



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• October 2011 • Volume 55 • Issue 10 •

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

October 2

Bringing Liberal Religion to Life
The 4th Annual North Bay UU Revival

*Service Leaders: Rev. Peter Morales, and the
UU Congregations of the North Bay.
Music by the UUsual Suspects.*

ONE SERVICE ONLY! 10:30AM.

SPECIAL LOCATION!

Jackson Theater at the Sonoma Country Day School
4400 Day School Place

October 9

Freethinking Mystics with Hands

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller

"Free-thinking Mystics with Hands" is how Rev. Tom Owen Towle describes Unitarian Universalists in his book by the same title. Today we'll look most closely at the "with hands" part, as we honor the many volunteers who make religious community (indeed, all community) possible. We'll also welcome new members into our covenant.

October 16

Building Bridges

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome,
Carol Kraemer*

For the last several years UUCSR has had a Diversity Task Force to help us be the fully welcoming, anti-racist institution we are called to be. With racism seems insidious and intractable, it takes work to change our inner world and our community to reflect the ideals of equality and acceptance we espouse, but the effort can connect us more authentically with others, and ourselves. Come hear about this work of being allies and building bridges.

October 23

The Dream of the Diaspora

*Service Leaders: Rev. Zoltán Kopándi-Benczédi,
Claire Beery*

The expression Diaspora describes people of a common ethnicity who have moved away from their home community, and are currently living among foreigners. In the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, the term Diaspora is used for ethnic Hungarians of the Unitarian faith who are spread in areas where there is a vast Romanian majority, and where in many cases it is difficult to build autonomous, self-supporting church communities. In doing community building in the Diaspora, we must adopt the visionary attitude of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which starts with "I have a dream."

The Rev. Zoltán Kopándi-Benczédi is the 2011-2012 Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry, and is minister to congregations in Lupény-Vulkán, Déva and Vajdahunyad, Transylvania.

October 30

Life is the Greatest Gift of All

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman,
Sam Miller*

With Halloween just around the corner, we'll celebrate a far better gift than candy - the gift of life. We'll hear some heroic stories, and also honor departed loved ones in an observance of Dia de los Muertos.



CoonClips.com

Too Much To Do?



My head is spinning! There are so many good and exciting things happening around the congregation these days. Sometimes it can actually be a little overwhelming, so I am first going to use my space herein this month to lift up just a few events for your consideration, in the hopes that you might use one of our many activities as an entry into a deeper connection with the Great Big Thing, your fellow humans, or just yourself. After that, though, comes a warning.

October 2nd, 10:30am: As I write, the 4th Annual North Bay UU Revival is still around the corner, but given bulk mail delivery times and a beleaguered Postal Service, by the time many of you actually read this, it will probably be over. I'd love to hear your feedback!

October 15th, 10:00am: UUCAN House Meetings at the Church of the Incarnation. UUCAN, the "UU Conversation and Action Network", is our team of leaders that interfaces with the other congregations of the North Bay Sponsoring Committee, our badly named interfaith community organization. ALL VOLUNTEERS WITH THE SATURDAY BREAKFAST are particularly encouraged to attend this event, as we will be talking about the direct services and ministries that are needed by the underprivileged and underserved here in downtown, and how we might cooperate to address those needs. We'll also get to know our very nice and interesting Episcopal neighbors better. The event will be held in Farlander Hall across the street.

October 16th, 12:30pm: Congregational Meeting. We need you there! Come learn what the Board's goals for our institution are and offer your feedback. We'll also check on our finances, honor some extraordinary volunteers, and I'll take any and every question from the floor.

October 22nd, 5:00pm: The Service Auction. Look for details elsewhere in this issue. Please do come! If you are wealthy, you are warmly invited to indulge your wildest spending urges on this day, particularly if you would like to pick a sermon topic...

October 23rd, 2:00pm: Bay Area Industrial Areas Foundation Economic Conference. The IAF is the umbrella organization under which the North Bay Sponsoring Committee and UUCAN do our work. Nationally recognized experts on the economy will help us understand our situation and what we can do about it. This event will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. More details are also enclosed later in these pages.

Of course, in addition to these offerings there are many other ways to connect, such as volunteering with the Saturday Breakfast or Family Fun Night, attending religious education classes or meditation sessions, visiting fellow members who are ill or who are trapped at home, and

many more. If you don't see an activity that speaks to your soul, maybe it's time to start something yourself!

But let us also remember that being busy is not automatically the same thing as being wise, helpful or healed.

I received an email from a member of the congregation recently who is a leader on several committees. She lamented that the work of the congregation had become so demanding that she was actually feeling inclined to skip worship in order to buy back a little time from UUCSR for the rest of her life.

I understand, but I shudder at the thought. Of all the things one might skip in one's life in order to be well, I would hope worship would be last. Like you, I use the 112 or so other waking hours in a week getting work done, taking care of my family and myself, being a good citizen and fighting for my various causes. If I didn't have worship to ground me, I would be lost. It is my prayer that Sunday mornings support you like that. I want worship to be a thing that gives life and energy, that heals, that inspires hope and courage, that gives both rest and the strength to go on through the rest of those hours. If that isn't the case, we need to change our services!

It's also the case that if "church work" has so taken over that our inner work of seeking truth and meaning and wholeness is compromised, than we are missing the point. We know that we have to be the change we want to see, the peace we want to see, the simplicity and nobility we want to see. Running around like a chicken with its head cut off doesn't really demonstrate that very well.

So I ask, yet again, that we not conduct congregational business with one another on Sundays unless it absolutely necessary, and then never until AFTER the service.

Rev. Chris, are you listening to this, too? You are the worst of the lot!

I also must remember that if we're not celebrating life, empowering people, caring for one another, or helping to build a better world, than it's very likely we've gone astray from the real purpose and real heart of this community.

I believe letting our Mission guide us brings us happiness and strength, and, boy, does the world ever need happiness and strength right now. It needs people who can demonstrate commitment to noble causes. It needs people who will be guided by love instead of fear. It needs people who will not demonize the other, who embrace complexity and compromise, who have faith in the Earth and humanity. It needs freethinking mystics with hands. It needs you.

As do I. So I'll see you on Sunday. Just don't bring any work!

Greetings from the Board

The Board held its annual retreat during two days of the Labor Day weekend. As expected, our minister, Chris Bell, led an inspirational and productive retreat that gave Board members a chance to get to know one another more deeply and to share their visions for the future of UUCSR.

An exciting accomplishment of the retreat was the formation of several goal-groups, namely, groups defining goals for UUCSR Infrastructure, Community Development, and Spiritual Life. Individual Board members joined the group that most closely reflected their interests and passions and then helped that group define short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. The goals of these groups will be presented at the October

Congregational Meeting after the 11 am Service on Sunday, October 16. You won't want to miss this - our enthusiasm is contagious!

At its September meeting, the Board voted to recommend allocation of the "surplus" (the amount that our 2010/2011 income exceeded expenses due to several unanticipated "windfalls") to paying our full PCD, UUA and NBSC dues, and to increasing the compensation of our outstanding Minister and support staff. The resulting revisions to the FY 2011/2012 budget will be presented and voted upon at the October Congregational Meeting.

Laura Jean Hageman
President

Treasurer's Report

Good News and Other News (maybe not so good)

OK, I'll start with the good news. The Congregation wound up in the BLACK for Fiscal 2010-2011 (sort of). Our Profit and Loss Balance Sheet as of the end of June has a plus balance of approximately \$26,000. While this is not ALL gravy (some of the funds need to be held in reserve), it was sufficient for the Financial Review Team to recommend that the Financial Stewards recommend to the Board that they could increase this year's budget by \$15,000, thereby addressing some of the critical underfunded items in the Balanced Budget that was voted on at the June Congregational Meeting. The updated budget will be presented for your approval at the October Meeting.

In addition to recommending the amount to be applied to increases this year, the Financial Stewardship Council also provided their recommendations on where the increase should be applied. The BOT will take it up in late August or at their September meeting.

Now for the "other news" . Under our Council System there are six committees or task forces involved in our financial management. In addition to the Stewardship Council are the following:

Canvass Committee (6-7 members) responsible for our annual pledge drive.

Budget Task Force (5 members) who gather the information and put together our annual budget.

Financial Review Team (5 members) who on a monthly and quarterly basis keep an eye on how we are doing (actual vs budget).

Fundraising Task Force - a joint BOT-FINSTEW group to recruit individuals who will accept responsibility for one or two fundraisers (\$10,000 in all) over the next couple of years.

Endowment Committee (5-6 members) responsible for the care and feeding of our Endowment Fund.

As is obvious from this listing it takes a whole lot of members to keep the UUCSR on an even-keel financially. Some (all?) of these groups could use some additional support - support from members who know which end of the pencil the eraser is on! So if one of the financial gurus asks you to help out by joining one of these groups, please recognize that we are asking you because we believe your individual capabilities would be most useful to your community. To paraphrase Nancy Reagan - Just Say YES.

Art Rosenblum

Annual UUCSR Auction Extravaganza

SATURDAY, October 22nd, 2011

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

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR's biggest social event of the 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 dis-

play in the Social Hall for donation forms and a list of many ideas. 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 while music sets the mood. Childcare 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 keep you laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocketbook for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!).



Congregational Vote on Ordination

At the next congregational meeting, you will be voting on whether to ordain me, Jamie McReynolds, as a Unitarian Universalist minister. In keeping with our UU tradition of congregational polity, only the congregation has the authority to ordain ministers. I "grew up" in *this* congregation, working with many of you to help this religious community grow and thrive. In turn, you provided support and encouragement during my journey into ministry, and I am hopeful that you will vote to ordain me into the UU ministry next year, on Sunday, October 28, 2012.

When I started attending the UU Fellowship of Sonoma County in 1995, I quickly realized that I had found my spiritual home. Little did I know that ten years later my spiritual journey would lead

me to seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. My leadership roles at the UU Fellowship of Sonoma County and later the UU Congregation, Santa Rosa, eventually led to my decision to leave my career in finance and pursue UU ministry. Serving on the 1998 ministerial search committee, as president of the Board of Trustees, and as worship associate deepened my commitment to serve our UU movement. I moved to the Berkeley area in 2006, and graduated from seminary in 2009. For the past two years, I have worked full-time as a hospice chaplain. As an ordained community minister, I plan to continue providing spiritual care as a hospice or hospital chaplain, helping people come to terms with life transitions.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Raising children in the Unitarian Universalist faith poses its own special challenges and rewards. More traditional religions provide parents with a concrete road map for parenting children in the context of their creed and dogma. Bedtime prayers, saying grace and reading scripture based stories are a few ways that their religion is brought into the home. Because of the diversity of belief among Unitarian Universalists, parents have been left on their own to create a home life that exemplifies 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 the dinner table on Thanksgiving, and putting money in the Guest at Your Table box each day during the Christmas season we had no specific way of practicing our religion in the home. The religious education my children learned from me was implicit rather than explicit. They saw me work for social justice (and accompanied me to demonstrations from time to time), I taught them about how to settle disputes with respect and kindness, I took them into the voting booth with me 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 perfectly fine ways of modeling our UU Principles, but at the time I wished for a more concrete way to make the link between how I practiced my faith and the value of being a Unitarian Universalist.

Parents are the spiritual guides for their children. But just as we received no owners manual when they were born to us, we UUs were not given a spiritual guidebook when we brought our children into this religion. Well, I am here to help you out a bit with this! Beginning Tuesday, October 11 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.

Here is the class schedule which will give a glimpse what the sessions will be about.

The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting.
Second and Fourth Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30pm
Cost: \$15.00 to cover purchase of the book
Childcare will be provided

Oct. 11 Providing a Foundation - Exploring faith, putting beliefs into words & practicing what we preach
Oct. 25 The Search for Truth and Meaning: the challenges and gifts of a religion with no pat answers to the tough questions
Nov. 8 Spiritual Practices: for parents, for children & youth and for families
Nov 22 Family Rituals: creating your own family traditions
Dec 6 Celebrating Holidays: in a way that expresses your values and faith
Dec 20 Respite From the Winter Holiday Rush: Finding personal meaning in the season
Jan 10 Inherent Worth and Dignity: living and teaching the UU First Principle
Jan 24 Spiritual Growth in Our Congregations: working toward an multigenerational community

There will be a sign-up sheet at the RE table in the foyer on Sunday mornings. Please share this with parents you know who might be interested.

In Faith,
Deborah

Class Schedule cont. on page 6

Religious Education for Children and Youth Cont.

Cont. from page 5

What's Happening in Religious Education this month:

Grades K-2 Wisdom Stories:

10/02/11	UU Revival Program for K-2 Children	Deborah Mason	Marlene Abel
10/09/11	<u><i>Stellaluna</i></u> by Janell Cannon	Jennifer Freese	Millie Tripp
10/16/11	<u><i>The Sissy Duckling</i></u> by Harvey Fierstein	Susan Dickey	Millie Tripp
10/23/11	<u><i>Whoever You Are</i></u> by Mem Fox	Millie Tripp	Susan Dickey
10/30/11	Justice Sunday	TBA	

Grades 3-5 Bibledeon

10/02/10	North Bay Revival Program for 3-5 Children	<i>Deborah Mason</i>	<i>Linda Haumann</i>
10/09/10	<u><i>Cain and Abel</i></u> - Theme: Good and bad	Linda Farison	TBA
10/16/10	<u><i>Noah</i></u> - Themes: Truth; Punishment	Kendra Light-Rossing	Linda Farison
10/23/10	<u><i>Abraham</i></u> - Theme: Faith	Mindy Graham	Elizabeth Wheless
10/30/10	Justice Sunday - all ages together	TBA	

Grades 6-8 Neighboring Faiths

The Neighboring Faiths schedule is in process. The class will be studying the following religions: Unitarian Universalism, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Earth Based Religion, and Russian Orthodox. Dates of visits to religious services are being determined. A complete schedule will be available soon. Classes will meet according to the same schedule as the rest of the RE classes.

YRUU Youth Group Grades 9-12 meets every Thursday from 4 to 6pm

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

Volume 55 , Issue 10

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

Page 6

10 a.m.—October 25, 2011

Roy Zimmerman Might Just Save the World

A blatant attempt to encourage you to come see the world's funniest singer-songwriter

"I've never heard of him."

At one point or another, this has been said about all famous people, from Jesus to Einstein to Bob Dylan to dare I say it? . . . Christopher Bell. Often, in choosing which books to see or CDs to buy or concerts to attend or sermons to show up for on Sunday morning, we employ that least effective of all mechanisms: name recognition.

If we've heard of them, they must be good. If we haven't, why bother?

Well let me introduce you to Roy Zimmerman, appearing in our Sanctuary on Saturday, October 8 (yes, that's the right date; an earlier notice was tragically incorrect), at 7:30 p.m.

If talent and entertainment value were enough to fill our Sanctuary, then the place will be packed, because Roy Zimmerman is very simply the funniest singer-songwriter I've ever seen perform live. His brand of writing is literate, wry, ironic, political, satirical, bold, brave, and relentlessly hilarious. He has been compared favorably to Tom Lehrer (Be Prepared; Vatican Rag; Poisoning Pigeons in the Park), the artist whose work he most closely resembles, and may I point out that one of the people who makes that comparison is Tom Lehrer himself.

"I congratulate Roy Zimmerman on reintroducing literacy to comedy songs," Tom Lehrer wrote recently. "And his rhymes actually rhyme. They don't just 'rhyme.'"

Over the course of a dozen albums, Zimmerman has carved out a reputation on one of our cleverest, sometimes absurdly inappropriate lyrics ("Don't let em' hand you that old jive/About survival of the fittest/That notion don't pass the bull**** test/'Cause look at me, I'm still alive!),"

with songs bearing titles like, 'Buddy, Can You Spare a Trillion Dollars?' 'Abstain With Me,' 'Let's All Go After the Buddhists,' and 'Creation Science 101.' That last one, by the way, has been heard well over a million times on Youtube, and if you'd like to catch a sneak-peek of Roy Zimmerman in action, just search his name on YouTube, and you can see why he's become such a spectacular phenomenon. Because, not only is he funny, with a strong satirical sense of silliness, he's an outstanding writer.

Joni Mitchell, a pretty good lyricist herself, has said, "Roy's lyrics move beyond poetry and achieve perfection.'

So do plan to join us on Saturday, October 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Make it an event. Organize carpools and field trips. Tell your friends. Tell your friends to tell their friends. Post links to youtube on your Facebook page. Tickets are a flat \$15, and are available in the church office, at the Last Record Store, and on line at brownpapertickets.com (search for Glaser Center).

We are fortunate to have Roy Zimmerman here with us this month.

Let's make this event a spectacular success! See you here for an evening of enlightened entertainment of the satirical kind! Who knows, you may just be about to meet your new favorite singer!

David Templeton



UUCSR Bylaws Task Force in Full Swing

Last year one of the goals set by your Board of Trustees was to establish a task force to review and revise the UUCSR Bylaws. Why would we want to undertake this rather daunting task? Well...we as a congregation have evolved a bit since the last review and revision took place in 2004! We are now firmly established as a growing downtown congregation, and, as such, our governing structures have grown, shifted, and taken different formats to accommodate our needs. Our current practices are not always consistent with our current Bylaw in in prescribed timelines and other procedures. Our revised Bylaws should provide the infrastructure needed to sustain a growing congregation with eyes toward the future.

With this in mind, the Bylaws Task Force (Craig Work, Ellen Skagerberg, Mary Louise Jaffray, Carol Kraemer, and Cathie Wiese) had their first meeting in November of this year to begin our journey. At that meeting it was agreed that our goal is to create Bylaws which represent a structure under which specific procedures can be implemented, amended or changed as necessary to meet the needs

of the congregation. We have spent the last several months carefully reviewing the current bylaws, determining what needs to be revised or rewritten to meet our goal, consulting with persons who have expertise or experience in the various areas addressed in the Bylaws, and reporting our progress to the Board of Trustees.

As of this month, we are almost finished with the careful review we have been undertaking. Suggested revisions have been noted, and we plan to share our progress at the Congregational Meeting in October. When a rough draft is finally completed, it will be submitted for review and revisions to the Board of Trustees and other committees. There will be ample time for congregational review and input before we finally are ready to submit a document for approval by the congregation. We do hope to have a rough draft finished by February, 2012, to present.

Meanwhile, plan to come to the October Congregational Meeting on the 16th after the 11:00 service to hear more.

Hot Topics

Hot Topics - Restorative Resources

What are *Restorative Resources*? On Sunday, October 9th, from 12:30 to 2pm Susan Kinder, Executive Director, will talk with us about this program which offers alternatives to prison within the justice system, and conflict resolution training in schools and the community. Their vision statement could have come from our writings, in response to our Principles.

"Our Vision: We are working to bring about a world where our justice systems heal, our schools transform behavior challenges into emotional growth for our children, and our communities come together with compassion and creativity to overcome the challenges we face."

So much good work being done - it is hopeful. Come and learn more!

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

A4SJ to benefit New Orleans Rebuilding Efforts

On October 16th, before the Congregation Meeting, the Advocates for Social Justice will be selling a bag lunch. The proceeds will go to help the continuing rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done there. We need your help. If you can provide some (especially needed) sandwiches, cookies, beverages,

or fruit, please sign up on the signup sheets at the Advocates Table on 9/25 or no later than 10/9, or you may call Mary Louise at 538-4668. Thanks in advance for your assistance as well as making as generous a donation as possible when purchasing your lunch.

The 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*

Vilma Ginsberg, Healdsburg Literary Laureate 2008/2009
Hosts Healdsburg Literary Guild's monthly Third Sunday Salon.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Presentations and Feedback:

Monday, October 3, from 4 - 6 pm. Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress". Meet in the Green Room at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa 707-568-5381. Info: *Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com.*

Granny Vee, Poet - Margo van Veen. French Teacher, Translator, Environmentalist, Political Activist, Satirist. First Prize in nationwide Alliance Francaise contest, Winner of and SRJC Literary Award.

Open Mike - Poetry Readings

Tom J. Mariani, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate 2010-2012, Our Poetry Moderator.

UUCSR Writers Forum: Saturday, Oct 8, 10-4 pm
Writers, Poets, Panels and Special Workshops are being confirmed.

Please check out newly renovated uucsrwriters.blogspot for details and additional information.

Confirmed Forum Presenters include:

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 Screen Writer and the Need of the Craftsperson to find his/her audience.

Catharine Bramkamp - "The Sound and Fury - tensely texting and talking about Twitter"

With all the talk of twitter, texting - micro blogs, blogs, web sites, pod casts, it's a wonder writers don't weep. Language has always evolved, but aided by an explosion of technology, the evolution is now fast and furious. What does this mean for the creators of stories and the writers of words? Come join the evolution.

Bill Brewster - "Poetry applied to music lyrics. Words are your craft."

Discussion, Music and Writing Workshop.

Steve Boga, well known for his Memoir classes
Adjunct faculty at the Santa Rosa Junior College.

Any questions about the exciting afternoon devoted to poetry are to be directed to Tom at mari-anis@sonic.net.

Bookstore - Speakers' and Panelists' Books will be for sale. Meet the authors, get your book signed.

Thursday's at the "Haven Coffee House"

Every Thursday morning, 10 am - 12 noon

Located in one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County, the Video Droid on 1901 Mendocino Avenue in the Santa Rosa JC area. It's 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



FALL & WINTER HAPPENINGS

Live From the Starving Ear
Roy Zimmerman
 In Concert
 Saturday, October 8

What's so funny about ignorance, poverty, bigotry, homophobia, fear, greed, war and people who think science is a liberal conspiracy?

"Roy's lyrics move beyond poetry and achieve perfection," says songwriting superstar Joni Mitchell.

And Tom Lehrer says, "I congratulate Roy Zimmerman on reintroducing literacy to comedy songs. And his rhymes actually rhyme. They don't just 'rhyme.'"



Actor's Basement
 Dance Journey's
 5th Annual
Halloween Hafla
 Sat., October 30

National Storytelling
 Network
Tellebration!
 Sat., November 19



Actors Basement
Act M:
 At the Palace
 Tomorrow and
 Tomorrow and
 Tomorrow
 Only!
 A Vaudeville Macbeth
 October 28 & 29
 November 4 & 5

Actors Basement
 William Shakespeare's
Twelfth Night
 December 16 & 17



Holiday Music
SR Symphonic Chorus
 Sunday, November 6

New Horizons Band
 Saturday, December 3

Sonoma County Chamber Singers
 Saturday, December 3

Healdsburg Chorus
 Sunday, December 4

Occidental Community Chorus
 Sunday, December 11

Redwood Arts Council
Kronos Quartet
 Friday, December 2



David Templeton's
Twisted Christmas
 Sat., December 10



Circle Dinner Groups for Fall 2011

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. Also you 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, for some reason, you are not contacted by the folks at the top of the "circle" group or another problem arises, please contact Cathie Wiese at 829-3634 or cathie@sonic.net or Shirley Williams at 537-9790 as we have volunteered

to be the Grand Masters and Concierges of this fine organization. We can fix it...or at least try to!

****If you cannot make a dinner, have to cancel, or (as the host) need 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!

Ann Chambers	823-6902	Kitty and Brian Wells	953-0620
Judy Schwalbin	523-4470	JoAnn Robson	823-5122
Bob and Phyllis Clement	823-0925	Phyllis Metalis	481-4689
Donna Judah	542-2457	Gretchen Paradis	763-1910
Lee Kitchens	293-5562	Nathan and Susan Miron	833-4689
Carolyn McLeese & Charles Rettke	875-3542	Bev Helfer-Grand	595-1398
Irene Martin	544-3198	Brenda Wells	217-2501
Betty and Sid Gordon	545-0560	Leonard and Lynn Reipenhoff	525-8424
Pat Warner	539-4572	Mindy and Terry Graham	850-240-7160
Freda Tomlin	576-6611	Jolie Andritzakis	837-0937
Kendra & Ryan Rossing	695-3994/776-7440	Carol Weisker	776-4856
Shayna & Joel Billings	526-0504	Alan and Linda Proulx	538-7446
Cristin Talley	408-585-8907	Dick and Antonia Rodrigues	836-0757
Paul and Megan Marking	508-5479	Gretchen and Gene Vap	568-3290
Judy Withee and Steve Sweaney	538-3404	Jim and Mary Wolfe	544-3134
Michelle La Voie and Terry Eggleston	538-2838	Wayne Church	775-379-6430
Susan and Calvin Simons	527-7191	Cathie Wiese and Robert Lunceford	829-3634
Phyllis Fitzgerald	494-8985	Julie and Bob Malm	539-5897
Gail Alford	843-4466	Marianne Sontag	573-8463
Brian and Nancy Hargis	571-1987/571-7846	Micheline Justman	569-2073
Cathy Williams	579-0139	Bonnie Daines and Bob Boone	537-7247
Marge Wright	887-7752	Nancy Fitzpatrick	539-7753
Skipper and John Taylor	521-0141	Dorothea Proctor	546-2913
Robin and Elizabeth Marrs	528-6939	Stacy Sincheff	528-6603
Bruce and Judy Taylor	794-9743	Genevieve and Joey Delk	605-407-4230
Cassandra Lista	584-4293	Maureen Rumford & Art Rosenblum	539-5104
Mark Meierding and Linda Lampson	585-1206		
Debbie and David Hope	536-9390		
Roger and Luida DeBeers	816-2659		
Dewitt and Geni Barker	526-6087		

Substitute List on Page 12

Circle Dinner Groups Substitute List for Fall 2011

Substitute List

Chris Bell and Rita Butterfield	849-8770
Laura Jean Hageman and Tom Bond	539-3694
Joan and Dick Thatcher	544-9130
Jewell and Don Ford	595-3575
Karen Lillard	575-1255
Mary Lil Lee	833-2358
Linda Harlow	526-3528
Mary Louise and John Jaffray	538-4668
Phil and Jenny Harriman	206-0488

Women In Black—Every Friday at 11:30a.m.

This movement began in 1988 in Israel. Jewish women who opposed their own government's violence against Palestinians began standing on Fridays in public squares; some Palestinian women joined them. Later, the movement expanded to other countries. Women in Black was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. In California, alone, 25 cities and towns are listed on the groups website. We are joined by men in sympathy—who are committed for peace with justice. The world is in need of a strong witness for peace! We are not an organization, but a movement. We gather weekly at

noon at the corner of College and Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa. There are about ten of us who meet weekly; some Quakers, some UU's and some who knows what. We're only one block from the UU building and we are inviting anyone to join us. In Sebastopol, they meet at Bodega and Main Street and in Guerneville at the Downtown Square — all Friday from noon until 1:00p.m. WE dress in black and carry a lot of signs that advocate for peace — several in Spanish for Latino brothers and sisters.

submitted by Bev Ludwig

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket

On Sunday, October 9th one half the collection will be given to the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee**. As many of you know, every year on the week-end honoring the only American besides a president whose birthday is a national holiday, there are community-wide activities featuring our young people, music, and the opportunity to spend time volunteering in one of the many worthy agencies in our community. We want UUCSR to be a recognized presence in this important multi-cultural event! When the basket comes your way, please be as generous as you can!

On Sunday, October 23rd one half the collection will

again go to support our **Saturday Breakfast** program. Mornings are darker and colder these days and a hot, tasty, breakfast in a welcoming setting makes a difference to nearly 200 people, including infants and children, each week. Our Congregation has been extraordinarily generous in its support as we complete our sixth year! Let's keep up the momentum as winter approaches.

FYI - October 11th marks the Centennial of the date that the all male California legislature granted women the right to vote. This was the culmination of years of diligent and powerful political organizing non-violent social action!

From the Committee on Shared Ministry

"Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing." -Rollo May

"The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them." -Ralph Nichols

Speaking from the heart and listening from the heart takes practice, patience, openness to learning, and willingness to tolerate mistakes and missteps by ourselves and others. Because we come together in community as imperfect human beings (thank goodness!), it is inevitable that in the course of congregational life people will occasionally come into conflict with one another. Sometimes we cause or are the recipient of unintentional injury or offense by a careless word or thoughtless deed. When these kinds of difficult interactions occur people can end up feeling disregarded, disrespected, and hurt. While it can be immensely difficult and sometimes scary to try to address these situations directly, it can also be very healing and constructive. The organization "Learning Peace" offers some simple guidelines for resolving interpersonal conflict:

1. Cool off.
2. Talk it over starting from "I," not "you."

3. Listen and paraphrase what you heard.
4. Take responsibility for your role in the conflict.
5. Come up with a solution that's fair to each of you.
6. Affirm, forgive, thank, or apologize.

It can be challenging to assume good will on the part of others when we have been hurt in the past, but it can also be freeing, and can help give us the courage to lovingly and respectfully speak our truth.

At times the presence of another caring person or persons to walk beside us, facilitate discussion, and lend perspective and ideas can be immensely helpful when trying to resolve a conflict or misunderstanding. This is support that your Committee on Shared Ministry stands ready to provide should the need arise. The current members of the Committee on Shared Ministry are myself, Rev. Chris Bell, John Chenoweth, Nancy Hargis, Mary Lill Lee, Andy Levine, and Mary Wagner.

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have a concern, are facing a challenge, or simply want to talk about something affecting you as a member of our UUCSR community.

Cathy Read, Committee on Shared Ministry

Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11 a.m. Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders.

Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged!

Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room,
located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.

October 16

November 20

What are NBSC and UUCAN?

NBSC is the North Bay Sponsoring Committee to which the Unitarian Universalists, Santa Rosa is a supporting member. The UU, Santa Rosa branch of the NBSC is UUCAN, the Unitarian Universalist Conversation and Action Network. The NBSC is a collective group of non-profit organizations of which we UUC,SR is a part.

The NBSC and UUCAN are a community-organizing group. We function under the leadership of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), which was founded by Saul Alinsky. The IAF is a national umbrella organization, which helps to guide thru training and coordinating the offshoot groups that are formed and are forming

The NBSC/UUCAN work is based on developing relationships with community leaders so that we have a foundation of relational power. This is a slow process, but effective nonetheless.

Currently the areas in which we have been working are Jobs, Mental Health, Education and Police and Community Relations. The Police and Community Relations segment has encompassed the immigration issue of car impoundment and deportation.

Those of you who follow local news are probably aware of the changes that are occurring in the car impoundment practice. Those changes have taken time and they are small, but they are a step in the process of building a relationship for making change happen.

If you are interested in community organizing, or just curious, we invite you to attend the Northern California Community Economic Conference titled, *Reclaiming Our Citizenship: Taking Responsibility for the Common Good.*

The conference takes place on Sunday, October 23, 2011 from 1:30 to 6 pm at Saint Mary's Cathedral on 1111 Gough Street in San Francisco. (Just up the street from the UU Society (Church) in SF.) We will be carpooling or chartering a bus, and we will be departing the UUC after the 11 am service.

Among the participating northern California IAF community organizing groups will be the Marin Organizing Committee (MOC), the North Bay Sponsoring Committee (NBSC), Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) and organizing committees from San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Napa.

We will have the opportunity to meet and network with other community organizers and find out what they are doing with the aforementioned areas of concern. We will hear guest speakers such as Steve Levy with the Center for the Continued Study of the California Economy, Dr. Dowell Myers, author of *Immigrants and Boomers*, Joe Matthews, co-author of *California Crack-up: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*, and Ernesto Cortes, Jr., national co-director of the IAF.

If you are interested in attending please let one of our UUCAN Core Team members know. They are: Chris Bell <christopherthomasbell@earthlink.net>, Ginny Benson <vbensonv@aol.com>, Phyllis Clement <pvclement@aol.com>, Sibyl Day <sibylday@comcast.net>, Linda Harlow <lmh1937@sbcglobal.net>, Mary Louise Jaffray <mljaffray@earthlink.net>, Dorris Lee <dorrislee1@gmail.com>, Cassandra Lista <clista@sonic.net>, Deborah Mason <debmasonuu@yahoo.com>, Mark Sowers <MarkESowers@hotmail.com>, Linda Stabler <llstabler@comcast.net>, J.D. Thompson <jdthomp33@yahoo.com>

Also, we will try to have a sign up sheet either at a separate UUCAN table or at the Advocates table.

I hope that you will join us!

Cassandra Lista, current revolving Chair of UUCAN-Core Team

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 25, August 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Board President Laura Jean Hageman

Members Present: Jeanie Bates, Ann Chambers, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Lois Nagle, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Peter Wilson, Craig Work

Members Not Present: None

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer)

Opening Words: Chris – Reading “The Thrill of Being Upright” from Paul Kismeth’s How We Are Called

Agenda Review: Deleted items (1) Salary Recommendations and (2) Distribution of Board Binders

Minutes: Minutes approved as amended: (1) “Alan” spelt with one “l” and (2) next meeting 25 Aug 2011

Open Mic: None

Orientation of Board Members: Handouts and discussion regarding the role and expectations of BOT Trustees, relevant by-laws, the previous Board’s goals and a sample covenant of the 2008/09 BOT

Treasurer’s Report: Art relayed FinStew’s recommendation that \$15K of the FY 2010/11 surplus be allocated to underfunded items of the FY 2011/12 budget. Recommendations addressed \$10,683 of that recommended \$15K; specifically, (1) \$1,300 staff benefit, (2) \$8,100 dues, (3) \$610 TIE training and (4) staff compensation \$673. Laura Jean noted that due to the Board’s 25 Aug 2011 staff benefits decision, the \$1,300 cost estimate is more accurately approximately \$2,100.

Process Definition for Allocating FY 2010/11 Surplus to FY 2011/12 Budget: Laura Jean completed Action Items from the 25 Aug 2011 meeting in distributing (a) a timeline of the budgeting process, Oct-May and (b) the results of a straw poll exercise of the Board indicating that the previous Board’s priority ranking of funding unfunded and/or underfunded items were, in order, (1) staff compensation, (2) dues and (3) building obsolescent reserves. Laura Jean distributed a form, “Process for Allocating Surplus” including a listing of recognized underfunded items: dues, sabbatical reserves, staff compensation, computers and building maintenance & replacement reserves. ACTION: BOT members to submit to Laura Jean NLT 10 Sep, a prioritization & a recommended allocation of the nominal \$15K surplus.

Mary Louise suggested that since the \$15K surplus is one-time occurrence, that it shouldn’t be applied to recurring/operational expenses.

By-Laws Committee Report: Mary Louise reported that two meetings had occurred in September and that the committee was having some difficulties resolving open issues. Cathie added that the by-laws would not be ready for presentation at the October congregational meeting. Peter shared that there existed a sense amongst some within the congregation that there exists a lack of transparency of the by-law revision process. John suggested that a bulletized list of issues be made available. ACTION: Cathie accepted the action to submit an article in the October newsletter addressing the roles, goals, procedures, modification process and reasons for changing the by-laws.

Initial Planning for October Congregational Meeting: Items to be addressed include the budget revision, by-laws revision and volunteer recognition. ACTION: Cathie accepted the action to provide a list of recently recognized individuals.

Board Retreat: Laura Jean distributed the list of the short (≤ 1 -year), medium (> 1 -year & ≤ 5 -years) and long (> 5 -years) term goals established by the previous Board a year ago. She noted that the Board was quite successful at accomplishing the short term goals.

Food logistics and the Friday-Saturday start-stop times were established.

Chris and members provided a goals & topics overview of the meeting, listing spiritual reflection, state of the congregation and goals, membership life cycle process, Council governance, limits to growth, Islamic lease income risks and opportunities, and camaraderie. ACTION: Alan accepted the action to provide a summary of the Council formation history.

Minister’s Report: Chris distributed the 19 May – 25 August Minister’s Board Report. He also reminded the Board of the 4th Annual 2 Oct “Revival” which is well into specific planning.

Closing Words: Laura Jean closed with a reading from Robert Allen addressing community its relationship to providing a deeper sense of meaning and purpose.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Graham



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October 2011

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Mailing Address: 547Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381

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Board of Trustees

President: Laura Jean Hageman,
President@uusantarosa.org

Vice President: Mary Louise Jaffray,
Vice President@uusantarosa.org

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Alan Proulx	

Recording Secretary
Terry Graham

Order of Service Announcements:

Send submissions to Announcements@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.

Staff

Minister Rev. Chris Bell, Ext. 108, Minister@uusantarosa.org
Director, Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 131 DLRE@uusantarosa.org
Administrator: Janis Brewster, Ext. 106, Administrator@uusantarosa.org
Music Director: Nancy Hayashibara, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org
Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, x103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org
Sexton: Phil Butterfield

Sunday Religious

Education Staff
Nicole Arieta
Corrine Tom