



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• OCTOBER 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 10 •

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

**Theme: Stages of Life III**

**OCTOBER 5**

**“STAGES OF LIFE: THE SPACES BETWEEN”**

*Service Leaders: Jessica Clay, Erin Howseman*

*Music: Robert and Brendan Howseman*

That feeling of standing in a doorway, being on the threshold between two stages of life, can be exhilarating but also confusing and scary. The urge is to rush on to the next sure thing, missing what we might learn from this “space between.” Come let us worship together as we explore where the divine is in this space and how to meet these times of change with grace and openness.

Jessica Clay is a seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry, and a Candidate for Fellowship with the UUA. She has a Masters in Occupational Therapy and has worked in a variety of settings. In her free time she enjoys hiking, taking improv comedy classes, and volunteering.

**OCTOBER 12**

**“ON DIVORCE”**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, David Hope, Sadie Sonntag*

*Special Music provided by the Choir and Robin Marr*

While not a stage of life that everyone has to experience directly, divorce *will* eventually be chosen by 50% of those who chose to marry, and it affects nearly everyone through our extended families and friends. We will examine the religious and spiritual issues around divorce, offer the UU approach, and affirm that this, too, is an experience from which we can learn and grow. The merits of singlehood will also be considered.

**OCTOBER 19**

**LOVE SONGS FOR SPIRITUAL DEMOCRACY**

*Guest Presenter: Emily Fisher*

*Worship Associate: Linda Proulx*

It's easy to become convinced that apathy of good people and bleak visions of the world falling apart are just the way things are...until you look around the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. The democratic structure of U.U. congregational polity, breathed and loved into being by 'we the people,' is as sacred a space as any on earth, even if/when that sacred space makes you want to tear out your hair in (un)holy exasperation. Guest preacher Emily Fisher, a chaplaincy student at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and public interest attorney, will reflect on the transformative power and potential at the core of U.U. faith.

**OCTOBER 26**

**“TOMMY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?”**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Eric Fischer,*

*Zoey Wilson, Sadie Sonntag*

*Special Music by the Choir and a full band. Oh yeah!*

This topic was a winner at last year's Service Auction, continuing a congregational tradition of demanding that Rev. Chris preach on a bizarre topic now and again. *Tommy*, by The Who, is one of the most significant albums in all rock, a full “opera” about an abused child turned would-be messiah that just happens to be one of Rev. Chris's earliest and most enduring favorites. Today, we will consider the teachings of this masterpiece on the trials of childhood and adolescence, awakening, false prophets, and a bunch of other deep and heavy stuff, while we totally rock out.

**NOVEMBER 2**

**“Day of the Dead”**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome, Ben Ford, Robin Rogers*

Many traditions recognize this time of year, with its falling leaves, as one when the boundary between life and death grows thin. This intergenerational service will give us a chance to honor our ancestors and departed loved ones, and make friends with the reality of death. An altar will be built. Please bring an image or object that represents a person (or more) who has passed away.

## The Dance Goes On



For the last five years I've been part of a clergy group called *Sparks for Growth* here in the Pacific Central District. It was founded 10 years ago to bring together ministers from growing mid-size churches. Initially, the group was centered around sharing educational experiences. For example, someone might attend a conference on multiculturalism, membership committees, or changing trends in religious participation, and then that material would be brought back for everybody's benefit.

By the time I was invited in, it had changed. Although there were still educational presentations, the emphasis was more on support, spirited worship and honing our preaching skills. (We would preach a "run-of-the-mill" Sunday sermon to each other and then offer constructive feedback.) There was more diversity in the membership as people's careers changed, with some now from smaller churches, or retired, or serving as UUA staff. They were all nice folks, some of my dearest friends, but we lost the focus around the similar challenges of our growing congregations.

As fate would have it, just this last week we "unplugged" *Sparks for Growth*. After two key members retired from the ministry in the spring, there was a rash of resignations. So, over two days the faithful remnant catalogued the experiences of the group, wrote some thank-you notes, held a ritual of closing, and bid one another adieu.

So it goes in this life of change.

I've found myself thinking about all the different groups I've been a part of throughout the years. The gang of neighborhood kids in my youth. My high school friends. My first rock band. (Bucky Schwartz and the Barking Aardvarks. We were just awful.) The students and faculty at First College. All the restaurants I worked at. The Zen group in Boulder. The UU Student Ministry at Harvard. The membership of First Parish, Cambridge, and others. From each of these I maintain a friendship or two, perhaps, but overall these communities have ceased to be a central part of my life. While many are continuing beautifully without me, others are gone forever.

I've heard many UUs lift up community and relationship as a primary expression – for some the *only* expression – of the sacred in human life. This humanist tenet is at my core, too. So it is ironic that, when I look back at my own life, I mostly see the relative impermanence and fragility of human relationship. My family connections have endured (with one notable exception), and I have close and loyal friends from each stage of my life, even from kindergarten, but many more friends and/or acquaintances are simply lost to the past. "There's nothing you can hold for very long..."

Relationships in general seem like a grand ball. Sometimes we're square dancing with this group, sometimes with those folks over there. Then the music changes and we're line dancing with the whole gang, and it changes again and now we're just dancing with a single partner. We

certainly step on a few toes. We may dance alone, too, or sulk over by the wall.

Looking down from the heavens, we see that the dancers come and go, but the party goes on and on. The web of relationship itself – or at least the potential for relationship – is enduring, even if its expression is ever-changing.

I'm seeing the elimination of the Glaser Center Manager position in this light, though I miss David Templeton as a dance partner. I know many of you are, too. I want to thank everyone who came to the Board's Forum this past Sunday (9/21) for sharing your feelings, and for helping us think deeply about improving communication, appropriate participation, and our methods of discerning the collective direction of the congregation. Our goal to reflect and learn and try to dance better was beautifully embodied. I thank both the dissenters and those who showed up to support the Board. I thank the Board for listening and for leading. I have great clarity about the wisdom and sensibility of their decision. The dance changes slightly every time someone joins, or steps into leadership, or moves on or passes away. A loss need never be the final song. Our steps will take adjusting, but the dance will continue.

For example, even as both *Sparks* and my marriage fell apart over the last year, I was also deepening my connections with beloved Clevelanders, Bostonians, and my Divinity school pals in the Bay Area. I have forged new friendships with some of the clergy who lead congregations in the North Bay Organizing Project. I am connecting with my neighbors at Yulupa Co-Housing community in a more intentional way. And, most fun, I am slowly getting to know all of you newcomers, and all those children who are filling the chancel every Sunday! (Isn't it the loveliest sight?)

Our dance with the broader community is also ever-changing, particularly through our work with the North Bay Organizing Project. I hope you will attend the NBOP public meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> to see how fruitful those partnerships have been.

Finally, one new relationship that I hope our congregation will pursue is with the Redwood Gospel Mission. For two years our UU Homeless Service Action Group has been involved in conversations with many allies about how to prevent deaths by exposure in Santa Rosa. Just recently the Mission came forward with a vision of engaging 30 different congregations to provide "Nomadic Shelter" one night per month during the four coldest months of the year (November 15 – March 15) to ensure that everyone has a bed. The Mission is on the absolute front line of helping people out of homelessness and addiction. Their leaders are sincerely committed to Jesus's teaching to take care of the least among us, and they have a great plan. I am very excited about this opportunity to open our home four times to those who have none. I hope you will vote in favor of our participation at the congregational meeting, and so I urge you to attend the forums that HSAG has planned to share your concerns and get your questions answered.

The grand ball continues. Shall we dance?

## Greetings from the Board President

Since my last writing the board has met twice and gone on retreat. We have done a lot of work in that time. We have set the year's goals, readied a proposal for the **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 12** that changes our budget timeline, made a significant restructuring decision in the Glaser Center, approved a budget to be sent on to the Congregation for a vote at the **OCTOBER 12, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**, and settled into our new board year.

We held a forum today, September 21, at which many folks expressed concerns about not being included in an important decision that was made by the board. This does seem to be a dilemma....the board has certain responsibilities and some clear constraints regarding full communication with the congregation. The board has created a new goal group that will invite everyone's input into a vision exercise soon. This will be an opportunity to think of what we want going forward and can certainly include issues of governance. As it is now, we do have many opportunities to be heard and to inform ourselves of much of the workings of our community. We have this newsletter, our Order of Service, the Focus list, the Ask a Board Member table, Congregational Meetings, soon we will have the spiffy new website, and we are free to attend all open meetings and join in the work of the congregation by plugging in where we have an interest. An informed, engaged community keeps us healthy and thriving.

**DID I MENTION AN UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING? WE ALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY, AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 12, TO VOTE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT WILL IMPACT OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE,** as well as learn what your board has in mind to accomplish this year. You will receive your packets soon.

Please do read through and get any questions answered so that you have what you need in order to cast your votes.

One item that I would like to mention that is on the agenda for the **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 12** is the proposal that UUCSR join the Redwood Gospel Mission's Nomadic Shelter project. The information sheet sent to you in your congregational meeting packet gives an outline of the project. I strongly encourage you to attend one of the forums and read the article from UUCSR's group, the Homeless Services Action Group, in this newsletter to get the full picture. While I am sure there are many ways to think and feel about our participation there is no doubt that our folks have labored long and hard to find a project that could be a good fit for our community. I salute this team.

I have come to understand how deeply we all care for our community over the years I have served on the board. People who don't care don't show up and we all show up. Some words.....from George Bernard Shaw.

*I AM OF THE OPINION THAT MY LIFE BELONGS TO THE COMMUNITY, AND AS LONG AS I LIVE IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO DO FOR IT WHATEVER I CAN.*

In service,  
Jeanie Bates, President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

## Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11 A.M. 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 welcomed and 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 26**  
**November 16**



## North Bay Organizing Project News

*The North Bay Organizing Project's Make Your Neighborhood Count and the Education Task Force* will be holding a Candidates Forum for the **Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education** candidates on Monday, October 13, 2014, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. here at the Glaser Center.

This is an educational forum to solicit the views and qualifications of all candidates. The Santa Rosa City Schools Board is the governing body of the Santa Rosa City Schools District. The school board hires and works with the superintendent to establish and implement policies, and to provide community leadership on behalf of the district and public education. The board consists of seven members. There are now three incumbents and two challengers running for three open seats.

Rev. Chris commented on the importance of this forum: "Ensuring the quality of our local schools is one of the most meaningful ways we can positively impact the future of our community. We all have a stake in the well-being and success of Santa Rosa's children. United and organized, we can help make the Santa Rosa schools ever better. Please get involved by meeting these candidates and sharing your concerns with them." Come participate in this Candidates Forum.

**Get answers to questions about the Santa Rosa City Schools District Board: How do the actions and policies of the board affect you and the children in the district?**



The North Bay Organizing Project cordially invites you  
to our 2014 Public Meeting

### ***Fanning the Flame:*** *The Intersection of* *Love & Justice*

On Sunday, October 5, 2014, the North Bay Organizing Project will hold its 4th Annual Public Meeting. We invite you to join us as we continue building a large multi-racial, multi-ethnic vehicle dedicated to social change. Democracy is not a spectator sport, and at our Public Meeting, we will demonstrate what progress can look like, and how we can shape the reality in which we choose to live. We will need your presence, energy, and heart to win our Campaigns for:

- Restorative Justice policies in our Schools
- Drivers Licenses for All (AB 60)
- Free Student Bus Passes for all students
- A Living Wage for all County Workers

The event will be translated and childcare will be available.  
For more information: 707.318.2818



**Sunday, October 5 • 3:00-5:00 PM**

**SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

1235 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

Raising children in the Unitarian Universalist faith poses special challenges and rewards. Other religions provide parents with a concrete road map for parenting in the context of their creed and dogma. Because of the diversity of belief among UU's, parents have been left on their own to create a home life that models their faith.

I came to Unitarian Universalism as a brand new mother. I took my children to religious education classes every Sunday but aside from lighting a chalice at dinner on Thanksgiving, and putting money in the Guest at Your Table box during the Christmas season we had no specific way to practice our religion at home. The religious education my children learned from me was implicit, not explicit. They saw me work for social justice (and accompanied me to demonstrations from time to time). I taught them how to settle disputes with respect and kindness, I took them into the voting booth at every election, and they witnessed what it means to be committed to the congregation as I went off to many (many!) meetings as a lay leader. All of these things were fine ways of modeling our UU Principles, but at the time I wished for a more concrete way to connect how I practiced my faith and the value of being a Unitarian Universalist.

Parents are the spiritual guides for their children. Just as we received no owner's manual when they were born to us, we UUs were not given a spiritual guidebook when we brought our children into this religion. I am here to help you out a bit with this! Beginning Tuesday, October 14, I will offer a class to parents called "The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting". The class is based on the book *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*, by UU Educator Michelle Richards. Through this course parents will explore their values and beliefs and develop meaningful ways to bring them home to their children. The class is open to members, friends, newcomers and any parent who has an interest in exploring ways of teaching their values and beliefs to their children. And, of course, childcare will be provided.

In faith, Deborah

\* \* \* BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: \* \* \*

**The Art of UU Parenting**  
An 8 week class that provides a forum for discussion of UU Principles and values and family life.

**Second and Fourth Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm**  
Beginning October 14. Childcare will be provided.

RSVP to Deborah [redacted] or on Sun. morning

\* \* \* AND \* \* \*

**Parents' Night Out**  
**Saturday, October 25 5-8:30pm**

Bring the kids to UUCSR for childcare and join other parents for dinner in downtown Santa Rosa.

RSVP to Deborah [redacted] or on Sun. morning

## Here's What's Happening in RE Classes This Month:

The Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason and Rev. Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah [redacted] for more information.

Sunday Morning RE classes meet during the 11:00 service. Children grades K-8 begin in the sanctuary and are excused to their classes after a story and the recitation of the

children's affirmation. First Sunday of the month is Children's Chapel with all ages together. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays children meet in grade groups, as described below.

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

	<u>Grades K-2</u>	<u>Grades 3-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8 (MUUGs)</u>
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Children's Chapel - Learning the Seven Principles</b> (all ages together)		
<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Wisdom Stories</b> <i>Horton Hears a Who</i> By Dr. Seuss	<b>Bibleodeon</b> Cain and Abel /Theme: Good & Bad	<b>Neighboring Faiths</b> Class Subjects TBA
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Wisdom Stories</b> <i>Stellaluna</i> by Janelle Cannon	<b>Bibleodeon</b> Noah /Themes: Truth, Punishment	<b>Neighboring Faiths</b> TBA
<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>Wisdom Stories</b> <i>The Sissy Duckling</i> by Harvey Fierstein	<b>Bibleodeon</b> Abraham /Theme: Faith	<b>Neighboring Faiths</b> TBA

## Treasurer's Report

It's that time of year when we finalize the budget for the year we've just begun. The Budget Task Force, led with distinction by Kirsten Olney, has worked tirelessly for the past six months on the process and the congregation will vote on the final budget at the Congregational Meeting in October. One very significant part of our financial activity does not show up in our budget – the amount we collect and give away to others. These amounts are accounted for as “restricted donations.” Amounts are donated, through “share the basket” or by individual donation and then paid to the intended recipient or used for the intended program outside of our budget or operating financial statements. So the high level of generosity practiced by our congregation can get lost in our focus on making sure the bills get paid and our programs get funded.

Generosity is a core value of this congregation. I suggest that we strive to become more deliberate in the level of our financial generosity. As a congregation, can we commit to a certain level of giving each year? How about trying to attain 10% of our operating budget, a level we attained a couple of years ago? This year that would be about \$52,000.

Many of us give generously of our time, talents and treasures in order to maintain, nurture and grow our congregation and to improve and sustain the community of which we are a part. The figure to the right shows the recipients of our financial generosity last year – the organizations & causes to which we donated a portion of our financial treasures.

— Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

<b><i>Restricted Donations 2013-2014</i></b>	
Homeless Breakfast	\$13,151.00
Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$6,986.00
Haiti Scholarships	\$6,923.00
Youth Group	\$5,495.00
Marge Ogren Memorial	\$4,590.00
Philippines Relief	\$2,784.00
The Living Room	\$1,797.00
Women Together Scholarships	\$1,511.00
All Fellowship Retreat Scholarships	\$862.00
Men's Retreat Scholarships	\$680.00
Adrienne Swenson Award	\$530.00
Martin Luther King	\$440.00
Memorial Garden	\$400.00
North Bay Veterans	\$365.00
Family Services Center	\$353.00
YWCA Safe House	\$298.00
Roseland Univ. Prep	\$298.00
Assisted Listening Devices	\$278.00
Arlene Francis Center	\$268.00
Hymnals	\$180.00
UUCSR Writers Group	\$45.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,234.00</b>

## Committee on Shared Ministry

*“All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter another.” ~Anatole France*

There is no doubt: Change can be very difficult. We've been through major changes here at UUCSR, historically and in the very recent past. As we grow and expand there are inevitable struggles, growing pains, excruciating decision-making, and at times disagreement and angst over the outcomes. Even change for the better carries with it loss and the complex set of emotions we know as grief. Grief may be experienced and expressed in many ways and stages – anger, fear, uncertainty, sadness, resignation, bargaining (wanting a “do-over”), and hopefully in time, acceptance and integration (in my experience, these last two cannot be rushed).

As we move through difficult change as a community, being able to deal with painful feelings and with differences of opinion in a manner that honors our covenant, mission and

principles can be challenging. We are, after all, only human. When we find ourselves in grief and/or disagreement or conflict with one another, our UUCSR Covenant may be a graceful and welcome reminder of what we aspire to, and a guideline for how we treat one another.

The Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with monitoring the general health of the congregation, supporting the minister in his various roles, and providing conflict resolution when needed. When difficult feelings arise in congregational life, we are here to listen and offer support. Please feel free to speak with any of us on the Committee on Shared Ministry about any concern, observation, joy, or other matter concerning our shared life at UUCSR. The current members of the COSM are: Rev. Chris Bell, Alan Bell, Bill Foshee, Judy Hutchinson, Mary Lill Lee, Lucia Milburn, and myself. You can find us between or after services. Just look for the lavender nametags.

-Yours in shared community, Cathy Read, Chair COSM

*Our Covenant: We pledge to seek unity in our diversity, to welcome & respect divergent opinions & beliefs, to listen to one another with open hearts & minds, to acknowledge our own shortcomings & be quick to forgive them in others, & to focus on our mission: Celebrating Life, Empowering People, Caring About One Another, Helping to Build a Better World*

## Music Notes

Get ready for quite an interesting variety of music during our services this month.

October 5, we will hear Brendan Howseman sing "My Back Pages" by Bob Dylan, accompanied by his father, Robert Howseman. Then they will play "Tico, Tico," a very familiar Brazilian piece, with Brendan on the violin and Robert on the guitar.

October 12 the choir will sing for both services. Robin Marrs will sing a solo with the choir, a beautiful piece in French composed by a local musician, Charlotte Ellis. Charlotte, a native of San Francisco, studied early in piano, later received a degree in Music from Holy Names College in Oakland, has been involved in solo and chamber music, sung with both the Oakland Symphonic Chorus and the Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus, and for the past 25 years has composed many songs

and choruses, both sacred and secular. The piece you will hear is a setting of a poem in French by St. Mary Margaret (1647-1690), a [French Roman Catholic nun](#) and [mystic](#), who promoted [devotion](#) to the [Sacred Heart of Jesus](#): "Je suis un cierge ardent," which translates as "I am a flaming candle for the Blessed Sacrament. It is my greatest desire to consummate my life like a candle lit before my best love."

October 26, the choir will once again sing for both services. Since the theme for this month is "Stages of Life," and for this service the stage will be Adolescence, you will hear selections from the rock opera "Tommy," which was originally performed in 1969 by the famous English rock band "The Who," and in 1979 released as a British film.

— Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

## UUCSR FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

**COME JOIN US FOR GAMES AND FUN ON FRIDAY NIGHTS.** UUCSR's Friday Family Fun Night, which takes place at the Catholic Charities Family Shelter each Friday, is a great opportunity for you people who love playing games and doing crafts with kids in a comfortable intimate setting. We only have about ten kids a week. The kids range in age from 2 to the early teens. There are always at least two adult volunteers. On the nights it's warm enough, we also have some outside time in the play yard. We provide crafts, games and stories. It's a relaxed happy place and the kids are always so glad to see us coming in. The

parents seem very grateful to be able to leave their kids knowing they'll have a good time while the parents are able to take a little time for themselves. We have a few UU parents and young children volunteering; it seems to be a perfect opportunity to learn the joys of volunteering at an early age. We volunteer 6:15 to 7:45. Catholic Charities Family Support Center is located at the corner of 7th and A Streets behind Santa Rosa Plaza. With fall here, schedules are changing and we are finding we are short of volunteer help so, if this sounds like fun, please [contact](#) me at [REDACTED] or e-mail me at [REDACTED]

## Service Auction Extravaganza, Saturday, November 8, 2014

***On Saturday evening, November 8 at 5:30 PM, get ready for a delightful, energetic service auction extravaganza.***

Even before that evening, though, the fun begins. Use your imagination to put together offerings, fill out the donation form (one is in this newsletter), turn it in at the service auction table and we will post it on the bulletin board. Watch as the bidding grows during the silent auction. Be a supportive friend and bid up what other folks offer as well, we want everyone to feel proud of how much their offerings bring in. Ask your favorite places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate or two.

This year, we encourage you to take the opportunity to help raise even more money for the congregation by selling raffle tickets. At a reasonable \$5 for 1 ticket; \$10 for 3 and \$20 for 8, your neighbors, co-workers and family members have multiple chances to win wonderful meals and events. See the back of our service auction flyer for some of the potential winnings. Pick up tickets to buy or sell from the service auction table any Sunday. Simply reaching out to your extended contacts can quickly increase the amount of money we can bring in. The raffle drawing will be held the night of the service auction. (Raffle buyers need not be present to win.)

For the evening of our Auction Extravaganza, we invite you to arrive in festive finery...this is a first class establishment! Fine dining awaits you (for a minimal \$20 for adults, \$10 children). Childcare and "kid food" will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert. Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with a 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. See you Sunday at the auction table with any questions or contributions.

## Adult Religious Education

**Write and Connect:** The weekly creative writing and practice workshop starting October 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing every Monday from 10-12 pm, has been filled, *however* a second class may be offered if there is enough interest.

The workshop is designed for everyone – women, men, novices, aspiring and advanced writers. Inspired by weekly prompts, readings, and feedback, you will write

with others and learn how to develop a deep writing practice and tap into your authentic creative voice.

Instructor, Patty Somlo, has been writing and publishing articles, short fiction and essays for nearly 35 years. Suggested donation is \$10 per class. Sign up in the Social Hall Adult Religious Education Table, and indicate times that work for you, or call Kathy Norman [REDACTED]

## Women Together

### **Future Women Together Events—save the dates!**

**Elder Tales ~ Saturday, October 11th**, 2 to 4 in the Youth Room. Bev Ludwig will share her life's journey with us. Bring finger-food to share.

**1-Day Retreat ~ Saturday, November 15th**, 10 am—3 pm at Friends House. Our theme will be '*Recharging Your Batteries*'. This is an opportunity for those who missed our

retreat in May to have fun and get to know one another on a deeper level than we can have in our busy (and noisy) Social Hall. Bring a lunch dish to share.

**Holiday Party ~ Saturday, December 13th**, noon to 2 pm at Helga Lemke's home. Please bring a lunch dish to share.

Questions? Call Linda Harlow at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

## Building Security Policy

- Building security at 547 Mendocino Avenue is the responsibility of everyone
- To schedule access outside of office hours or congregation events please arrange with the Administrator during office hours, Monday through Friday. Call the office at 707/568-5381.
- The Administrator may issue keys upon demonstrated need.
- If you unlock anything you are responsible for relocking or delegating the relocking.
- If you prop a door open you are responsible for closing it or delegating the reclosing.
- Do not leave exterior doors open without monitoring.
- Do not duplicate any keys.
- Do not put any traceable identification on keys or key rings.
- Report lost keys immediately.
- You may be charged for any rekeying required.
- When you exit please check that the door closed and latched properly by pushing or pulling the handle.

**Background:** There are 66 doors (each half of a double door is counted as one) and two roof hatches. Not all of the interior doors are required to be locked.

A full lock up would involve a tour of the building and

checking and/or securing exterior and interior doors and the two hatches. There is a written procedure available from the staff. The building is normally secured by staff at the end of the day or an event.

**Minimum Lockup:** Secure the building perimeter plus lock the door from the Social Hall to the second floor. Make sure all exterior doors and gates are locked and latched, this includes those to the courtyard. There are 27 doors to check and secure. After locking, push or pull on the handles or door frame to be sure it is latched. A walk around the building is best for a final check.

**Full lockup:** Per the written procedure available from the staff.

**Now back to reality:** A typical day has meetings and/or events from morning to night. The renters and committees have been briefed on their responsibilities for security when they are issued keys. Often security is delegated and lapses occur and a door is left open. So if you are the last person in the building you should insure that at the least a minimum lockup is performed. If you have problems, call the people listed on the Emergency Contact list that is posted in the Work room by the phone. There are many variables in the use of the building, please contact the staff if you have questions about your use of the building.

Submitted by Bud Willis





## Circle Dinners Groups For Fall 2014

**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. You also get to decide who brings what (ie: 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 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 [REDACTED] or Kitty Wells at [REDACTED]. 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 GROUP:

#### **Kitty Bownass & Cliff Christensen**

Peggy Hulse  
Dorris Lee  
Donnah Judah  
Heather & John Mutz

### EVENING GROUPS:

#### **Richard Gauthier & Debbie Hight**

Jere & Jenine Giblin  
Margaret Bregger Costan  
Katherine Latour  
Anne Bandy  
Betsy Thagard

#### **Katie Trieller**

Jo & Jim Katon  
Wayne & Sharon Smith  
Nyla Larsen  
Natalie Brundred

#### **Reen Kennedy-Williams**

Robin Trimble  
Phyllis Metalis  
Micheline Justman  
Roger and Luida DeBeers  
Robin Rogers

#### **Phyllis & Bob Clement**

Carolyn Mcleese & Charles Rettke  
Cathie Wiese and Robert Lunceford  
Marilyn Holmes  
Lisa Rice

#### **Sharon and Joe McCarty**

Jessica Blome & Scott Marsh

Deborah Wigg  
Maggie Morley  
Jacquie Robb  
Nancy Fitzpatrick

#### **Leonard & Lynn Riepenhoff**

Skipper & John Taylor  
Tracy & Jeremy Rose  
Phyllis Fitzgerald  
Wilfred Kimindiri

#### **Patty Somlo and Richard Fung**

Janice & Olga Lee Mayberry [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Joan Thatcher & Lois Gilbert  
Gretchen & Gene Vap

#### **Jen and Ralph Murray**

Glen & Lorrie Colwell  
Gail Alford  
Jenny Sebastian  
Chris Wildlake  
Judy Elliot

#### **Dee and John Ray**

Susan Miron  
Maureen Rumford & Art Rosenblum  
Nancy Steinbock  
Fred & Sandy Brewer

#### **Carol Weisker & Mary Lil Lee**

Judith Redding & Michael Randolph  
Richard Allen  
Bruce & Judy Taylor

#### **Claudia Mayfield**

Jim and Mary Wolfe  
Linda Balabanian and Tim Kennedy  
Maggi Koren  
Judy Wismer

### **SUBSTITUTE LIST:**

Chris Bell  
Marley Fein  
Betty and Sid Gordon  
Laura Jean Hageman & Tom Bond  
Brian and Nancy Hargis  
Linda Harlow  
Phil and Jenny Harriman  
Diane Harris and Richard Cleverly  
Mary Louise & John Jaffray  
Helga Lemke  
Karen Lillard  
Irene Martin  
Betz and Sam Miller  
Michele Murphy  
Kathy Norman  
Louise and Ollie Ostlund  
Gretchen Paridis  
Eric Peterson  
Cathy Read and Victor Cummings  
Calvin and Susan Simons  
Stacy Sincheff  
Shirley Williams  
Marge Wright  
Kitty and Brian Wells

*Unfortunately, due to space constraints, the full Circle Dinner phone list with numbers and emails could not be included.*

*However, for your convenience, a complete contact list is available for pick-up at the church office or by email at [newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:newsletter@uusantarosa.org). Please put Circle Dinner Phone List in subject line.*



## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

### Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa

### 21 August 2014

**Members Present** -- Jeanie Bates (President), Susan Bartholome, Marilyn Beckerbauer, Joe Como, Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Pamela Tennant, J.D. Thompson (Vice President), Marge Wright

**Members Not Present** -- None

**Non-Members Present** -- Reverend Chris Bell (Minister), Sibyl Day (Corporate Secretary), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Kirsten Olney (FinStew representative)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:32 p.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Jeanie Bates

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting** – Readings by Reverend Chris from “Bless the Imperfect: Meditations for Congregational Leaders”

**Timekeeper Volunteer** – Sibyl Day

**Minutes of 19 June Review** – Minutes accepted as submitted

**Action since the June Meeting** – On 13 July, the BOT approved via e-mail vote, the recommendation from the Communications Team that UUCSR contract with Peter Wilson to maintain the website for the next fourteen weeks. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 with three abstentions, two of which were stated as such and one no-response.

**Agenda Review** – The “Budget Timeline Change” item was moved to follow the “Treasurer Report”

**Treasurer’s Report** – Kirsten Olney, FinStew, presented the Linda Balabanian Treasurer’s Report – For the recently completed FY13/14 (Jul ’13 – Jun’14):

Revenue -- Pledge revenue was \$398,500; \$1.5K less than the most recent forecast but \$16K over budget. – Sunday basket revenue was approximately \$3.6K, 13%, under budget for the year. This was consistent throughout the year and expected.

Glaser Center revenue and expenses were restated based on the results of the Glaser Center financial analysis. The budget was similarly adjusted. In addition, for property tax purposes a year-end allocation of other operating expenses was applied. The net loss before the application of the year end allocation was approximately \$11.5K which was as expected and very close to the budget after restatement adjustments. Contracted expenses in relation to events were significantly over budget but offset by under budget performance in employee expenses and general expenses.

Expenses -- Total expenses on the financial statements are about \$26K over budget. This includes the \$13K for the ceiling mounted projector that is offset by the restricted donation made for it. A donation from a member wishing to remain anonymous was received for the purchase of the ceiling mounted projector. Equipment expense is over budget by the amount of the projector cost offset by this donation revenue for a zero net. Repairs & Maintenance is over budget by about \$16K which is the total for the electrical panel replacement that was not covered by the Building System Replacement Fund. Fundraising Expense and Furniture/Fixtures Expenses are the only other categories significantly over budget. The Fundraising Expense overage pertains to the Glaser Center. Most other expense categories were either on budget or

under budget.

Net Income -- We had a net loss of \$12K, although the Budget was balanced through transferring a surplus from the prior year and transferring the endowment distribution of \$5.5K. The negative P&L indicates that there is no surplus to apply to the FY14/15 budget.

Cash Position - our cash position is adequate for normal operations

Year-to-date July (1 month) Financial Results:

Revenue -- Pledge revenue in July was \$7K over budget, a good start to the year. Sunday basket revenue for the month is on budget. Glaser Center revenue is \$2K under budget, all in relation to events and concessions. There were no events in July and none are scheduled for August. Most expenses are under budget. Net income is under budget by \$1.3K.

Expenses -- Employee expenses are over budget but this is primarily the result of an up-front payment for benefits. Total expenses are \$8K under budget. Most expenses are either on budget or under budget. A few under budget areas are the result of timing differences so it is too early in the year to forecast based on these results.

Net Income is \$11K. With the exception of the Glaser Center, we have made a solid start to the year.

**Budget Timeline Change** – Kirsten presented FinStew’s recommendation to change the budget timeline so that there is a budget at the beginning of the fiscal year. Currently, we don’t have a budget until the 4<sup>th</sup> month; after the congregational vote at the Fall meeting. A motion by Joe and seconded by Alan to (1) adapt the budget timeline recommended by FinStew such that the budget is voted upon at the Spring congregational meeting, (2) modify By-Laws Article IV, §2b by changing the following lines *from* “• Present preliminary budget for the coming fiscal year • Vote on final budget for the fiscal year” *to* “• Present and vote on the budget for the coming fiscal year”, and (3) present this By-Law change to the congregation for vote at the Fall 2014 meeting. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**Glaser Center Project Follow-Up** – Joe presented three draft handouts comparing GC income and expense accounts for FY13/14 and projected FY14/15, revenue increases required to attain a non-negative P&L, and individual event revenue and cost breakdown. The data will be refined and further analyzed in preparation for the upcoming planning session at the BOT retreat.

**Approval of New HR Committee Member** – Sibyl requested BOT approval of ReeAnn Dixon as a member of the HR Committee. Marge motioned and Lois seconded that ReeAnn be approved. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**Kaiser Coverage Options** – Sibyl, HR Committee, recommended that the employee medical coverage be changed to the Affordable Care Act compliant Kaiser Gold 0/30 Plan at the time of policy renewal, 1 Oct 2014. BOT approved the recommendation during the Executive Session – vote count is not available.

**Executive Session** – No report

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham

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**October 2014**  
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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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**Board of Trustees**

**President** Jeanie Bates, [President@uusantarosa.org](mailto:President@uusantarosa.org)  
**Vice President** J.D. Thompson, [Vice President@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Vice President@uusantarosa.org)  
**Treasurer** Linda Balabanian, [Treasurer@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Treasurer@uusantarosa.org)  
**Secretary** Sibyl Day

**Board Members:**

Susan Bartholome	Linda Stabler
Marilyn Beckerbauer	Pam Tennant
Joe Como	Marge Wright
Alan Proulx	

**Recording Secretary** Terry Graham

**Order-of-Service Announcements:**

Send submissions to [Announcements@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Announcements@uusantarosa.org)  
**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**UU Update Newsletter:**

Send submissions to [Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)  
**Editor:** Susan Williamson

**Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.** Please place hard copy submissions in Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

*Newsletter by E-mail is available! To sign up, send your name & e-mail address to [Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Administrator@uusantarosa.org)*

**Minister Reverend Chris Bell, [minister@uusantarosa.org](mailto:minister@uusantarosa.org)**

**Staff**

**Director Religious Education** Deborah Mason, [DLRE@uusantarosa.org](mailto:DLRE@uusantarosa.org), Ext. 131  
**Administrator** Janis Brewster, [Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Administrator@uusantarosa.org), Ext. 106  
**Choir Director** Sadie Sonntag, [Choir@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Choir@uusantarosa.org)  
**Pianist** Richard Riccardi  
**Glaser Center Business, [glasermanager@uusantarosa.org](mailto:glasermanager@uusantarosa.org)**

**Sunday Religious Education Staff**

Deborah Mason, Director  
Shawna Hoxsie  
Fiona Mackenzie