



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• November 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 11 •

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

November 4th

Consumerism and the American Soul

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman
Music by the UUsual Suspects.*

If you "consume" media, (that is, read, surf the internet, or watch TV) you will quickly discover the all-pervasive American belief that our happiness, safety, freedom of choice, and yearning for personal expression can all allegedly be fulfilled through the purchasing of various goods. We'll offer a competing point of view. And, hey, admission is free!

November 18th

Gratitude: the Heart of Spirituality

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn
Robert Lunceford will offer music at 9:15.
The Choir performs at 11:00.*

Rev. Galen Guigerich, the UU minister of All Souls Church in New York City, has suggested that gratitude is the very essence of a Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Gratitude isn't just a feeling. It is something we can practice, much like one might practice yoga or even practice for a play - by again and again saying "Thank you!" to the world. A fun story for all ages and some great music will help us get ready for Thanksgiving today.

November 11th

The Moral Injury of War

*Service Leaders: Bryan Plude, Andy Levine
The Choir performs at BOTH services.*

On Armistice Day, US Navy veteran Bryan Plude, our intern minister, will explore the moral injury often incurred by our military personnel who fight in wars. Separate and distinct from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, moral injury occurs when individuals are called on to perform acts going against their deepest moral foundations. Authors Gabriella Lettini and Rita Nakashima Brock explore this in their soon-to-be-released *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War*, a source for today's sermon.

November 25th

On Perfectionism

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller
The Choir performs at 9:15.*

An old adage says, "the perfect is the enemy of the good," yet the Buddha is often described as the perfect teacher, and the Bible even suggests that we can become as perfect as God in Heaven. How might we make sense of this? At this service, two doomed perfectionists offer some insights into the perfect, the good, and the good enough.

December 2nd

The Righteous Mind

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Beverly Helfer-Grand
The Choir performs at both services.*

What is "moral psychology", and what does it have to say about living together in peace and harmony with those who are different than us in our families, communities and nation? Come find out!



Once-In-A-Lifetime



How many times have you heard something called "once-in-a-lifetime?"

Well, I've just had one.

On Saturday, my daughter Caitlin was married to her husband Alec Moody, a fine Unitarian Universalist young man who originally hails from Concord, Massachusetts, home of Emerson and Thoreau. How fine is that? They met in Savannah, Georgia, where Alec studied photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Caitlin was visiting a friend there who also attended SCAD. In her college days at Hampshire Cait studied Southern literature and its intersection with race and racism (she was/is particularly interested in William Faulkner), and was down in Georgia to get a first-hand taste of Southern culture after years in Cleveland, Boulder, and Boston.

While she was there a massive thunderstorm killed all the power in town. Alec and a couple other guys who lived down the street came over to Helen's to pass the time, with only candlelight at their disposal, and that was when they became acquainted. How romantic is that?

Well, not nearly as romantic as the fact that their first date was a minor-league baseball game, where they watched the Savannah Sand-Gnats (yes, that's their name) beat the Hickory Crawdads. Oh, at that point I *knew* Alec was special!

The wedding was held at a beautiful old Southern home once owned and lived in by Horace Williams, a philosophy professor known as the "gadfly of Chapel Hill." He was beloved by his students, including the novelist Thomas Wolfe. Horace went to Yale Divinity School and was known for his relentless use of the Socratic method, which involves asking lots and lots of logical questions until the responder realizes he is completely ignorant and confused. Very effective, but not particularly endearing, as Socrates himself learned. The University of North Carolina hired Williams to teach philosophy because of his *divinity* degree, assuming that it would make him a safe bet not to teach evolution or to be too critical of religion.

They were wrong.

Seems like a fitting place for a UU wedding ceremony, don't you think?

Now, every wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime moment, even if you get married more than once. But how often do you get to conduct the wedding ceremony of your one-and-only daughter? Only the eventual wedding of my son, should that occur, might contend for such significance. I barely could contain my tears of poignancy and

joy. My 95-year-old grandfather was there (it could be the last time I see him alive), my aunts came from far afield. My niece brought her new baby. A truly special, unique and unrepeatable day.

And yet, as the Grateful Dead sing in *Black Peter*, as the character of the song prepares to die, "See here how everything leads up to this day. And it's just like every other day that's ever been."

That is the strange thing about life. So much of it is mundane and the same every day. Get up, shower, work. Eat, sleep, drink. Shop, drive around, make love, mow the grass, talk to some friends, brush your teeth. On and on and on and on. And yet at the same time, it is filled with moments that can never be duplicated or repeated. Every single day thousands are born, and every single day thousands die, but there is only one day that your son is born, or your mother dies.

The deep truth is that even the mundane moments are once-in-a-lifetime. There will never be another now. You will never be the same you as you are this moment, so you had very well better savor each second and make the most of them. The deepest truth is that there is only now, now.

In the *Diamond Sutra*, the Buddha says, "This is how to contemplate our conditioned existence in this fleeting world: Like a tiny drop of dew, or a bubble floating in a stream; Like a flash of lightning in a summer cloud, or a flickering lamp, an illusion, a phantom, or a dream."

So it is.

It makes me feel very fleeting and mortal to realize that I'll never marry off my daughter again, never have another child. That I really might get only one chance to see Tom Waits perform live, or return to South Africa or Argentina or Australia. I certainly don't expect to take ayahuasca again anytime soon. I'll probably never again shake the Dalai Lama's hand. Heck, I might not see tomorrow if this bus doesn't slow down...

And yet look at that sun coming up and going down. Another beautiful day. Another chance for awakening. Another taste of simple beauty, love and companionship.

Phantom or dream or drop of dew, life is truly good, I declare. Life is truly good.

Thanks for all your support and flexibility during this very busy and meaningful month. I hope I'll see you around the Glaser Center soon.

Blessings, Rev. Chris



Greetings from the Board

If you attended the Fall Congregational Meeting (and 104 of you did!), you heard presentations of the Board's goals for the current year. For those who missed the meeting, they are listed below along with the names of the Board members working in each area.

Spiritual Life

(Joe Como, Susan Bartholome, Peter Wilson,
Rev. Chris Bell)

Spiritual Life Goals

- Renew *Aging with Grace* and *Grief* groups
- Enhance spiritual practice opportunities
- Create regular prayer groups/healing circles
- Improve integration of worship with Together In Exploration program
- Integrate/Educate Ministerial Intern

Religious Education Goals

- Continue development of a self-sustaining Adult RE program
- Create a "catechism" for kids and adults
- Increase ministerial involvement with parents

Community - Within & Without

(Jeanie Bates, Lois Nagle, Cathie Wiese,
Alan Proulx)

Newer Member Integration

- Identify and develop formal procedures that will facilitate finding a place and sense of belonging for our newer members.

Volunteer Coordination

- Develop a volunteer task force to match volunteers with positions needed

Explore joining a community action group

- Consider joining the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP)

Infrastructure

(John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman, Lois Bell,
Mary Louise Jaffray)

Plan Facilities Upgrade and Expansion

- Update and present a written plan for long-term facilities maintenance, upgrades and expansion, including cost of each in a joint meeting with BOT and key stakeholder groups

Develop guidelines for the 12 Operational Teams

- Develop expectations and responsibilities of Teams and Committees
- Ensure all documents reflect new 12-Team governance structure

Enhance Financial Management

- Further develop management policies governing the Building Obsolescence, Emergency, and Endowment Funds
- Establish a method for tracking the cash-flow reserve for operations and determine the minimum reserve needed

Review Building Security Procedures and Practices

- Provide training in lock-up procedures & practices
- Improve management of building access
- Consider a card-key locking system

All of these goals are in service of the UUCSR mission: Celebrating Life, Empowering People, Caring for One Another and Building a Better World!

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President

Assistive Listening Devices

PROGRESS REPORT #5, this is the FINAL REPORT
DOLLAR GOAL: \$2900.

DONATIONS TO DATE: \$2925.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HARDWARE STATUS: From these donations Dan Reid has spent \$2646.72. As of now the inventory is:

Receivers: 16
Neck Loops: 11 (used by those with T-coil equipped hearing aids)

Headsets: 10

16 slot receiver charging case: 1

Plus rechargeable batteries

The balance of \$278.28 will be used for ongoing maintenance of the devices.

FUTURE: We will welcome your ideas for a rack to store and display the neck loops and head sets. We know we can do better than the shoe box storage and display on the pew.

Again, thank you very much,

Bud Willis

707-292-1464

Leadership and Deep Democracy Training

A training for group facilitators and participants will occur at UUCSR Sunday November 4, at 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Bill Say, internationally recognized consultant for organizational health and functionality is presenting this workshop which emphasizes a philosophy and methodology of Deep Democracy.

This work, developed by Arnold Mindell, is an approach to individual and collective change with roots in psychology, physics, spirituality, and systems

theory. It facilitates sorting through issues of concern; finding consensual ways of focusing attention on important subjects; and exploring roles, perspectives, and relative levels of power within a given group.

Greater organizational health, functionality, and sustainability are the expected outcomes.

Occupy Santa Rosa Community Wellness Working Group is offering this training with the co-sponsorship of UUCSR Advocates for Social Justice.

This event is open to the public and there is no fee for attending.

Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

We provide loving childcare for children from infancy though age 4 in our preschool room. Rachel Alexander and Fiona Mackenzie are our child care providers.

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Rev Chris and Eric Fischer serve as Youth Advisers. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for more information.

Grades K-2 and 3-5 are using a curriculum called In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program

Middle School youth are working with a book called What Do You Stand For by Barbara Lewis

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

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

Religious Education for Children and Youth

How can we teach social consciousness to our children? As we endeavor to teach peace and social justice in Religious Education this year, I am looking at the various ways that children learn, grow, and change. First hand experience and modeling appear to be more successful ways of teaching in this arena than book learning. Providing children with the opportunity to experience concepts of injustice can inform them of how they and others can impact social justice. The development of a sense of social conscience in children can be fostered in school, in religious education, and most importantly at home. As I and our volunteer teachers work with children on Sunday mornings, we invite parents and friends in the congregation to find ways of helping our children learn how to be justice making people, through service, exploration, and connection with one another.

When parents work for the community good, children follow the example. A national study from the Corporation for National and Community Service reported that "teens with parents who volunteer were almost twice as likely to volunteer and nearly three times more likely to volunteer on a regular basis". Tell your kids about your volunteer experiences, be sure they know that your value as a contributing member of society does not start and end at your job. Whether you help with projects here at the congregation, volunteer at the school, or work with a non-profit - make sure your children know that these are essential ways that you contribute to making our world a better and more just place.

There are many ways that families can volunteer together. Here are just a few:

- Pack up some clothes and toys that your child has outgrown and take them to a homeless shelter.
- Volunteer at the Humane Society with your child on a Saturday
- Take your child to visit one of our elders who doesn't get

out an about as well as they used to.

- Got to your local park and pick up trash *before* you play.
- Volunteer at a pet adoption agency at a local pet store.
- Older children can volunteer at a food bank packing & sorting food for distribution.
- Volunteer with your child for a Saturday Breakfast shift here at UUCSR
- Have a letter writing session where you and your child(ren) write letters to your state or congressional representative about an issue that is meaningful to you.
- Arbor Day is coming up - plant a tree.
- When you are hiking, always carry a bag and pick up trash along the trail.
- Incorporate charitable giving at the holidays - Guest at Your Table is a great opportunity to give on a daily basis though the holiday season.
- Come up with a community service opportunity for the kids in RE - we are always interested in new ideas! Have your child present the idea and we can work out the details.

The kids in RE continue their involvement with Free the Children and will be learning more about the village they are helping in Kenya and raising funds and awareness about the needs of the people there. Beginning November 11 they will participate in "We Create Change" a penny drive to help support Free the Children's Water Initiative that will bring permanent access to clean water for 100,000 people. You will be hearing more about this from the children in the weeks to come. But do plan to search in those small hidden places for change that you can spare for this project and bring it to worship services on November 11, 18 and 25.

In faith,
Deborah



Here is the October Schedule

Date

11/4	Children's Chapel	Theme: God is Gratitude	<i>All Ages Together</i>
11/11	Grades K-2 :Peaceful and Hurtful Experiences	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
11/18	Grades K-2: Caring and Uncaring for others	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
11/25	Children's Chapel	Theme: Thanksgiving	<i>All ages together</i>

The Vagina Monologues

By Eve Ensler • Presented by Independent Cabaret Productions
Saturday, Nov. 10 & Sunday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.

California Redwood Chorale

An American Rainbow: Music & Lyrics of North America
Sunday, November 18, 3:00 p.m.

CIRCUS ACTS

A play in two Rings by Merlyn Sell
Presented by Actors Basement
November 23 - December 2

New Horizons Band

Saturday, December 1, 3:00 p.m.

Healdsburg Chorus

Sunday, December 2, 2:00 p.m.

SJJC SYMPHONIC CHORUS

Presents Condiotti's
'Amahl & the Night Visitors'
Saturday, December 7, 8, 9

Twisted Christmas Live no. 10

Christmas with a Twist:
the annual literary/comedy/variety show
Saturday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.

Bryan Plude's Long Winding Road to Ministry

UU ministers tend to heed their callings from a rather dazzling range of previous careers and interests, but it is not every day that intern ministers with backgrounds resembling Bryan Plude's knock on the door of UU congregations. As a 56-year-old widowed single father of two adolescent girls at home (ages 15 and 12) and two grown boys (ages 27 and 25), Bryan sports a resume that includes a first career as a Navy pilot, followed by stints in the defense and aerospace industries and a longer career as a civil engineer working primarily in environmental restoration. Raised in an Episcopal tradition that he left in adolescence, his was a halting and curved route to ministry that spanned decades, until a key sermon he heard two years ago cinched the decision that would eventually bring him to UUCSR.

His 1988 introduction to UUism in his hometown of Cleveland came by way of his first wife. "We split soon after but I kept going," he says. "I liked what was being preached. I felt like I was home."

By 1992, he was feeling what he calls "the tug on my sleeve" toward ministry, but after discussing it with his minister at the time, he decided instead on a graduate program in civil engineering. He had graduated from Cornell University in biology before flying fighter bombers for the Navy, where, he says with audible relief in his voice, "I didn't see any combat, and never had to drop any bombs on people." He had also married again, eventually adopting his wife Rebecca's two sons, Alex and Keldon, from her first marriage.

A job-related move brought the family to Sacramento, California in 1997, where Bryan took a job with the nonprofit Ducks Unlimited. The family settled a year later in Davis. Bryan eventually left Ducks Unlimited to consult independently and then later worked for an environmental engineering firm. He and Rebecca also continued to grow their family, which came to include daughters Miakoda and Jeanine. All appeared well as the family settled into the Davis UU congregation that he still calls home.

Lightning struck, however, in the form of a fast-moving cancer that befell Rebecca in 2007 and took her life just 15 months after symptoms first appeared. His daughters were 10 and 7 at the time. Three years later, Bryan sat in church on an otherwise typical Sunday and had his own version of Paul's Damascus Road experience as a friend who had completed her divinity degree at

Starr King School for the Ministry delivered a sermon on how she combined her environmental concerns with her spiritual longings. "This feeling came over me and I knew what I had to do," he says. "After the service, I went home, went online, saw what it cost—and got depressed. So I put it off for weeks, but it kept coming back."

That's when he decided to stick a toe in the water of theological education by enrolling for one course at Starr King. "Three weeks in, it was clear what I had to be doing," he says. Full-time enrollment soon followed, along with a search for an internship. Taking that search to UU General Assembly in Phoenix last June, he had our Rev. Chris on his list of desired contacts, so they met over coffee. A long sequence of further discussions and meetings among Chris, Bryan and congregational leaders over the next several months served to iron out multiple logistical concerns to the mutual satisfaction (and great delight) of all concerned parties.

"At 56 I didn't feel like I had time to stretch out graduate school and an internship forever, so I decided to take the plunge and move as fast as possible," he says. "There wasn't a lot of reason in the equation. 'Reason' told me not to do it—that I was too old, that it cost too much, that I couldn't begin again. But I felt 'called'—a spiritual calling, or an emotional calling, if you want to be humanist about it."

Also factoring into his decision, he says, was "the outpouring of support we received—and still do—from our church through Rebecca's illness. It showed me the tremendous power of spiritual community."

Surveying what lies ahead, he quips: "Now, it's a race between getting done with my program and my funds holding out. I'm hoping my daughters get college scholarships." He is also hoping gas prices come down as he travels 550 miles a week between Davis, Roseville and Santa Rosa. Add in his responsibilities toward his 80- and 79-year old parents still living in Cleveland and his oversight of son Alex who has Down syndrome, and it is a very full life, made all the more so by a two-year internship commitment whose positive reverberations are likely to be felt by UUCSR for many years to come.

—Andrew Hidas



UUCSR Writers

Thursday Evening, Nov 1

Sonoma County Poetry Slam meets 7 pm, on the first Thursday of the month, Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, with Grand Slam on May 2 at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa.

Slam - Emcee: Tom J. Mariani, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate 2010-2012 or Guest Former Slam Winners. Poetry Slam Information contact: Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com

Monday Afternoon, Nov 5

Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, Nov 5 at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa. Regular monthly meetings are held once a month on the first Monday of the month from 4-6 pm. We do not meet in January, July and September.

Whatever your creative endeavor: fiction, non fiction, memoir, poetry, essay, etc., our focus is to provide an atmosphere where serious writers improve and hone their writing skills.

The UUCSR Writers is open to the novice, the more experienced, and the published author. Membership at UUCSR is not required.

Thursday Mornings

Thursday Morning Coffee at Whole Foods in Coddington, Santa Rosa 10 am-12 noon. Buy the beverage/food of your choice. We meet once a week with other Writers for lighthearted conversation and talk about who's doing what in our literary community.

NaNoWriMo November is National Novel Writing Month. Join the "Write-In's!" Bash our a 50,000-word novel in 30 days. Every Monday in November 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Monday, Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa. Free -

Open to the Public

Monday Afternoon, November 19, New "Great Course" on DVD "Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement".

At 3:30 pm DVD presentation of three 1/2 hour lectures by Professor Ashton Nichols of Dickinson College. Group discussion begins after the three 1/2 hour lectures.

The Great Courses on DVD, Mondays, 3:30 - 6 pm, Nov 19, 26, Dec 10, 17, and 2013 dates TBA. Meet at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa. This is an ongoing series. Free, No Charge. You can still join us. If you plan to attend please contact Georgette at: ggdeb@sonic.net.

"Big Read" Month of March 2013, Emily Dickinson (1830-86) is the American poet chosen for the Big Read being sponsored by KRCB {grant from the National Endowment for the Arts} this year.

The UUCSR Writers "Presents" will feature David Templeton on stage interviewing Tom J. Mariani and Margo van Veen, our two UUCSR Writers Poet Laureates, on the subject of Emily Dickinson and Poetry. Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa. Dates and time TBA.

N.B. (Nota Bene)

We usually do not charge admission to the UUCSR Writers events. And, if your budget permits, do look for our "UUCSR Writers Donation Bucket". Any amount of loose change or paper currency is appreciated.

Take Care, Georgette G. deBlois

ggdeb@sonic.net

A Chalice Lighter Thank You from the Revival

Thank You to all who signed up to be Chalice Lighters at the recent Revival.

Sixteen new members signed up to be Chalice Lighters and 9 were from UUCSR - way to go Santa Rosa! Chalice Lighters is a program where many UUs from the whole district join together to support a special project, like the revival. Hundreds of UUs from through out the Pacific

Central District gave \$10, \$20, \$30 or more to support the Northbay revival which together was enough to help pay for the rental and publicity for the revival. You can still join, or find out more about this simple, yet very effective program at www.PCD-UUA.org and click on Chalice Lighters or contact Jan Ogren at Janogrenmft@gmail.com

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering ~ On both Sunday, November 11th and Sunday, November 25th, half the collection will go to support our Saturday Breakfast Program. We are confident that your generosity will keep up with the need! Thank you for your continued support!

Hot Topics—September 30th

Hot Topic ~ Sunday, November 18th

Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teen drinking.

Is it true that kids are going to drink no matter what? And, that we as concerned community members are powerless to change that? What do you think?

Come to the Board Room from 12:30 to 2 pm where

Donna Newman-Fields, Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Coordinator, Sonoma County Department of Health Services, will share her knowledge and experience with different approaches to the problem of preventing and treating teen-age substance abuse. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Women Together—One-Day Retreat

Our Annual One-day Retreat will be on Saturday, November 10th from 10am to 3pm. We will gather at Friends House (684 Benicia Drive, Santa Rosa) for fun and deeper connections. In the morning we will break into small groups to explore our experiences with aging, its losses and gains, and after a pot-luck lunch, we'll play games or do a crafts project or whatever we'd like. This is an opportunity for those women who are unable to attend our Spring week-end retreat, and for those who want more of the special time we create together! It is a free event so there's no need to sign up ahead of time, but it's always helpful for the committee to have an idea how many folk to prepare for. But you will be warmly welcomed if you decide to come on the morning of the 12th! Mark your calendars right now so you won't miss it!

Linda Harlow/Women Together
linda37@sonic.net 526-3528

Holiday Party - Save the Date

We will have our Annual Holiday Party for all UU women and their friends on Saturday, December 15th from noon to 3 pm. Helga Lemke is again opening her lovely home for this festive occasion, 1983 Grosse Avenue, Santa Rosa. Please bring a lunch dish to share.

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.

November 18

December 16



2012-13 Scripture Study

with Reverend Chris

ALMOST EVERY TUESDAY (Please check the schedule below!)

8:00-9:00 am and 5:30-6:30 pm

Drop-in's always welcome! Come for one class or all.
Doing the reading is encouraged and helps, but is not required.

Marcus Aurelius - Meditations
Suggested translation: *The Emperor's Handbook*
by Hicks

10/23
10/30
11/06
11/13
11/20
11/27



The Upanishads
As much of the Isa, Kena, Katha and Taittiriya as
we can read.

02/05
02/12
02/19
02/26
03/05
03/12
03/19
03/26
04/02



Paul the Apostle - I Corinthians

12/11
12/18

Emerson

04/30
05/07
05/14

**Henry W. Bellows -
The Suspense of Faith**

01/08
01/15



Walt Whitman - Leaves of Grass

05/28
06/04
06/11

*Specific readings and schedule changes will be noted in the Announcements and Newsletter

Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 8th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The November selection is "The Marriage Plot" by Jeffrey Eugenides.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. The selection for December is "Deaf Sentence" by David Lodge.

Linda Lampson

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 20, September 2012

Meeting called to order @ 6:32 by Board Vice President Jeanie Bates

Members Present: Jeanie Bates(Vice President), Susan Bartholome, Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Mary Louise Jaffray, Lois Nagle, Alan Proulx, Peter Wilson

Members Not Present: Laura Jean Hageman (President), Cathie Wiese (Secretary)

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Bryan Plude (Intern), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), Jan Prater(Recording Secretary)

Agenda Review: No Changes

Minutes: Approved

One-On-One Sharing

Open Mic: Rev Chris reported the lawsuit has been settled.

Rev Chris introduced our new ministerial intern Bryan Plude.

Welcome to new Board Secretary: Jan Prater {thanks!}

Treasurer's Report: Art Rosenblum reported that, typical for this time of year, we are about \$14,000 in the red relative to the Budget. Actual cash in the bank is about \$18,000 ahead. Some of this will be moved into a CD and some into a stock.

Process for Responding to Congregant's Presentations to the Board: Protocol for how to respond to Open Mic speakers was discussed. Ideas included: asking the speaker what action they are looking for; "We will take that under advisement" is the first response if an action is requested. If the board decides to address the issue raised it was suggested that speaker get on the Agenda for the following board meeting. Jeanie agreed to write up a draft for this protocol to be edited by board members by e- mail and then voted on at Oct meeting.

Board "Goal Groups": Goal Group members confirmed:

Infrastructure: Laura Jean (Convener), John, Lois Bell, Mary Louise Spiritual: Susan (Convener), Joe, Peter, Rev Chris

Community Within and Without: Alan (Convener), Cathie, Lois Nagle, Jeanie

Groups should meet before Congregational Meeting in order to prepare their reports for the Congregational meeting that include a summary of work on last year's goals as well as new goals developed this year.

Rev Chris responded to a question that UUCAN is considering the Northbay Organizing Project and that this can be reported as part of the Community Within/ Without goals.

HVAC Replacement: John Farison reported that the one functioning unit in the space rented by the Islamic Society has been temporarily repaired but should probably be replaced. The cost to replace the two units was quoted at \$16,000 - slightly more than half that to replace the one. It will require a crane. We have about that much in our Building Obsolescence Fund. Also, we should review our rental agreement re: who pays for maintenance.

Motion by John, seconded by Alan to proceed with looking into project in order to replace the unit by end of fiscal year, using the Fund money.

Internship Committee: Members: Nancy Hargis, Barrie Noe, Raymond Sigrist, JD Thompson, John Jaffray, Andrew Hidas, and Anna Blevins (youth member.) The committee met with and approved Bryan Plude as our intern and agreed to support him for the next 2 years. Next step, draft contracts and agreement.

Congregational Meeting: Peter will be in charge of projection. Linda Stabler will do the final budget presentation. The Goal Groups will be represented by the following spokespeople: Infrastructure (John), Spiritual Life (Joe), Community (Lois N.) Volunteer Recognition will be handled by Jeanie; recipients: Terry Graham, Jan Hess, Betz Miller.

Old Business: Revival update - coming together well, still gathering lunch orders. International Film Festival: lessons learned include protection of Staff time

Closing Words: John Farison Adjournment: 8:32

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, Oct 18, 6:30. light dinner at 6:00 by Jeanie; sharing topic by Joe Como; closing words by Cathie Wiese

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Santa Rosa, CA
Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



November 2012 Please Recycle

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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:
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 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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