



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• January 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 1 •

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

### January 1

#### **ANNUAL NEW YEAR MILESTONES SERVICE 10:00am (only one service)**

*Service Leaders: The Worship Associates*

A service of many voices, reflecting on the triumphs and tragedies of 2011, in our own lives and the lives of the larger world. One service only, at 10:00am!

### January 8

#### **Bending the Arc of the Universe Back to two services at 9:15 and 11:00!**

*Service Leaders: Rita Butterfield, Susan Bartholome*

In 1853, the great Unitarian minister and abolitionist Theodore Parker said, "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways... [but] from what I see, I am sure it bends toward justice." The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee helps to bend the arc of justice all over the world by partnering with organizations that are serving their communities to secure human rights, civil liberties, economic justice, and environmental justice. Come, be inspired to get involved with the UUSC and move us ever closer to the world that Rev. Parker envisioned.

### January 15

#### **On Humanism**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman  
The Choir sings at 9:15.*

For many, Humanism in both its religious and secular varieties offers a non-theistic way to understand the world and find meaning in life. Today we'll consider the postulates of Humanism and affirm their place in our faith. I'll also contrast humanism with what has come to be known as "the new atheism."

### January 22

#### **Intimate Relationships**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn*

A look at the relationship between intimacy and awakening, and consider how to be an adult in relationships with the help of David Richo.

### January 29

#### **The Spiritual Lives of Children**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Claire Beery  
The Choir sings at 11:00.*

With the help of Robert Coles, we examine the spiritual needs of children, and the unique spiritual wisdom that they offer those around them.

### February 5

#### **Outcasts**

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer,  
The Youth Group*

It has been said, from the Prophets onward, that those on the margins - the rejected, broken, poor and lonely - have a special relationship to the Divine. But being on the outside really stinks! Today we'll consider how to make EVERYONE belong with the help of our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists.



Babies, babies, babies! Oh, yes, the place is fairly brimming with squealing infants these days, and I for one am completely overjoyed. Who couldn't notice the sounds of all the young ones bouncing on their parent's laps at the Solstice Service and on Christmas Eve? I am already looking forward to the day when the first 20 minutes of the 11:00 service is just filled with toddlers making noise and causing trouble. Maybe we can get David Templeton to take up puppetry again to help us teach them their lessons...

I see the slings and backpacks filled with the little, puffy, bug-eyed wonders that are Rose, Noah, Owen, Oliver, Paxton, Addison and others, and I'm taken right back to my own past.

Rita and I were both young parents when we first found a UU congregation. I was a NEW parent, too, but she had been at it awhile longer, living as a single parent from ages 18 to 24. She and I are born only two months apart. I would not have welcomed the responsibility she took on at that young age.

We fell in love with that church, the West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, Ohio. And, boy, we needed it. We needed the shape and form. It felt good to have something so solid to help us make the hard decisions about our children's well-being and future, and to guide us as we tried to give them values that were stronger than peer pressure, stronger than the media, stronger than their egos, even. We embraced the Principles whole-heartedly, as we do today, and we were so grateful to find a community that wanted to support our passing them to our children. Then, as now, I believed that if every family in the world tried to live by our Principles, and sought wisdom within all the Sources, it would be a happier and nobler future for humanity. That included us. We observed Chalica. We helped out in Sunday School. We tried to figure out just what the hell Unitarian Universalism is.

Actually, I'm still working on that last one...

Aaron came later, after we moved to Colorado. He is the one born-and-raised UU in our family, though Cait comes pretty close, knowing no religion before this one. I'm glad that they are both glad to be Unitarian Universalists. Or at least that's what they tell their dear old Dad.

I love every age of child, each in its own way, but I do have to say I've had an eye on these babies lately. Maybe it's the fact that my own children are 25 and 17. Maybe it's my teenage boy kissing all over his girlfriend. When did he become a young man? Maybe it's the young adult daughter due to get married in less than year. Can it be, can it be,

that my biological clock is ticking? Am I ready to be a, gulp, grandparent?

Well, that would put me in good company, with many of you.

And yet, I still am one of the congregation's "younger people", right?

Hey, don't label me, man! Can't I be both?

For me one of the great benefits of our community is precisely that it brings the generations together. Yes, within the congregational community, we need to make sure that people feel connected with those who are also going through similar times of life, but we should also resolve to see past all of these barriers of age. We are here to receive wisdom and perspective from everyone of every age, and to care for everyone of every age.

One of the basic teachings of Zen is that every single thing or moment or feeling or experience in the world can be your teacher. Any interaction with another can reveal your essential oneness and intimacy with the world, and thus bring insight, healing, joy, and freedom. Joshu, one of the great Zen masters, took a twenty-year pilgrimage at the time of his enlightenment at the age of 60, saying, "If I meet a hundred-year-old person who seeks my guidance, I will offer the best teaching I can to that venerable person. If I meet a seven-year-old child who can teach me, I will become an ardent disciple of that child."

Clearly, we can always learn from each other. And we are called to serve each other. If you want to hear how you can still learn from children and be blessed by them, whatever your age, ask Millie Tripp, who teaches in our Sunday School nearly every week. If you want to hear how the support of peers matters, ask those attending Deborah's "UU Parenting class." If you want to hear how elders make a difference, ask our returning college students who were mentored in the Coming-of-Age program.

Our elders bring perspective and experience. Our adults bring energy and vision. Our children bring eyes of hope and imagination. So we must constantly strive to get our elders, our middle-aged folks, our young parents, our young adults, our teens and children more deeply engaged with one another as we live out our faith together. You can help by reaching out to those who differ from you in age, or in any other visible way. The benefit flows in every direction. You just have to take on the mind of Joshu again.

Ok, I'm off to North Carolina to see my daughter and her fiance, and to indulge my dreams of grandparenting. And farewell, 2011! I look forward to 2012 and the possibilities it will bring. May we all have more peace, power and prosperity in the New Year.

~Rev. Chris

## Greetings from the Board

The Board "goal-teams" are working hard on the Congregation's 2011/2012 short term goals. In December

- the "spiritual life" team hosted the first workshop on creating a vibrant Adult RE program and invited the Children's RE Task Force to make a presentation to the Board;
- the "community team" worked closely with the Membership Council to improve the welcoming of visitors. Other areas of focus included increasing members participation, understanding of UUCAN's activities, and increasing attendance at congregational meetings;
- the "infrastructure" team worked with the building committee on evaluating and prioritiz-

ing improvements to our facilities and also worked with council leaders to plan a board/council "pow wow" to improve communication and clarify responsibilities.

A big thank you to our DRE, Debra Mason, who attended the Board's December meeting and gave an excellent report on the findings and activities of the RE Task Force.

The board is looking forward to a productive year and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

Laura Jean Hageman  
Board President



## Treasurer's Report

This is being written as we enter the holiday season and I would like to extend a belated blessing for the season and for the upcoming year. As we approach the half-way point in our community's fiscal year I can report that as of the end of November we are "in the black" (a shorthand phrase that means we have taken in more money than we have spent)! This is ALWAYS a good situation for our own bank accounts and for the federal and state governments (never happen).

A quick perusal of November's preliminary results show us some \$20,000 over where we projected our position in our revised budget. That's the GOOD News, BUT (and it's a big but) there are some factors which are not as bright as the picture looks.

**FUND-RAISING:** We held our largest fund raiser (Service Auction) early in the year and it netted some \$22,000+. This still leaves us \$8,000 short of the fund raising goal in our approved budget. While the Board and the FineStew are jointly working on identifying additional fundraisers, we have only six months to plan and make these wishes come true.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE:** We have achieved our positive financial position at the expense of maintaining our beautiful facility. Expenditures for Building

Systems Maintenance, Repairs and Maintenance and Supplies are approximately \$10,000 below the level we budgeted. This is a situation which can not go on much longer without causing serious problems in our facility. Ask anyone on the Operations Committee and they will let you know!

As can be seen, the two issues are related, we have to increase our fund raising to the budgeted level so that we can put our resources into maintaining our facility as we planned. The Board and FineStew need the "brainpower and manpower" of all of us to solve these joint issues. (In lieu of another fundraising event we can simply pass the hat and every member kicks in \$35 (a non-starter) or as someone has suggested we can schedule a "non-event" event where you can contribute \$50 a couple NOT to attend!)

Let's put on our thinking caps and get to work on these issues. In the meantime enjoy the fact that we are in the black and still have half a year to make sure we stay that way.

Art Rosenblum

## Our Minister at MLK Jr. Weekend!

This year, our own Rev. Chris Bell will be offering the Invocation at the beginning of the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend event on Sunday, January 15, 5 PM, at Santa Rosa High School Auditorium. This is always an exciting community event that includes presentations by award winning young orators and performances of music and dance. The keynote speaker will be longtime civil rights activist Elbert "Big Man" Howard. The event is very child friendly

and it's a great opportunity to both remember the great man, Martin Luther King, Jr., and to consider how we can carry forward his legacy. If you would like to volunteer your assistance with the event or would like to participate in the Celebration Mass Choir that day, please contact UUCSR member, Jan Prater (707-526-5901). Most of all, please come join us to enjoy and support this event.

## Bylaws Task Force Forum: Sunday, January 29

The Bylaws Task Force cordially invites all interested members to a **Bylaws Forum on Sunday, January 29**, following the 11 o'clock service. We will discuss and take feedback on our proposed revisions to Bylaws Article IV ("Congregational Meetings"), primarily concerning the timing for the election of Board members by the congregation.

New trustees are elected annually every June, with their terms taking effect a few weeks later on July 1, but getting the new Board off to a running start requires more lead time than just a week or two before July 1.

If we can move the election of Trustees from the June Congregational Meeting to the earlier February meeting, the newly constituted Board could schedule one meeting shortly thereafter, solely to elect new Board officers. By electing them in February, our Board members will be better prepared to actually take office on July 1. Our Board-members-elect have many tasks to complete, including agreeing on their first Board retreat time and place, getting the new signature cards for the bank completed, and considering who might be able to represent our Board at UUA and PCD meetings in the spring and summer.

For the upcoming February Congregational Meeting, the Nominating Committee will be prepared with Board candidate recommendations, and *if* the Congregation votes to change this section of the Bylaws at the February Congregational meeting, we can immediately vote on new Trustees (instead of waiting until June).

Also at the January 29 forum, the Bylaws Task Force hopes to get feedback from the congregation on other proposed changes to Article IV. For example, our current Bylaws require that congregational meetings happen in February, June, and October, and specify the agenda items that must be presented at those specific meetings. We're proposing a more flexible schedule for the three annual meetings, so that various items can be discussed at different times of the year.

Find the current Bylaws on the website at <http://www.uusantarosa.org/bylaws.html>. While the January 29 forum will focus on Article IV (primarily Section 2b), we plan to hold forums later in the spring to discuss our comprehensive Bylaws revisions, which would then be presented to the Congregation for a vote at the June 2012 meeting.

*Bylaws Task Force:* Mary Louise Jaffrey, Carol Kraemer, Ellen Skagerberg, Cathie Wiese, Craig Work

ELS/CK draft 12/19/2011

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011**  
**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail Submissions**  
**Greatly Appreciated!**  
**Newsletter Assembly**  
**10 a.m.—January 25, 2011**

# Religious Education for Children and Youth

**Happy New Year!**

2011 was a year of many blessings. The grandest blessing of them all, to me, was (and is) the incredibly wonderful children in our RE program. Sunday is absolutely my favorite day because I get to be with these bright, fun, funny and creative children and youth. My other favorite day of the week is Thursday when I get to hang out with the Youth Group. We have seen an increase in our number of children in RE this past year and are currently experiencing a baby boom in our preschool. My hope is that the new year will bring even more growth and that we can continue to provide a safe and loving space for children and youth to discover the beauty of life, engage in social justice work and make lasting friendships.

2012 is already shaping up to be a good one! We will engage in supporting our adopted village in Kenya

though *Free the Children*. Middle School youth will continue learning about our neighboring faiths with visits to the worship services of Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, an earth-based religious celebration, and we will end the year with a visit to *Glide Memorial Church* in San Francisco. Sr. High Youth Group will spend some time learning about the issue of immigration as many plan to attend *General Assembly* in Phoenix this summer. They will also lead a worship service in the spring. Our kids in grades 3-5 will continue exploring Bible stories and will have a field trip in the spring. Our youngest elementary children will explore faith through the magic stories of *Wisdom Tales*. With the help of some wonderful volunteer teachers and the support of parents it will be a terrific new year.

In faith,  
Deborah

**Here's what's happening in RE Classes this month:**

Date	Grades K-2: Wisdom Tales	3-5: Bibleodeon	6-8: Neighboring Faiths
01/01/12	<b>Children's Chapel</b>	<b>All ages worship together</b>	Looking back at 2011 and forward to 2012
<b>01/06/12</b>	-----	-----	<b>Field trip</b> to Friday evening Shabbat Service at Congregation Shomrei Torah. Carpool at UUCSR at 5:30pm
01/08/12	<i>The Giving Tree</i> by Shel Silverstein	Noah - <i>Themes: Truth; Punishment</i>	Integrating the experience of Judaism. Introduction to Hinduism.
01/15/12	<i>The Rainbabies</i> by Laura Krauss Melmed	<i>Abraham - Theme: Faith</i>	Sunday morning activity to be announced. MUUGs Retreat at UU Society of Sacramento.
<b>01/20/12</b>	-----	<i>Jacob - Theme: Blessings</i>	<b>Field trip</b> to the Sonoma Ashram. Details to follow
01/22/12	<i>P J Funnybunny Camps Out</i> by Marilyn Sadler		Integrating the experience of Hinduism
01/29/11	Social Justice Sunday	All ages together	Free the Children: How we can support our adopted village in Kenya

**Child Care** is provided in our Preschool Room every Sunday during the 11:00 service for children infancy through age 4. **YRUU Sr. High Youth Group** meets every Thursday from 4 - 6. Youth Group Advisors are Rev. Chris Bell and Deborah Mason. ~~~~~

**Adult RE Class: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting**  
**Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30pm in the RE wing**

January 10: Spiritual Practices - for parents, for children & youth and for families.  
 January 28: Inherent Worth and Dignity

## Music Notes



"All true and deeply felt music, whether secular or sacred, has its home on the heights where art and religion dwell." - Albert Schweitzer

Music has been a part of religious practice since the dawn of civilization. It plays an integral role in religious services of nearly all traditions. Our UU services carry on the Christian tradition of singing hymns, as well as including choral music. However, as our denomination has evolved to include other traditions, both sacred and secular, so has the music for our worship services.

As you may have noticed, over time our UUCSR music program has expanded to include a greater variety of both musical selections and musical groups. Although we will continue singing hymns, we will also be including other songs for congregational singing. Thanks to your input, we have received some suggestions which our Music Director and members of the Music Committee will begin evaluating soon. This group will also be identifying additional songs,

Other music, including choral selections and music for other groups or soloists, is chosen by our Music Director, who meets regularly with our Minister and Worship Associates, to find pieces that are appropriate for the theme of the service. We are very fortunate to have Nancy Hayashibara to fill this role, as well as her long

time position as our pianist. She is extremely talented, knowledgeable, sensitive, and flexible with regard to choosing music that greatly enhances our worship services. In addition, we are blessed to have a Minister who is also a musician.

Our dedicated choir members and other musicians spend many hours joyfully rehearsing music which they share with us as their music ministry. "A choir is a place of deep spiritual practice," according to the Rev. Jason Shelton, Minister of Music at First UU Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Choirs and other musical groups also strengthen community by creating bonds of shared interests, celebrating together, and even sharing personal joys and concerns.

January is a time for New Year's resolutions, so as we begin this year, let's resolve as a congregation to leave our conversations at the Sanctuary door and enter in silence (as posted at the entrance). Then everyone can enjoy the beautiful prelude music that opens our services every Sunday. Thanks, and best wishes for a great musical year ahead.

- Jenny Harriman. Music Committee Chair

"In a world in which we live in our heads maybe too much, music is our heart connection."

-- Sarah Dan Jones, Music Director at Georgia Mountains UU Church.

## Spring Circle Dinner Groups

Hello everyone! The Fall Circle Dinner Groups are coming to a close and it is time to regroup for the Spring. Circle Dinners are a wonderful way to get to know your fellow UU's and for newer members to really connect. Circles meet about once a month at each others' homes or other agreed upon places to share a meal (pot luck, of course) and good conversation. If you were on the Fall Dinner Groups list, I will include you automatically for the Spring Dinner Groups list. If you would like to drop off the lists or change your status, please send me an email to let me know. If you want to join our Circle Dinner Groups list, please send me a note with your name and phone number via email, or there will be sign up sheets later on after services in January. The new Circle Dinner Lists for the Spring will be posted on the bulletin board and sent out via the Focus List for February.

PLEASE READ....Shirley Williams has been a steadfast organizer for Circle Dinners for many years now...first with Joan Thatcher, and then with me. She has decided (with my complete support and understanding!) to retire.

This means that we need a wonderful volunteer to step up to fill her shoes. The job involves a flurry of organizing every August and January, plus a readiness to help smooth out bumps in the road when they occur (wrong phone numbers, group list oopses, logistics issues, etc.) I love Circle Dinners, but can't do it alone, so if any of you Circle Dinner enthusiasts have the urge to help keep it going, please drop me a line, give me a call, or track me down on a Sunday at the UU!!

Cathie Wiese [cathie@sonic.net](mailto:cathie@sonic.net)  
707-829-3634.



## UUCSR Writers

### WEALTH

Anything you can take

I can afford to lose.

by David Lerner

### POVERTY

Poverty has very little to do

with money, social status, material possessions;

poverty is not realizing

who and what we are.

By David Lerner

The next UUCSR Writers Regular Monthly Meeting - Presentations and Feedback - is on Monday, January 2, 2012 from 4 pm - 6 pm. Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress". Meet in the Green Room at the UUCSR Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa 707-568-5381.

Info: Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com)

### Poetry Slams

The next UUCSR Writers Poetry Slam is on Friday, January 20, at 7 p.m.

EMCEE: Tom J. Mariani, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate.

The Open microphone session is prior to the Poetry Slam - 1 poem, by any poet, may be read, with a time limit of 3 minutes.

For the Poetry Slam, there are three rounds. Each contestant is limited to 1 poem per round with a time limit of 3 minutes. Bring 3 poems. The timer begins as soon as the contestant begins to speak.

Sign Up to perform: 6:45 - 7:10 pm.

Meet at the Video Droid "Haven Cafe",  
1901 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

Info: Tom J. Mariani, [marianis@sonic.net](mailto:marianis@sonic.net) and/or Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com).

<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

The UUCSR Writers sponsors the Poetry Slams. Your financial support accounts for 100% of the funds needed to provide the Prizes at each Slam. Our goal is to raise \$1,000, to pay the winners in the 2012 Slams. Any amount donated shall be greatly appreciated.

Monthly Slams: 1st Place \$50, 2nd Place \$30, 3rd Place \$20

Grand Slam: 1st Place \$125, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$50

Please make your Tax Deductible check payable to: UUCSR. Please write "UUCSR Writers" on the memo line. Mail to: UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

### Thursdays at the "Haven Cafe"

Meet every Thursday morning, 10 am - 12 noon

Join us at the Video Droid's "Haven Cafe" 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, a morning pastry and enjoy the company of "wannabe literary folks" - writers, poets and film makers - in a very relaxed "just a lot of talk" atmosphere.

Take Care,

Georgette G. deBlois

[GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com)

<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, January 12th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. For the January meeting read anything by M.F.K. Fisher.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The February selection is Yankee Lawyer by Arthur Train.

Linda Lampson

## Advocates for Social Justice



### SHARE THE BASKET

On Sunday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, one half the offertory will go to **UUCAN** (Unitarian Universalists Conversation and Action Network) to defray the cost of two of our Core Team members ~ Sibyl Day and J.D. Thompson ~ attending a 5 day leadership training put on by the IAF, the parent organization of the **North Bay Sponsoring Committee**. See more about

this experience elsewhere in this Newsletter.

On Sunday, **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**, one half of the collection will go to support our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. This project means so much to our guests, many of whom are essential volunteers each week and whose help we'd be hard-pressed to do without, so please be as generous as you can when the basket comes your way!

## Hot Topic

### Pushing the Boundaries of Citizenship: Domestic Workers Organizing from the Bottom Up

On **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, come to the Board Room at 12:30pm to learn firsthand about the California Domestic Workers Bill of Rights from members of the Graton Day Labor Center's women's group ALMAS (Alianza de Las Mujeres Activas y Solidarias / Women's Action and Solidarity Alliance), led by organizer Maureen Purtill.

ALMAS members have been working for the past year to call for the extension of basic labor protections for domestic workers. Domestic workers clean our homes, care for our children, and tend to the basic survival and care needs of our elderly and disabled community members. In other words, domestic workers are the workers who

make all other work possible! Despite the important work they do, domestic workers have historically been excluded from basic labor protections like overtime pay, meal and rest breaks, workers compensation, and reporting time pay.

The California Domestic Workers Bill of Rights (AB 889) will rectify decades of exclusion and extend these provisions to domestic workers, as well as provide for the right to uninterrupted sleep (for live-in care givers) and the right to prepare one's own food.

Members of ALMAS are honored to meet with members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation to discuss why this bill is so important for them, their families, and all community members interested in social justice.

A light lunch will be available for a donation.

## Committee on Shared Ministry

**It is a blessing to be.**

**It is a blessing to be here.**

**It is a blessing to be here now.**

**It is a blessing to be here now, together.**

The Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with keeping track of the health and well being of the Congregation; as well as being a sounding board, support system for the Minister.

It is an honor to serve the congregation. If you have issues between other members, staff or the minister please come find one of us.

The Committee is: Cathy Read, Chair, Rev. Chris Bell, John Chenoweth, Bill Foshee, Mary Lil Lee, Andy Levine & Mary Wagner. Please look for the Shared Ministry poster that is set up in the foyer.

In fellowship, Andy Levine

## Library News

Bet you didn't know our library has two locations! The Social Hall location, to the right of the Sanctuary, is open during both Sunday services. We have an amazing assortment of fiction and non-fiction books to check out and there is a library volunteer on duty to help with any questions you might have. We also have a sale table available during the Sunday services (paperbacks, \$1.00; hardbacks, \$2.00) which generates funds so we can buy more books.

The second location is the Reading Room (apt name, don't you think?). This room is located behind the workroom, to the right of the board room. This room is open during office hours (if it's not, ask at the office). To check out a book from the Reading Room, just fill out the card in the back of the book and put it in the "Check Out" box located on the buffet table in the room. The books can be returned to the library at the Sunday service or the return basket located beside the volunteer desk in the office.

If you've perused the library recently, you may have noticed that the books now have labels on the bot-

tom of the spines identifying the books as belonging to the "UUCSR LIBRARY". They also have been given some sort of subject reference, for example: "American Cultural-Fiction" or "Social Justice-Non-Fiction". These labels will hopefully help you find the subjects that you are interested in reading. And when you are desperately searching the house for your UUCSR library book, the label should help you spot it much more quickly.

**NEW EXCITING PROJECT!** On Jan. 22, Reverend Chris will begin lending out portions of his vast book collection. He will choose two subjects at a time to share with our beloved congregation. Then, periodically, he will change out the subjects. To begin, he's picked the topics of Unitarian Universalism and Buddhism. These books will be housed in the Reading Room and can be checked out for three weeks. So mark your calendar for Jan. 22! Can you guess what subject matter he'll choose next? Pretty intriguing, eh? WOW! How lucky are we?

Barrie Noe

## Together in Exploration (TIE) Group News

The T.I.E. Groups (Together In Exploration) are in full swing, and we do have room for more people to join. If you're interested in joining a group, phone Michele Murphy at 707-479-3661 or email her at [wyomurphy@att.net](mailto:wyomurphy@att.net).

Each T.I.E. group meets twice a month for two hours each time, and the members discuss a different

topic each time and get to know one another better. Every group has about eight to ten folks and is lead by two trained co-facilitators. If you'd like to find out more about what a T.I.E. group is like, phone me at 887-7752.

Marge Wright



## 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.

**January 15**

**February 26**

## North Bay Sponsoring Committee and UUCAN

### North Bay Sponsoring Committee and UUCAN

What are the NBSC and UUCAN, you might ask. The NBSC is currently a group of nine congregations—hoping to grow to 20 or more. The UUCAN is the core team of UU folks who work on research actions, house meetings, and individual meetings with politicians and other people in power in our community.

We also work with other member organizations on "actions," which is what our event was in May of 2010 where we brought together over 1,200 members of NBSC to hear from incumbents, people running for office and other community leaders. All in under an hour and a half!

We were glad to hear that IAF was sponsoring a five-day leadership training. We joined a group of 60 people interested in organizing for the public good. There were clergy, members of congregations, and members of nonprofits from all over the Southwest region. We met in large groups, broke up into smaller groups, listened to lectures, participated in role playing exercises and practiced the skills we were learning. We really got to know the other trainees.

The most powerful and meaningful part of the training was witnessing an action by COPA, our sister organization in the central coast area. We traveled by bus to Salinas.

The purpose of this event was to organize thousands of voters to support the COPA agenda of issues at upcoming elections. From a study of voting statistics it was determined that a bloc of 30,000 voters (10% of the electorate) from Santa Cruz and Monterey counties could sway election results in those counties.

The specific issues will be fleshed out at a later time. This was a time to organize the voters. To achieve that, goals for this event and the following two months were set: to enlist 60 Captains and 600 Leaders who would work to commit voters to be part of the 30,000 bloc.

During the meeting, the member institutions split up into caucus groups to work on their pledges. They reported back to the main group after about 15 minutes. A representative from each institution shouted out their pledges.

The room had the energy of an old time political town hall meeting. For this initial pledge drive, they had a total of 65 Captains, 432 Leaders and 24,300 votes. A collective verbal ratification of the campaign was then made. It was very moving and powerful. And it was just the beginning.

Namaste,  
JD Thompson & Sibyl Day

**Upcoming North Bay Sponsoring Committee Events and Actions**

January 12 from 9:30 to 2:30 - Bay Area IAF Leaders Retreat - in San Rafael

February 2 at 7pm - Education Research Action Team Civic Academy planning event - At Congregation Beth Ami

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UUCAN Monthly Core Organizing Team Meetings:  
Every month on the Second & Fourth Thursdays 3-4:30pm  
Please Join Us

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***Want to know more about our Research Action Teams?***  
For information call:  
Police/Community Relations/Immigration: Linda Harlow 526-3528  
Mental Health: Deborah Mason 542-0793  
Education: J.D. Thompson 293-9763

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

Meeting called to order at 6:33 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), Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Peter Wilson, Craig Work

**Members Not Present:** Lois Nagle

**Non-Members Present:** Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Kirsten Olney (Financial Stewardship Council), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), Hillevi Wyman (Chair, Financial Stewardship Council), Amy Young (Co-Treasurer)

**Opening Words** by Chris

**Agenda Review:** No changes

**Minutes:** Approved as submitted

**Open Mic:** None

**Miscellaneous Items:** ACTION: Completed Minister Evaluation Forms are due today. Laura Jean requested that Board of Trustees (BOT) members that did not meet the due date submit the completed forms NLT tomorrow, 18 Nov 2011.

The Children's RE Task Force report to the BOT originally scheduled for 17 Nov has been rescheduled for next month's meeting, 15 Dec 2011.

Mary Louise, BOT VP, acted in behalf of the Board in filing a letter of intent to apply for a "Chalice Lighter" grant from Pacific Coast District (PCD) for the 2012 revival. The filing due date was 15 Nov. Grant application is due 31 Dec. ACTION: Alan volunteered to draft the grant application. Mary Louise and Chris volunteered to review and edit same not later than (NLT) 31 Dec.

Laura Jean distributed a handout, "Transforming Ourselves and the World: Transforming the failures of the 20th century with an engaged faith for the future" flyer from PCD describing the first in a series of five workshops initiating on 4 Feb 2012. The workshop is to be led by Rev. Robert Latham, PCD Executive, at the UU Church of Berkeley. ACTION: BOT members intending to attend are to contact Laura Jean NLT the next BOT meeting, 15 Dec.

**Treasurer Report:** Art distributed a chart indicating monthly revenue, expense and the difference between the two for FY 2010/11 indicating that the monthly differences are typically large.

Art summarized that Budget vs. Actual for Jul-Sep is approximately <\$2K> which is less negative than expected after the first quarter.

Art's second handout addressed Endowment Fund (EF) contributions to the Operating Budget (OB). The Endowment Committee has amended its policy to include that prior to any distribution from the EF to the OB in the preliminary budget presented to the congregation in February, BOT will decide whether or not to recommend that funds from the EF be included in the OB and, given that recommendation, BOT will move to that effect for congregational vote as well as to identify the primary usage of those funds. EF funds shall be included in the preliminary budget given approval of that motion.

**Fund Raising (FR) Efforts:** Laura Jean explained that, historically, the FR budget had been largely non-specific. The FY 2008/09 and FY 2009/10 overall shortfalls were primarily due to the FR shortfalls. While it is intended that the FY 2012/13 budget shall have a greater degree of FR specificity, the FY 2011/12 includes an unspecified \$10K FR BOT shepherding responsibility. Financial Stewardship Council (FinStew) representatives, Hillevi Wyman and Kirsten Olney expressed their commitment to support the BOT's leadership in this effort but emphasized the need for a sense of urgency. On behalf of BOT & FinStew, Art will solicit congregational inputs in the Dec newsletter. Alan, Jeanie, Joe and Mary Louise volunteered to support a major FR effort given its definition. ACTION: Alan and Art to determine specifics re initiating the FR effort.

**Council/Board Coordination & Communication:** Laura Jean addressed persisting issues regarding Council/Board coordination & communication. Better communications are required for both exchange of information and organizational relationships. ACTION: Laura Jean will initiate meetings in Dec and Jan, to include Council chairs and Board participants to evaluate the current system and to identify improvements. Jeanie and John volunteered to participate in an early Dec meeting.

**Goal Groups Reports:** Spiritual Life Group – Adult & Children's RE—Representing Joe, Peter & Chris, Cathie related that group plans included meetings immediately after the BOT meeting and after the Dec 4 service. An immediate goal is to establish an adult RE task force/committee.

**Community Group:** Group consists of Jeanie, Mary Louise, Lois & Alan. Jeanie reported meeting with North Bay Sponsoring Committee, UUCAN and Deborah Mason toward the goal of increasing congregational awareness & participation. An assessment survey is being constructed.

**Infrastructure Group:** Representing Ann, Laura Jean and Craig, group member John reported that the Monthly Ops meeting addressed infrastructure planning under various growth scenarios, growth constraints, integration of and conflict between public and congregational events and required solutions.

**Website Committee:** Laura Jean distributed "Submitting Changes for UUCSR Web Site" from John Chenoweth and the Website Committee. ACTION: New Board members to send self pics to John.

**Coalition of Welcoming Congregations:** Mary Louise discussed potential membership in an interfaith group of congregations in the Bay Area. The congregation has already committed to be identified within UU as a welcoming congregation to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons – nine other UU congregations are members of the Bay Area group. Dues are \$100/year. Topic was tabled until next month.

**Closing Words:** Joe read "Allow" by Dana Faulds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Terry Graham



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547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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January 2012

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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**Board of Trustees**

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**Co-Treasurers:** Art Rosenblum & Amy Young  
Treasurer@uusantarosa.org  
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**Board Members:**

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**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.

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