**True Life: The Transformative Power of Story**

*Service leaders: David Templeton, Susan Panttaja, Erin Howseman*

We all have stories, true stories. There are events in our lives which shape and inform us, but more often than not they are left untold, unwritten, unspoken. When we somehow find a way to tell those stories, the result is often more than mere edification, entertainment or education. Often, the act of telling of those stories—whichever art form we choose for the telling—becomes a transformative act of alchemy, morphing the (sometimes) painful events of our past into something rich and surprising. Glaser Center Artistic Director David Templeton has written and performed several autobiographical stories, borrowing from his own colorful memories. This morning, David shares how the writing and performing of these stories has altered the way he views his own past, and what he’s learned about the transformative power of story.

Special music by singer/songwriter/storyteller Doug Jayne

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**Knowing the Truth about your Life**

*Service Leader: Clovis Lewis*

He will discuss the importance of recognizing when you are not truthful to yourself or others around you. “Telling the truth is an Art.”

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**The Wisdom of Hell:**

The *Universalism of William Blake*

*Service Leader: Scott Miller*

*Worship Associate: Andy Levine*

The great English poet and visionary William Blake (1757-1827) offers rich (albeit idiosyncratic) instruction for spiritual people in the Universalist tradition. His ideas and works “marry” the “energies” of heaven and hell, yielding an understanding that “all that lives is holy.” Through celebration of and meditations upon Blake’s poetry and other writings, this service will seek to help us understand these visions and help us apply them to our lives.
As most of you know, a number of UUCSR members and staff have just returned from Phoenix, Arizona where we attended our annual UUA General Assembly. Many powerful images are fresh in my mind and I thought I would share a few of them with you.

The Opening Ceremonies always includes a parade of the attending congregations, nearly all of which have a banner that is made for just such an occasion. (Ours hangs in the Volunteer Office, aka the Copy Room. I would love to know who made it.) It is always moving to me to see the hundreds and hundreds of people marching through the Plenary Hall, reminding me and everyone present that we are a national movement with a deep history and lots of beautiful diversity.

Normally, these banners are then hung throughout the convention center to transform the secular space into holy ground, but because the emphasis during this General Assembly was almost entirely on justice and turning our collective attentions to the outside world, the organizers decided not to do so this year.

Along that line of thinking they also asked the attendees of the Opening Ceremonies not to make noise when we marched through because they wanted to preserve a solemn and serious tone. I’m happy to report that the gathered body ignored that request outright, because Laura Jean and I and every other banner carrier was greeted with roaring applause and cheering. Just because we are eager to transform the world and relieve suffering doesn’t mean we can’t have a good time doing it, right?

I’m happy to say that the last decade has seen a remarkable change in our worship, with far more participatory and gospel style songs, lots of clapping, and even bass, guitar and drums. Maybe they are taking our lead? Our Sunday preacher, Rev. John Crestwell, even led some of the songs himself and then gave a fiery sermon urging us to go home and “make some trouble.” There really is nothing like worshipping with 3500 other people to restore your faith and get the blood moving!

Another powerful image comes from our Saturday night action against Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the inhumane conditions that he enforces in the Maricopa county jails, which a couple of our congregants, Rita Butterfield and Peter Wilson, know first-hand. After getting a tour of “Tent City,” an outdoor jail where the inmates are cooked in the brutal Phoenix summer (often 110 degrees), the UUA president Rev. Peter Morales, UU Service Committee president Rev. Bill Schulz and others led thousands of us in a demonstration in the street right in front. Many of us were wearing “Standing on the Side of Love” T-shirts. It was a sea of bright yellow and candles. The sheriffs department even had out the horses and the riot gear, but they were hardly necessary, for ours was a song-filled, prayerful, non-violent crowd. Our immigrant rights allies were amazed at our turn-out and deeply grateful for the support.

Finally, and speaking more personally, the most powerful image of all for me came during the Service of the Living Tradition, an annual event that honors our professional religious leadership. Those who have died are remembered, those who are retiring are given a big thanks, and those who are entering preliminary or final fellowship as a UU minister are cheered. I received preliminary fellowship when I first came here to Santa Rosa. I finally got my final fellowship paperwork turned in this past year, so I was up there on the stage with the rest. Final fellowship might be considered the UU ministry version of tenure. Although I sometimes agree with Groucho Marx that I wouldn’t really want to be a member of any group that would have me - silly, selfish, dreaming, scheming me - as a member, I guess it’s really a done deal now.

I jest, as usual, because looking out on all those people, including all the members of our congregation, filled me again with a deep sense of belonging and purpose. It’s very good to know that there are so many people who take the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the interconnected web of existence, and the life of service and compassion so seriously. As we sang Rank by Rank, I felt so deeply connected to this Living Tradition.

If you would like to know more about General Assembly please talk to anyone who went. The UUCSR delegation comprised myself, Janis Brewster, Rita Butterfield, John Chenoweth, Laura Jean Hageman, Linda Harlow, Carol Kraemer, Mary Lil Lee, Deborah Mason, Carolyn McLeese, and Cathy Read. I’m sure they all would be happy to discuss their experience, and I hope it will inspire you to consider attending a future General Assembly, or to connect in some way with the larger UU community.

I’ll be away for much of July with vacation, guest preaching and a week-long Zen retreat at the end of the month. I look forward to seeing you again in August. In the interim, if you need an appointment with me, July 10-12 and July 18-22 are the best times, and you can always give me a call on my cell.

Until we worship together again, stay cool and enjoy the summer!
Greetings from the Board

More than 112 of you attended the Spring Congregational Meeting on June 10! This is nearly double the attendance at these meeting in recent years, which undoubtedly is largely due to having the meeting early in the morning rather than in the afternoon after the 11am service. Prior to the Meeting the social hall was packed with people enjoying a delicious continental breakfast provided by two of our TIE groups with donations benefiting the UUCSR Saturday Breakfast program.

Under the skillful guidance of Vice-president Mary Louise Jaffray, the business—which included presentation of a preliminary 2012/2013 budget, By-laws revisions, A4SJ charter revisions, the addition of a procedure to the endowment policy, nomination committee election and member appreciations - was completed in 90 minutes! Congratulations to all who made well-planned and concise presentations: Ellen Skagerberg (bylaws), Linda Stabler (budget), Phyllis Clement (A4SJ), and Art Rosenblum (financials). Thanks also to Peter Wilson who collected slides and projected them during the presentations.

The minutes of the Spring Congregational Meeting will soon appear on our website and be posted on the bulletin board in the social hall.

We are now collecting staff and committee reports for the 2011/2012 UUCSR Annual Report that will be distributed at the 2012 Fall Congregational meeting. These contributions are due by August 31.

In keeping with our tradition of taking a summer break, committees are encouraged to suspend meetings during July and resume them in August.

Enjoy a well-deserved break!

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President

Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 10 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.

July 22nd
**August 5 Service**

**Not For Sale: Today's Abolition Movement**

*Guest Minister: Rev. Ben Meyers*

By conservative estimates, there are 27 million slaves in the world today. Human trafficking is, in fact, the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world, ranking close behind drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade. It is, in short, a huge and growing industry of organized crime. As people who affirm the value of freedom, justice, equity, compassion, interdependence, and the worth of every person, how are we to respond? The answer is unequivocal not only in our modern Unitarian Universalist principles, but also when we turn to our abolitionist heritage and our pride in that heritage.

Rev. Ben Meyers serves is Minister of the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists and is committed to nurturing spiritual growth, social justice, and religious pluralism.

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**Here’s What’s Happening in RE Classes**

Here's what's happening this month as we continue our Summer Program exploring creative expression. All ages from K-8 meet together. Children begin in the sanctuary for the first part of worship then adjourn to the RE wing for their class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Religious Education is at 10:00am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/1/12</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel - Jami Kerr &amp; Cathie Wiesse will teach the children to creating jewelry and other fun things using polymer clay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/8/12</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel - Kathy Norman and Sarita Hazen will help the children make special cards to be used by the Caring Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/15/12</td>
<td>This is the Sunday of our All Congregation Retreat. Children who come to RE will have games and crafts set up for them. Teachers TBA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/22/12</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel - Deborah Mason will lead the children in theater games.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/29/12</td>
<td>Children’s Chapel - We will play with percussion this morning – drumming to finding the most joyful beat. Deborah and other drummers will lead the class.</td>
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</tbody>
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Child Care is provided in our Preschool Room every Sunday during the 10:00 service for children infancy through age 4 beginning 6/17 when our Summer schedule starts.

Sr. High Youth Group is on hiatus until August 16 when we will resume meeting every Thursday from 4 - 6. Youth Group Advisors are Rev. Chris Bell and Deborah Mason. Youth are invited (and encouraged to attend Sunday morning worship.
Late last night I returned home from 5 days in the heat of Arizona. It was five days in sweltering heat generated by the desert sun and the fervent energy of 3,500 Unitarian Universalists partnered with local organizations, gathered together in the fight for justice for immigrants in Arizona and throughout our country who are suffering under a deeply corrupt and inhumane system. It was five days of listening and learning, worshiping and witnessing, calling upon our highest selves to return to our congregations and transform what we learned and experienced into action in our communities.

When I set out to attend Justice General Assembly I was not convinced that this focused convention would give me much to bring home to the children in RE. The schedule of workshops, all focused on the issue of immigration, while interesting did not appear to include much that would be relevant to the faith development of our children. Well, I was proved wrong. I have returned full of ideas about how to create meaningful, experiential learning for children that will not only teach them about justice making, but provide the link between social justice and the core principles that guide our faith. I attended workshops about how to talk to children about immigration issues that focused on the developmental needs of children as they learn about the world and its harsher realities. I took a class on social justice as a family value providing many ways that parents and RE teachers can transmit the values and principles of Unitarian Universalism through activities, life lessons, exposure, discussion and modeling. I came home with tools and resources for planning and providing mission trips for our youth which will immerse them in the work of justice making in communities of great need.

In the coming congregational year our elementary and middle school classes will be using a social justice curriculum called In Our Hands. As I sift through the lesson plans to make changes, I will look at them through the lens of cultural sensitivity and racial & economic justice. I will strive to create opportunities for service that will empower our kids to make a difference as they learn. Our eighth and ninth graders will participate in the Coming of Age program which includes the element of service and justice work. I will work with the youth and their mentors to find experiences that will put them in touch with both injustice and hope. And I will begin to work with the senior high youth group on planning for a youth mission trip in the next congregational year.

One thing I came back from GA with is something I already knew, but has been affirmed again as I imagine the work that can be done in the service of inspiring our UU children and youth to be justice makers: It takes a village. I cannot do this alone, it will take volunteers to help mentor, teach and support our children as they learn to become Unitarian Universalists who stand on the side of love. I hope you will say "yes!" when I ask for your help.

In faith,
Deborah
**Evening Book Group**

The Evening Book Group is on vacation for July and August.

Meetings resume in September, the second Thursday of the month. Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We welcome new members and visitors.

Our selections for the next year are as follows.

**Month - Book - Author**

**September**: The Warmth of Other Suns: the Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson. The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration

**October**: Blood Bones and Butter by Gabrielle Hamilton

**November**: The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides

**December**: Deaf Sentence by Desmond Bates

**January**: The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

**February**: The Barbarian Nurseries by Hector Tobar

**March**: State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

**April**: Wild by Cheryl Strayed

**May**: The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach

**June**: Select books for next year

Linda Lampson

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**Getting to Know UU**

Sunday August 19, 2012

11:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

here at UUCSR

Rev. Chris Bell will present information on Unitarian Universalists and our congregation in particular. There will be plenty of time for questions. This is a 3-hour workshop, not a drop-in session. This is one step towards becoming a member or just getting to know one another. Beverages & light lunch will be provided. Sign up at the Visitors Table, or contact Betz Miller, organizer, betzmiller@comcast.net 539-3654. Childcare provided, indicate ages.

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**Cultural Awareness: One Earth, Different People**

Just as we know we need to try to keep up with all the new technology, we also need to keep updating our cultural awareness. The upcoming six week series: One Earth, Different People will provide just such an opportunity.

The class will be led by Stephanie Puentes, an experienced diversity consultant, and be co-sponsored by the Diversity Task Force and Advocates for Social Justice. We will explore several subject areas including: race, class, age and gender issues. You can expect a supportive yet challenging, meaningful experience. Please find more specific information and registration materials at the Advocates table. Cost is $30 (scholarships available). Space is limited - and we’d love to have you join us!
All Congregation Family Retreat—Register NOW!

All Congregation Family Retreat
July 13, 14, 15 – Register NOW!

Summer is almost here and the planning for this year’s all-congregation, family retreat is almost complete. If you would like to join us, relaxing under the redwoods at a private retreat center, near Jack London State Park, look for the registration form in this newsletter.

Another way to sign up is to look for the Family Retreat table after the services, starting June 10. Friendly members of the retreat planning committee will be available to answer your questions. Our activities this year include many choices. There are workshops on Laughter, Travel Stories, the Second Half of Life, and Tie Dye. As always there will be all kinds of music and a raffle and Talent Show on Saturday night. The swimming pool will be available for both early morning lap swimmers and for afternoon water play. Softball and hiking are available for the energetic, while those inclined to just relax can do puzzles, crafts, card and board games, or chat on the deck that overlooks the meadow. Sunday morning is always special with an outdoor service, planned by participants. Please call Barrie Noe, 823-5018, or Leslie Norinsky, 373-7944, for more information.

Jamie McReynolds Ordination

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, October 28, 4-8 PM, will be a service and reception for the ordination of Jamie McReynolds. Jamie is a past President of the Board of Trustees of the UUCSR who helped lead our congregation in our move from our old location at Todd and Stony Point Road to our current home in the middle of Santa Rosa. Since that time he has attended and graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry, worked as a hospital chaplain, and begun the path toward full fellowship as a UU minister. Our ordination is one part of that path. Watch for more information in future newsletters, but plan now to attend this uniquely UU ceremony.

Women’s Group

Looking for a women’s group? We began meeting last fall and are now looking for a few additional members. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at UUCSR. Interested? Contact Dianne Vidmar at dvidmar2004@yahoo.com or 707/239-8833.

4th Annual Men’s Retreat

It is time to sign up for the 4th Annual UUCSR Men’s Retreat!! Look for the registration table starting Sunday July 1st.

The retreat is once again being held at St Dorothy’s Rest in Camp Meeker. The dates are Friday August 24, 25 and 26.

For more information please contact Andy Levine at 887-9810.
SUMMERTIME HAPPENINGS

Music for Your Ears presents

**MUSIC MAN**
Sonoma County’s most energetic young singers
Fri. & Sat. July 27 & 28
7:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 29
3:00 p.m.

Actors Basement presents

**24-HOUR THEATER COMPETITION**
From concept to stage show in just 1440 minutes.
Saturday, August 4
7:00 p.m.

UUCSR presents

**THE TANGENTS**
A rollicking a cappella ensemble rocking the house with outrageous harmonies and some of the best songs ever written
Saturday, August 11
7:30 p.m.

UUCSR presents

**ROY ZIMMERMAN**
in the Spirit of Tom Lehrer, a singer-songwriter with a sharp wit and a hilariously smart stage presence.
Saturday, August 19
7:30 p.m.

Coming this Fall to the Glaser Center

September 12 - 23
Santa Rosa International Film Festival

Saturday, October 27
Halloween Hafla Bellydancing Extravaganza

Saturday, November 3
UUCSR Service Auction

Saturday, December 15
Twisted Christmas Live no. 10

The Glaser Center • The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa • 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa • 707-568-5301
**Share the Offering:**
On Sunday, July 8th, one half the collection will go to the Sonoma County Parkinson’s Support Group. First and foremost, they advocate for one another and for the cure, which is on the horizon. Their goals are to:

- Provide an environment of counseling, comfort and encouragement to those with Parkinson’s and their caregivers;
- Become better informed about Parkinson’s disease and share that information;
- Advocate for a cure.

Most of us have friends and/or family members living with this disease so when the purple bag comes your way, please be your usual generous selves. Thank you!

On Sunday, July 22nd, half the collection will go to support our Saturday Breakfast Program. Tragically, the need keeps growing (we had over 200 guests on the second and third Saturdays in June and I can imagine how many there will be on the fifth Saturday!)

As you know, government funding for homeless services has been drastically cut so we must support this program almost entirely ourselves. Consequently, starting in August, half of both our bi-monthly collections will be used for this program, except for our quarterly contribution to The Living Room. We are hoping that this will change so we will again be able to support agencies and programs in our county that are of help and importance to members of our UUCSR community.

**Hot Topics**

There will not be a Hot Topic in July but mark your calendar for Sunday, August 19th when we’ll look at this country’s financial fiasco and mortgage melt-down – how it happened, what has to change so it doesn’t happen again, and what can its victims do to straighten out their situation. We’ll have representatives from a national bank, a local bank, a local credit union, and a real estate broker who guides people through this swamp and out the other side.

More details in the August Newsletter.

**Women Together—Farewell to Summer!**

What?? Summer has just begun! This is just a hint for you to save the date...August 25th for our Women Together’s annual End of Summer Gathering. All women of our congregation are invited to join for food and conversation at the Sebastopol home of Cathie Wiese on Saturday, August 25th from noon to 3:00 pm. We will soak up the summer sunshine, share summer stories, take a dip in the pool if you want, and enjoy those great Women Together potluck dishes as we say farewell to summer in Cathie’s spacious backyard. There will be plenty of shade, too! Bring your favorite potluck lunch dish to share, a beverage of your choice, and a swimsuit and towel if you think you might like to have some wet recreation.

Plates, utensils, and iced tea will be on hand. We would love to have you RSVP at 829-3634 so we can look forward to your company. Spontaneous gatherers are welcome, too! The address is 220 Frankel Lane in Sebastopol. It is in town and very easy to find. Call for directions if you’d like.
Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Board President Laura Jean Hageman.

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

Members Not Present – Joe Como, Alan Proulx

Non-Members Present
Rev. Chris Bell, Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), Linda Stabler (Human Relations and Budget Task Force), Amy Young (Co-Treasurer)

Opening Words by Chris, reading of “Now is the Time” by Hafiz

Agenda Review
- Add “Appreciation” to Congregational meeting Agenda
- Add “Transferring funds from Endowment Fund to Operation Account”

Minutes of 3 May 2012 approved as submitted.
Cathie accepted the role of meeting timekeeper.

Open Mic – None

Financial Reports
Treasurer’s Report

Transfer of Funds from Endowment Fund to Operation Account, FY 2011/12
Mary Louise motioned that, per the congregation request, $5,100 be transferred from the Endowment Fund to the Operation Account, FY 2011/12. Cathie seconded. Motion passed 8-0-1, John abstaining.

Funding Repair/Replacement/Upgrade of Sound System
John led a discussion regarding potential repair/replacement/upgrade of the sound system. He described a functioning sound system as “mission critical”. Cost and funding sources were discussed. Laura Jean authorized John, Peter, Daniel Reid & Robert Lunsford to meet with Sound Express and to make a recommendation to the Board.

Expiration or extension of Occupy Santa Rosa rent-free meeting space
Laura Jean reminded the Board that a vote regarding Occupy Santa Rosa rent-free meeting space is required at the June meeting. The current agreement expires 15 June 2012. Laura Jean reported that Joe’s research of the rental policy discovered that there is nothing in conflict with rent-free use.

Cont on page 11
Development of Preliminary FY 2012/13 Budget

The Board struggled with establishing the balanced Preliminary FY 2012/13 Budget to be presented to the congregation at the summer congregational meeting. The Final Budget will be determined for the Fall congregational meeting. There is no congregational vote regarding the Preliminary Budget. Expected revenues and expenditures were compared to FY 2011/12 actuals. Discussions addressing difficult decisions resulted in a balanced budget. Motion by Cathie and seconded by Peter to approve the budget. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Scheduling Fall, Winter & Spring Congregational Meetings

Dates were determined to be: Fall Oct 7, Winter Feb 10, Spring Jun 9

Agenda for June 10 Congregational Meeting

Agenda items were reviewed; continental breakfast 8-8:45 a.m., meeting 9-10:30 a.m.

Closing words provided by Mary Louise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Graham
July 2012

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

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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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Sexton: Phil Butterfield

Sunday Religious Education Staff