



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• March 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 3 •

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

March Worship Theme: Justice

MARCH 3rd

APOCALYPSE WHEN?

WEAVING THE WORLD ANEW

Service leaders; Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, Andy Levine
Special Music: *Festival of Friends* (both services)

Apocalyptic rhetoric is so pervasive in American culture that we can scarcely imagine a different framework of meaning. Yet it is deeply oppressive and endangers all life on earth. Come hear about an alternative framework--one that offers hope.

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck is a former ecologist who is called to help our culture make the spiritual transformation we need in order to live sustainably--and lovingly--on our beautiful blue-green planet.

MARCH 17th

JUSTICE SUNDAY:

CHOOSE WHAT YOU CHEW!

Service Leaders: *Rita Butterfield, Rev. Chris Bell, Nancy Hayashibara*
The Choir performs at 11:00.

Our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has worked for decades around the globe to promote our Third Principle: *Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations*. One of the UUUC's current campaigns draws attention to the rampant exploitation of workers in the food industry, many of whom work for less than minimum wage. Rita and Rev. Chris, who spent many years in the restaurant business themselves, will offer a look behind the kitchen door, and show how we can express our compassion for the hard-working people upon whom we all depend by making simple and effective choices about how we spend on food.

MARCH 10th

PROPHETS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, David Hope, Nancy Hayashibara*
The Choir performs at 9:15.

Speaking up and speaking out for justice has been deemed a sacred activity since the time of the ancient Hebrew prophets. We'll take a look at two of those, Micah and Amos, and find great resonance between their concerns and our own. It takes guts to speak truth to power. Come explore a few things worth yelling about, and find the courage and inspiration to do so.

MARCH 24th

EVIL EXPLAINED AND CONFRONTED!

Service Leaders: *Bryan Plude, Andrew Hidas, Nancy Hayashibara*
Billie Sue Fischer sings "Evil Ways".

The literature exploring evil fills libraries. Thomas Aquinas, Friedrich Nietzsche, Ayn Rand and Carl Jung are but a few of the western thinkers exploring this topic. The Hindu epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* both examine the division of good and evil and Buddhism reflects on evil when exploring the causes of suffering. Yet all evil is not created equal! There are substantive differences in how this important concept is defined. Let's have a look at how evil fits in a UU theology.

MARCH 31st

EASTER / FLOWER COMMUNION

A Service for All Ages!

(Pre-school childcare still available)

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason, Lucia Milburn, Nancy Hayashibara*
The Choir performs at both services. Susan Panttaja sings "The Rose".

Children's Choir at 11:00.

Come celebrate the reality of Life ever-renewing. Please bring a single flower or many flowers to share, as together we create a huge beautiful bouquet for our annual Flower Communion ritual. At 11:00 many of the worship roles will be filled by children, and we'll hear them sing, too. This is an Easter service for everyone!



Last Year's Ceiling is this Year's Floor



The Bell-Butterfield abode at Yulupa CoHousing occupies the second and third floors of a three-story building. Our family room is right above the neighbor's bedroom downstairs, as we learned the hard way when we got the latest version of the video game "Rock Band."

As you can surely understand, one cannot possibly nail the solo of Metallica's *Enter Sandman* without the volume way up. You gotta *feel* it. Well, at some point, well into our third hour of jamming, our downstairs neighbor let us know that she was tired of feeling it, too, in the traditional way of all apartment dwellers: she gave a good solid pound on the ceiling.

Or did she pound on the floor?

There is, in fact, a flat barrier between the two units. From down there it's a ceiling. From up here it's a floor. This rather trite example is, I hope, a useful and simple reminder that perspective matters. We really do shape our reality by the way we think about things. Sometimes a thing really can be two things at once, and it is just our point-of-view that determines how we perceive and react to it. Heck, even light is either and/or both a wave and a particle, depending upon how you approach it. What was once a ceiling is now a floor.

Only a few short years ago the thought of UUCSR being as sizable and powerful as we have become was nearly unimaginable. 375 members and pledging friends? Two full services? The Breakfast serving 300 people? 16 babies in the preschool? 14 teenagers in the youth group? The mortgage self-financing? And yet here we are. What was once seemingly out of reach, above and beyond, is now what we stand upon.

Rapid growth can be stressful. It means we have to find more volunteers to take care of more people, that we have to expand staff hours and benefits, that we have to struggle with more groups using what has suddenly come to feel like not enough space. We might want to ask, "Can't we just be satisfied with how things are?"

Nope. Sorry.

Every time we step up a floor, a new ceiling beckons to us. It is our religious duty and our spiritual destiny to embrace this fact. It's how evolution works. It's how we actively contribute to building a *better* world – not just a tolerable one. Each and every year we have to strive to get further along toward our vision of a congregation that is spiritually deep, socially active, politically engaged and rich, O yes *rich*, in

people and resources. "Onward and upward forever!" as Rev. James Freeman Clarke once put it.

The reality of the religious life, here in the wounded and needy world, is that we never get to say "enough." A day does not, will not, cannot come when we say: "Oh, thank goodness. We are serving the community enough. We have enough money. We have enough members. We have relieved enough suffering, we've enlightened enough souls. I guess we're done!" For that to happen someone would have to stand outside the door on Sunday and say, "No more," or say to eager donors, "We have all we need," or say to those called to offer new ministries and activism to the community, "No thanks, we're all set."

In a recent episode of *Mad Men*, Trudy Campbell, devoted wife, reminds her unhappy husband that "dissatisfaction is a symptom of ambition. It's the coal that fuels the fire." I am not ashamed to say I have high ambitions for Unitarian Universalism in the North Bay, and for our congregation's leadership thereof. I'm not dissatisfied with UUCSR, though; I'm dissatisfied with the world.

I won't be satisfied until every person in Sonoma County that would benefit from a liberal religious community like ours has found one, until every injustice that violates our Principles is redressed, until the Earth is being well and harmoniously cared for, until we throw out some of these damned guns, until the races and sexes are truly equal under the law, until a new vision of God that is truly embracing and open-minded and loving is proclaimed to all. And I really don't see that happening until, well, at least until 2023, and only then if we *really* hurry. Otherwise, I suspect we have to get used to being in it here for the long haul.

On the level of the Spirit, of course, I am aware – from the Bible and the Tao Te Ching, the Koans and the Upanishads, from our own UU mystics, and from my experiences in meditation and prayer, that we already live in the world of abundance. The eternal realm we seek is right here now, within and without and around. To perceive the world as needing to change or as lacking anything at all is a false view that brings suffering. I know this is true, but I still turned down the Metallica for my neighbor...

The world is perfect just as it is, and is also full of hurt and injustice that can and must be changed. We are a beautiful congregation just as we are, and yet, also, our best days are still ahead of us. Last year's ceiling is this year's floor. May our feet be firmly upon it, even as we reach our hands upward once again! Blessings and thanks to you all.

Greetings from the Board

Winter Congregational Meeting

On February 10, about 100 members attended the UUCSR Winter Congregational Meeting. A great deal was accomplished in the meeting, thanks in large part to the many effective, well-organized presentations including those on the budget (by Linda Stabler), on the Bylaws changes (by Ellen Skagerberg), nominations to the Board and Assemblies (by Ben Ford) and on the Board Goals (by Jeanie Bates, Alan Proulx, Rev. Chris and John Farison). These presentations were enhanced by the power-point slides provided by Peter Wilson. Cathy Wiese presented chalice pins to five members for their outstanding contributions: Kathy Norman, Sibyl Day, Linda Stabler, Lynn Riepenhoff and Leonard Riepenhoff.

Once again the Advocates for Social Justice provided a scrumptious array of bagels, spreads, fruit, juices and coffee for members to enjoy before the Meeting. Donations for the Continental Breakfast benefited the Adrienne Swenson Award.



New Board Members

We offer kudos to our Nominating Committee as we welcome Linda Stabler and Marge Wright who were nominated and elected to serve 2-year terms on the Board of Trustees beginning July 2013. We acknowledge the *many* contributions of Mary Louse Jaffray and Lois Nagle who are completing their fourth and final years on the Board – they will be sorely missed.

UUCSR Gala Celebration

April 6, 4-6pm

Mark your calendars now for the ***Fire of Commitment and Pledge of Freedom Gala***. In addition to being entertained you will enjoy delicious appetizers and wine and be reminded of the richness that is UUCSR - its inspiring Worship Services, its enriching programs, and its many opportunities to support and be a part of a vibrant community.

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President

Committee on Shared Ministry

Greetings from your Committee on Shared Ministry! The Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with monitoring the general health of the congregation, supporting the minister in his various roles, and providing conflict resolution when needed. At times the presence of another caring person or persons to walk beside us, facilitate discussion, and lend perspective and ideas can be immensely helpful when trying to resolve a conflict or misunderstanding. This is support that your Committee on Shared Ministry stands ready to provide should the need arise.

The first step with any issue or conflict is of course to try to engage the individuals involved in working with one another toward problem-solving and mutual understanding. Ideally, this can lead not only to resolution of conflict, but to a greater sense of shared purpose moving forward. Very rarely, this approach proves unworkable, and for those types of situations, the COSM has also developed a set of guidelines, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, for working with individuals who engage in interactions or behaviors that are disruptive,

disturbing, or feel unsafe to other members of the congregation. These matters are taken very seriously and treated with confidentiality by the COSM, and the development of the "Disruptive Behavior Policy" has been undertaken with great care. If you are interested in reading this policy, it is available for any member of the congregation to read, simply by asking a member of COSM.

Please feel free to speak with any of us on the Committee on Shared Ministry about any concern, observation, joy, or other matter concerning our shared life at UUCSR. The current members of the COSM are: Rev. Chris Bell, John Chenoweth, Bill Foshee, Judy Hutchinson, Mary Lill Lee, Lucia Milburn, Mary Wagner, and myself. You can find us between or after services - just look for the lavender nametags.

Yours in shared community,
Cathy Read
Chair, COSM

From the Intern Minister

My favorite piece of the drive I make between Davis and Santa Rosa is along Highway 37 through the marshes. On my way to Santa Rosa I always turn at the Skaggs Island road, driving off the highway a bit before getting out to stretch and to do a little birding.

As those of you who heard my Giving Tree sermon know, my interest in nature is lifelong. In recent years, prior to leaving my engineering career for ministry, I had the privilege of working on the restoration of the South San Francisco Bay wetlands. A similar restoration effort is taking place in the Napa marshes. Work underway there now and visible from the road has likely been designed by a former colleague at Ducks Unlimited.

I notice the tide as I drive toward Skaggs Island. In the beginning months of doing this drive the tide level was always a surprise. Now I've learned to predict the tide based on where the moon is located. This new skill brings me pleasure; it is something any coastal dweller used to know how to do, but I've always referred to published tide tables when I needed to know high or low tide, and I think I am not alone.

I scan the marshes for the wading birds and waterfowl. Always present, they each have their tide dependant activities. The wading birds actively feed for invertebrates in the exposed mud or in shallow water, but will find places to rest when the water is up. The ducks, the Pintails, Gadwall and Northern Shovelers, do the opposite, feeding when the water is up and resting on the exposed mud when the tide is out. The Pintails are a recent addition, moving in from where ever they spent

their mid winter. I expect they will be gone any week now, heading north for their breeding grounds on the prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Gadwall and Shovelers will soon follow.

The smell of the marsh, an old friend, greets me when I step out of the car. Salty and a bit funky, it's a smell I love. Even when it is too dark to see this smell helps to ground me, to reconnect me to Earth. The subtle whistles of hundreds of Pintails talking further grounds me. They paint the background in which the nearer and louder Black-necked Stilts provide raucous accent.

I feel gifted that I get to spend a few minutes here in this marsh on every trip I make between two places that I love, home and church. I remember the years I worked helping to restore environments such as this. I renew the ecological aspect of my calling to ministry during these short stops. This marsh ecosystem, this interconnected web is precious and fragile, and for better or worse, its future is now inseparably linked with ours. What for millions of years functioned naturally now requires protection and management to stay viable, as do so many of Earth's species and ecosystems. At this time in Earth's history, we must be our brothers' and sisters' keepers in ways never imagined by the authors of Genesis 4:9. When God asks Cain what has happened to his brother Abel, he replies, "I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?" To this question, in this time, we must answer yes.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

2013-2014 FIRE OF COMMITMENT

AND PLEDGE OF FREEDOM GALA

4-6 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013

Religious Education for Children and Youth

We have a baby boom in our preschool room! Last Sunday we had 16 little ones from babies to toddlers to preschool age children. It is such a joy to see so many families with young children becoming part of the UUCSR community.

I was inspired to find a spiritual home when I was expecting my first child. A miracle was growing inside me and I was hungry for an experience where the manifest sacredness that was unfolding in my life could be celebrated. I found the local UU church and never turned back. When children are born, parents often feel a yearning for spiritual grounding. The unfolding mystery of child birth and early parenting brings a sense of awe. Parents often long for a community of families with similar values with whom they can raise their children. This is exactly what I found at my UU congregation as I was raising small children, and it is what I want to foster here.

Last month Rev. Chris, Bryan Plude and I met with a small group of parents of our youngest children. Several ideas for creating community came out of that

meeting. There is now a facebook page for our young families where they can share ideas, and plan get togethers. We are planning a "Parents Night Out" in the near future where parents will leave their children here at UUCSR for childcare and all go out together for dinner and conversation. I would love to see play groups crop up, and perhaps a support group for new parents. If you would like to join the facebook group please send me an email at debmasonuu@gmail.com. Early parenthood is an amazing time of life, it is full of humor as well as worry. And most of all it is a time when our capacity to love reaches beyond our wildest imaginings. Who knew a heart could hold so much! Let this faith community be a place where parents can share the immense joys and the sometimes scary stresses of parenthood surrounded by loving support. In faith,
Deborah

P.S. Remember we now have childcare for our youngest children at both services (9:15 and 11:00am)

Young UU Fundraisers

Last month we had our most successful cake auction ever! With the help of an anonymous donor we raised \$1,962.00! Huge thanks go out to everyone who bought a cake, all of our cake makers and to the kids who put such heart into decorating them.

All of the proceeds will go to the All Congregation Retreat Scholarship Fund. The retreat will be held the weekend of August 9 to 11 at Westminster Woods in

Occidental. Stay tuned for details, and mark your calendars.

We also had a very successful Guest at Your Table fundraiser this year. With the help of Japhet, Megan, Brighton, Shayla, Roger and Traeger the congregation raised \$1,093.00 to support the programs of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

We provide loving childcare for children from infancy though age 4 in our preschool room during both the 9:15 and the 11:00 services. 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.

During the 11:00 service our grades K-2 and 3-5 classes are using a curriculum called In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program. Middle School Youth meet with Deborah for UU discussion and games.

March 2013 Class Schedule:

03/3/13	Children's Chapel – All Ages Together	Theme: Blessings
03/10/13	Grades K-2: Local UU Justice makers	Grades 3-8: Earth Awareness
03/17/13	Grades K-2: From Wishing to Doing	Grades 3-8: Selfless Service
03/24/13	Grades K-2: Preparing for Easter Service	Grades 3-8: Preparing for Easter Service
03/31/13	Inter generational Service Children grades K-	Theme: Easter/Flower Communion

Annual Men's Retreat in October

Save the ***NEW*** date for UUCSR's annual men's weekend retreat. We will gather at the same peaceful location as previous years (St. Dorothy's Rest) but this year it will be during a new season, from Friday evening October 4th through Sunday morning October 6th.

All members and friends of UUCSR are welcome. For more information watch this newsletter in the coming months or contact Committee chair Ethan Foote (email footefire"at"gmail"dot"com).

In fellowship, Ethan

SAVE THE DATE!!

**Our Annual Women's Retreat
at St. Dorothy's Rest will be the weekend
of May 3-5.**

Pictures have Arrived!



If you did not order extra prints of your directory photos, your free 8x10 should be in the office. Please check with me or the person at the volunteer desk.

PLEASE be sure to sign the sheet in the box with the photos so we know that

you picked it up. If you ordered extra prints, you should have them by now. If there is a problem with your photos, please EMAIL me or write me a note.

(Email and written notes stay in my inbox until the matter is settled.) AnnaLisa

707-291-0991 annalisa.wiley@gmail.com

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO ELECT NEW MEMBERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 AT 10:30 A.M.

IN THE BOARD ROOM

All Congregation Retreat



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Plan ahead because you won't want to miss this year's

ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT

Friday, August 9th through
Sunday, August 11th!

We will gather at a wonderful new location, the retreat center of Westminster Woods, near Occidental. This beautiful place is under new ownership and has great facilities to add to our weekend of community and fun. What might these be, you ask? How about a great pool, amazing play structure (think the original Super Playground in Sebastopol) for our youth, good outdoor spaces and a comfy meeting hall for our workshops and talent show, roomy dining hall, ropes course (!) and a lovely stream meandering through the grounds.

The retreat committee is very excited about all the possibilities this year and will be sharing more information as the time gets closer. Watch for it!

Getting to Know UU

Saturday March 9th 9 a.m. – noon at UUCSR

During this 3 hour workshop, Rev. Chris presents information on Unitarian Universalists and our congregation in particular. You will have plenty of time to explore and ask questions. In a fun and informational session get to know each other and members of our congregation. You might learn a little about yourself, too. This seminar is a requirement for membership, even if you were previously a member at another location.

Morning munchies & beverages will be served. Childcare provided.

FREE. Sign up at the Visitors Table.

More questions? Contact Rev. Chris Bell, 568-5381 or organizer, Betz Miller at 539-3654

or BetzMiller@comcast.net

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.— March 27, 2013

How to use an Arts & Culture Ministry: In Four Easy Steps

As has been pointed out in previous months, our congregation's Arts & Culture Ministry is unique. There are plenty of churches, of all denominations, that incorporate the arts and outreach of one kind or another. Our neighbors across the street at the Church of the Incarnation have for years hosted the Numina Center for the Arts, which sponsors concerts and other events intended to deepen its audience's connection to the mysteries of Christ and the universe. Potters House, an evangelical church in Santa Rosa, has formed Fire Escape Theater Company, a troupe designed specifically (as their somewhat clever name implies) to save people from the fires of hell. Last October, Fire escape performed 'Paranormal Activity: The Play,' transferring the hit movie about demon possession to the stage, where they hoped it would literally scare the hell out of its audience members. There are plenty of UU congregations, including our friends in Walnut Creek, who operate coffeehouse-type music venues, usually featuring folksingers with a political bent to their tunes, the message clear in every verse.

At the UUCSR, our Arts & Culture Ministry is built on the idea that the arts are themselves a message. By providing a place for painters to display their own individual views of the world, a spot for musicians to share the songs that most deeply touch their souls, a location for actors to transform themselves into other people and perform stories about life, love, and loss, by offering the community of Sonoma County an opportunity to encounter authors and poets and songwriters and singers, we are saying that these efforts have worth, because every human being, however they express themselves, has worth.

Our work does often have a strong social conscience. We present work that supports culture diversity in many ways. And it is fairly obvious that we like art that affirms the positive side of the human experience.

And that is, in itself, a ministry.

Last weekend, after the Nancy Hayashibara concert, I was approached by someone who'd never been here before, who heard about Nancy's concert on the radio and decided to attend with her husband and daughter. At intermission, she said, "I just want you to know that this place . . ." and she stood with her arms out wide (not easy to do, given the number of people who were here that night), ". . . this place . . . Is magical. Is there anything I can do to help you do what you are doing?"

In addition to the electric spark of deep satisfaction that remark gave me, it made me start thinking more about how our Arts & Culture Ministry Works, and what I might tell other people when asked how they might best help out. We

can always use volunteers, who work the events as ticket sellers, cookie vendors, ticket takers and the like, and Ted Miller (837-0933) would be happy to hear from you if you'd like to add your name to our growing list of Glaser Center volunteers. And I can always use suggestions of local artists we might be able to showcase in future events.

But to continue to make our work here matter, there are four easy steps that all of us could take to keep the magic going.

One. Try not to think of these events solely as fundraisers. Chris and I certainly don't. While raising money for the work of the UUCSR is a factor, and while some of our events ARE designed as fundraising events, we primarily try to make these shows affordable, and in some cases absolutely free. The majority of our events are about the expression of the art, and the power of a community coming together to support and honor those artists.

Two. Think about these events as outreach. When you hear we've got a theater company coming to perform an immersive, up-close-and-personal production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet' (which the Actor's Basement will be presenting here in April), instead of just thinking whether or not you'd like to attend that show, take a minute to think of people you know who would want to know about that, and send them a message, post a link on Facebook, or maybe even organize a party and invite some folks to come with you. The more people who learn about what we are doing, the more effective we will be as we continue our work.

Three. Have family Arts & Culture nights. A number of our events are planned for families to enjoy, and it's never too soon to demonstrate to your kids that the arts are important.

Four. Be challenged. The purpose of the arts is to make us think, feel, and react. Let's face it, some of the things we do here are pretty out there (like last year's hilarious staged reading of 'Plan 9 From Outer Space'). We are getting a name as being a place where our offerings are original, one-of-a-kind, and truly special. So let yourself be challenged, and take a chance at seeing something new or unusual, or even just plain weird-sounding. You might be surprised.

And that's what the arts do better than anything.

Constantly, they surprise us, they teach us, and they delight us.

Please join me this year in continuing to build our Arts & Culture Ministry into one of the truly magical treasures of Sonoma County.

David Templeton
Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director

Hot Topics

Imagine a day in a tiny room with no windows and a door that locks from the outside. Your meals are shoved through a slot in the door. Maybe not so bad - maybe even peaceful. Now imagine a week, a month, a year, many years. This is solitary confinement in a maximum security prison. The California Interfaith Campaign on Solitary Confinement believes that this is torture.

Geoffrey Gaskins, Director of the Bay Area Religious Campaign Against Torture will tell us about their campaign to mobilize people to end policies and practices of torture in our prisons. **On Sunday, March 10th**, learn what this group is doing and what we can do to help. Come to the RE Common Room from 12:30 to 2 pm. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering:

On Sunday, **March, 10th**, one half of the collection will go to **The Living Room**. As many of you know, this is the only day-time, drop-in center for homeless women and their children in the city. They can go there during the day and not only get two good meals but also the opportunity to access programs for the children and a wide range of services to help the women get back on their feet. We see many of these families at our Saturday breakfast so we can tell that

the need is great. When the purple bag comes your way, please be as generous as you can.

On Sunday, **March 24th**, one half the collection will go to support our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. We are serving between 200 and 250 folk each week and we are hoping that we can sustain that on one collection a month so we can share the other monthly offering with wonderful organizations in our community that you suggest. Please help make that possible!

Breath, Mobility, Balance

On Sunday, March 17th, Monica Anderson - owner of Tone Dance, Yoga and Pilates Studio - will again meet with us in the Board Room from 9:30 to 10:45 am to

help us with these vital functions. Those who've been with her before know how useful and what fun this is! No special clothes necessary.

Adult Religious Education

Please link to this survey and let us know your thoughts about Adult Religious Education here at UUCSR!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUCSR_Adult_RE_Survey

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 17

April 14

Wine Country Holiday—UU Fellowship of North Bay

“You generously share your beautiful community, your welcoming homes, your expertise and, especially, your warmth. We will remember this trip always.”

Ann McCracken, Cincinnati, OH.

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the eighth season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma valleys, e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day “Wine Country Excursion,” (a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience) or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and all proceeds go to our small fellowship. For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 707.363.7552 or barrie001@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely “home” with you!



UUCSR Writers

2013 New Direction

Four areas of concentration

1. Writers
2. Poets
3. Film
4. Special Events

“Regular monthly meetings are held from 4-6 pm” at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

Writers - Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, **March 4.**

Poets - Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, **March 11.**

N.B. UUCSR Writers Poetry Slams have been canceled. Our Steering Committee will announce a new monthly program for Poetry in the next Newsletter.

Film - Next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, **March 18.**

Special Event - “Big Read” 1-3 pm, Saturday, March 9. David Templeton on stage interviewing Tom

J. Mariani, Margo van Veen--our two UUCSR Writers Poet Laureates--and Guests on the subject of Emily Dickinson and Poetry.

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

Information

Georgette G. deBlois, ggdeb@sonic.net •
Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com
UUCSR Writers, Glaser Center at
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
547 Mendocino Ave • 707-568-5381 •
www.uucsrwriters.com

think about it...

Writing and Publishing
by Georgette G. deBlois

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 17 January 2013

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words: Rev Chris Bell

Meeting called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Jeanie Bates

Members Present: Jeanie Bates (Vice President), Susan Bartholome, Lois Bell, John Farison, Mary Louise Jaffray, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), and Peter Wilson

Members Not Present: Joe Como, Laura Jean Hageman (President), and Lois Nagle

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Bryan Plude (Intern Minister), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), Ellen Skagerberg, Carol Kraemer, Linda Stabler and Jan Prater (Recording Secretary)

Agenda and Minutes: Minutes approved with the following changes: (1) Under Open Mic leave out "This would not include the rest of the RE program." (2) Under Treasurer's Report replace "minor" with "needed."

One-On-One-Sharing

Open Mic: Bryan Plude reported that the Intern Contract has been finalized and is being distributed to the appropriate people.

Treasurer's Report: (Art Rosenblum) We're in the black - about \$40,000. Checks went to the Luther Burbank Savings and Loan - advance payment on the mortgage. Looking to Endowment Committee for possible help with Operations Fund for next year. (This item requires further discussion.) There will be a Treasurer's Column in next month's newsletter.

Canvass Committee: (Mary Louise) Things are moving along well - Judy Taylor is the Chair of the Pledge Drive. The main event will be on April 6 (4-6 p.m.) with a Program to be held in the Sanctuary plus an Activities Fair. Jeanie asked if we [UUCSR] can do credit cards and automatic withdrawals? Yes, we can do automatic withdrawals.

Space Use Policy: Database Development: (Lois Bell) Lois reported that she has been working on a database to determine where we are short on space and also what types of uses there are and what policies might be necessary. Lois provided the Board with a sample page of the database and the Center Usage Legends.

Glaser Center Committee: (Mary Louise Jaffray) One meeting so far - looking at what we need to do, and how, and then firm up some policies for consistency and clarification.

Occupy Agreement: (Jeanie Bates) Our current agreement expires end of this January. A few UUCSR members are involved and feel positive. The group passes the hat for donations, and also are now open to anyone from UUCSR to participate so this doesn't require a waiver anymore. Advocates For Social Justice plans to review this and all sponsorship agreements every six months. There was general approval from the Board on this matter.

Review of Bylaws Changes: Ellen Skagerberg along with Carol Kraemer reported on the proposed By-Laws changes. Ellen reviewed her handout "Significant Highlights" and responded to Board members questions and concerns. Items included whether we need a designated "CEO." Re: Section 2, Item 4 the Board recommended adding "with the Exception of the

Emergency Fund." Ellen suggested the Board make note of pg 4, Section 3 which re-defines the Board President and Vice President positions.

Review of Preliminary Budget: (Linda Stabler)

- 7.9% raise in pledges to balance budget
- employee expenses going up due to re-defining all Phil's hours as "employee" rather than "contract" and also adding Brian Wells
- Revenue Budget is going up but still below a couple of year's ago
- "Other Income" is a new category - i.e. some income from UUA towards intern
- projected Events Revenue up, plus some "sales"
- Sabbatical expenses cut back for this year because already enough

Linda reviewed the presentation that will be made at the next Congregational Meeting. She also passed out a list of Unfunded Items - suggested possible use of Endowment money (approximately \$5,500) could be restroom counters and sinks. (Is it okay to use Endowment money for capital improvement question to be dealt with at another meeting.) Board voted to accept Linda's proposal to "aim high" in terms of pledges towards the proposed budget: motion made by Alan, 2nd by Peter, motion passed.

Recommendation on Providing additional Funds for Childcare During 1st Service: The Board recommends that additional funds for childcare during the early Service be added to the Budget.

Review of Agenda for February 10 Congregational Meeting:

- Bylaws changes (presenter Ellen Skagerberg)
- Preliminary Budget (presenter Linda Stabler)
- Nominations/elections of Board members (presenter Ben Ford)
- Board Goal-Group Reports (presenters: John Farison for Infrastructure, Rev Chris for Spiritual Development, Alan Proulx and Jeanie Bates for Community Within and Without)
- Special Volunteer Appreciations: (presenter: Cathie Wiese) Recognizing: Kathy Norman, Lynn and Leonard Riepenhoff, Sibyl Day and Linda Stabler

Review of Agenda for Team Summit: Still in process, but leadership development, volunteer recruitment, and communication will be the main themes. Also noted, Mary Louise, Alan and Jeanie will take care of the food.

Decision on Place and Date of Board Retreat: (Jeanie) A few options considered. Walker Creek Ranch out of Petaluma selected as first choice. Proposed dates: Aug 23-25th. Jeanie will e-mail all members and then make reservations.

Final Reflections, Questions, Appreciations: Thanks to Jeanie for a tightly run meeting with a lot to cover! Cathie appreciated Lois Bell's thoughtful questions.

Closing Words: Jeanie Bates

Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday Feb 21, 6:30 p.m., Board Room; light dinner by Alan Proulx at 6p.m.; sharing topic by Lois Bell; closing words by Susan Bartholome

Respectfully submitted by Jan Prater

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