastopol Community Church starting at 3 pm. Look for flyers on the Advocates for Social Justice table.

## UUCSR Circle Dinners are re-forming in September!

What are **CIRCLE DINNERS**, you might ask? Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a pot-luck meal.

- **Meet new people**
- **Share good food and conversation**
- **Enjoy an opportunity to get to know folks better.**

How do they work? Members and Friends (interested in membership) of UUCSR let the Circle Dinner organizers know they want to be on the list. We then take all the names and shuffle them into groups of 7 or 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a "Circle Dinner Group" for the 4 months of the Circle Dinner period. In the October Newsletter we will post the Fall Circle Dinner Lists. The groups then contact each other, decide on a date, time and place to gather and who will bring what. The rest takes care of

itself!

- **Dinner service for 8? NO!**
- **Formal dining table with linens? NO!**
- **Enjoy meeting new folks, connect with old friends? YES!**
- **Love of conversation and a good meal? YES!**

Interested? We are taking **sign ups in August and September**. Watch for details in the Social Hall and for the sign up table.

We will need your name and phone number to post on the list so that your Circle can connect!

**\*\*\*Participants already in the Circle Dinner program will continue unless they let us know otherwise.\*\*\***

**Circle Dinner Organizers:** Lynn Reipenhoff

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014**

**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail Submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

**Newsletter Assembly**

**10 a.m.— July 30, 2014**



## UUCSR Writers—A Stimulating Environment

Please note the TIME CHANGES for our next four regular monthly meetings. **NO MEETINGS at 1 pm.**

Summer and Fall Calendar July 7, August 4, September 8, and October 6

July 7 is the next UUCSR Writers regular monthly meeting from 2 pm to 4 pm.

PLEASE, LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.  
Send Email to [REDACTED]

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

Our meetings are on the first Monday of the month (except Sept-the second Monday) from 2 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.

"THE STING" Special event

Our "UUCSR Writers Presents" is pleased to announce a special four part series event:

Writers Film Study of "The Sting"

NOTE: Anyone who likes Movies is invited to attend this series. "You don't have to be a writer". Watch the DVD at home and then come to our four, once a month, group discussion meetings about the film.

Bring your own beverage, and some popcorn and/or snack to share would be welcomed.

Mondays, July 7, August 4, September 8, and October 6. Group Discussion. No Film. From 4-6 pm at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-568-5381.

Are you a moviegoer: entertained and involved? OR  
Are you a film viewer: looking for a message or communication?

When we comment on a film: Are we evaluating if the message is valid, meaningful, transmitted effectively in terms of film technique beginning with the actual Script and ending with the editing?

This four part series will study one film, "The Sting". We will entertain the above questions in a Group Discussion format. When available Guest Speakers (tba) will be invited to shed light on Understanding Film and how movies are made: Popularity, Viewing, Perceiving, Language, Script, Evaluating and Financial success. By April 1975 "The Sting" had grossed \$100,000,000.

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

Take Care, Georgette G. deBlois [REDACTED]  
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group is on vacation for July and August. Meetings will begin again in September. We have selected the books for the 2014-2015 year.

### Month

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

June

### Book

Life after Life

The Boys in the Boat

A Tale for the Time Being

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore

The Girls of Atomic City

Americanah

Cat's Cradle

The Swerve

The Bone People

Potluck

### Author

Kate Atkinson

Daniel James Brown

Ruth Ozeki

Robin Sloan

Denise Kieman

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Kurt Vonnegut

Stephen Greenblatt

Keri Hulme

We welcome new members as well as visitors. Please join us if any of the following selections are of interest to you.

## The Seven Principles as Creative Practice: Reflecting on 10 years of Arts & Culture Ministry At the Glaser Center

Which of our Unitarian Universalist principles best reflect why a congregation would create and support an Arts & Culture Ministry? The first principle, honoring the inherent worth and dignity of all people? That would seem to be the obvious choice. From the beginning of what we now call human civilization, the arts—poetry, music, storytelling, painting on caves and walls—it's all been a reflection of the human desire to understand itself, to shout, sing, and cry aloud that we exist, that we think, that we feel!

But the second principle is a good fit too, describing our commitment to justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Few tools are as effective at building compassion as a story, a play, a song describing the lives of other people, whether it's Lynn Ruth Miller singing songs about the loss of her parents, or Narrow Way Stage Company doing a play like 'The Boom Boom Room,' illustrating the fears and struggles of drug-addicted cabaret performers. And the third principle, promoting an acceptance of one another and the encouragement of each other to grow spiritually, is similar, and the arts fill a similar function in accomplishing that goal. Have you ever encountered a category of person, a lifestyle, a nationality, or a philosophy that seemed so "other" you could not quite grasp how anyone could ever adhere to it? I remember, as a young man indoctrinated by my fundamentalist faith to dislike and distrust and pity gay people, I encountered the film 'The Boys in the Band' on cable T.V. The film, based on a groundbreaking stage play, showed the inner lives and hopes of a group of gay friends in New York City. That was a powerful step toward my acceptance and understanding of gay people, mainly because the film showed me that those "others" were not so unlike me as I'd been told.

So, clearly, it's the third principle that best shows us why, ten years ago, we established the Glaser Center as more than just a rental facility, but as a place where our own artists, and those in the community we live in, would have a place to be inspired and inspire others.

But wait! What about the fourth principle, proclaiming the human right to a free and responsible search for truth and

meaning? And then there's the fifth principle, celebrating our right to participate in the world around us, the right to follow our own conscious in matters that most affect our lives. Together, the fourth and fifth principles point to the importance of freedom of expression, and in the arts, that freedom can range from traditional art forms—landscapes, classical music, Flamenco dance—to more experimental and boundary-pushing art forms—abstract art, stand-up comedy, guerilla theater, protest songs.

It is in such range of expression that the humanity thrives and grows.

And let's not forget the sixth principle, committing us to the goal of a strong world community, with peace liberty and justice for all. It's this principle that underlies such efforts as our Showcase Concert Series, with a consistent focus on music from other cultures and countries, a reminder, through music and the arts, that the world is a wonderful, rich and colorful place, full of people with their own ways of bringing beauty to the planet Earth.

And that brings us, finally to the seventh principle, and maybe this is the one that best reflects why we have committed ten years to establishing this UU Arts & Culture center. Since humans first began turning rock into sculpture, turning soil into paint, turning stargazing into myth, turning loss and victory and feat into tribal dance, the arts have glorified and delighted in the interdependent web of all existence.

So which principle then, best informs the decision, ten years ago, to put the arts in such a prominent position in the way we use our beautiful building? I suppose it depends on what's happening here at the moment. All I can surmise from this examination of our principles is that, in the end, the reason that the Glaser Center continues to exist as a truly UU expression of those principles is no mystery. It's because, just like our principles, and like the members of this congregation, the arts exist to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another, and help—in so many wonderful ways—to build a better world.

David Templeton, Glaser Center Manager & Artistic Director

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 17 May 2014

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

**Members Not Present** -- None

**Non-Members Present** -- Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Sibyl Day (Corporate Secretary), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Kirsten Olney (Budget Task Force), Brian Plude (Intern Minister)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:36 p.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Jeanie Bates

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting** – Reading by Brian: A selection from "A Faith for Flame of Freedom" from C. G. Jung

**Timekeeper Volunteer** – Cathie Wiese

**Minutes of 17 April and 24 April 2014 Review** -- Draft minutes corrected in situ. Minutes accepted as corrected.

*Cont. on Page 11*

**Agenda Review** – (1) Add General Assembly (GA) delegate approval, (2) delete Group Goals report (3) add HR Benefits Package Options and (4) add Glaser Center Business Plan  
**GA Delegate** – Jan Ogren approved as GA delegate via e-mail vote, 28 April 2014

**Treasurer's Report** – Linda Balabanian, Treasurer – The year-to-date July – April (10 months) financial report:

Revenue -- Pledge revenue in April was about \$6K under budget and year to date pledge revenue continues to be over budget. Sunday basket revenue for the month was \$500 over budget but is 12% under budget year-to-date. Glaser Center revenue is on budget.

Expenses – Total expenses are \$1.3K over budget, the same as last month. Utilities, Repairs & Maintenance and Supplies are significantly over budget.

Net Income – Net income is \$14K.

Cash -- Cash remains strong and fairly consistent month to month.

Sunday Basket Analysis -- An analysis of Sunday Basket revenue showing the difference between Sundays when we share the basket and Sundays when we don't for the first 9 months of this year was distributed. The analysis indicated that if we share the basket every Sunday as has been suggested, we will reduce our Operations revenue over \$1K a year. Fine Stew recommended that we continue to share the basket twice a month. Alan motioned and Marge seconded that we retain the current twice a month "share-the-basket". Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

Budget Adjustments Status -- Since the last Board meeting 3 additional adjustments have been made to the preliminary budget: \$2K reduction in hourly staff costs in the Glaser Center, increase of \$400 in Religious Education (OWL training) and increase in \$600 staff benefits (Sexton dental). In addition, it was determined that the \$500 reduction in Printing and Reproduction expense suggested at the Board meeting is not feasible. With the other changes suggested at the Board meeting as well as the three changes since the Board meeting, the preliminary budget currently shows a net income of approximately \$2.5K. The Financial Stewardship Team recommends the following in relation to the budget: (1) the Preliminary Budget should be balanced, (2) the Board should revisit the recommended compensation adjustments and/or alternative benefit options with guidance from the HR Team, (3) in any event, staff raises should not be enacted until after the final budget is approved by the congregation and should then be paid retroactively to July 1, (4) reduction in dues paid to UUA and PCD should be minimized, (5) The BOT should develop a plan to improve the revenue from the Glaser Center in the final budget.

**HR Benefit Package Options** – Sibyl Day, HR Committee – Handouts included (1) benefits comparison between the current Kaiser Plan, HMO and a candidate Kaiser Gold 0/30, HMO Affordable Care Act (ACA) plan, (2) costs to the congregation and to employees of the two plans under assumptions of a zero and a 5% of cost employee contribution, (3) tabulation of current coverage cost for FY14/15: health insurance, dental, vision, long term disability (LTD), and accidental death & dismemberment (ADD) and (4) description of coverage for ADD, LTD, State Disability Insurance (SDI) and a voluntary alternative to SDI. The change in Kaiser plans would save an estimated \$4.8K per

year. The 5% employee contribution would further decrease congregation cost and correspondingly increase total employee cost \$1.6K. With no changes, the total cost of coverage to the congregation for FY14/15 is \$44.4K. After lengthy discussion, a motion by Lois and seconded by John to change from the current Kaiser plan to the Kaiser Gold 0/30 ACA plan passed unanimously, 10-0.

**Preliminary FY14/15 Budget Adjustments** – Various candidate adjustments discussed including dues payment increases and decreases and reduced payroll increases. Motion by Lois and seconded by Susan to retain the currently budgeted pay increases passed unanimously, 9-0-1 (one abstention). The Budget Task Force was instructed to allocate the \$7.3K revenue over expenses amount (\$4.8K reduced health care cost plus \$2.5K from the Treasurer Report) toward the less than 100% dues funding.

**Funding for Delegates to General, District & Regional Assemblies** – Laura Jean distributed delegate cost information and a proposed policy for funding delegates. The proposal included (1) delegates may request all or part of registration fees, (2) request must be no later than the assembly beginning and delegate agrees to provide a report re assembly decisions and proposals, (3) the funding will be prorated if the requests exceed budget, (4) delegates will be encouraged to apply for UUA Planning Committee Matching Grant Scholarships. The motion by Cathie and seconded by Alan to accept the proposal passed unanimously, 10-0.

**Congregation Members as Employees Policy** -- Linda, HR Committee, distributed a proposed policy concerning issues for consideration requiring member employees to accept the policy. The policy considers the advantages, disadvantages, potential special difficulties and the vetting process. Cathie moved and Lois seconded a motion to accept the policy. Motion passed 6-1-3 (one opposed and three abstaining).

**Music Staff Bonuses** -- Linda, HR Committee, recommended approval of bonuses for the music staff. Motion to accept the recommendation by Susan, seconded by Alan passed unanimously, 10-0.

**Congregational Meeting Planning** – Dates for FY14/15 meetings were selected; the first Sundays in October, February and June. Candidates for Appreciation Awards were discussed. Power Point presentations are to be sent to Erin Howseman no later than June 4 for the June 8 meeting.

**Interim Staff Supervisor Report** – Lois reported that progress is being made in developing new job descriptions.

**Glaser Center** – Joe discussed developing a Business Plan for the Glaser Center. The plan will be jointly developed by an ad hoc committee including the Glaser Center Committee and others. Plan will address expectations, targets, budgets and financial plans. A draft plan will be presented at the BOT retreat/planning session. John motioned, Susan seconded to accept Joe's plan to develop a plan. Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

**Final Reflections** – This being Brian's last BOT meeting, good-byes & appreciations were expressed by all. Brian admitted it's hard to say goodbye. Brian outlined his further ministerial plans and education at Starr King.

**Closing Words** – Bryan expressed appreciation for the BOT in making difficult decisions.

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham



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