



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• May 2013 • Volume 57 • Issue 5 •

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

May Worship Theme: Stages of Life

May 5th

The Mid-Life Crisis

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller

Special Music by Scott Miller. The Choir performs at 9:15.

While many of the UUCSR women are away at their retreat (doing whatever mysterious things they do there...), the faithful remnant will kick off our month long celebration and examination of various stages of human life with a look at the mid-life crisis. This is a great day to drive your new motorcycle or red convertible to services!

May 19th

Coming-of-Age Service – 11:00

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Deborah Mason, the C-o-A Kids
The Choir performs at the late service with Eric Skagerberg.*

Nearly every culture and religious tradition acknowledges a transitional moment between childhood and adulthood. At the 11:00 service the five young people who have journeyed this year through the UUCSR Coming-of-Age program with their mentors will lead our worship service and share their credos, which is always a moving experience. The 9:15 service will differ from the late service today; we will enjoy a contemplative service of music and poetry.

May 12th

On Marriage

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andrew Hidas

Special Music by some UUsual Suspects (Bruce & Robin)

Marriage is one of the most ancient human practices in a variety of forms. It is a traditional sacrament of the church, and a red-hot justice issue for same-sex couples and their allies. Although it's not for everybody, many have found the coupling of marriage to be transformational and enriching. Today we'll look more deeply at the institution and its future.

May 26th

The Age of Parenting

Service Leaders: Brian Plude, David Hope

The Choir performs at both services. (Last time until fall!)

In our continuing discussion of the Stages of Life, Intern Minister Bryan Plude offers his insights into the Age of Parenting. Bryan has been raising children since he married into a family with 5 and 3-year old boys. That was 22 years ago! He has 16 and 13-year old girls still at home. Bryan is an adoptive parent, a biological parent and the parent of a special needs child. He has been a foster parent. And, yes, he is going bald.

June 2nd

On Aging

Service Leaders: Brian Plude, others.

Music by Nancy Hayashibara & the UUsuals.

In the last of our series on the Stages of Life, Intern Minister Bryan Plude will speak on Aging. Bryan recently completed a popular class at UUCSR on Aging with Grace. It's an oft-stated truth that the teacher learns the most. He will share his insights into the universal issues, fears and joys, and what we can learn about our own aging process and the Great Mystery. Bryan also brings his experience of this past year as a hospital chaplain intern.

June 9th

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 9:00 am

ONE SERVICE AT 11:00 am

June 16th

SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN!

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00!

The Face of UUCSR



When our congregation moved downtown nearly nine years ago from our former location in what was then still the outskirts of town at Todd and Stony Point, part of the motivation was to become more active in the community. We wanted to be in the center of things, to engage with others more, and to make a difference. No program of the congregation has exemplified that spirit more than the Saturday Breakfast. This outreach to the homeless and hungry around us has had a very positive impact, not only on those who dine with us, but on those who serve, too. I love when I see members of UUCSR sitting at the tables with our guests, bridging the chasm of silence, fear and ignorance that many homeless folks experience every day.

The move downtown and our ministry here has changed the face of UUCSR, and mostly for the better, I would say. A number of guests on Saturday have become regulars on Sunday, and others are now beloved long-time members. I want this dynamic to continue. It is very important to me that our congregation be welcoming of all kinds of people, whether they are broken or whole, rich or poor. As I understand it, one of the key purposes of religion is to facilitate healing and transformation, and to give us faith, hope and direction in hard times. It is also a worthy practice for those experiencing good times to reach out to those who are not. UUs try to prove that we need not think alike to love alike, and we are particularly concerned to welcome those who, because of discrimination against their race or sexual orientation or other quality, have felt "othered" by the world around them.

Indeed, many UU writers have characterized our path as one of radical hospitality. All are welcome, we say. Hospitality is at the center of our social nature as human beings. I imagine we were having people over for barbeques and stories around the fire when we were still hominids, barely possessed of language, and nearly as hairy as the buffalo we were eating. Hospitality is a vital, and strictly observed practice in the Middle Eastern cultures from whence Western religion emerged. The Hebrew Bible is filled with stories of dinners and foot-washing and of people staying over, sometimes for years at a time. Whenever someone in that noble book fails to be properly hospitable, bad things inevitably come to him or her. Coming out of that tradition, Jesus hung out with anybody and seemingly offered the sacred feast to all.

Lately, I have noticed an increased number of people camping out around the building. We even had an actual motor home out there for a while. There are a couple of outlets outside the building, by the front door and over next to the Glaser Center entrance in the alcove, and

many folks from the streets have discovered them as an easy way to charge cell phones and computers. I tend to be very flexible about these matters, and this really hasn't bothered me, until lately.

I'm sorry to report that we have had a steady stream of incidents that have forced me to reexamine my openness. Garbage and filth are regularly left around the doorways. There has been some vandalism. People have come into the Social Hall during rentals or congregational programs and helped themselves to food and beverages. Others have snuck onto the campus and slept in the covered patio or even, possibly, within the building itself. We have had people come in to use the computer or the bathroom and stay for hours, and some of them are unpredictable, even volatile. This is not fair to our volunteers, most of whom have *not* been trained to deal with the seriously mentally ill or the addicted who, tragically, make up so much of the community on the streets.

The question for us now is, what really is the extent of our ministry to the homeless? How can we be both open and safe? I want us to have this conversation in a deep and meaningful way, and soon. In the meantime, I have asked the Operations Team to close off the electrical outlets outside the building, and I've been urging our campers to move along. I welcome your feedback on this decision.

UU community minister Rev. Chuck Freeman observed recently that when he was still a member of the Church of Christ, a conservative evangelical denomination, 90% of the conversations the leaders had were about how to fulfill the mission of the church. Since he has become a UU, he said, 90% of his conversations are about governance and budgets. I suspect this is because the UU mission is so much less clear than that of the Church of Christ, radical hospitality notwithstanding.

I observe that, on a national level, we don't really have a mission as a denomination beyond affirming and promoting our Principles. The Principles are noble, reasonable and good, but "affirming" and "promoting" are pretty weak verbs, and they sure don't offer much guidance about what to do with the people who poop in your bushes or sleep in your attic, uninvited.

What does "Celebrate Life, Empower People, Care for One Another and Help to Build a Better World" really mean in downtown Santa Rosa? What does hospitality really look like? What does it mean to belong here? We will continue to seek the answers together, with the guidance of the Spirit, and I am confident we will answer them in a compassionate way. We are, after all, people of the open mind, the loving hearts, and the helping hands.

Greetings from the Board

Your Board members do a lot more than attend monthly Board meetings. To realize the goals they set for themselves at the beginning of the year they spend time and effort each month meeting with members, recruiting volunteers, writing reports and collecting data.

Due in part to their efforts, an Adult RE Committee was recently created; a Congregational Outreach Team was formed to match volunteers with positions needed; and the Communications Team, created as part of the new governance model, now has three IT-trained members who have embarked on a redesign of the UUCSR website which will be easy for committees and groups to update and maintain.

A detailed database on the age, condition and replacement cost of our building systems was developed as

part of the Board's infrastructure goals. This information - together with the funds that have been budgeted for building systems replacement and funds that were raised for emergencies – enables the congregation to confidently address problems, such as the recent HVAC and electrical failures, without compromising other financial commitments and goals.

The Pledge Gala on April 6 was a wonderful kick-off to our annual pledge drive. The initial returns are encouraging, thanks to the nearly 200 families who have already pledged. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so right away! Every pledge, no matter the size, is important to realizing our goals.

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President

Scrappily Scraping Up New Scrip Subscribers

By now, you've probably noticed the signs around the Glaser Center proclaiming that mysterious word . . . Scrip. First time I saw that word, I thought someone had misspelled "script," and it took me a while to catch on that "scrip," with one P and no T, is a form of substitute money that has long been used on military bases, mining towns, cruise ships, and more.

Today, scrip has morphed and evolved, moving from actual pieces of play money onto the world wide web, where it now works as a kind of bonus awards program, often benefiting non-profits, schools and churches. The simple way of describing it is to say that, once you've signed up, when you shop at participating businesses, a percentage of your purchase ends up being donated to a designated charity. In other words, when you buy groceries at Safeway or Oliver's Market, when you download a song from iTunes or order a book or DVD on Amazon, when you buy a new iPad or iPhone, a percentage of your purchase is instantly donated to UUCSR.

While it's not for everyone, a large number of UUCSR members already use scrip in some form, resulting in over a thousand dollars of painless fundraising every year. In May, we will begin a recruitment effort to sign up new members, and show existing subscribers how to increase the benefits of scrip in easy, effective ways.

Be looking for an opportunity to sign up at the ticket table, starting soon, on Sunday mornings. Or . . . you can call Janis or myself at the office, and we will get you signed up and ready to turn your purchases into additional financial support for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa.

Be well,

David Templeton
Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director



From the Intern Minister

I write this column with my heart heavy from the events of last week. There was, of course, Boston and then West, Texas, but tragedy also struck much closer to home. An elderly couple, longtime members of the UU Church of Davis, were murdered last Sunday in their Davis home. Oliver "Chip" Northup was a founding member; Claudia a mentor to Coming of Age youth. Rev. Beth Banks led a beautiful vigil service for the church and community on Wednesday evening, attended by more than 400; our sanctuary holds only 150. People sat in the Great Hall and spilled out the doors. Tender services were held Sunday, with lots of healing music. It felt good to be with my home church during this time, but I also missed the UUCSR community and your support.

Although elderly by chronological age, Chip and Claudia were healthy and vital. Chip, 86, played with a band he started decades ago; the Crawdads were a regular at the farmers market and other venues. That Chip had missed two performances on Sunday was part of the reason police were sent to check up on them Sunday evening.

Claudia was a mentor to a friend of my daughter during her Coming of Age two years ago. One of my sons, now 25, worked with Claudia while he was in high school, helping her photograph church events. My younger daughter attends school with a grandson of the couple. My children are shaken. Their friends are shaken.

The Davis police, to their credit, realized that they needed help with this case. The last murder occurred here in 2011. Five agencies are involved, including the FBI. As yet, there are no suspects, motives, or leads. It was apparently not a robbery gone bad.

Chip spent his career as an attorney. In his retirement years he did pro bono work inside the prisons advocating for convict rights. Was this murder somehow related to his career? I'd like to think so; it offers a way to distance me and my family from the event. This couldn't happen to us because... The alternative, that it was a random act of violence, as in Boston and West, is much more difficult to deal with existentially. Someone once said to me that most of us spend a great deal of energy maintaining the façade that we are in control, that we can control the events in our lives. When tragedies like what happened in Boston and West and Davis occur our façade slips and we come face-to-face with how little control we really have. This is discomfiting, to say the least.

I am uncomfortable this week. I feel sadness for the loss of Chip and Claudia. I feel sadness for their families and for all in our community who called them friends. I feel sad that I couldn't protect my children and their friends from this news, this reality. In a broader way, I feel for those affected by Boston and West, but my intimate capacity for compassion has been nearly maxed right here in my home town and church and family.

So I pray. I pray to let my grief flow through me. I pray that I will find room in my heart to be present to the needs of my hospital patients tomorrow. I pray that I am open to the Divine presence in myself and in each of us. I pray for all those affected by loss or injury this past week. I pray for the perpetrators of Boston and Davis and for whoever may have been involved in negligence leading to the explosion in West. I pray for the first responders who regularly put their lives in jeopardy for our safety. And finally, I pray to be present to the beauty and joy that surround me much of the time.

Treasurer's Report

As we enter the Spring of the year it's an important time for those of us here at the UUCSR. We are approaching the end of another fiscal year in which we are in sound financial condition. We, as a community, have

taken a number of steps this year to prepare ourselves for eventualities in the future (like when the lights go out at services or that gosh darn HVAC that needs replacing), while meeting our current needs.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

For most families May marks the beginning of the end of the school year. Kids prepare for finals, end of the year projects are due, and parties are planned to celebrate the end of another grade and the launching of a new one. Summer awaits on the horizon with promises of sun and fun.

In my world May marks the beginning of planning for the next year in RE. It is a time of pouring through curricula, searching for beautiful stories for Children's Chapel, and thinking about the special programs I want to initiate in the next congregational year. One of the things I know that I need in the coming year (years) is a committee of parents and others supportive of the R.E. Program to provide assistance and support in the unfolding of our growing program. Over the past few years I have operated without a steering committee. This was largely a function of a small program comprised of overworked parent volunteers. I have had wonderful help from some consistent volunteer teachers and Susan Dickey has always been there to lend a hand whenever I asked. But time has come that the program must return to a cooperative effort of many hands.

I have a long wish list of enrichment activities for RE that includes more opportunities for children of all ages to engage in community service, family fellowship events, ongoing programs that support parents and provide spiritual enrichment, a week long Mission/Service trip for our Youth Group and more. Our "population explosion" in the toddler and preschool room will soon spill into a population explosion in the K-2 room and then beyond. To me this is a blessing beyond measure. And as our numbers of children and families grow, so too do the possibilities of having an even more enriching, vibrant and engaging program. I want our RE program to be all that and more. And I humbly admit that I cannot make all of this happen by myself.

I will be approaching parents in the weeks to come to ask if they are willing to devote some time and energy to a newly formed Family Ministry Committee. Please consider joining it. Your help will make a world of difference and I promise we will have fun along the way!

In faith,
Deborah

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, Fiona Mackenzie and Maddie Elizondo 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.

May 2013 Class Schedule:

05/5/13	Children's Chapel -All Ages Together	Theme:Hope
5/12/13	Grades K-2: Peace Week	Grades 3-8: Heroes of Environmental Justice
5/19/13	Grades K-2: Peace Games	Grades 3-8: Children will attend the Coming of Age Worship Service
5/26/13	Grades K-2: The Peace Quilt	Grades 3-8: The Peace Quilt

Gay Pride Parade

Everyone is invited to participate in the annual Gay Pride Parade on June 2nd in Guerneville at 10 am. Can we count on you to show support for our gay brothers and sisters by marching together under our

UUCSR banner? For more information contact Pat Warner at 539-4572 or sign up at the Advocates table in the Social Hall before May 26th.

Adrienne Swenson Award

Each year the Advocates for Social Justice provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a High School Senior who has been active in social justice work and who plans to continue her/his education or training. Adrienne Swenson was a longtime member of UUCSR who was a teacher and leader in our community working for social justice. She was a founder of the Peace and Justice Center, a member of Sonoma County's

Democratic Committee, and an inspiring member of our Advocates for Social Justice. You can read more about her on the plaque in our Social Hall. The proceeds from our breakfast before our June Congregational Meeting will go to funding this Scholarship. Please join us for a delicious breakfast and support this much needed and appreciated project!

Women Together Movie Night

Save the Date – Saturday, June 15th.

Women Who Make America is the PBS documentary

that tells the remarkable story of the most sweeping social revolution in American History! Details in the June Newsletter.

Breath—Balance— Mobility

On **Sunday, May 19th**, Monica Anderson will again lead us in this fun and helpful activity in the Board

Room from 9:30 to 10:45 am. No special clothing necessary.

Music Notes

We hope you have enjoyed the special choir selections sung for both services the past couple of months: "Consider the Lilies" for our Easter Flower Communion service March 31, and "The Seal Lullaby" for our Earth Day service April 21.

Coming in May you will be treated to several old favorites: "When You Wish Upon a Star," for our Coming of Age service on May 19, will be sung by Eric Skagerberg as a soloist, with the choir accompanying him. Prior to that, on May 12, two of our choir members will be featured soloists: Robin Marrs will sing "La Vie en Rose" (in French, of course), and Bruce Reinik will treat us to "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You." The choir will end its season early this year with a beautiful setting of "Ave Maria" by Caccini, which will be sung for both services on May 26.

We will once again be blessed with beautiful cello music on June 23 when Clovice Lewis from the Lake

County UU Community will both play (with Nancy accompanying him) and lead the service.

During the absence of both the choir and Nancy in July and August, we look forward to hearing more from our many other talented musicians, including the UUusual Suspects. Speaking of which, if you would like to join this group, there is now a wonderful opportunity to try working with them. John Chenoweth has recently posted this announcement: "M.U.S.I.C. (Musical UUusuals Sanctuary Informal Cooperative) has started again this spring. Most Wednesdays from 6 to 9 pm in the sanctuary, John Chenoweth has been anchoring the M.U.S.I.C. for playing, listening, dancing; we have a guitar, a bass (or two), drum(s), vocal mic and amp, drum machine, my voice and, of course, you can bring your own, too. For musical practice, appreciation, understanding, peace, joy, and of course, Great Justice."

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

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!

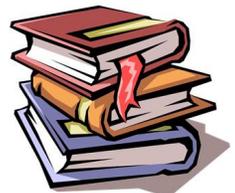
Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, May 9th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The May selection is *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harboch. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In June we meet for a potluck and select books for the

coming year (September to May).

We will be on vacation in July and August.

Linda



Getting to Know UU

Saturday, May 11, 2013 9:00 a.m.-12:00 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 to-

wards becoming a member or just getting to know one another. Beverages & light breakfast will be provided. Sign up at the Visitors Table, or contact Maggie Noble, organizer, at mnkirk@gmail.com or 837-8134. Child-care provided, please indicate ages.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2013

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.— May 29, 2013

The Sabbatical Committee: Getting Ready

You may have heard during services or in passing that Reverend Chris will be going on a sabbatical soon. While most of us are aware that he will be away during this time, not everyone may understand what a sabbatical is all about and importantly, what will Rev. Chris' sabbatical mean for us, the congregation.

What is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical is a period of special leave granted for professional development in a manner not possible during the press of activity in a typical work year. The position of minister at our congregation includes sabbatical leave that is earned over time. Sabbaticals are not vacations, but are pathways to viewing vocations in new ways, through fresh eyes. Many people use sabbatical to travel, experience different cultures and learn new skills. The goal of a sabbatical is to return to the congregation renewed, refreshed.

Sabbatical time is a normal activity for UU Ministers. There are many benefits to be had by both the minister and the congregation. Ministers make an intense commitment of time and energy to their congregations. We know this is certainly true of Rev. Chris. This work schedule allows for little opportunity for the thoughtful enrichment, analysis, study and evaluation that Sabbatical leave allows. The congregation has an opportunity for growth through the sharing of creative abilities in meeting our programming needs during the sabbatical and also benefits from the renewed enthusiasm of the minister upon his/her return.

Reverend Chris' Sabbatical

Reverend Chris will take a well-deserved (and well-earned) sabbatical next year. He will be away from the first of January 2014 until mid-July 2014. While there

is no doubt that Rev. Chris will be dearly missed, we are confident that we will continue to grow and thrive during this period. Ideally, Rev. Chris will return to a stronger and even more interconnected congregation.

The Sabbatical Committee

In anticipation of Rev. Chris' sabbatical, a Sabbatical Committee has been formed and has begun meeting to plan for this period. There are many aspects to Rev. Chris' engagement with us all here at UUCSR and the committee will plan for his absence in all of his roles. Our talented Worship Associates will continue to create meaningful worship services with the assistance of Bryan Plude, guest ministers and, we expect, some of the graduates of Rev. Chris' class on giving sermons. We will also secure the services of a Sabbatical Minister who will oversee Bryan, preach one Sunday a month and provide support for congregational life events. We have many resources at hand as we plan.

We feel confident in our ability to plan effectively for this period and we welcome your input. We intend to keep everyone in the loop and insure that you all know the plans as they evolve. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members with questions and suggestions.

We know that this sabbatical period will be one of renewal for Reverend Chris and we feel certain that it will provide an opportunity for many congregation members to step forward, try out new roles and grow.

Sabbatical Committee:

Lucia Milburn (Chair), Linda Balabanian, Jeanie Bates, Chris Bell, Janis Brewster, John Chenoweth, Laura Jean Hageman, Deborah Mason, David Templeton, Gretchen Vap

Adult RE Class—Beyond The Mountain

Beyond The Mountain: UUSC has developed a curriculum, consisting of five workshops, to engage congregations in the underlying causes of Haiti's economic and political struggles. With that foundation, the curriculum also explains the work that UUSC and its partners are doing to support Haitians as they build a more hopeful and sustainable future for themselves.

This series is **highly** recommended for anyone planning to go to Haiti with the congregation in November. We'd like others to attend, too, though. Participation in the workshop will be very beneficial in welcoming the travelers back when they return. The dates of the five sessions are 4/25, 5/16, 5/30, 6/13, and 6/27. Attend as many sessions as you can!



Hot Topics

On **Sunday, May 19th**, our own Rita Butterfield, West Coast Senior Associate for Major Gifts, will tell us what the UU Service Committee is doing to preserve and protect this resource. Treating water as a commodity by privatizing it threatens this essential human need. This basic human right has been recognized in international treaties and national constitutions since 2002. UUSC works with partners and colleague organi-

zations to guarantee that privatization does not threaten people's right to access safe, affordable water. Learn what has been happening due to greed, and what we can do locally to preserve this right.

Come to the RE Common Room on Sunday, May 19th right after the 11 am service. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Basket

On **Sunday, May 12th**, half the collection will go to Verity. Working with the community, Verity strives to eliminate all forms of sexual violence with special focus on sexual abuse – including against children – and assault. It has been active in our community for 37 years and serves people regardless of ability to pay. So when the purple bag comes your way, please help them provide these

(sadly) needed services!

On **Sunday, May 26th**, we will again be supporting our Saturday Breakfast Program. I've heard that every night 4,500 members of our community sleep on the streets, in addition to those in overnight shelters. Please continue your amazing support of this vital program.

Thank you!

UUCAN—NBOP—TGIF—OMG!! WTF??

The Unitarian Universalist Conversation and Action Network invites you to learn about the North Bay Organizing Project at a ***Thank God It's Friday reception***.

In June the Congregation will vote on a proposal for UUCSR join the North Bay Organizing Project. NBOP is a broad based community organizing effort in Santa Rosa that is doing amazing work in the areas of immigration and education. With 17 member institutions, including faith communities, labor organizations and non-profits, NBOP is developing a strong voice in our community. The members of UUCAN core organizing team are ready to re-commit to community organizing and we want the

congregation to get to know what NBOP is all about.

Lead Organizer Davin Cardenas will join us to tell us about the work that NBOP is doing and to answer your questions.

Please join us for wine, soft drinks and hors'doeuvres

Friday, May 17 at 6pm at the UUCSR SH

(Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa Social Hall, of course!)

Questions? Contact Deborah Mason, 707-542-0793 or Sibyl Day 707-566-4670

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.

May 19

June 16

UUCSR Writers

What do/did Stephen King (Novelist, Screenwriter), Emily Dickinson (1830-86) (American Poet), and Stephen Spielberg (Director, Producer) have in common? A Passion for and loyalty to his/her writing and Film Production--with very different results of course.

Writing is safe for people of all ages. If you haven't already, start writing now--novel, memoir, poetry, screenplay, film production, etc. It's free, can't be bought online or in any store. And, you can continue to whatever age you want.

The UUCSR Writers requests the pleasure of your company at one or all of our monthly meetings. Please see date, time, and place of gathering in the "Schedule" below.

N.B. Conflict in dates? No problem. Writers, Screenwriters, etc. are welcome to present a "work in progress" at Poets meetings and Poets at Writers, Screenwriters meetings. The Film meeting is for anyone who likes to watch movies. First, we show a DVD full feature film on TV. Then, we have a group discussion about it.

Schedule

Writers, Screenwriters meet on the First Monday of the month from 4 - 6 pm. Free

May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Oct 7, Nov 4.

No Meetings in Sept, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

4 - 6 pm, "Work in Progress" Presentations.

Note: Please see "Agreements" in our Brochure.

Poets—meet on the Second Monday of the month from

4 - 6 pm. Free

May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14.

No Meetings in Nov, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

4 - 4:25 pm, "A Poet's Style" Group Discussion.

4:30 - 6 pm, "Poetry Readings" Read a poem you've written or one from a favorite author.

Time may vary depending on number of Readings.

Film—meet on the Third Monday of the month from 3 - 6 pm. Free

May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, and Oct 21.

No meetings in Nov, Dec and Jan.

Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

3 - 5 pm, "Afternoon at the Movies" Watch a full feature DVD movie.

5 - 6 pm, "Group Discussion"

Authors/Film Titles/Collections may include: Agatha Christie, Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, Masterpiece Classics, Criterion Collection, Acorn Media, Cartoons, etc.

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 for lighthearted conversation about who's doing what in our literary community. Table is not reserved. Look for us. Parking is free.

Join our UUCSR Writers E-mail list. Always In Progress...

Information: UUCSR Writers at Glaser Center 707-568-5381
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 547 Mendocino Ave.,
Santa Rosa <http://www.uusantarosa.org>

Georgette G. deBlois, ggdeb@sonic.net

Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com

UUCSR Writers, A Stimulating Environment

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 21 Mar 2013

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: (Rev Chris)

Meeting Called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jeanie Bates (Vice President), Susan Bartholome, Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (Secretary), Peter Wilson

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

Agenda Review: Alan suggested we change the order of the meeting so "Open Mic" people don't have to sit through the "One-on-one" exercise but those present were okay with joining in.

Minutes from Feb 21 meeting: approved

One-on-one Sharing Topic: Alan Proulx

Open Mic: (Rev Chris) Instead of District Assemblies we will now have Regional Assemblies (made up of 2 or 3 districts.) Our Regional Meeting will be held in San Jose this year April 26 - 28. It will probably be three times the size of former meetings.

(Laura Jean) Shared a thank you note from the McLeamy family for the new early service childcare.

Treasurer's Report: (Art Rosenblum) There will be a newsletter report this month. We are doing reasonably well for the first seven months: Income is 10% more than projected in the Budget (\$33,500) - that is the joint Income from UUCSR and the Glaser Center. Expenses are down about 1%. We have saved \$5,800 in interest already because of paying off the Burbank Savings loan - we received a framed copy of receipt from them. We still owe ourselves \$470,000 which could be paid off in about ten years. **Cont. on page 11**

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Also, the Endowment Committee wants to be more visible for attracting more bequests.

Canvass Report: (Laura Jean) Mary Louise needs RSVPs from everyone. At the end of the Pledge Gala program we're going to collect the pledge cards in baskets - Board members help is requested for this. The program will be from 4-5p.m. followed by the committee fair. There will be twelve stations - representing the twelve areas of our Congregational life - offering appetizers.

(Rev Chris) Feeling optimistic - some very positive feedback regarding the goal of raising pledges - knows of pledge increases up to \$13,000 already (26% on average.)

Report on Northbay Organizing Project: (Linda Harlow) We previously worked hard with the Northbay Sponsoring Organization and finally had to recognize it just wasn't happening. By comparison, the Northbay Organizing Project is led by locals Davin Gardenas and Susan Shaw; Linda has been impressed with their clarity, focus, and the kind of activities they've been involved with. She has been to Sacramento, to multiple Vigils and also a Training with them. The group is made up of non-profits, unions, and churches; there are 16 organization members so far and it is a diverse membership. "I think this is what we were hoping for in the first place." There will be a Reception on May 17th from 6-7:30. Davin will give an overview, J.D. Thompson will talk about Education, and Linda will talk about Immigration. Their third area of interest is Transportation /Jobs and the Environment. Dues range from \$750 - \$2500 depending on ability to pay and the size of the organization. We have \$1,000 so far in the budget - \$1200-\$1500 was also considered. Use of UUCSR space could be another asset we might offer. The UUCAN team has reformed. Now, how to get the Congregation engaged? For one thing, Jeanie will make a connection at the next Hot Topic.

Sabbatical Planning: (Laura Jean) The new Sabbatical Committee (Lucia Milburn (Chair), Jeanie, Laura Jean, Gretchen Vap, Deborah Mason, Janice, David Templeton, Linda Balabanian, and John Chenoweth) will meet next Wed. They will create a timeline and establish goals. This is an opportunity to grow some leadership. Rev Chris has put out a call and has heard back from some interested ministers to be our "Sabbatical Minister" - someone who would be available for pastoral care and to supervise Bryan. It will cost us \$1200/mo for this service; we have \$10,000 currently. Hopefully by the May Board Meeting we will be able to have a candidate for Sabbatical Minister and then to present them to the Congregation at the Meeting in June. Bryan knows someone in Davis, and Rev Chris has a friend in Grass Valley who could be consulted regarding this process.

Need for Roof Access Policy: (Laura Jean) It has become evident due to recent (youthful) activity that it is necessary

for us to have a specific policy denying unauthorized access to our roof. The Operations Committee will draft some language on this matter and get it back to the Board.

Scheduling Congregational Meetings: (Laura Jean) The following meetings were scheduled: Fall Meeting (10/13/13); Winter Meeting (2/23/14); Spring Meeting (6/8/14). These dates will be reported at the June Congregational Meeting.

Report from Infrastructure Goal Group: (John Farison) Heat Pumps 5 and 6 are having problems; the cost estimate is over \$4,000. This could be described as "urgent" and "unanticipated" which means we could use the Emergency Fund. John will finalize bid and will send by e-mail to the Board for approval. Also, he made a presentation to the Endowment Committee re: the enclosing of the Breezeway project (\$15,000.) It would enhance our existing facilities and add to our useable square footage. Phase 1 would be to enclose it and put in skylights and glass doors & windows at courtyard. Phase 2 would be to make it more aesthetically pleasing, add heat, and improve access to social hall. The Endowment fund has not been used for a special project like this before; they need more details. It would go to the Board, then the Endowment Committee and then to the Congregation - earliest possible would be the Sept Congregational Meeting.

Report from Community Within and Without Goal Group: (Jeanie, Alan, and Cathie) The Volunteer Task Force has met once and had a good turn out. They have come up with goals and steps and have a second meeting planned for May 26. There will be subcommittees and lots of opportunities for many to take leadership roles.

Report from Spiritual Life Goal Group: (Rev Chris) Board members were given a handout summary of the results of the Adult RE Survey. We received 159 responses which is excellent! The Adult RE committee will meet in April. Also, Bryan reported that there were 15 people at the "Getting to Know UU" meeting which he led, and 13 people at the Aging with Grace meeting.

Final Reflections and Appreciations: Appreciations for Rita Butterfield for getting the Adult RE Survey together. Jeanie appreciates the whole group for all the work everyone does outside the Board meetings and also appreciates the humor of the group. Cathie appreciates the youth that come to visit. Bryan appreciates the toddlers (and their parents!) for coming in numbers. Art feels we are raising an incredible group of young people here thanks to the RE program. Rev Chris shared that his sister has just gotten engaged and will be married in May in Hong Kong and he hopes to attend.

Closing Words: (Lois Bell)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Submitted by Jan Prater



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Editor: Janis Brewster

**Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All
electronic deadlines are noon Monday.**

Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter
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