



UUUCSR

# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• September • Volume 54 • Issue 9 •

## Mark Your Calendars!!

**September 5th: Sunday Service at 10:00am—Galvin Community Park**

**September 12th: New Worship Times—9:15am and 11:00am**

### September 5th

#### GO PUBLIC!

*Service 10:00am Picnic 11:00am Play 12:00 - ?*

*SPECIAL LOCATION: Galvin Community Park*

Led by Rev. Chris, Rita Butterfield, & the Choir

Whether from politeness, fear, or doubt, some of us are shy about telling other people about the sources of hope, courage and contentment that we've found in our lives. We may even hide the fact that we are part of a religious community. Not today! Come enjoy an old-fashioned sing-a-long service with some outdoor preaching at Galvin Community Park before spending the rest of the day throwing balls and talking with each other. It's a potluck - bring a big salad or drinks or something to grill, we'll provide the coals. Call the office if you need a ride, we'll make it work!

### September 19th

#### LOVE & LOSS

Led by Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman & Frances Corman  
Choir at 11:00

Loss is an inevitable part of life. Even the luckiest and happiest of people knows loss as an inevitable quality of this ever-changing Universe, Some losses can severely test our faith and our spirit, such as divorce, the death of a close loved one, or our own departure from this mortal coil. There is also a way, too, that such losses can often reveal just how precious and amazing life and love really are. We'll help each other find that way today.

### September 12th

#### THE RELIGION OF HUMANITY

*Regular services resume at NEW TIMES 9:15 & 11:00*

Led by Rev. Chris Bell,

The UnUsual Suspects providing music.

Share the Basket: Pediatric Dental Clinic

I've been thinking about this unwieldy long name of ours: Unitarian Universalism. It does perfectly describe our theology, but theological words don't mean much to anybody in common speech. They may not mean much to you! Today I'll offer *The Religion of Humanity* as another way of naming and following this ancient path of the open mind, the loving heart and the helping hands.

### September 26th

#### WEARY OF WARS

Led by Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller & Claire Beery  
Nancy and some UnUsual Suspects providing music.

Share the Basket: Face to Face

I am overcome with frustration and shock when I consider the costs to our nation, in lives, money, attention and hope, after nearly a decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. How can we, individually and collectively, create peace at home and in the wide world? With the same degree of bravery and strength that war calls from people, the same commitment, and possibly the same sacrifice. Creating peace is not for the faint of heart!

## October Services

### October 3rd

Willy Van Doren, guest preaching,  
with Rita Butterfield & Frances Corman

### October 10th

**NORTH BAY UU REVIVAL!**

## The Common Thread



All sorts of activities and gatherings occur here at the Glaser Center every week, as the lengthy announcements from the pulpit on Sundays often demonstrate. The Saturday Breakfast, our men's & women's groups, Circle Dinners, prayer and meditation, lectures, plays, and the noble game of bridge, all contribute a patch to the quilt of our community. The thread that holds everything together, however, is worship on Sunday morning. For an hour or two we share in common conversation, feel each other's presence, serve and welcome and comfort one another. Our continuing vitality depends first and foremost upon our providing the most moving, inspirational, grounded Unitarian Universalist worship that we can for as many people as we can.

When our worship is working, it is because it is meeting our universal human needs. According to our surveys, our house meetings, and other conversations, worshippers at UUCSR gather on Sundays:

- to be grounded
- to feel awe and wonder
- to touch the transcendent
- to be challenged and agitated,
- to be given "something to think about"
- to have voice given to our aspirations and better selves
- to participate with others
- to be silent and still
- to be humbled
- to experience gratitude and celebration
- to be offered guidance, hope and inspiration
- to find courage, comfort and peace
- to know connection & communion with other people
- to know connection & communion with Nature, aka the Great Big Thing/Verb.

In our effort to meet those needs, we learned, some of the most important aspects of our worship services are the meditation flowing into *Spirit of Life*, the message, and the worship associate's reflections. The most common positively mentioned aspect of our service is the excellent music that Nancy, the choir and the band provide. There is a very strong desire for a balance of the intellectual and the emotional in worship. When UUs fall out of this balance, which we frequently do, it is nearly always toward the intellectual.

Many comments from congregants suggest that music is the primary counterweight to get us out of our heads and into our hearts and bodies. There is a strong preference for diverse music, although when people state their feelings about the hymnal, it is often very negative. As you might expect, there are dissenters, like myself, who find the old hymns a meaningful connection to our past, but the message was clear that most of you really like to sing together as long as its not those "churchy" 19<sup>th</sup> Century numbers. Good to know.

In spite of the occasional dirge, last year we had a number of 11:00 services with well over 200 people. Sometimes it was standing-room-only. Meanwhile, the early service was neither growing nor attracting many visitors. An Expanded Worship Task Force, comprising folks from the Worship Associates and the Music Committee, the Operations Council, the Kitchen, the Membership Council and others began meeting to chart a way forward. We came to believe that modifying the early service, rather than trying to add additional service on Sunday or another time, was the plan most likely to succeed given our current resources of people and money.

In consultation with the Worship Associates, and utilizing the data collected by Mark Sowers in our worship survey, the following plan emerged. We begin on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

<b>09:15</b> - 10:30	Early Service
10:15 - 11:00	Break/Coffee Hour
<b>11:00</b> - 12:15	Late Service / Religious Education
12:00 - 12:30	Coffee Hour
12:30ish - 2:00	Programs

We are hoping that some folks from the late service will begin attending the early service if it starts a little later. We will continue to aim for an hour for each service, but have scheduled for an hour and fifteen minutes just in case. We also know that staying connected to fellow members is a high priority. Hence pushing the services 15 minutes closer together compacts coffee hour and makes it more likely that people will see each other. The appealing idea of offering programming in between the services was ultimately deemed impractical, and distracting from the main goal of providing excellent worship.

The biggest changes, by far, are coming to the early service. I am conscious that this will profoundly disappoint some of you reading this. I strongly appreciate those feelings, and indeed they've made proceeding with this plan challenging at times. However, I believe we are doing the right thing by making these changes.

*Cont. on pg 4*

## Religious or Spiritual? Church or Congregation?

### Religious or Spiritual? Church or Congregation?

A couple of years ago, we commenced our Board meeting with the check-in questions, "Religious or spiritual? Church or congregation? Worship or service?" These were actually one question, the dual poles of which are reflective, I think, of a (mostly) healthy and perhaps eternal tension among Unitarian Universalists who come to our tradition with a such rich and varied assortment of questions and perspectives on what we're doing in this life and why.

I was reminded recently of the fruitful discussion our Board members enjoyed that evening because I've been reading *Love and Death*, the next-to-last book by Forrest Church, longtime minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City. Church, as you may well know, delivered a string of notable letters-turned-to-sermons a few years apart that enjoyed wide distribution on the Internet, one when he was diagnosed with what at the time was thought to be terminal cancer, another when it went into remission, and still another when it returned with a vengeance and proved to be terminal. (He died last September.) *Love and Death* is a compilation of not only these sermons, but a substantial body of other deep but utterly accessible reflections on life, death, love and religion that Church turned over and sifted finely through his remarkable 30-year output as a minister and writer.

Speaking for myself, the standard religious vocabulary used the world over has frequently been a stumbling block in free-flowing communication with both secular atheists and others of more, shall we say, "literalist" persuasions regarding the divine. (Yep, even that word "divine" requires some unpacking; just watch me chase my UU tail here in talking about religious, whoops, "spiritual" talk...) The standard query "Do you believe in God?" has most often begotten a Clintonian, "It depends on what you mean by the word 'God,'" response from me, as I hem and haw and parse definitions in an effort not to be confused with any camp that has literalist believers in it.

To which I am slowly beginning to join with Forrest Church is saying, "Aw, enough already..." Here is Church: "Over the years, I have traveled the long road from religious skepticism to abiding faith. Back in the 1970s, even once I began preaching, I avoided invoking God almost entirely. It embarrassed me. Above all, I didn't want anyone mistaking what I might mean by *God* for the tiny, anthropomorphic God of so many true believ-

ers. I believed only in things I could parse and therefore comprehend. I approached the creation as a taxidermist, not a worshipper...I soon discovered, whenever I wished to soar a little higher into the mystery of the heavens or dive a little deeper into the unfathomable sea of being, I lacked the vocabulary necessary to describe such a journey."

The squeamishness many of us UUs experience when faced with overtly religious language, however valid its roots and reasoning, has begun to feel like an encumbrance to me. After all, we are the ones who emphatically and even eloquently proclaim there are many paths to the transcendent dimension, many ways of creating beloved community, and many words for *God*. What we sometimes forget, or get our knickers in far too tangled of a twist about, is that one of the words for *God* is...let me think...oh, now I remember: "*God*."

Yes, when my fundamentalist relatives use that word, the picture in their heads no doubt differs substantially from mine. Just as when they say, "I'm praying for you" as I'm encountering some challenge, they're doing so in a far different manner than I am in saying, "I'm thinking of you." But is it all that much different, really? Setting aside for the moment how differing perspectives on the divine can lead to vastly different actions in the political arena, at the level of everyday human interaction, is my saying "I need to think long and hard about this" fundamentally different than a believer saying, "I need to take this into prayer."? (And even that word "believer" is fraught with implications, because as a UU, I am quite the believer myself, and when exactly did that word get hijacked and associated with only the narrowest of theologies?)

Words, words, words...As did Reverend Church, I have been finding myself more readily using overt religious language over the years, my comfort level eased and some of my allergic reactions reduced when encountering terms such as *God*, church, worship and prayer. I am becoming less inclined to try to be so darned right and careful about it all.

Symbols, mysteries, fingers pointing to the moon. Language as the specific, local currency of a universal realm we all strive for, all wish to experience, express, and live by. It's starting to feel right to be lightening up about it all.

— Andrew Hidas  
President, Board of Trustee

## Treasurer's Report

September arrives along with the 2010/2011 fiscal year. We begin this new year with a financial base stronger than we have ever had before. We have a balanced budget, supported by strong pledge contributions that enable paying full UUA/PCD dues, retaining all of our employees without reducing hours or pay-checks, doubling our building repair and maintenance allotment and setting aside funds toward our minister's sabbatical. Also, through your more than generous giving, we can count on \$75,000 of Emergency Reserve funds if we ever again run into unfortunate surprise happenings such as the 2009 plumbing problem or the 2008 property tax assessment.

On top of our increased pledge revenue and reserve funds, we also have rising income from our non-profit and for profit rentals and from our Arts and Cul-

ture Ministry. Congregational fund raising through our Service Auction and other congregational events remains strong.

We are also fortunate to have the very best fiscal support from the Accounting Committee chaired by Lillian Reid, as well as the able guidance of the Financial Stewardship Council, chaired by Ellen Skagerberg. And also this year with more than a little sadness, we say thank you and farewell to Denese Pender, hard working co-treasurer for the past two years. However, we also say hello and welcome to Laura Jean Hageman, recently elected by the Board of Trustees to take Denese's place as our new co-treasurer.

What a great beginning!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Daines, Treasurer

## The Common Thread Cont.

*Cont. from page 2*

First, music will become a more important part of the service. We will stretch beyond the customary two songs we've sung in the past, including incorporating Milestones and Spirit of Life into the meditation time. The Choir and the UnUsual Suspects will make appearances. Nancy will provide accompaniment and other music.

Accordingly, the seating will also have to change from the closed circle into the more standard set-up. I am anticipating that we are likely to have fewer in attendance at the early service for a time, while people adjust to the changes, so we will rope off the back few rows of pews in order to encourage folks to move forward, or I'll preach from the front of the steps, in order to make the space feel more connecting.

The most significant change, of course, will be the absence of discussion and the sharing of joys and sorrows at the early service. I hope the Milestones book will come to be used more to make people aware of the events in our lives, as it has at the later service (though I do think it could be used much more.) For some attendees of the early service the discussion was the most important aspect of worship. I appreciate that. I hope you folks will consider finding that valuable circle time in one of our TIE groups, or in men's or women's groups, or in some new form

such as a lay-led service discussion group much like the one that currently follows the late service. For now, the choir and the band will be splitting their time between two services, so there will be fewer of their appearances in the late service for now.

The preparation for changing our Sunday worship has been a good learning experience for us. The leaders of the congregation have listened and learned about worship priorities and Sunday morning "goals" through our house meetings. We've come to understand the real loss anticipated by those most loyal to the current format of the early service. We've become aware of the variety of ways that we will place stress upon the congregation and challenge our hospitality, creativity and team play.

It's a bit daunting, but exciting, too. I know this congregation is up to these challenges because you've proven your commitment to being a loving, engaged, open community too many times already. We are steadily growing because of your hospitality and kindness, so I call upon your good spirit again as we negotiate (yet another!) transformative transition here at UUCSR. I urge those who have not yet found ways to give time and energy to step forward and find a way to volunteer to help keep our community joyous and welcoming, and to the many who work so hard to sustain our community already, I deeply thank you.

Here we go!

## Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

Welcome to a new year of Religious Education for Children! The kids are back in school and the 2010-11 RE program will commence on September 12 with classes at the 11:00. The schedule of classes will change a bit this year. We will start each month with Childrens Chapel for kids of all ages on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays will be devoted to teaching UU curricula with kids divided into multi aged classrooms. I am really excited about the curricula we will be using this year. Here are descriptions of what will be in store for our children and youth this year.

Preschool kids will be delighted by the UU curriculum *Celebrating Me and My World* which begins by celebrating the wondrous qualities of the children themselves, and then expands outward to things and people around them. The program provides preschoolers with experiences and opportunities to grow in their sense of trust and caring and to develop their self-identity and their sense of connectedness with all of life.

Grades Kindergarten through 2 will learn from *Spirit Play* a Unitarian Universalist adaptation of *Godly Play* and Montessori Methods. The developers of this curriculum see the purpose of religious education as helping children in coming into their own answers to existential questions such as: Where did I come from? What are we doing here? What is our purpose? How do we choose to live our lives? What are our gifts? How do we use them? What happens when I die? Why am I lonely and sad sometimes?

The program will

- Present core stories of our faith and theology
- Help children to make meaning through wondering and art
- Create a spiritual community of children
- Support multiple learning styles and challenges

Grades 3 to 5 will be taught from *Love Connects Us*, a curriculum from the UUA Tapestry of Faith, celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. Moved by love and gathered in spirit, we embrace our responsibility toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another's search for truth and meaning. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world.

The program will:

Introduce the covenant statement by Rev. James Vila Blake, which many UU congregations use, and explore the covenant's key concepts.

Build UU identity by highlighting people in our UU heritage who embodied the key ideas in the Blake covenant - people who sought truth in love, people who dwelled together with others in peace, and helped one another when called on to act.

Demonstrate that we actively create our living faith; we contribute to its legacy when we engage with others in community and work for peace and justice.

Reveal ways in which we are called to help one another and to encourage spiritual growth in our congregations.

Explore what it means for UUs to be connected by love and covenant rather than shared theological belief.

Grades 6 & 7 will experience a program adapted from the Together In Exploration program for adults. *Small Group Ministry for Youth* provides our Middle School students a way to minister to each other as well as opportunities for spiritual growth by

Paying attention/listening to each other's needs, wants and stories.

Acknowledging that all are "teachers" and all are "learners".

Encouraging each other on our spiritual journey.

Small Group Ministry is about building a community in which participants will feel comfortable sharing to a degree that enhances spiritual growth. Sessions will include games and activities that promote bonding, topical discussions to promote opening up, stretching beyond their normal comfort level and affirming one another, and worship elements to deepen sharing and promote UU identity. There will be an opportunity for service to the congregation and/or the larger community through youth inspired service projects.

Our awesome youth group - grades 8-12 will continue to meet with Rev. Chris and me on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month from 4-6pm. Each week will include time for sharing, learning, worshipping, eating

*Cont. on page 6*

## **Children's and Youth Religious Education Cont.**

*Cont from page 5* pizza and having fun. Among their many activities, the youth will plan a youth designed and led Sunday worship later in the congregational year, plan a group project, and do community service.

It is going to be a terrific year in RE! Please let me know if you are inspired to share your time with our children by teaching one of these groups.

In faith,  
Deborah

## **The Committee on Shared Ministry**

Check out the new Committee on Shared Ministry display board in the Social Hall. There are pictures of the members, Chair Cathy Read, Rev. Chris Bell, Roger Corman, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Elizabeth Marrs and Mary Wagner. The Committee on Shared Ministry is a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees.

The purpose of our committee is to encourage healthy communication among members, members and the minister, members and staff. Also to help insure that issues and concerns are addressed and resolved amicably and in a timely manner and to support and give

feedback to the minister.

The committee oversees the overall health of the congregation by continually monitoring congregational life, modeling healthy communication and deepening relationships with the minister and staff and educating the congregation in its growing understanding of shared ministry.

Please feel free to contact anyone of us with concerns or questions.

In fellowship, Andy Levine

## **The Family Support Center Project**

This past spring the Advocates for Social Justice developed a new program of hands-on service: the Family Support Center Project. The Family Support Center, at 465 "A" Street, run by Catholic Charities, is the only shelter for homeless families in Santa Rosa. The center provides services to the residents to help them find employment, if necessary, and to secure stable housing. Our contributions to the program help to provide extras for the families and lighten the load of the staff.

There are many ways for you to participate in this project. The center staff is eager to help you find an activity that fits your interests and availability. There is a need for tutoring, meal service, and childcare as well as a whole range of special offerings that enrich the basic program. These "other" offerings have in-

cluded gardening, special art activities for adults and children, office work, facilitation of groups. We have been hosting Friday Family Fun Nights (Fridays, 6:15-7:30) since May. Featuring Bingo for all and special games and activities for children, this has become a big hit with the residents.

We have had a generous response to this project but there is room for many more of you. To learn more about participating you may sign-up at the Advocates' table on Sundays or call or email me. Those of us who have gotten involved are finding it gratifying-we give and we receive. We invite you to come join us.

Jeanie Bates

824-0530, [jeaniebmft@yahoo.com](mailto:jeaniebmft@yahoo.com)

## **Women Together**

On Saturday, September 18th from 2 to 4 in the Teen Room, Millie Tripp will recount her life story from her start in a small town in North Carolina where her father

was a blacksmith to a highly educated science instructor, indefatigable community volunteer, and long time leader in UUCSR. Please bring finger-food to share.

## UUCSR Writers

### UUCSR Writers

The next regular monthly meeting will be on Monday, September 13, 2010 from 4 - 6 pm in the "Green Room" at UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-568-5381,.

Can't attend monthly meetings? Live in another City, State or Country? Request an Invitation to join our Online Writer's Blog.

Information: UUCSR Writers, Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com),  
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

### "TaP" Thursdays at Peet's

The UUCSR Writers meet once a week for Peet's coffee and conversation in Copperfield's located in Montgomery Village at the corner of Montgomery Drive and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Parking is Free.

Come, join us on Thursday mornings at 10 am. Buy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, add a pastry and enjoy the pleasure of chatting with writers about writing. We have no set agenda. Also, be sure to save some time to browse the books at Copperfield's.

## Looking for Connection? Looking for Community?

### COME TO OUR FALL UUCSR ACTIVITY FAIR!

On Sunday, September 12th, between the two services, you will have the opportunity to browse amongst the displays set up by the many in-

terest groups and committees which make up the fabric of our UUCSR community. Talk to the folks who are waiting to share what they do, sign up to get involved, make new connections and meet new friends.

Plan to stay after the early service or come before the later service. Look for a flier with more details which will be posted on the UUCSR Communication Board in the Social Hall as the time grows nearer.

## Together In Exploration (TIE)

### SIGN UP NOW

Look for the Together In Exploration (TIE groups, also called small group ministry and Covenant Groups) sign up table in the social hall before and after services the first 3 Sundays in September. All friends and members are welcome to join a group. It is a wonderful way to get to know others on a deep level.

This is the 5th season of TIE groups at UUCSR and for any is one of the most valued parts of congregational life. The groups meet twice a month, October through May for two hours. Each group has a trained

facilitator or co-facilitators. The bi-monthly gatherings include opening words, chalice lighting, a check-in, a topic for discussion, a check-out and closing words. It is a rare opportunity to explore and discuss topics in depth.

Stop at the sign up table if you have questions. You may also leave a message at the office (707) 568-5381 and you will be contacted.

Submitted by Mary Wagner, member of the steering committee

## Volunteers Needed

The Newsletter needs folders on the last Wednesday of each month. Two hours of sit down work

Bob Watkins, Publisher  
707/775-8627



## Fall Newcomer Welcome!

**GETTING TO KNOW UU AND UUCSR**  
**Saturday, September 11, 2010**  
**9:15 am to 12:30 pm**

Those of you who are new to our denomination, who are considering becoming members of UUCSR, or are new to our congregation are cordially invited to join us for a morning workshop designed to further your understanding of who we are as a church community. Topics for the day will include: activities to explore why we are here, a brief history of Unitarian Universalism, how to

become involved in congregational activities, and Unitarian Universalist diversity and the meaning of membership. Come meet others who are searching for answers, too, to the question, "What is this place all about, and do I belong here?"

Please look for information at the VISITOR'S TABLE in the Social Hall. You will find fliers and registration forms there. Please register by SEPTEMBER 5TH by turning your form in at the Visitor Table or call Cathie Wiese at 829-3634.

## Circles of Community

UUCSR CIRCLE DINNERS are re-forming again and will begin this October! Shirley Williams and I (Cathie Wiese) are excited about this wonderful program and "Growing our Circles!" What are they, you might ask???

Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a potluck meal. As participants in Circle Dinners since our old Todd and Stoney Point days, Robert and I have really enjoyed getting to know folks we might never have otherwise. We have had some wonderful times visiting other members' homes (large and small---it doesn't matter!) and always look forward to great food and conversation. Some of our groups have even kept on meeting after the official Circle Dinners period has ended just because we enjoyed getting together so much!

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 post the Fall/Winter 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! Before the fun is over, the group decides the who, what, where and when for the next month's gathering.

You DON'T need dinner service for 8, a family sized dining room, linen napkins, or even a room with a view! All you need is an enjoyment of meeting new friends, connecting with old friends, and the love of a good meal and conversation (maybe even playing games or music... 'cause that can happen, too).

Interested? We are taking sign ups beginning later in August through September 12th. Look for Shirley's artfully crafted poster in the Social Hall on Sundays or please contact Shirley Williams at 537-9790, Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, or Cathie's email at [cathie@sonic.net](mailto:cathie@sonic.net). We will need your name, phone number and email (if you have one) to post on the list so that your Circle can connect! We will do our best to accommodate special needs this time (daytime groups, geographic areas). Participants already in the Circle Dinner program will continue unless they let us know otherwise.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2010**  
**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail submissions**  
**Greatly Appreciated!**  
**Newsletter Assembly Sep 29, 2010**



## Advocates for Social Justice

### SHARE THE BASKET

As Reverend Chris has already explained, starting this month we will go to two "Shared Baskets" a month, on the second and fourth Sundays. This month our recipients will be the Pediatric Dental Institute in Windsor on September 12th and Face to Face on September 26th. The Pediatric Dental Institute serves low income children in Northern California who need safe sedation for dental treatment because they are too frightened and/or unable to sit still in the dental chair, provides prevention education and promotes oral health. Over 20,000 children in our area are at risk for Early Childhood cavities and more than 1,500 have tooth decay so severe that they require anesthesia to receive treatment. Families without insurance cannot afford hospital dentistry which can cost \$2,750 to \$5,000. The waiting list for subsidized treatment for children with Medi-Cal is long, from 2 months to a year. In some extreme cases, children have died when infections around the untreated tooth reached the brain. And tooth decay need not be close to that seriousness to interfere with proper nutrition, much less the ability to concentrate in school. So when the basket comes your way, remember

your last severe tooth ache and be as generous as you can!

Face to Face has been addressing the ever-changing challenges presented by the HIV epidemic in Sonoma County since 1983. Their goal is twofold: Care Services and Prevention Education. The Care Services include providing benefits counseling, housing assistance, information, referrals, and transportation. The Prevention Education aims at reaching those at highest risk of HIV infection with proven intervention strategies, strong support messaging, educational materials and condoms. Thanks to advances in medical care, an HIV diagnosis is no longer a death sentence. Face to Face works to help those in our community who are infected to live independent and healthy lives for many years and prevent new infections. Please help them in this much needed work! Our Advocates for Social Justice is eager to know about organizations you would like to be recipients of this program. There is a box at the Advocates table to receive your suggestions. We will continue to donate four baskets a year to our Saturday Breakfast and The Living Room. We look forward to your recommendations!

## Hot Topics

How long since you've spent a night in jail? On Sunday, September 12th, Rita Butterfield, Pete Wilson, and Carol Kraemer will tell us about their experiences in Phoenix in July as they participated in the dramatic

protest against Arizona's draconian law against people whom the police suspect of being in this country illegally. We will meet at 12:30 in the Board Room. A light lunch will be available for a modest (generous) donation.

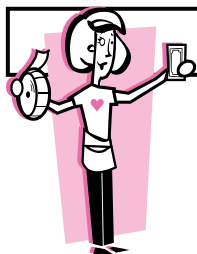
## Aging With Grace

Aging with Grace Group will meet on Wednesday, September 1st from 11:00am to 1:00pm for discussion of topics previously outlined.

Our interest is longevity, how we go there and what we can do to extend life in our community.

Come bring a brown bag lunch and join us for the fall meetings on the 1st Wednesday of October and November.

Submitted by Bob Watkins—775-8627



## Raffle Tickets Anyone?

Are you interested in selling raffle tickets for fine dining and entertainment to your family and friends in the community?

Please call Nancy Fitzpatrick at 539-7753 or Kitty at 953-0629

## **ANNUAL UUCSR AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA**

**SATURDAY, October 2, 2010**

**5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Social Hall**

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR biggest social event of the year! Note that the date is one month earlier than last year. Mark your calendars, set your Blackberries, or just put a sticky note on your front door...you won't want to miss our Annual Auction Extravaganza!

Our annual dinner and auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for UUCSR's general operating fund. YOU, our creative and generous members and friends offer wonderful donations for our silent auction...dinners, yard work, theater tickets, theme parties, dog walking, hand crafted jewelry, trash hauling...the list has no boundaries! Volunteers scour the city and countryside to gather fabulous donations from local business to add to the offerings. So, consider what you might be able to donate this year to the fun! Look for our table display beginning in September in the Social Hall for donation forms and a list of many ideas. Fill out a form for your donation and return it to the Auction Table or to the UU Office. Ask your favorite places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate

or two. Watching the bids go up on your donations gets the blood pumping in the ol' veins!

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 with added room to accommodate our ever-growing popularity.

Entertainment will be sure to delight the senses. Child-care and "kid food" will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with our live auction starring those masters of auction mischief sure to keep you laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocketbook for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!),

Keep an eye out for our table which will be set up in the Social Hall in September. Look for the Top Hat and Tales guy dancing in a sea of star spangled purple! Any question? Call Kitty Wells at 433-1196, Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, Nancy Freeman at 537-1897, or Kirsten Olney at 542-4649,

## **Lost and Found**

Calling all members and friends!! I'd like to ask all of you to please take time to inspect the coat racks for any lost or misplaced jackets scarves, umbrellas or sweaters. We also have a box in the office next to the volunteer desk that has several miscellaneous items ranging from jewelry, glasses, a hat, wallet, phone charger, etc. If

you think any of these items might be yours, please stop by the office and have a look.

Any left over items will be taken to the Goodwill at the end of September. Any questions, please call the office at 568-5381.

Janis Brewster, Administrator

## **September 5th Worship**

**SPECIAL LOCATION: Galvin Community Park**

**Service 10:00am Picnic 11:00am Play 12:00 - ?**

**Led by Rev. Chris, Rita Butterfield, & the Choir**

## UUCSR Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 12, 2010

This first official meeting of the Board year was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Andrew Hidas.

Members present: Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Bonnie Daines, Laura Jean Hageman, Mary Louise Jaffray, Cathie Wiese, Craig Work. Absent: John Farison, Phyllis Heagney, Lois Nagle.

Opening reading by Rev. Chris Bell.

Minutes from the June 17 meeting were approved with no changes.

90-second check-in: *A scene from your summer, please! (Deep or whimsical, funny or sad—it's all good...)*

Open Mike: No members or guests spoke.

Officer Elections: Andrew commenced officer elections for Board President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Chris read job descriptions of each office from the bylaws. Elected by unanimous vote for one-year terms: President Andrew Hidas; Vice President Mary Louise Jaffray; Co-Treasurers Bonnie Daines and Laura Jean Hageman; Secretary Cathie Wiese.

Brief discussion ensued on the possibility/desirability of establishing a "president-elect" position sometime during the year, so that the congregation and Board could be settled on the next year's president prior to the start of the Board year. The issue will be revisited at a near-future Board meeting.

Board Binder Presentations: Mary Louise handed out binders that include key documents relevant to Board responsibilities and functions.

Mary Louise then took special note to suggest that the entire congregation, and most particularly various councils and committees that work on documents, please make extra efforts to date *all* documents so everyone can adequately distinguish between drafts, final versions, revised final versions, and so on. This request should be communicated through the Council system at first opportunity.

We also would benefit greatly from establishing more specific protocols on how updated policies are recorded and stored for easy access and reference.

Communication to the larger congregation on this and other matters—including dissemination of meeting agendas and minutes on the website—should be explored at a near-future meeting.

Board Retreat Planning: Andrew and Chris reported on preliminary retreat preparations with facilitator Anna Eng of the North Bay Sponsoring Committee. They will be meeting with her later in the month. Board members were urged to think about what specific items or issues they might like con-

sidered for inclusion at the retreat, as further planning will be on the 8-19 meeting agenda. After discussion, it was decided that the Friday session would be held at Bob's residence in Santa Rosa, and the Saturday session at Ann's residence in Sebastopol.

Snack Sign-Up Sheet: Andrew passed around a sheet for Board members to sign up for which month they would be responsible for bringing dinner.

Open-ended Discussion Time: Andrew offered brief comments on the importance of having open discussion time during Board meetings, with the suggestion we jealously guard such time and use it whenever possible to take not only our own pulse, but the pulse of the congregation as well. Cathie then requested that we spend time elaborating upon what the Board does and what its responsibilities are, a theme begun in the informal July get-together at Andrew's residence. Members were invited to reflect upon this question from their own perspective. Responses included:

- We look ahead to identify future problems and challenges.
- We put out occasional fires.
- We oversee Councils and get them to report back to us.
- We're a symbol to the congregation of the smooth-running machinery it takes to operate. We present the congregation's best face, we calm fears members may have.
- We do long-range visioning and planning, looking to what could be UUCSR's future.
- We keep our finger on the pulse of the congregation; we stay aware.
- We are among the lay spiritual leaders of the congregation.
- We play a crucial role in the budget process and, in cooperation with the HR Committee, make decisions on personnel, including salaries and benefits.
- We play a critical role in fundraising, including the Annual Budget Drive.

Discussion on this matter ended (for the time being) with the point made that it is a critical issue we do well to revisit continually as we refine our role in the governance structure.

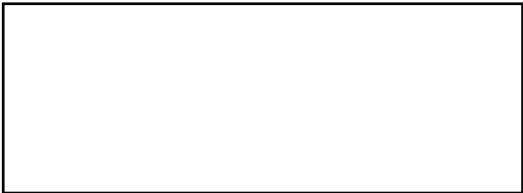
Laura Jean then asked about the transition to double services in September. Chris elaborated on the plans for that process, and emphasized the Board's key role in helping to communicate about the change to the congregation. He added that he would be personally appealing to Board members to attend 9 a.m. services to help lift that service off the ground. It was decided to put this item on the August 19 agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15, with a closing reading by Chris.

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

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