



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 3 •

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

March 4

Together we share, and by this we live.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Claire Beery

Yes, it's Annual Pledge Drive time. I will not ask you to *give*, nor to *donate*, nor to *pay for*, but to *invest* in this community and its brilliant possibilities. Jesus suggested that kind and generous people receive their dividends in heaven. Maybe so. But I say we also receive them right here and now...

March 11

Walking Our First Principle

Service Leaders: Melissa Fafarman, Rev. Dr. Kay Jorgensen, Carmen Barsody, O.S.F., Erin Howseman

When you think of our UU first principle, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," can you remember being denied that respect? What have you seen that outraged your sense of fairness? Can you recall first noticing being accepted for exactly who you are? Come explore these thoughts with the Faithful Fools of San Francisco.

Rev. Dr. Kay Jorgensen, UU minister emerita, and Sister Carmen Barsody founded the Faithful Fools Street Ministry which has hosted many youth and adults on Street Retreats. They are interviewed by Melissa Fafarman, a UU certified DRE and Faithful Fool.

Our choir will sing at the 9:15 service, and the UUusual Suspects will play at the 11:00 service.

March 18

Healing the Past, Embracing the Present

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn

So many UUs have come from other traditions which they rejected or felt cast out from. The few of you that were raised UU don't seem to have escaped unharmed either, as far as I can tell. Today we'll consider how to embrace and integrate the past, so that it cannot harm us anymore, and so that we can love and accept who we are now.

March 25th

This is your brain on God...

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome

A host of books have appeared in recent years that try to explain, or explain away, God as a neurological experience. Is faith merely a useful evolutionary tool, an outdated by-product of the development of the brain, or an inevitable result of the ordered cosmos? Perhaps these aren't even the right questions to be asking, for one who sees that science and religion need not, and should not, be at odds.

April 1st

You Fools!

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome

April Fool's Day has been observed for hundreds of years, though no one is quite sure where it comes from. Many cultures enjoy regular rituals of turning things on their ear or mocking the serious. Christians have a big carnival before Lent begins, for example, which we know as Mardi Gras. By occasionally doing everything in a completely ridiculous or subversive manner, we celebrate our freedom to choose the correct way the rest of the year. Come prepared to laugh, you fools!

The View from on High



I love flying. I don't love going through airport security, mind you, and as a person tragically prone to motion sickness I don't particularly care much for take-off, landing, or turbulent winds, either. But once I am up in the sky, I experience the view of the earth and human society that we are afforded at 36,000

feet in a deeply spiritual manner. I love how size becomes truly relative. Mountains really do turn into mole-hills. The struggles of modern urban life seem manageable when you can take in a whole city with a single glimpse. My daily concerns don't seem quite so large. I see the orderly grids of cities, their lights fanning out like a star. I see the fractal beauty of riverbeds and watersheds and mountain ranges with the same pattern as a network of roots, and I believe in the intelligence and harmony of the world all over again.

From up there, I can see that water is Earth's blood. All the world is Her body, Her face is the mountains, Her limbs are the trees. Gazing down upon the mountains and high desert plateaus of the West, I see Her arteries and veins, and consider my own.

My life is be pushed through me by a power I cannot explain, and did not create. I can't stop my heart with my will. Or start it, for that matter. My blood is forced first through the big arteries and then through smaller and smaller channels into the tiny capillaries. If the heart is not strong enough and the blood does not make it to a distant cell, that cell will die.

So, too, I see how a drop of water falls first upon the mountain top, joins with others, trickles slowly through the spring, carves the hills and stone, flowing slowly and inexorably to the heart of the world, the ocean. Just as our heart beats from a power beyond itself, the heart of the world is driven by a greater power: the sun. Without it there is no evaporation, no rain, no capillaries, no streams, no rivers, no life. Of course there is a higher power. It's right over my head!

And what is the power behind the sun? And what is behind that? And isn't that power worthy of praise and worship and service?

I don't know, maybe it's the altitude.

In my chaplaincy training, though, we were taught to take the "God's eye view" of people and situations. To me this means trying to see every person from a larger perspective than their current circumstances. To take a big step back and see the part of them that is courageous, compassionate, and clear, even if they can't. To remember *for* them, if need be, that we are more than

an illness, more than a bad decision, more than our anger or sorrow or grief. To gently remind them that sickness and death confront everyone, and that the question to ask isn't really "Why?" so much as "What do I want to do about it?"

In his *Meditations* Marcus Aurelius, writing about 175 C.E., examines human life from what I would call the "God's eye view." He "investigates human life and his own life by stripping the human being down to two absolutely essential elements. These are *mind* and *participation* in a society with other human beings." (John P. Piazza)

"The Intelligence of the Whole is shared by all. The Wisdom of the Universe is social. It has surely made the lower for the sake of the higher, and it has united all things higher for the sake of each other. See for yourself..." (*Meditations* 5.3)

It all seems so clear looking out the window of a plane. From up here in the sky I see how complex and smart human society is, how gloriously interconnected. I see how ancient are our efforts to find the Way, how integrated with the patterns and impulses of nature our crafts and thoughts and yearnings are, and I rest in confidence that we have what we need within to live well, nobly and harmoniously. I think that slowly, slowly, slowly as the creation of a canyon or a mountain, we will learn our lessons. Eventually, and only *If* we wake up, and can have patience with one another, and take the God's eye view.

But how to do that back down here on the ground with all these actual people?

"Begin each day by saying to yourself: Today I am going to encounter people who are ungrateful, arrogant, deceitful, envious and hostile. People have these characteristics because they do not understand what is good and what is bad. But insofar as I have comprehended the true nature of what is good, namely that is fine and noble, and the true nature of what is bad, that it is shameful, and the true nature of the person who has gone astray: that he is just like me, not only in the physical sense but also with respect to Intelligence and having a portion of the divine - I can neither be harmed by any of them, for no one else can involve me in what is shameful and debasing against my will, nor can I be angry with my fellow man or hate him, for we have been made for cooperation, just like the feet, the hands, the eyelids, and the teeth." (*Meditations* 2.1)

Indeed. So let our congregation be as one body, and let us be as one body with the Earth! And may you all enjoy the God's eye view occasionally.

With love, Rev. Chris

Greetings from the Board

If you were unable to attend the Winter Congregational Meeting on Feb 19, you missed quite a production, thanks to Board member, Peter Wilson, who helped to create nifty PowerPoint presentations. Eighty-five members attended this meeting and a lot was accomplished - here are the highlights:

- Results of the recent survey on changing the time of the Congregational Meetings showed a strong preference for having them take place in the morning **before** the 11am Service: 101 in favor, 23 opposed. The Spring Congregational Meeting will therefore begin at 9am on June 10. The possibility of a breakfast offering beforehand is being explored.
- The By-laws revisions, described in the materials sent to all members prior to this meeting and skillfully presented by Ellen Skagerberg, were passed unanimously. A major revision was to move the election of Board Members and Assembly Delegates to the Winter Congregational Meeting.
- After the By-laws revisions were passed, the congregation voted unanimously to elect the nominees for the Board of Trustees put forward by the Nominating Committee, namely: Laura Jean Hageman, John Farison, and Cathie Wiese for reelection to a second two-year term, and Lois Bell and Susan Bartholome for election to a first two-year term.
- In addition, Betz Miller and Mary Wolfe were elected to be 2 of the 7 Delegates to the Pacific Central District 2012 Assembly; and Betz Miller,

Carolyn McLeese were elected to be 2 of the 7 Delegates to the UUA 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix. It was approved that the Board President could fill the remaining Delegate vacancies.

- A beautiful graphic, developed by Ann Chambers and Peter Wilson, was presented to illustrate the new governance system that the Board developed in consultation with the Council and Committee chairs over the last several months. (Copies are available in the Office.)
- Singled out for special appreciation for their dedication and contributions were: Kitty Wells, Barrie Noe, Debbie Hope, and Jeffrey De Roboam.
- The draft budget for 2012/2013 was professionally presented by Linda Stabler. Even with the required 10.7% increase in pledge income to balance this budget, there are still many worthwhile requests that currently remain on the unfunded list. However, when the Board adjusts the budget to reflect the actual pledges, it is possible some of the items on the unfunded list can be funded. The resulting interim budget will be presented to the congregation in June. (Note: the final budget will be voted on at the Fall Congregational Meeting after the books for the current year are closed and other expenses, such as medical insurance, are known with more certainty.)

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President

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.

March 18

April 22

Treasurer's Report

Living and Sharing

The other day I was reflecting on the State of our Union, (the UUCSR) and was pleased with what I saw. As a community we weave a web of living together through our TIE groups, our support groups (male and female) our several meditation groups, and the things we do together to support ourselves, and the larger community. We share so much of ourselves with each other it sometimes goes unnoticed or simply taken for granted - but it is there for all to enjoy.

With our annual Pledge Drive upon us it is now a great opportunity to sit back and just think about how much we receive from the people around us on a Sunday morning and all the other days - how much warmth, understanding and love we receive from each other. This sharing is a two-way street because we give as well as receive. Think of all the time and effort all our volunteers, board members, committee members, RE teachers, greeters, ushers, etc. give to the community. Now we are being asked to think our financial giv-

ing and sharing, our annual pledge commitment to the fiscal viability of our community. As our needs continue to grow so do the dollars required to support that growth. And GROW we have! Since Maureen and I came to Santa Rosa (almost 18 years ago) we have moved from a moderate Fellowship stuck out in the boonies to a vibrant in-town Congregation, a congregation, that has become the focal point for many, many community activities. This year (2012-2013) we, once again, are being asked to "up the ante". Once again we have to look at what we share with each and every member of our community and how this sharing brings joy to how we live.

How we translate this JOY to sharing is how we continue on our journey - and again I'm sure that journey will begin with a Balanced Budget. (Ah once a Treasurer always a Treasurer).

In Joy, Sharing and Living,
Art Rosenblum, Co-Treasurer

Here's what's Happening in RE Classes this Month

03/04/12	Children's Chapel	All ages worship together	March is "Optimism Month" we will celebrate optimism
	Grades K-2: Wisdom Tales	3-5: Bibleodeon	6-8: Neighboring Faiths
03/11/12	In God's Name	David - Theme: What can you	Buddhism - Integrating what
03/18/12	Old Turtle and the Broken Truth by Douglas Wood	Solomon - Theme: Wisdom	Islam - History, beliefs and practices.
03/25/12	Cake Auction	Children will spend the morn-	Proceeds will go to support

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

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Recently I read the new Tom Perrotta novel *The Leftovers*, a pretty grim and Twilight Zonesque story about the aftermath of the "Sudden Departure". The "Sudden Departure" was like the rapture but not exactly - one day millions of people vanished into thin air. Unlike the rapture predicted by the likes of Harold Camping the Departure included Hindus, Jews, Buddhists and all kinds of folks who had not accepted Christ as their personal savior. It was a random selection of people plucked from the earth leaving the world shattered and bewildered. It is a story about what happens when everything that we take for granted as reliable and comprehensible disappears in a moment of enormous tragedy. It is a story about lost faith and the quest for faith renewed.

The story follows one family in a typical American suburb three years after the Departure. Each member of the Garvey family found their own way to cope. Mom joined a reactionary cult called the Guilty Remnant whose theology was steeped in survivor guilt and the surety of a second coming. Cult membership required complete estrangement from her family. The son Tom, a college student, left school to join the Healing Hug Movement whose guru's promise was to take the pain of away from the hearts of his followers, but in time he became an ego maniacal pedophile. Once the guru was arrested Tom quit the HHM and joined the Barefoot People a band of hippies who sported a bullseye painted on their foreheads, and never bathed. Daughter Jill, formerly a top high school student and straight arrow, shaved her head and took to random sex games and drugs after her mom joined the cult. And Dad became mayor of the town and spent his days coping with the madness all around him by ignoring lunacy that was right before his eyes.

The saddest thing about this story outside of the tragedy of their tremendous loss was the disconnection among the people as they sought healing. The members of the Garvey family and all

of the characters in the book were isolated, lonely and completely unable to draw upon the human connection that holds us up when times are tough. Even those who sought community found alienation in the group instead of healing compassion.

The Leftovers begs the question what do we have that will sustain us in the darkest of times? What can we give our children, within this faith tradition, that they can carry with them as they journey through the challenging territory of children becoming adolescents, becoming adults? I think the answer is love: the abiding force that runs though and all around us - even in the worst of conditions. Our tradition is one that responds to injustice and tragedy by coming together in a spirit of bringing change and healing. Together we sing "Emboldened by faith we dare to proclaim we are standing on the side of love", even as we face enormous personal and societal challenges. As we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people we practice love. When we bring our children into this religious community we show them that there is something larger than the individual: there is a place for extending our selves to others and receiving the blessings of loving connection.

We all need to know that love surrounds us, but children need to find it in experience. Each week in Religious Education we have a lesson, but the *underlying* lesson each week, no matter what the topic, is 'you are loved and accepted here'. Children are challenged daily by struggles with relationships, school and living in a complex and scary world, they need to know that there is love to see them through. There are many ways that the adults of this congregation can reach out to children and strengthen the blessings of loving community. If you want to explore this, I am here for you.

In faith,
Deborah

The Glaser Center

Last weekend was a gratifying three days. The weekend began with SSU's production of 'How I Learned to Drive,' and despite some frustrating sound issues, it was largely well received by the 55 people present. On Saturday and Sunday, we had full houses for the California Redwood Chorale's concert to honor Kate Wolf.

The beginning of March will be quiet. That's a good thing, as I will be opening my new play, 'Pinky,' on March 9 at Main Stage West theater in Sebastopol. As I write this, a crew is building the set for the show. I hope some of you will come out and see what I've created with this new work. The support and encouragement of my UUCSR family has been very important over the last few months of developing this two-person comedy about young love.

Meanwhile, the Arts & Culture ministry at UUCSR is thriving.

On March 17 (yes, that's St. Patrick's Day!) we welcome duo pianists Kirk Whipple and Marilyn Morales back to the Glaser Center for an afternoon concert featuring four-hand piano pieces done on our beautiful Yamaha piano. The concert will include a performance by local pianist-composer W.A. Mathieu, whose new composition '5 Poems/4 Hands' will be given its American debut by Kirk and Marilyn. The repertoire will also include pieces for four hands by

Gershwin and Schubert. Tickets are a sliding scale between \$15 - \$20.

Later that same day, beginning at 7:00 p.m., we'll be presenting an evening of Celtic music featuring Marilyn O'Malley and Francis Small, with special guests Kate Willens, David Lerner and others. This warm and informal celebration of St. Patty's Day will include sing-alongs, Irish group sessions (open to any players who wish to participate), plus snacks and beverages. All ages are welcome. This casual event will take place in the Social Hall. Sliding scale \$5-\$10. Tickets at the door or in the Social Hall after service.

Celebrate the life of Ecology Icon Judi Bari — On Sunday, March 25, 2:30 p.m., the Santa Rosa International Film Festival partners with the UUCSR to present an inspiring event honoring the life and commitment of environmental activist Judi Bari. The new documentary, 'Who Bombed Judi Bari,' will be screened, along with a live appearance and musical performance by Darryl Cherney, a community dialogue exploring the question of why forest matter, and a reception with food and beverages. Admission \$10 advance, \$15 at the door. Funds raised benefit the film festival and the UUCSR. Tickets may be reserved at www.judibari.eventbrite.com.



These are a few of my Favorite Things about TIE Groups

All of us who have been members of a TIE group have favorite aspects of the experience. For some it is the opportunity to dive into interesting topics. For others, it is the chance to get to know people at a deeper level than is possible at social hour. Often these connections are lifelong. The experiences of listening attentively and being really heard are high on most of our lists as favorite features of TIE groups. Contributing to the congregation in the form of a service project is gratifying and a favorite for some. The safety of the group structure is cherished by many as is the care taken by the facilitators to support safety and acceptance. One aspect that is particularly meaningful to me

is the slowness of it all. When I am in a TIE group I feel myself settle into the rhythm and slow down. For those of us who "do" it is grand to just "be" for a bit.

There is certainly much to treasure in the TIE experience. Our groups are going strong and will come to an end in May for this year. We will begin in October for the next year but hope to have summer groups as well. We will let you know as we get closer to summertime. If you have questions please contact anyone on the TIE steering committee.

Marge Wright,(chair), Michele Murphy, Dorris Lee, Carol Kraemer, Diana Breslich, Carolyn McLeese, Jeanie Bates

The UUCSR Bookmobile

Although our Santa Rosa church has no claim of antiquity, there are traditions and evidence of its developing history throughout the building. Many of them came from the Todd Road fellowship; the stained glass window, the altar, the history album of photos and stories, and many other archival papers, to name a few. Another is the Bookmobile, now the repository of the Diversity Library. Few members know of its origin and the contributions made by a few congregants at Todd Road.

The concept came from Russ and B.J. Morgan; a committee was formed. Russ, who built hospital tables, designed it, Paul Lyon and I visited the Oakland church to learn about stocking and ordering from Boston from

their librarian, and Don Ford did a magnificent labor of love building it with lumber from trees on his home place.

For many years, Paul Lyon operated the Bookmobile. When funds were insufficient and it was not included in the budget, Paul financed the purchase of books and gratefully accepted contributions of lightly-owned books from members; selling them to finance more books. Several times a month Paul made the rounds of bookstores to sell the surplus books, ending his trip unloading unsold books on the Public Library loading platform. Paul currently lives in a retirement home in Petaluma. Typically, his room is filled with books!

Submitted by Freda Powers

Women Together Movie Night

March 10th... Movie Night! Women Together invites you all to join us for another evening of fine company and entertainment at the UU. We will gather to watch a wonderful film, "**Strangers in Good Company**" from Canadian director, Cynthia Scott. This film was widely acclaimed when it came out and promises to spark opportunities for reflection and discussion. The story revolves around eight elderly women who are stranded as a result of their bus breaking down in a rural countryside. As they take refuge in an abandoned farmhouse to await help, they begin talking which leads to sharing of life's memories and experiences. The nonprofessional

cast, who were not given specifically scripted dialogue and encouraged by Scott to improvise, grow together during the film which weaves together a tale of friendship and courage.

We will gather at **6:30pm in the Common Area of the RE Wing** to enjoy deserts and beverages as we watch the film. Please bring a dessert and/or beverage to share.



Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket

On Sunday, March 11th, half the collection will be given to **The Faithful Fools**. Come to the service and you'll learn of their unique and profound work!

On Sunday, March 25th, half the collection will go to sustain our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. Every Saturday about 200 people enjoy what some of our guests tell us is the best breakfast in town! Please be as generous as you can so we can keep it that way!!

Hot Topic—Sunday March 4th

Hot Topics - California Prisons

On Sunday, March 4th come to the RE Lobby at 12:30 to get an inside view of our State Prisons from a for-

mer inmate, and learn how we can help rectify this disgraceful situation. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Women Together

Mark your calendars ~ It's getting to be that time again ~ Hooray!!

Our Annual Weekend Retreat at beautiful Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker is coming up **May 4th through 6th**. This year our theme is *Heritage/Legacy*. As in the past, there will be small-group explorations of our theme plus workshops ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous! And of course our Silent Auction where we redistribute wonderful things and raise money for next year's scholarships. We also create our Sunday Worship service in the lovely Redwood Chapel.

Sign-ups will be held Sundays April 7th and 14th for members and pledging friends, and on April 21st,

other women are invited to sign up, space permitting. The first 50 people to register will be guaranteed a bed in a double room. After that you may be in a dorm, so don't delay!

The cost this year is \$160 if you bring your own sheets and towels, \$170 if you want to use theirs. Partial scholarships are available. Your payment covers 2 nights and 5 amazingly delicious meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast). Your payment will guarantee your place.

Our Women's Weekend has long been recognized as the optimum experience for making friends and deepening relationships, so new and newish women are particularly invited to come and get connected!

Evening Book Group



The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 8th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The March selection is You Know

When the Men Are Gone by Siobhan Fallon. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for April is The Vanishing Act of Esme Lemmel by Maggie O'Farrell.

Linda Lampson

Getting to Know UU

Sat. April 1th 9:30-12:30 ; here at UUCSR

Rev. Chris Bell will present information on Unitarian Universalists and our congregation in particular. Plenty of time for questions. This is one step towards becoming a member or just getting to know one another.

Beverages, morning munchies, childcare provided. Sign up at the Visitors Table.

Contact Rev. Chris Bell 568-5381

Or organizer, Betz Miller, 539-3654
millerbetty@comcast.net



UUCSR Writers

Community Outreach

Poetry Slams ¥ Fridays, 7 pm
 Feb 17, March 16, Apr 20, May 18
 Video Droid, Santa Rosa
 Grand Slam ¥ 7 pm, June 15 Video Droid

UUCSR Writers Monthly Meetings,

Mondays, 4-6 pm
 Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6, Sept 10, Oct 1,
 Nov 5, Dec 3
 Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa

Script Frenzy

Mondays, 6 - 8 pm
 Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa

NaNoWriMo

Mondays, 6 - 8 pm
 Nov 5, 12, 19, 26
 Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa

Thursday Morning at The Haven Cafe 10 am

Meet once a week for coffee and conversation
 The Haven Cafe at the Video Droid, Santa Rosa

Information

Tom J. Mariani, marianis@sonic.net and/or Georgette G.
 deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa
 Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401, 707-568-5381
 UUCSR Writer e-mail: GGdeB@aol.com
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

UUCSR Writers Laureates 2010-2012

Tom Mariani, Poet Laureate
 Poetry Slam Emcee
 Chaucer Period History Class,
 Mondays 10:30 am - 12 n, Dates tba
 Bennett Valley Senior Center, Santa Rosa

A Canterbury Tale, Movie and Lecture

Friday, 5-9 pm, April 27
 Movie 5 pm. Lecture after film
 Video Droid, Santa Rosa

David Templeton, Literary Laureate

Jean Cocteaus "La Belle et La Bete"
 Beauty and the Beast Movie and Lecture

In his new play, Pinky, David and Pinky draw from
 Cocteau film for their improvisational role-playing.

Friday, 5 - 9 pm, March 2

Movie 5 pm. Lecture after film

Video Droid, Santa Rosa

Juan De la O, Screen Writer-Filmmaker Laureate

Independent Filmmaker

N.B. Nota Bene - A Juan De la O Production
 Interviews and Journalistic events filmed for TV and
 the Internet. Dates and times of release tba
 Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa

Help us Sponsor the Poetry Slams

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. Any amount donated shall be
 greatly appreciated. Thank you for your contribution.

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 95401



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions
Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly
10 a.m.—March 28, 2012

Library News

Every time someone returns a book to the library on Sunday morning, we are now inquiring if that person would like to fill out a comment card about the book. Did you love the book? What did you like about it? Or, was it incredibly boring? Our readers want to know these kinds of tidbits before they decide if they want to take that book home. So, just by flipping to the back of the book and reading the colored comment card (to distinguish it from the check out card) someone browsing can see what others in our congregation have thought about the book. Our hope is to place a comment card, with an actual comment on it, in every library book. Feel free to come over to the library on Sunday and fill out a comment card on one of your favorite books. If the book doesn't

have one yet, ask for a colored comment card at the check out table.

Rev. Chris's Books on Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism are still available in the Reading Room. Make sure to peruse these books and check out one or three! The room is open on Sunday during Coffee Hour and Monday-Friday during office hours. There are also regular library books available in the Reading Room. It's a nice place to choose a book then sit and read for a while. The blue library check out box is on the top of Rev. Chris's bookshelf. Place any library book cards you check out in there. Happy reading!

Barrie Noe

It's Never Too Early...!

That's right! It's never too early to start anticipating UUCSR Family Camp in the summer! This is the first "heads up!" in a series, to urge you to plan now to go to our next great camp gathering *at Valley of the Moon, Friday afternoon, July 13 thru Sunday morning July 15*.

Our location is right here in Sonoma County, but the tall trees, the open meadow, and the deep quiet of the hills near Jack London State Park make it seem that you've escaped the race of daily life. The retreat center has a pool, a playing field, a central dining hall with a deck for lounging, a campfire ring, an outdoor chapel for the Sunday Service, and plenty of room for all the conversations and explorations that you would expect in a weekend with your UUCSR family. The meals we eat together are delicious, cooked every morning, noon, and evening by the friendly, helpful staff.

Children, teens, and adults are all offered a variety of activities that are planned to encourage a balance between family time, individual time with friends in your own age group, and time for all of us to deepen connections between us. If you want to just come for Saturday, there is a special, low price that includes breakfast and lunch.

The retreat planning committee makes every effort to find ways to make this affordable for all families. Limited scholarships are available. Start now to plan to be there!

Questions? Call Barrie Noe, 823-5018 or Leslie Norinsky, 373-7944.



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 19, January 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:30 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), Betty Miller, Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), Ellen Skagerberg (Bylaws Task Force)

Opening Words by Rev. Chris from e. e. cummings

Agenda Review: No changes

Minutes approved as submitted.

Cathie Wiese accepted the role of meeting timekeeper.

One-on-One Sharing

Open Mic: Joe inquired about the Film Fest follow-up. ACTION: Chris to obtain the actual cost from David Templeton.

Financial Reports: Audit/Review Committee meeting notes of 12 Jan 2012 were submitted as a handout. Committee reviewed P&L, Balance Sheet and Year-to-Date Actuals. Cash position is \$100K at Exchange bank and \$13K at Schwab. Other funds are at \$74K Emergency Fund and \$104K Endowment Fund. Cash flow determined to be adequate for the 1st Quarter. Next meeting is in April 2012 to review 3rd Quarter financials. Alternatives to money market are being investigated for cash funds currently in the Emergency, Endowment and other accounts with money market funds. Money markets are yielding near zero.

Art commented that a review of the previous 3-years indicated a typical 3rd Quarter ends at \$30-35K in the red. The preliminary financial report handouts indicated a 2nd Quarter (Jul-Dec 2011) P&L Net Income of \$24K for Operations, \$12K for Restricted & Endowment and \$8K for Glaser Center. The 2nd Quarter Budget vs. Actual report indicated a Net Income of \$53K for Operations and <\$5K> for the Glaser Center.

Budget Task Force: Committee report, the 11 Jan 2012 meeting notes, was submitted as a handout. Preliminary work must be completed in January in preparation for the February congregational meeting. Budget vs. Actuals were reviewed for each subcommittee. Next meeting scheduled for 18 Jan.

Pledge Drive Task Force: Alan Proulx, co-chair of the task force, reported that "captains" are being recruited for training. The goal is to achieve a sufficient number of captains and canvassers to have but 3 canvassers for each captain and to have but 3 families to be contacted by each canvasser. March 4th will be the kickoff with a Sunday sermon and the drive will continue for two weeks. At Alan's request, Jeanie, Ann, Joe, John, Laura Jean, Mary Louise, Lois, Cathie and Peter volunteered as captains.

Bylaws Task Force Presentation: Ellen Skagerberg reviewed a 3 Jan draft revision of the Bylaws. Highlights of the proposed revision included (1) change the election of Trustees and PCD/UUA delegates to newly designated Winter meeting of the 1st quarter of the calendar year, (2) revise mandatory agendas to permit flexibility around an annual calendar established by the Board of Trustees, (3) change the current requirement for 80% approval of large expenditures from the current \$100k to 20% of the current Operating budget, (4) adopt a process for written ballot voting when there the number of candidates exceed the number of openings for any elected position. ACTION: BOT members to personally review the draft and recommend changes/additions NLT 23 Jan 2012.

Chalice Lighter Grant Application: After brief discussion led by Alan, Joe Como moved to approve the Chalice Lighter grant application as it applies to the annual "revival". Peter seconded. Motion passed unanimously viva voce.

Request from A4SJ to Waive Sponsoring Requirements: Jeanie led a discussion regarding BOT authorization of a temporary exemption to a standing policy offering building space at no cost to outside groups. The issue concerns exclusively A4SJ's activities with weekly working groups of Occupy Santa Rosa. Jeanie moved that "The Board of Trustees authorize a 2-month exception to the standing policy for offering space free of charge to groups outside UUCSR, exclusively permitting A4SJ to sponsor such use by the delegates of the working groups of "Occupy Santa Rosa" for their weekly meetings." Peter seconded. Motion passed, 7 in favor, 1 opposed and 3 abstained. ACTION: BOT members to investigate issues, concerns and questions and report to Laura Jean. The issue is to be further addressed at the March BOT meeting.

Agenda Items for the 19 Feb Congregational Meeting: Laura Jean distributed a draft agenda with presentation assignments: (1) Treasurer's Report, Art Rosenblum, (2) Preliminary Budget, Linda Stabler, (3) Bylaws Revisions, Ellen Skagerberg, (4) Nominations, Ben Ford, (5) Goal Reports, Joe Como, Alan Proulx, Ann Chambers, (6) Revised Governness Structure, Ann Chambers, (6) Volunteer Appreciations, Cathie Wiese and (7) UUCAN, Deborah Mason.

Internship Investigation: Chris reminded the Spiritual Life Group of BOT that the Internship investigation and planning must be initiated. Contact with the Internship Clearinghouse required. ACTION: The Spiritual Life Group is to conduct a baseline investigation and present a plan.

Infrastructure Group: An extensive draft report on the UUCSR Governness Pow Wow of 7 Jan 2012 was distributed as well as a proposed diagram illustrating functional and committee relationships.

Closing words proved by Peter; a selection from John Tarrant. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Next Board meeting is on Thursday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Graham



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March 2012

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