



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• May 2011 • Volume 55 • Issue 5 •

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

May 1

"WE ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD!"

In the Bible, the apostle Peter has a strange and dramatic vision that symbolizes his prejudice against people different from himself. This morning we will reflect on prejudice, and recall that only God has the right to judge us, and He/She always says, "Good enough!"

The Rev. Erika Demeter is the Unitarian minister to three congregations in Transylvania. She is studying pastoral counseling at the Graduate Theological Union while her husband, Rev. Levente Lázár, is the Balázs Scholar at Starr King School. She hopes to continue her counseling studies upon returning to Europe.

Service Leader: Rev. Erika Demeter

Worship Associate: Andy Levine

Choir at 9:15.

May 8

"OVERCOMING OUR SEPARATION"

Our wonderful youth group will lead us in rituals and readings designed to help us overcome our separation from one another, and to encourage us to live in the true spirit of Mother's Day, which is peace. *The Lunch Box Association*, the youth group band, also will perform at both services. We'll "share the basket" with West County Community Services today, too.

Service Leader: The Youth Group

Worship Associates: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason

Choir at 11:00.

May 15

"MEDITATION ON THE PRESENCE OF THE SEA IN OUR SPIRITS"

The origins of life were in the sea, our bodies have the sea within, and the sea has been a metaphor for the spirit since ancient times. In the poetry and the music of the Caribbean and in most of Latin America, the sea is such a constant presence that it is simply impossible to imagine that poetry and that music without the cadence of the waves and the loving airs of the beach. The sea can bring joy to our lives, but it can also be terribly punishing and take us away in a journey of no return. Today, through Latin American poems, art and songs, we will explore this metaphor, and discover some new sources for our Unitarian Universalist spiritual journey.

Service Leaders: Orlando Raola and Erin Howseman

Latin-American music including a tango and Mexican folk songs.

May 22

"COSMIC FORCES"

Physicist Brian Swimme's classic little book *The Universe is a Green Dragon* presents a remarkable synthesis of the inner and outer worlds. Today we'll consider what gravity and stars and black holes have in common with our simple human lives, and how the Divine is revealed in the heavens, so to speak. Truly, we are one! We'll "share the basket" with our Saturday Breakfast today, too.

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: David Hope

Choir at 9:15

May 29

LAUGHTER: THE BEST MEDICINE

Humor truly is a saving grace in the midst of struggle and uncertainty. Today we're not just going to *talk* about laughter, which would be boring and silly. No, we're going to really laugh and laugh and laugh. The Adrienne Swenson award will also be presented.

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Izzy Fischer, Andy Levine

90% of Life is just Showing Up



They say 90% of life is just showing up.

On Easter Sunday showing up was all I could do.

I arrived at the Glaser Center early, with a heart full of sorrow and uncertainty, and a head full of empty space. I have never before felt so intensely that I had nothing - nothing! - to say, nor felt so unprepared for worship. As I had tried to write my sermon and construct the service on Saturday, only numbness and confusion came to me. And here it was, Easter morning!

Maybe it was the service the week before on woundedness, opening me up to some inner hurt. Maybe it was all my doubts about, well, everything. Maybe it was my engagement with the story of Holy Week - thinking very deeply about what the death and resurrection of Jesus meant to his early followers, and about what it can mean today for me, who knows resurrection only as a spiritual metaphor, not a bodily reality. Maybe it was being a little bit over-worked. Maybe it was the news of the death of Gretchen's daughter, or the all-too-rapid passing of Sally. Maybe it was all of those things put together.

In any event, I walked into the foyer, and as my eyes fell upon the playful, spirited artwork of Lovetta Lavoie, and upon our own UUCSR Mission boldly proclaiming our intent to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another, and help build a better world, I just started crying and crying, full to overflowing and then some with joy and sorrow and gratitude and helplessness. I was crying with grief and loss, crying for the missed opportunities of life, crying for the beauty of this community, crying for the fact that I'm going to have to eulogize many of you, crying with the deep desire to know you all as well as I can, and to treasure every moment with you.

I was also crying because the last thing I wanted to do that morning was lead worship. I hope this is an OK thing to admit, but if I were in any other line of work I would have feigned a cough and taken a sick day. That whiny child's feeling of "I don't wanna!" is not unfamiliar to me when it comes to committee meetings and lawn care, but worship? Worship is where I find and anchor my life. Looking out at all y'all on a Sunday morning, with the Tree of Life behind you, is consistently one of my happiest moments. I love worship, and I particularly love the Flower Communion.

So I showed up. I figured that if we were all together that it would be good no matter what happened. There would be too many beautiful flowers at hand for it to be otherwise. I chose to trust this container, and to trust you, and to trust God.

O, what I would have missed if I had crawled back under the covers!

I would have missed your extraordinary kindness and forgiveness as I wandered the building getting hug after hug. I would have missed freeing my body from the tension of anxiety and grief by pouring out those tears. I would have missed seeing how the experience of common worship makes room for everything. I would have missed your laying your hands on me again, and sharing your own hurts and hopes with me.

And that was all just at the 9:15 service!

I was pretty much cried out by 11:00, but the miracle of the morning was far from over. In the midst of my haphazard welcoming of new members, I forgot one gentleman. Having gone up the aisle for him to sign the Membership Book, I light-heartedly asked, "Anyone else while I'm up?"

And, lo, four more people joined! One after another, some spirit of community and connection moved folk to stand and say, "I want to be a part of this!" It was like an altar call at an evangelical church. Honestly, I've never seen anything quite like it in a UU congregation. To top it all off, the light coming from the skylight caught the Chalice in a perfect beam of white, as if to say, "this is my beloved congregation, with which I am well-pleased." Incredible.

The whole day, the messy tears, the wandering blindly, the coming-together, the singing, the sharing, the prayers, the tears, the laughter - well, it was all of Holy Week crammed into a single morning. Worship was exactly what it was supposed to that morning. We were bound together in a network of love, sharing our sorrows and our joys, seeking meaning and comfort and courage in the face of our adversities.

Let's do it again soon, shall we?

And let's remember that the days of hope and friendship are not mythical days to come. They are now. Good Friday is now. Easter is also now. Despair is now. Hope is also now. Do you have an estranged loved one? Do you have grief to tackle? A problem to solve? An addiction to overcome? An illness or fear? Do you have a masterpiece to write, compose, sculpt or paint? A child to nurture? A tradition to serve? A family to build? A dream to follow?

It's now, or never, my dear ones.

Please, take it from one who now knows in every bone of his body the value of showing up to and for each other, right here and now: Come. Come, and find the spirit of love in this holy place.

In Praise of Mourning

Mourning the loss of a loved one involves but one of the rich paradoxes we encounter in life. In the great waves of sadness that follow great loss, we feel bereft, unmoored, overwhelmed—and utterly alive. Gathered with family and friends in the hours and days following a death, we are stripped down to elementals of simple presence, talking and touching, eating and drinking, retreating for rest, then carving out time to consider arrangements for an observance that will suitably honor and communally bid farewell to our beloved.

Another paradox: the intensely personal and private anguish we experience in losing someone with whom we have had an utterly unique relationship, while recognizing that our loss is shared in different ways by the wider community, by people who have their own unique relationships with and storehouse of memories regarding our beloved. (“We need to share this,” my sister-in-law wisely counseled my niece and nephew last year when my brother died. “The grief doesn’t belong only to us.”)

It is in those unique relationships we enjoy with everyone in our lives that we come to understand the crushing finality of death. While in our jobs (and church leadership positions!) we tend to be a lot more replaceable than we’d like to think, in our personal, relational lives, we come to realize that people are utterly *irreplaceable*. There will simply never be another Sally Fife. The precious, wholly unique constellation of history, personality and expression embodied in her—and which all of us experienced in our own ways—will not be filled by another. Ever.

“I want you to know how beautiful you all are,” Rev. Chris told us at our Easter Sunday service, beholding his flock of beautiful individual souls across the bouquet of beautiful individual flowers arrayed in front of him. This individual beauty, each a manifestation of the vast expressive powers of the creation, is what we lose when a Sally Fife is no more, a Pete Hidas is no more, an Adrienne Swenson is no more, a Dan O’Neal is no more. Yes, we are left with the sweet consolation of memory, but as powerful as that is, memory is not a person, and it is the person—their living, breathing, smiling, pensive presence—that we miss almost every day of our lives when the person is gone from it.

It is in this way that life as we age becomes a vast trail of tears, flowing from loss to loss in an unending stream. And amidst it all: the almost incomprehensible abundance that life—and the people still within

it, and the memories of those who have left it—continues to place before us. The fact that everyone in our lives—our parents, siblings, friends, children, colleagues, the parade of varied faces turning left in front of us while we wait at the red light—is terminal, suffering from an incurable condition known as “mortality,” can leave us either paralyzed or freshly committed to squeezing every last ounce of life out of our allotted time.

In our sadness, in our grief, we behold the searing beauty of existence, the great scorching cost we pay in pain and torn hearts in order to come even more fully alive than we thought possible. Far from dampening our lives, loss has the capacity to spur us to greater life, greater involvement, more expression and joy and vulnerability, even as we abide the loss as unendingly sad and the person lost as irreplaceable.

We walk this two-sided street pretty darn well in our community. Not for us the stiff upper lip and admiring observations about the bereaved: “She was *so* strong—she didn’t even cry!” (Even as a child, I knew there was something unsettling about these descriptions of Jackie Kennedy at her husband’s funeral.) While it is good to hear sometimes raucous laughter at memorial services, I am troubled by the modern trend to insist on “celebration” language on such occasions, at least when it seems to exclude the true grief and loss still circulating through the veins of those in attendance. (Now *there’s* a data set to explore: the ratio of laughter to tears at memorial services around the world. What is your ideal ratio?)

Worse still is the death announcement in the morning paper delivering the even more repressive news: “No services will be held.” (This often at the deceased’s request.) This cheats survivors of the vast consolations that come with huddling together in communal loss, tending to each other’s wounds and resolving again to put our best selves forward through the remainder of our own (ever-dwindling) days.

The death of a beloved family or community member shakes us to our foundations, reminding us not only of their great preciousness but also the fact that every one of us sitting in these pews on Sunday will one day join them and be mourned by others just as we are mourning today. Giving that mourning full and free rein, in all its glorious amalgam of heart-rending, heart-stretching expression, is the highest honor we can possibly offer the departed—and the creation that spawned them.

Treasurer's Report

A big thank-you to all who worked so hard on our FY 2011-2012 pledge drive, and an even bigger thank-you to all who pledged with great generosity and commitment. We have received pledges from all but a few members for a total of \$372,000, an increase of \$16,300 over the amount pledged last year! Even so, the goal budget for FY 2011-2012 required an increase of \$45,000 in pledge income, so the final budget will need to significantly reduce many of the budget requests.

The good news is that we hope to end our current year with a small surplus. In light of falling property values over the last two years, the Financial Stewardship Council recommended and the Board approved that we apply to the county for a reduction of UUCSR's property taxes. Ted Miller made the necessary phone calls and completed the application. (Thank you, Ted!) The revenue increase was primarily the result of the

reduction in our taxes. One possibility is to use some of the surplus to help fund the new proposed obsolescence reserves required by the Emergency Reserve Policy, approved last June by the congregation.

This year the Financial Stewardship Council formed a Budget Task Force (BTF) to help widen participation in the budgeting process. Representatives of the councils and committees will be directly involved in helping the Board establish priorities and limits needed to produce a balanced budget. There will be two budgeting meetings, Thursday, May 5 and Thursday, May 19 (6 - 9 p.m.) that can be attended by all interested members. At the end of the May 19 meeting the Board will approve a balanced budget for FY 2011-2012 to be presented and voted upon at the June Congregational Meeting.

Submitted by LauraJean Hageman,
Co-Treasurer

Committee on Shared Ministry

At the service on April 17, I heard the children say the Children's Affirmation.

We are Unitarian Universalists, people of the open mind, the loving hearts and the helping hands.

This is who the Committee on Shared Ministry is. We are here to listen to your concerns, conflicts, and to be a sounding board for the minister.

If you have a conflict with another member or staff person or just need to talk, please contact one of us. Your Committee on Shared Ministry members are: Cathy Read (chairperson), Rev. Chris Bell, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Elizabeth Marrs and Mary Wagner.

In fellowship, Andy Levine

UU Spiritual Activist Leadership Training

The Young Leaders Project is in the middle of launching its Spiritual Activist Leadership Training (SALT), and accepting applications for the first California wide cohort of 20 young adults aged 18-35 who want to take their UU voice into the public arena and work for justice. The application is online, consisting of some short-answer questions and two essays, one about the applicant's inspiration for justice work, and the other about the applicant's UU involvement. The selection

committee will have two review periods. Applications received by May 31 will be reviewed by June 15, and those received by July 15 will be notified by August 1. Are you a young adult with a thirst for justice and meeting kindred spirits across the state? Do you know someone who should apply, and might need you to be a reference? Want to help make this program a reality with a donation? All are welcome! Contact sonya@uulmca.org for more information.

June 5

STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Susan Bartholome

Religious Education for Children and Youth

The end of May marks the end of the school year for many of our kids and it marks the end of the year in RE as well. We will begin our Summer Program on May 29th.

Before we launch into summer though, I want to give a huge shout-out to the people who dedicated themselves to teaching religious education classes this year. Our Kindergarten-through-second grade class, which has tripled in size this year, was staffed by Susan Dickey, Pat Wilson, Robyn Hidas, Doug Arnold and Millie Tripp. (Millie taught two quarters and helped with many of the Children Chapel services through the year as well!) Each of them brought their own gifts and gave great care their students. Though our grades 3 - 5 class was small in number, it was mighty in spirit. Elizabeth Wheless, Mindy Graham, Linda Farison, Kitty Wells, Jean Smith and Joy Lonnes shared their wisdom and experience with the kids in this class. Sean Wall was my right-hand man in the middle school group (MUUGs) for the entire year. He brought a fresh perspective as a new UU and helped to keep the group on track. I think the kids found a new friend in Sean this year! In addition, Cristin Talley, Leeann Lidz and Dorris Lee helped with Children's Chapel. All of us should be grateful for the care and work that these volunteers have given to our kids. I hope you will find them in coffee hour and give them a big "Thank You!" Our program this year would have been lost without them.

As we close out the RE year we have lots going on. Our preschool is becoming a very lively place!! We are having more and more young children in RE and I am spending considerable time expanding and improving the program. We are increasing staffing, to ensure that all children in the preschool room are given the love and attention they need while their parents are enjoying worship.

I will be on retreat in Camp Meeker on the first of May, and Children's Chapel will be led by Rita

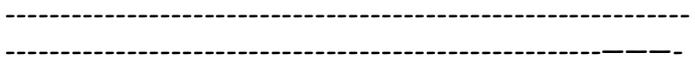
Butterfield and Eric Fischer. The theme of the morning will be honesty. The kids will take an honest look at telling the truth and telling lies.

May 8 is the day of our annual youth-led worship service. The Senior High Youth Group has crafted a service that asks us to examine the things in our lives that keep us from truly connecting to one another. This will be a service where everyone can participate. To find out how, visit the Youth Group table next to the RE welcome table in the lobby. The youth group band, The Lunch Box Affiliation, will perform two awesome songs at the service. You won't want to miss it!

This month we will spend time getting ready for the Free the Children Talent Show—a fundraising and awareness raising event scheduled on Saturday, June 11 at 7 p.m. The kids in RE are adopting a village in Africa to help fund education, clean water and sustainable work programs. On May 11, Emy Gelb from Free the Children will be visiting RE and teaching a workshop for grades 3 to 8 about what it is like for children who live in poverty. Through our work with Free the Children our kids are learning about the plight of children in third-world countries and while being empowered to do something constructive to address it.

It has been a great year in RE! We have such awesome kids at UUSCR—how could it not be? Expect to hear from me, asking for help with the summer program. And please, consider saying "YES!"

In faith,
Deborah



Save the Date:

Saturday, June 11 7 p.m.
Free the Children Talent Show
 presented by
UUSCR Religious Education Program
 Details coming soon!

<p>NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011 Newsletter@uusantarosa.org</p>	<p>E-mail Submissions Greatly Appreciated! Newsletter Assembly 10 am—May 25, 2011</p>
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Advocates for Social Justice

Adrienne Swenson Award

As many of us remember, Adrienne was a teacher and long-time member whose work for peace, the environment, and social/economic justice was known throughout the county and state. (She was a founder of the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center and one of the UUA delegates who formulated our 7th Principle!). On her death several years ago, the Advocates for Social Justice established a \$500 award in her honor to be given to a college-bound high-school senior who has demonstrated a commitment to education and justice.

This year we are delighted to announce that the recipient will be Adriana Reyes, a senior in the IB program at Montgomery High School and the first woman in her family to attend college. She plans to major in psychology at either UC Davis or UCLA. (As of this writing, she hasn't made up her mind.) Many of you know Adri because one of her many volunteer activities for the last five years

has been with our Saturday Breakfast program.

On **Sunday, May 29**, Adri will accept the award and tell us about what she has learned through her volunteer work and what her plans are for the future. Please be there to share her excitement and achievement!

Share the Basket

This month the recipient of half the collection on Sunday, May 8, will be the Senior Center in Guerneville, which is a program offered through the **West County Counseling Services**. This is the only resource for seniors living in the West County. Its goal is to empower clients to live independently by strengthening their connections to the community. Services include case management, referrals and advocacy, classes and activities, support for families and caregivers, home-delivered meals, as well as providing a dining facility. As funds for CBOs shrink, let's all do what we can to help this program and its seniors thrive! Thank you.

On Sunday, May 24, half the basket will go to our **Saturday Breakfast** program. As many of you know, thanks to Washington's inability to pass a budget until six months into the fiscal year, our fund-granting agency had no idea how much money would be available, so whatever funds there are will be late in dispersal. Also, some major donors have cut back on their gifts. On top of that, the price of food is increasing as is the number of our guests—200 on April 16! Therefore we have decided to use one of our two "Share the Baskets" per month for this program for the foreseeable future. But that leaves one Sunday a month for an organization of your choice—so please stop by the Advocates for Social Justice table, just outside the door to the sanctuary, and put your suggestion in the "Share the Basket" basket!

Here are the results of your generosity in March:

The Living Room = \$674

Worth Our Weight = \$522

Hot Topics

Hot Topics: On Sunday, May 15 from 12:30 to 2 p.m., Reverend Ann Gray Byrd, long time resident of Sonoma County and leader with the NAACP and the ACLU, will talk with us about the experience of being African-American in our county. She has recently completed the revisions for the second edition of her book

Glimpses: Eyewitnessed, Remembered and Lived (History of African Americans in Sonoma County), which she will be glad to sell and sign. Hearing the story from someone who has lived it will give us new insight into who we are and what we do. A light lunch will be available in the Board Room for a donation.

Evening Book Group



The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the RE wing at 547 Mendocino. This month's

selection is *Kabul Beauty School* by Deborah Rodriguez. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Judy Withee

3rd Annual Men's Retreat

Please mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Men's Retreat
scheduled for August 26, 27 & 28.

We are headed back to the wonderful Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker.

See more information in the coming months.

Any questions please contact Andy Levine @ 887-9810

Sign Up Now!!

What: Annual All-Congregation Retreat

Where: The lovely Valley of the Moon Retreat

When: Fri., Sat., Sun., July 15, 16, 17

Who: All UUCSR Members & Pledging Friends

Why: FUN, FELLOWSHIP and more FUN!!!!!!!

the appropriate form and mail it with a check to either Pat Wilson (465 Boas Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 05409) or Barrie Noe (8555 Lawrence Lane, Sebastopol, CA 05472).

Registration tables will also be open on July 10 and 26 and July 3. Put the camping dates on your calendar now, and watch for more information in future newsletters!

Please see the flyer and registration forms inserted in this newsletter! (One for entire retreat and one for Day-Use Only [Saturday from 9 a.m. - 11:30 p.m., including lunch and dinner]). For early registration, fill out



Crock-Pot Cook-off Social Luncheon—May 22

Stay for lunch on Sunday May 22, 12:20 p.m., and eat the delicious crock-pot creations. For \$10 you get 10 votes and lunch. Help select the Crock Award winner and the Crock Honorable Mentions. If you have not yet entered your Crock, casserole, or generic pot dish,

please sign up at the Crock table in the social hall on Sundays. We need a few more Cocks. Benefit for UUCSR.

Calling all Committee Heads ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE

Yes, it is that wonderful time of year when Annual Reports are due. The Annual Report to the Congregation is handed out at the Congregational Meeting on June 12, 2011. Please have your ommittees' Reports turned into the Administrator *no later than Monday, May 23*

Reports can be emailed to the Administrator@uusantarosa.com (easiest) or sent to the office to the attention of the Administrator. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 569-5381 x 106 or drop me an email.

Your help in meeting the deadline is greatly appreciated.

Janis Brewster, Administrator

A Slice of TIE

The Together In Exploration (TIE) groups meet from October through May, so we're finishing up for the congregational year, and what a fabulous year we've had. A great number of people have told me how delighted they are to have been a member of their TIE group this year, getting to know one another better and exploring topics at a deeper level than we frequently do.

As every group does at this congregation, each TIE group planned and carried out a service project for the congregation itself or the larger community. Here are some of the projects from this year: helping to compile, fold, and assemble the monthly newsletter; cleaning the upstairs medical supply closet to make it easier for a member to borrow a walker, crutches, or similar devices;

working at food preparation, serving, and cleaning at a Saturday breakfast; working with the Flower Committee and Landscape Committee to buy and plant perennials for a cutting garden for Sunday services; working with the Advocates For Social Justice Committee to prepare and serve lunch at the congregational annual meeting. Good going, everyone.

Good news! There will be a TIE group this summer, meeting for four Thursday nights in Sebastopol. If you wanted to participate in a group this year but were not able to, this group might be just right. This group is also an excellent choice for folks who have never been in a TIE group and want a taste of what it is like. Look for sign-ups coming soon.

Women Together—Elder Tales

Elder Tales:

On Saturday, May 21, Susan Simons will tell us about her journey from a Mormon childhood and youth to a stalwart UU.

Susan is a published novelist and much more! Come to the Lunch Box Room in the RE wing from 2 to 4 p.m. to hear her story. Please bring finger-foods to share.

UUCSR Writers

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa, Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., 707-568-5381. Information: Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Presentations and Feedback: Monday, April 4 from 4 - 6 p.m. Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress."

UUCSR Writers Presents:

Monday, May 23, from 6 - 8 p.m.

David Templeton - "Film Noir and the Screen Writer"

"UUCSR Writers Literary Laureate 2010-2012"

Presentation and discussion about the balance between the work of the screenwriter and the need of the craftsperson to find his/her audience.

Monday, June 20, from 6—8 p.m.

Juan De la O, Independent Film Maker—"Making a Film Trailer"

"UUCSR Writers Screen Writer-Film Maker Laureate 2010-2012"

Presentation and discussion about bringing more imagination, more experimentation, new faces, new ideas and better quality to his production of "Mindless."

Thursdays at the "Haven Coffee House"

Every Thursday morning, 10am - 12 noon

Located in one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County, the Video Droid on 1901

Mendocino Avenue is in the Santa Rosa JC area, in the same parking lot as CVS Pharmacy. Parking is free. Buy yourself a good cup of coffee or hot chocolate and a

morning pastry of your choice. Enjoy the ambiance at the "Haven" as well as the pleasure of our humor, clever conversations and the periodic, spontaneous outburst of laughter that permeates the atmosphere.

Take Care, Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com

Men's Groups

At UUCSR we have a long history of groups of men meeting to support each other. We have five active men's groups with over 50 members total. They meet at various times and in various locations. Groups are generally of mixed ages and life situations. The men's group is a growing phenomenon in UU churches. I have quoted Tom Owen-Towle co-pastor of a San Diego UU congregation in the next few paragraphs because he expresses clearly what is going on in UU men's groups across the country.

"In our quest for lives of compassion, integrity, responsibility, and balance, we are a caring, intentionally diverse brotherhood, committed to social justice, and offering opportunities for intimate sharing, personal growth, and spiritual deepening.

"One of America's burgeoning revolutions finds men meeting to share pieces of their deep hopes and hurts, as they unwrap their self-sufficient exteriors to exchange touch and thought with other men.

"There are many reasons, as women have long realized, for gender-based dialogues. First, there are male concerns that are properly and beneficially shared man to man. (For example, fathering and being the son of a father.)

"Second, there is considerable healing to be achieved between men, because we have been pounding upon, even destroying one another, ever since Cain slew his brother Abel. We can learn respectful, loving ways to be brothers, not to be our brother's boss, keeper, or lackey, but to be our brother's brother. The best way for us to heal our wounds and befriend our fears is to spend time sharing aches and aspirations, telling our real stories, face to face, brother to brother, as peers in supportive, open places."

If you are interested in joining a men's group please contact me, Bruce Hope at kipsterb@sonic.net or 707-775-7017.

Non-violent Communication Discussion/Workshop

After late services on May 29, the TIE group facilitated by Margi Nagy and J.D. Thompson is sponsoring a discussion/ workshop on Non-violent Communication led by Carole Chase of the Center for Spiritual Living. The session is free of charge and will be from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Light snacks will be

provided.

All members and guests are invited to attend. This topic seems very appropriate in these days of lack of civility in public and private communication. Please join us as we sharpen our own skills in non-violent communication.

Please Join Us for a House Party!!

END-OF-THE-UUCSR-FISCAL-YEAR

LET'S-GET-JUST-A-BIT-MORE-INTO-THE-COFFERS FUNDRAISER

Featuring "As the Crow Flies" with David Lerner, Brian Foster, and Terri Ann Gillette. "As The Crow Flies" features folk, rock, bluegrass, covers and originals. Guest artist Marilyn O'Malley will join us from High Prairie,

"As the Crow Flies" will play around 3 p.m. on the deck and will take the music to the beach for our potluck supper. To make a reservation please "reply" to Micheline at Justine.Michaels@hotmail.com or call Kitty at (707) 953-0620. Please make reservations soon so we can arrange for parking and jitneys. Maps and other information, in-

cluding other recreational options, will be sent after we receive your pledged reservation. We are sorry to say that the house is not wheelchair accessible. The path to the beach is a little steep, though we have banisters in some places. The beach is a bit rocky, but the deck is flat and comfy—a lovely venue for a great group!

SAT., JUNE 25, 2011

POTLUCK SUPPER

BRIAN AND KITTY'S HOUSE ON THE RUSSIAN RIVER IN HEALDSBURG

ANYTIME FROM 2:00 P.M ON

SLIDING SCALE: \$20 -\$200

Aging with Grace

In order to better serve the time commitments of the "Aging With Grace" group, there will be duplicate sessions:



First Wednesday of the Month:

10:30 am—12:00 noon

Second Thursday of the Month:

10:00 am—11:30 a.m.

May 4 and 12

What Are My End-of-Life Expenses?

Moderator: Bob Watkins, 707-775-8627

The Amazing Story of UUCSR'S "New" Piano

"It's beautiful!" "It's gorgeous!" "It's big!"

Those are among the many initial comments made about the "new" piano—a 3/4 Grand Yamaha concert piano—which miraculously appeared in our sanctuary late last year. Some of you already know the story. But for those who don't, and for those who have not yet made the connection to the upcoming "Legacy Concert" on May 22, here are the details.

The piano was donated to the UUCSR by our own Mary Louise Jaffray, who inherited the instrument from her uncle, the late Adolph Baller, a renowned classical pianist and teacher whose life was as dramatic as the music he loved to play. Best known as the accompanist for the virtuoso violinist Yehudi Menuhin, Baller also played with the Alma Trio, making his mark around the world, as well as in the North Bay. Not only did he teach at Stanford University and the San Francisco Conservatory, he was also on the faculty of Dominican College. Throughout his career, he had many notable students, several of which have gone on to distinguished careers.

And the piano he often used as his "teaching instrument?" Well, that's the one now residing on the chancel, played by Nancy Hayashibara and others every Sunday.

Adolph Baller, born in 1909 in Brody, Galicia (at that time, part of Poland), was 8 when he went to Vienna to study piano with a former student of Franz Liszt, eventually performing, at the age of 13, with the Vienna Philharmonic. In 1938, he was arrested and tortured by Nazi troops, who crushed his hands after learning he was a Jew. Fortunately, with the assistance of many allies and doctors, he was eventually able to resume his concert career. Baller came to the United States shortly thereafter.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

We are honored to have such a distinguished musical instrument in our home, especially since so many wonderful musicians have lent their own experiences to its history. It is to honor this musical legacy that we have put together the Legacy Concert, featuring six of Baller's students—Julie Steinberg, William Corbett-Jones, Paul Mihaly, Corrick and Norma Brown, and Marilyn Thompson, plus the aforementioned Nancy Hayashibara, who studied with Thompson, continuing Baller's tradition of musical excellence. Also joining in is violinist David Abel, who will be playing with Steinberg in Beethoven's Sonata for piano and violin, Opus 12, nr.1.

Other pieces planned for the afternoon concert include the Mozart Sonata K 570, Debussy's Six Epigraphes Antiques and Clair de Lune, Chopin's Scherzo Opus 31, and Brahms' Nine Waltzes, Opus 39.

It's going to be a wonderful afternoon of music, memories and gratitude, with all proceeds going to support the ongoing work of the UUCSR. We hope to have a full house, and you can help in two ways. In addition to purchasing a ticket after services (or online at www.brownpapertickets.com), you can spread the word to anyone you feel would enjoy the occasion.

Many thanks to Mary Louise for her generous contribution to our cultural life, and for masterminding this concert. We hope to see many of you there.

And then, the following weekend, why not come back for an evening of Italian and French music with Trio Garufa and our own Robert Lunceford, performing with his Un Deux Trois trio. That show is Saturday, May 28. Tickets also on sale in the Social Hall on Sundays.

Be well,

David Templeton,

Glaser Center Artistic Director

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 17 March, 2011

Meeting Called to Order at 6:03 p.m. by Andrew Hidas

Members Present: Bob Barrows, Ann Chambers, Bonnie Daines (Co-Treasurer), Laura Jean Hageman (Co-Treasurer), Andrew Hidas (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Lois Nagle, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Craig Work

Members Not Present: John Farison, Phyllis Heagney

Non-members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Alan Proulx (Financial Stewardship Council rep)

Opening Words: Chris – Reading of “God is One” (“...you need not think alike to love alike...”) by Francis David

Minutes of 17 February 2010 were approved as submitted.

Open Mic: Alan Proulx, Financial Stewardship Council representative, initiated discussion regarding a motion of the 14 March 2011 FinStew meeting requesting that the BOT approve establishment of a second Ever Bank account which would be interest-bearing and consist of Special Funds excepting the Emergency Fund. Discussion ensued. Cathie Wiese moved and, after discussion but prior to a second, withdrew her motion instructing FinStew to create the account. Further discussion and questions centered upon a myriad of details, resulting in the item being tabled until the next BOT meeting.

Chris read a thank-you note from a couple who were visitors at a recent service in anticipation of moving to the Santa Rosa area. The note spoke well of the congregation’s welcoming manner.

Krasny Fundraiser Report: Andrew reported an estimate that the fundraiser netted approximately \$8,200. Discussion ensued on the unique “intellectual stimulation” that was remarked upon by many attendees, and that the “benefactor” concept was well-received by the congregation. BOT initiative in leading a major fundraiser each year was discussed. Andrew suggested that as congregational leaders, the Board should lend its weight to fundraising efforts whenever possible, given its centrality in ensuring the health of the congregation. Mary Louise suggested that greater attention to specific individual assignments is warranted for future fundraising events.

Annual Pledge Drive Update: Bob reported that 95 pledges, approximately one-half of the pledge units, totaling \$177K have been received. The neighborhood meetings have generally experienced less attendance than previously hoped. A 27 March meeting at the church after the Sunday service for those who didn’t attend the neighborhood meetings is planned but requires increased publicity.

Treasurer’s Report: The BOT passed a motion on 16 December 2010 directing that the Congregation open an account with Ever Bank for the mandated separate Emergency Fund. The motion included the list of authorized account signers and authorized Janis Brewster to obtain account information. However, the differentiation between moving funds and obtaining account information is inconsistent with the policies of Ever Bank. Mary Louise moved that the 16 December 2010 motion be rescinded and replaced with the corporate resolution to include, by name, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Co-Treasurers and Minister as authorized signers on the Emergency Fund

account. Motion seconded by Laura Jean. Motion passed unanimously (9-0) by show of hands.

Month-end January financials and a summary “Treasurer’s Report to the Board” were distributed. Highlights of the Summary Report presented by Laura Jean included (a) total fundraising through February is approximately \$9K less than the annual budgeted \$36K, (b) pledge income FY projections approximately \$5K below budget, (c) projected FY expenses approximately \$9K less than budgeted, (d) projected FY Saturday breakfast approximately \$3K in the red, (e) recent property tax appeal resulted in a \$2K reduction.

A “Summary of Expenses & Requests for 2011/12 Goal Budget” hand-out indicates that the 2011/12 Goal Budget is 13% greater than the 2010/11 budget. Existing expenses comprise a 4% increase, commitments (PCD dues, UUA dues, North Bay Sponsoring Committee dues and Future Expenses, e.g. sabbatical and building system replacement) is 64% greater than the current budget and Staff Compensation, Programs & Physical Infrastructure is 12% greater than this year’s budget.

Current focus of the 2011/12 Budget Task Force (BTF) has been goal budget expense refinement, transitioning to focus upon increasing revenue. Laura Jean requested input from the Board regarding how the BTF can assist in arriving at the 2011/12 budget. She suggested developing scenarios reflecting various funding/expense conditions to facilitate addressing priorities. Andrew made the issue an agenda item for the 21 April meeting. Bob expressed the goal of having the canvassing data complete no later than that meeting.

Craig revisited the lack of definition and lack of understanding of the new budgeting process amongst the BOT members as well as amongst congregation committee members. Bonnie clarified that the process is still in an evolutionary stage as the new governance system continues to be applied to specific budgeting activities and procedures. Relevant ACTION still in process from the 20 January meeting: Bonnie is chairing an ad hoc committee to document the budgeting process.

Goal Status Report - RE Task Force: Cathie reported that steady progress being achieved. Last meeting was 15 March.

Goal Status Report – New Member Contacts: Cathie reported successfully executing contacts. Mary Louise suggested that a feedback report from the BOT members would be appropriate.

Goal Status Report – New Bylaws Report: Cathie reported that substantial progress is being made. Draft version being developed.

Goal Status Report - Youth Group Interaction: Mary Louise reported that Deborah Mason intending to address the issue with the Youth Group members. Andrew and Mary Louise emphasized that the liaison position requires definition. Ann and Cathie reiterated that a role meaningful to the youth be delineated.

Goal Status Report – Board Transparency: Andrew commented that transparency efforts continuing, specifically activities being distributed via the FOCUS list and newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Graham, Recording Secretary

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May 2011

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Co-Treasurers: Bonnie Daines and Laura Jean Hageman
Treasurer@uusantarosa.org **Secretary:** Cathie Wiese
Board Members: **Recording Secretary**
Bob Barrows Terry Graham
Ann Chambers
John Farison
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Order of Service Announcements:
Send submissions to Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org
Editor: Janis Brewster
Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service
UU Update Newsletter:
Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail address
Editor: Janis Brewster
Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.
Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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Sexton: Phil Butterfield

Sunday Religious Education Staff
Jeremy Cummings
Aly Holloway

ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT

REGISTRATION FORM

July 15 - 17, 2011

The Retreat is open to UUCSR Members, Pledging Friends, and their Guests

Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Email Address			
Phone # (Day)		(Eve)	
EMERGENCY CONTACT		(Phn #)	
INSURANCE COMPANY			
Ins Policy #		Ins Co Phn #:	

ATTENDEES	
Name	Age (if under 18)

- 1) UUCSR Status (please circle one): Member / Pledging Friend / Guest*
*(*If Guest, please enter members' name: _____)*
- 2) Anticipated arrival time (3pm Friday at the earliest) _____
- 3) Please circle if you would prefer: Vegetarian Vegan Gluten-Free (**# of people** ____)

PHOTO RELEASE & CONSENT: I consent to photography of myself and every person listed on this form, documenting my/our participation in camp life; I authorize uncompensated use and reproduction of these photos and I release all rights & privileges, including financial and editorial, to said photos. If any photos are used, I understand that no names will be included. X _____

If agreed,
please sign
<<<<

Category	# of people	Price per person	Total
Adults (18 or older):		\$160	
Teenagers (12 - 17 yrs):		\$125	
Students (6 - 11 yrs):		\$95	
Children (3 - 5 yrs):		\$45	
Toddlers (0 - 2 yrs):		--	--
		Donation to Retreat Fund:	
Grand Total:			

Final payment due by 7/3/11 PAID: CK # _____ \$ _____

**** YOUR CHECK RESERVES YOUR SPACE! ****

REFUND POLICY: If notified by July 3, a full refund will be given
 If notified by July 8, a 50% refund will be given
 NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 8

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF: July 3

If you have any questions regarding mobility/accessibility, please contact the Camp Director: Dennis @ 321-5070

ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

**** SATURDAY JULY 16 - DAY USE ONLY ****

The Retreat is open to UUCSR Members, Pledging Friends, and their Guests

Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Email Address			
Phone # (Day)		(Eve)	
EMERGENCY CONTACT		(Phn #)	
Health Insurance Co. Name:			
Ins Policy #		Ins Co Phn #:	

A T T E N D E E S

- 1) UUCSR Status (please circle one): Member / Pledging Friend / Guest*
*(*If Guest, please enter members' name: _____)*
- 2) Please circle if you would prefer: Vegetarian Vegan Gluten-Free (# of people ____)
- 3) **SATURDAY HOURS:** 9:00 am - 11:30 pm (Includes Lunch & Dinner)
(Note: One cost covers any and all participation)

PHOTO RELEASE & CONSENT: I consent to photography of myself and every person listed on this form, documenting my/our participation in camp life; I authorize uncompensated use and reproduction of these photos and I release all rights & privileges, including financial and editorial, to said photos. If any photos are used, I understand that no names will be included. X _____

If agreed, please sign <<<<<

** DAY USE ONLY **

Category	# of people	Price per person	Total
Adults (18 or older):		\$50	
Teens (12-17):		\$40	
Students (6-11 yrs):		\$30	
Children (3/5 yrs):		\$10	
Toddlers (0-2 yrs):		--	
		<i>Donation to Retreat Fund:</i>	
Grand Total:			

Final payment due by 7/3/11 PAID: CK # _____ \$ _____

**** YOUR CHECK RESERVES YOUR SPACE! ****

REFUND POLICY: If notified by July 3, a full refund will be given
 If notified by July 8, a 50% refund will be given
 NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 8

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF: July 3

If you have any questions regarding mobility/accessibility, please contact the Camp Director: Dennis @ 321-5070