



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 4 •

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

Theme: **Mystery**

April 6

Everybody Loves a Mystery

Worship Leader: Rev. Kathy Huff

Worship Associate: Susan Panttaja

“The most beautiful and most profound emotion we can experience” said Albert Einstein “is the sensation of the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science.” Unitarian Universalism is sometimes described as a tradition that allows The Mystery to remain mysterious.

April 13

Unitarian Transcendentalists and Mystery

Worship Associates: David Hope and Eric Fischer

Music: Mystery from the Missa Gaia performed by Jenny Harriman; also Mystery by Bruce Cockburn (a different piece) performed by Robin Rogers, Eric Skagerberg, others?

The Transcendentalist Movement of the early 19th century was a reaction to the prevailing intellectualized spirituality of the Unitarians and Harvard Divinity School. Beginning with Ralph Waldo Emerson, who famously resigned his Unitarian ministry, the Transcendentalists looked toward nature and Eastern religions for individual insight into the mysteries of creation.

April 20

**Something’s About to Happen –
It’s Easter Sunday!**

**Worship Leaders: Rev. Kathy Huff, Bryan Plude,
Deborah Mason, and Linda Proulx**

Poised on the edge of something mysterious, we gather to remember ancient stories, to renew life, and celebrate the magnificent beauty and wonder of it all. Be sure to bring a flower to share for our flower communion. At 9:15 the service features a contemplative “Spring Haggadah” and at 11:00 our “Service for All Ages” brings us together with an “Egg Story” to remember. All Easter finery, bonnets, spring hats, and festivities welcome and encouraged.

April 27

A World Without Boundaries

**Service Leaders: Rev. Károly Vass,
Erin Howseman**

We welcome the Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry, Rev. Károly Vass. Using the imagination of a child and the perspective of an adult, and borrowing inspiration from a science-fiction tale, Rev. Vass invites us to re-imagine the world we long for and to recommit to creating it. Come hear how this Unitarian from Transylvania wrestles with the “ground of being” and comes to name the “absolute” in modern terms.



Monthly Musings from Rev. Kathy



I believe in the power of the unknown. I believe that a sense of the unknown propels us in all of our creative activities, from science to art.

-- Alan Lightman,
Einstein's Dreams

In my house Nancy Drew and Sherlock Holmes reign supreme. My teenage daughter especially enjoys the old Nancy Drew stories, no modern day version for her. On summer days we search through flea markets and used bookstores in search of titles not yet read. Together we eagerly wait each year for the latest BBC Sherlock to broadcast and then comment for days on the brilliance of the plot, the magnificent mind of Holmes, and the endearing Watson. We love how their friendship evolves and at the heart of every encounter is a delicious mystery.

What is it about a good mystery that delights us so? Is it the chase for clues? Is it the thrill of finding the answer to the riddle? Is it that we just love the excuse to dwell for a while in the unknown?

To be of the earth is to be a part of a great big mystery thriller. Our lives are full of endless ambiguity, contradiction and paradox. A magnificent world of inconsistency surrounds us. There is so much we do not know and simply never will. Every day new miracles of matter and mind spark forth and usher in just as many questions as there are answers. Some of us find this comforting, others far less so. The search for knowledge compels us forward. Like detectives this "holy curiosity," as Einstein phrased it, keeps us alive. It also confounds us. Given the state of things that

terrify and challenge us, the answers to the most pressing problems that plague the planet are sure to keep us all busy for a long time to come. I often wish that it were as easy as the arrival of a Drew or a Holmes to come along and methodically find all those curatives we are looking for.

What I love about our faith tradition is that long ago we opened ourselves up to wisdom world of deduction and reason. There, like the sciences that use such methods, we may find spiritual meaning dwelling just as easily as anywhere else. Science and religion tend to naturally hold an abiding respect for the mysteries of life. To be alive and live the human life is to stand constantly at the cavern of the unknown. Consider the profound distinctiveness of people, the ineffable complexity of our interior selves, the strange beauty of nature, the unfathomable depths of God. Perhaps to be spiritual then in the presence of such mystery is not to pin down, dissect, or define, but to stand in awe and honor of it all.

Religions are born out of mystery. As soon as we could think we asked questions that were as much about the spiritual world as the material one. Where do we come from? Who are we? Whose are we? Why this life and not another? Is death the end? Whatever concepts of God are believed, whatever myths and symbols and images of God, all include mystery as an attribute. Our spiritual quest it seems is both untouchable and forever at our fingertips.

In case you have not already guessed, this month we explore **Mystery** as our worship and learning theme. Who knows what wonders we will discover together and what mystery shall remain. Either way, let's enjoy and let the mystery be.

Please Mark Your Calendars

A Memorial Service will be held here at UUCSR for long time member Barry Quirk at **3:00pm on Sunday, April 6th** in the Sanctuary.

We will also have a Memorial Service here at UUCSR for Ryan Ourlian on **Saturday, April 19th at 3:00pm** in the Sanctuary.

Greetings from the Board President

THIS MONTH there are many items on my mind to share. I don't know if any grand theme will emerge but there is much to tell. If you spot a grand theme, let me know.

OUR FEBRUARY 16 Congregational Meeting discussion of delegates to DA and GA has prompted work on several levels. We are looking at creating earmarked funding for delegates and we are puzzling how to promote interest in attendance. As always, your ideas are most welcome. What would you need to become interested in attending one of these gatherings? Most wonderful of all, we have a number of folks who have expressed interest in attending this year. These folks were presented to the Board and enthusiastically approved. They are: Phyllis Fitzgerald, Susan Bartholome, and Andy Levine attending District Assembly, and Ken Ogren attending General Assembly. I look forward to hearing their sharing when they return.

I WANT TO WELCOME PETER WILSON as our new Sexton. We are lucky to have him with us in this new role for him and this vitally important role for all of us who enjoy the many activities in this building that our Sexton maintains. Welcome, Peter.

JUST A BIT about the work of our goal groups this month. The Leadership Assembly, scheduled for March 22, was canceled after a thoughtful process of inquiry by members of the board's Community Support and Communication goal group. The original purpose of this meeting was to facilitate coordination and communication among the various committees and groups of the UUCSR. A survey of folks who would likely attend such a gathering showed that a majority would rather not give a day or a half day to such a meeting, feeling that they have what they need in order to do the tasks involved in their particular domains. Alternatives are being considered, including a clarifying fact sheet and

workshops on particular aspects of leadership. You will hear more, and, as always, we would value your input as to what would be helpful to you in your leadership roles.

THERE WILL BE NO REVIVAL THIS YEAR. Just last month I wrote a bit about the plans and now I need to announce the news that there will be no Revival on May 18. Here's what happened. Marin had to step out of the role of lead congregation and could not guarantee any particular number of volunteers. Napa and Lake Co. had been unable to commit much. That left Petaluma and UUCSR and we both felt unable to contribute more than we had agreed to. There was a bit of talk about a scaled back version of the Revival but at the end of the day it was decided to cancel for this year and revisit the project next year. I want here to acknowledge the team that was working on this from UUCSR and appreciate them wholeheartedly. Here's the list: Marge Wright for participating in planning and working on getting group leaders, Michele Murphy for being willing to create a database, David Templeton for working with me to figure out what fields we could include with Brown Paper Tickets so that we could collect information for the database, Robert Lunceford for generously agreeing to provide the sound system for the day, and Gretchen Paradis, Mary Wolfe and the Welcome Team for taking on the registration of attendees, which included dividing 500 folks into 50 groups of 10.....no problem, says Gretchen, we'll use the dot system we use at the Women's Retreat. What a "can do" attitude. Thanks to all who agreed to help. We'll look toward next year.

THANKS to all of you for all you do to enliven our community, for showing up and speaking up.

Jeanie Bates
President, Board of Trustees

Meet the Ministers

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 Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Kathy Huff and our Intern Minister, Bryan Plude 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.

APRIL 13
MAY 20



Intern Minister

My oldest daughter is beginning the process of leaving home. This week we are looking at colleges in Oregon. Although I have another year before she leaves the nest, I think of those of you who will have children leaving home this year, or who have had or are approaching other endings.

What do you do with those mixed feeling which arise at every ending? Endings are a mixed bag. Sometimes they are difficult. Sometimes they are easy. We say goodbye to our children or to friends. We say goodbye to loved ones. But endings are also beginnings. Our nest is now empty, giving us time with our spouse or friends that we haven't had for years. Our long ailing parent has died, leaving us mixed with grief and relief.

I recently returned from a fly fishing trip in New Mexico. It is a trip I've been making with the same friend for most of 18 years. Back in the day, when we were younger, we would be on the river by 8 in the morning and would fish, with only a brief lunch break, until sunset. Easily 12 or more hours on the river. Back in the day. On this trip we fished about 6 hours each day. We'd have a leisurely breakfast and a late start

followed by a long afternoon break to stretch out in the room. We did still fish 'til sunset, I'm happy to say.

During the afternoon of our second day fishing I was feeling irritated. My buddy was catching fish. I wasn't. We weren't fishing where I wanted to fish. Access to my preferred spot was too difficult for my friend, who is a few years older than me. But only a few. I was not feeling very minister-like. And I was on a beautiful river in New Mexico on a gorgeous day. I was with my best friend. I decided to quit fishing for a few minutes and find a place on the bank to meditate. Ten minutes of contemplating the river and the colored sandstone bluffs set me straight. I returned to fishing. I had no change in luck. My buddy continued catching fish. But now I was laughing about it. The sun set. The fish stopped rising. We hiked out to the car to get a late dinner.

I treasure that day. Someday my friend and I won't be able to fish together anymore. Some endings we know are coming. Some we don't. All we can do is enjoy what we have right now.

Monthly Theme Reflection Questions, Practices and Resources

Our monthly themes invite us to live our faith through a process of reflection and action. Together and individually we consider the ways we can deepen our spirits and work together to build a more just, loving and sustainable world. Our **theme for April is Mystery**.

Mystery, from the Greek word mysterion, is not about what we can solve but about what astonishes us in splendor and horror: that part of creation that can be experienced but never completely explained. This spiritual understanding of mystery is quite different from our common, everyday understanding of the term. Mysterion is about experiencing mystery as awe, not just as something secret and hidden. — Stephen Kendrick from Holy Clues: The Gospel According to Sherlock Holmes.

Where is the mystery in your life? What do you not know that you would like to know? What is the spiritual relationship between science and mystery? How comfortable are you with ambiguity? Our tradition speaks of "direct experience of the transcending mystery and wonder," what does that mean to you?

Spiritual Practices: Cherish the baffling, curious, hidden, and inscrutable dimensions of your life and world around you. Reflect upon the things you can't explain,

especially ones that you have difficulty leaving alone. Give up the idea that you can always "get it." Resist the temptation to ask "Why?" Let your tongue say "I don't know." Sort your clothes and wonder what happened to your other socks. Read Denise Levertov's *This Great Unknowing Last Poems* and contemplate their meaning. Chant the prayer by Joyce Rupp – "Breathing in: "O Mystery . . ." Breathing out: "Alive in me."

Movies & Books for Adults (A) Children (C), Youth/Teens (T): *Race and the Cosmos* by Barbara Holmes; *Infinity in Your Hand: A Guide for the Spiritually Curious*, by William H. Houff, *Honey From Stone* by Chet Raymo, *Crossings: Everyday People, Unexpected Events, and Life-Affirming Change*, Richard Heckler; *Holy Clues: The Gospel According to Sherlock Holmes* by [Stephen Kendrick](#) *Desert Quartet* by Terry Tempest Williams; *Living with the Devil A Meditation on Good and Evil* by Stephen Batcheler. **Movies:** *E. T. Extraterrestrial* (PG) *The Green Mile* (R) *Blues Brothers* (PG13) *Donnie Darko* (R)

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Teacher recruitment for Religious Education classes has long been a challenge, here at UUCSR and at other congregations as well. I think one big reason is that adults who have not taught in RE before are not sure that they would be able to do it. The RE Committee and I are on a campaign to demystify the RE program. Next month we will hold a special event to introduce members of the congregation to our program, what the classes are like, what we teach, who the kids are and just how gratifying and fun it is to spend time in RE.

In the meantime here are some answers to questions the RE Committee thought would help clarify what it takes to teach in RE. More questions??? I am all ears. Give me a call or shoot me an email. I would love to hear from you.

1. Do I have to teach for the whole year when I volunteer to teach?

No. The Religious Education year is broken down into four quarters. The teaching commitment is for teaching 7 or 8 Sundays over a three month period.

2. I did not grow up in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, how will I know what to teach?

The Director of Religious Education (DRE) selects curricula for each class that are based on the UU Seven Principles, UU values, UU history, peace & justice and world religions. The lesson plans are very complete and simple at the same time. Most are story based and have an activity (like arts & crafts, games or role playing/skits) related to the subject of the lesson.

3. Do I have to have teaching experience to be an RE teacher?

No. The first thing you need is a love of children and the desire to spend some quality time with them. If you are interested in sharing with children some important values and life lessons and you have the ability to connect with children you will be well qualified.

4. Would I be the only one teaching the class?

No. We teach in teams of two. The two teachers alternate between being "Lead Teacher" responsible for most of the lesson for the morning and being "Support Teacher" who participates in the class but is not responsible for most of the material. At the beginning of the week the DRE contacts the teachers by email with a rundown of the next Sunday's lesson plan. The teachers get in touch with one another either by phone or email to decide who will do what.

5. How much preparation time is required?

Teachers need to read the lesson plan early in the week to familiarize themselves with the lesson, read the story and anticipate how the session will flow. Most weeks this would take an hour to an hour-and-a-half for the Lead Teacher. The DRE prepares materials needed for the morning (art supplies, readings etc) and has them ready in the classroom on Sunday mornings. There are only a few Sundays during the year when the DRE is not present on Sundays. Teachers are given plenty of notice if there is more preparation for those Sundays.

6. What about classroom management? How does that work if there are problems in the classroom?

We expect that children will pay attention and participate in class. At the beginning of each year the children decide together with the teacher what the standards of behavior will be by creating a covenant. The covenant is posted in the classroom and teachers refer to it if behavior problems arise. We have a teacher training session at the beginning of the year to discuss class management strategies. The DRE is always a source of assistance if issues arise in the classroom for which teachers need help.

In faith,
Deborah



Treasurer's Report

Together Through the Decades - Annual Pledge Drive Is Wrapping Up!

Our pledge drive is wrapping up and the results are still pending as I write this. But it looks like we may be short of our goal for next year's budget. The good news is that many of you have been very generous. Thanks to the Pledge Drive Committee, all the Visiting Stewards and AnnaLisa Wiley for all their hard work and to all of you members and pledging friends for your generous support of our mission and shared values.

With a Little Help from Our Friends...

Ten percent of our pledging families and individuals are pledging friends. Our pledging friends are often just as generous with their time, talent and treasure as our members. Pledging friends are often just as committed to our mission as members. Our pledging friends are integral supporters of and participants in our community and we would not be where we are, or who we are as a community, without them.

Many of us choose to support financially those organizations that share our values and do the work that we consider important in our community and the world. Visitors and friends of our congregation can help support us by becoming pledging friends. And while a pledging friend cannot vote in a congregational meeting or serve on the Board and a few of our committees, they enjoy most of the privileges of membership. As I write this, we have welcomed five new pledging friends during this year's pledge drive.

So what is a pledging friend and how do you become a pledging friend, you ask???

A pledging friend supports the vision and mission of the congregation by making and fulfilling a financial commitment to the congregation. Most of our visitors may have received a pledge card in the mail recently. If you feel moved to support our congregation financially, please consider filling out the pledge card and sending or bringing it in. If you haven't received a pledge card and would like to pledge, please let me know or talk to someone at the welcome table.

Use Scrip for Your On-Line Shopping Too

Many of us use the Scrip Program to generate additional donations for UUCSR. Several of our local merchants, such as Oliver's, Fircrest Market and Glen Ellen Village Market, Molsberry Market and Sonoma Market will make contributions to UUCSR based on a percentage of what we spend. Some national chains also participate. This is a wonderful way for you to help fund our mission and vision without spending any additional dollars of your own.

In order to use the Scrip Program you must first register at:

<http://www.escrip.com/program/welcome.jsp>

You may not be aware that you can also use the Scrip Program for your on-line shopping. You will find the list of on-line retailers at the website above and, once you register and follow the directions, UUCSR will receive contributions from those retailers from which you make on-line purchases.

This is a great way that you can, with a small effort, help us to gain contributions from those retailers that you support. If you need assistance to get registered, please contact David Templeton, Janis Brewster or me.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

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

Grades K-8 will gather together for Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of each month. When there is a 5th Sunday all ages gather for Justice or Arts Sunday.

April RE class schedule

04/6/14	Children's Chapel all ages together	Theme: Mystery
04/3/14	Grades K-2 Wisdom Tales First Principle	Grades 3-5 <u>We Believe:</u> Session 18 Freedom to Learn (Principle 4)
04/20/14	Multigenerational Easter Service	Children will gather with parents for worship this morning
04/27/14	Grades K-2 Wisdom Tales	Grades 3-5 <u>We Believe:</u> Session : 19

Music Notes

In keeping with this month's theme, which is Mystery, a lot of very interesting music has been scheduled. On April 6, the choir will sing for both services a beautiful setting of a French poem written by Joachim du Bellay in the 16th century and set to music by Roland de Lassus, "La Nuit Froide et Sombre" (The Night Cold and Sombre). Here is the English translation: "The cold and somber night, as sweet as honey, which covers with a dark shadow the earth and the skies, makes sleep roll down from the sky into people's eyes. Then the glowing day, used to toil, exposes its glow, and with a varied color weaves and composes this great universe." Cathy Read will also sing "Let the Mystery Be."

On April 13, you will hear two songs titled "Mystery" - a selection from the Missa Gaia, which will be sung by Jenny Harriman, and another song by Bruce

Cockburn, which will be sung by Robin Rogers and Eric Skagerberg.

There will be lots of music for the Easter services on April 20. You will again hear the choir for both services. They will sing a delightful arrangement by John Rutter of "For the Beauty of the Earth." For the Flower Communion, Cathy Read and Jenny Harriman will sing the "Flower Duet" from the Opera Lakme by Leo DeLibes. And, finally, Robin Rogers and Natalie Brundred will sing "Lord of the Starfields" by Bruce Cockburn.

On April 27, we will hear from Robert Howseman, who will lead Natalie Brundred, Susan Panttaja, and Eric Skagerberg in singing "Across the Universe."

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Caring Connection Corner

Let us begin with introductions: Chairperson-Gail Alford, Chaplain-Shirley White, Transportation-Mac Freeman, Meals-Marilyn Holmes, Notes and Minutes-Tammy Sams and yours truly, Deborah Carter-Hope.

Need a hand? Want to offer one? If you know of someone in our congregation who would enjoy receiving a card, a phone call, a visit or a warm meal, please contact us. Our table is located across from the sanctuary entrance. We also provide rides to appointments and Sunday service.

Upcoming: **On Sunday, May 11th** from 12:30-2:30pm in the RE room, Gretchen Vap (long time member and nurse practitioner) will share her knowledge with a talk entitled "A Good Life, A Good Death". She has spoken at Friend's House, Spring Lake and the Aging Group. More information to follow.

Recently an article in the Press Democrat on February 16th entitled "The Topic is Death. Groups meet at Death Cafés to fill a silent need to talk about mortality".

I was offended by the "Death Cafe" title, but it got my attention. The article stated "intellectual salon where the topic is death in an environment that feels safe and accepting". That was an inviting and gentle description.

Freda Powers, Jane Fisher and I attended a "Death Cafe" at Unity church on March 8th along with 30 other people. We urge you to ask us about our experience, "enlightening and informative" was my first response. We walked away motivated and inspired to organize a Café at our congregation.

For more information about the "Death Café" movement and a listing of registered groups, visit Death Café.com.

Café Mortal meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm in the central activity room at Oakmont. We will keep you updated.

Many thanks, Debbie Carter-Hope,
Caring Connection Member

Faith and Fitness

Meeting after church on April 6 in the Green Room. Bring lunches, we'll be planning future hikes, looking for ideas, and new hike leaders. April 19 will be our Saturday hike, April 9 the weekday. Details to be determined. It's a wonderful time of year to be

hiking, and our area is full of wonderful trails, come join us.

Contact Gretchen P. 889-3007 or email Fitness@uusantarosa.org

Service Trip Fund raisers

All Congregation Spaghetti Dinner, Friday April 18, 2014

Youth Group members will cook, serve and entertain with magic and song:

An awesome evening.

Mark your calendar & look for details in next month's newsletter

More events to come in May and June, so stay tuned!

Find UUCSR on Social Media

On Facebook, we're "Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa" and on Twitter we're "@uuSantaRosa".

These pages are primarily for public outreach, because many people use Facebook even before Google to look up a business or organization. On our social media pages, we show the world who we are and what we stand for.

You can help spread the message! If you use Facebook or Twitter, follow the pages; "like" the Facebook posts; "retweet" the Twitter posts. The more likes, the more people will see our pages. Special thanks to Erica Mora and Genie Barker for their faithful Facebook "likes"!

~~ Ellen Skagerberg (Social Media Administrator)

UUCSR Writers—A Stimulating Environment

April 7th is the UUCSR Writers regular monthly meeting from 1 pm to 4 pm.

PLEASE, LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

Send Email to ggdeb@sonic.net

1 - 2 pm Instructional: a half hr lecture and a half hr group discussion.

We are watching the Great Courses DVD "Building Great Sentences: Exploring the Writer's Craft" with Professor Brooks Landon (Univ. of Iowa) in a series of 24 half hour lectures about writing.

2 - 4 pm is the Writers regular monthly meeting: Writer presentations of a work in progress. Novelists, Poets, Memoirs, whatever your chosen work, come and share your written words with us.

If you are not able to attend the Instructional session from 1-2 pm, come for the regular meeting from 2-4 pm.

Our meetings are on the first Monday of the month (except Sept-the second Monday) from 1 to 4 pm at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-568-5381.

We meet 10 months a year, Jan - Oct, no meetings in November and December.

Our "UUCSR Writers Presents" Special Events Series: TBA- To Be Announced

For more details about the UUCSR Writers, please visit <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>
Best thoughts to Everyone.

Take Care,
Georgette G. deBlois
ggdeb@sonic.net
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Hot Topic—Citizens Climate Lobby

On Sunday, April 13, from 12:45 to 2:15, we will have an opportunity to hear of the good work that the Citizens Climate Lobby is doing from Bruce Hagen, Co-Chair of the Santa Rosa CCL Chapter. He will address the questions: What is a Carbon Tax? Does

it benefit both climate and people? as well as respond to our questions including, how can we help? We will meet in the RE Common Room and, as always, a light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering: On Sunday, **April 13th,** half the collection will be contributed to the RE program's summer adventure during which nearly a dozen UUCSR youth will travel to Taos, New Mexico work with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a Native American family. The trip will include white-water rafting and whatever other experiences Rev. Chris, Deborah Mason and Eric Fisher come up with. This is

a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these young people so please help as much as you can!

On Sunday, **April 27th,** half the collection will go to sustain our Saturday Breakfast program. We all know what a blessing it is to have this hands-on project that means so much to our neighbors and is equally rewarding to those who create it!

Getting to Know UU

Are you UU-curious - or perhaps even walking the path to membership? The next Getting to Know UU course series is being held on SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9am to 1pm, combining all three sessions.

Learn Unitarian Universalist history, discover the roots of UUSCR (our congregation) and explore the sacred in theory and practice. Sign up at the Visitor/Welcome

table any time before the first session. Childcare is available for a nominal fee with two days' advance notice. If you missed any earlier session, why not join us for part of this class to fill the "blanks?"

Sign up at the Welcome Table on Sundays, or contact Michele Murphy at wymurphy@att.net or (707) 479-3661.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The April selection is *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In May we are reading *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. If you have questions, please contact Linda Lampson.

Breath—Mobility—Balance

Monica Anderson will lead her class on Sunday, April 20th from 10:15 to 10:50 am in the Board Room. This

is a fun and easy way to improve these three vital functions! No special clothes necessary.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2014

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.— April 30, 2014

Adult RE—More Classes!!

Adult Religious Education presents classes and related events consistent with the UUCSR Vision, Purpose and Principles in hopes of furthering the overall mission of the congregation and its members. Some of the classes have suggested fees to cover the costs for materials, presenters and contribute to the UUCSR. However, everyone is welcome and no one will ever be turned away. If a fee is suggested simply check the "Scholarship" box when registering to attend free.

For more information and registration look for the table on Sunday or call Kathy (707) 523-2787. Any fees must be paid at the time of registration by check or cash. Fees may be submitted to Kathy or at the office with class name indicated.

Coming Soon: Jesus the Jewish Mystic—Rev. Gaetano Salomone, lecturer and discussion - three hours. \$25 fee Saturday, April 12, 6 – 9 pm. Come join us in a special, evening presentation on the historical Jesus emphasizing the social and religious background of Yeshua as a Jewish mystic. Rev. Salomone will highlight Jesus' grounding in the prophetic and visionary traditions of ancient Judaism and discuss the oft neglected significance of his protest in the Temple that led to the crucifixion.

The Gaia Hypothesis—Taught by Phil Harriman. Three 1.5 hr. sessions. Class based on book by James Lovelock and Lynn Margulis.

Making Friends With Death—Taught by Jacquie Robb.

Eight 2.5 hr. class sessions to be offered in Fall, 2014 – with one preview class in June. Prior enrollment needed as class size will be capped at 15 participants. Rev. Jacquie Robb is an interfaith minister, hospital chaplain and longtime hospice grief counselor. A meditator for over 30 years, Jacquie accompanies those at the end of life and facilitates emotional support for those caring for them. This class derives from a continuing inquiry into the nature of death and how to live life fully in the present. Death is inevitable; all of us will die sooner or later. Our natural reaction to this fact is often denial, defiance or fear. How can we enter into a more open relationship with death? Classes include approaches both ancient and modern as ways to deepen our relationship with death - inquiry, contemplation, sharing and creativity. The series is an invitation to learn to relate to death with more ease, and so become available for a more vital relationship with life.

Scripture Class—Taught by Chris Monday at 8:00 am and 5:30 pm. Fall 2014. Dates and topics to be determined by Rev. Chris.

Creative Writing/Writing Practice—Taught by Patty Somlo. Two hour classes weekly. 10 enrollment. Afternoon on Mon., Weds., Fri. or Sat. \$10 each class per person.

The Wisdom Path (UUA curricula)
12 session – 90 min. May be six taught Fall 2014-15. Linda Balabanian and various other presenters to be named. Co-instructors also needed. On hold.

Women Together Annual Weekend Retreat

Our Annual Weekend Retreat at Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker is almost upon us! It will be **Friday evening May 2nd through Sunday noon, May 4th**. Our theme this year is "**Friendship**".

This weekend is always a wonderful way to deepen our relationships, get to know new people, relax and have fun. New(er) women are always especially encouraged to come! The cost for two nights and five meals is \$155, or if you bring your own linens, \$145. Bunk beds are \$135 and \$125 respectively. Partial scholarships are available.

Sign-ups in the Narthex will begin between the services on April 6th. Last year we were full by the 11:00 service on the second Sunday of sign-ups so don't delay!!!

If you have special needs regarding room assignments, please contact Kathy Norman, 523-2787, by April 5th.



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 or her 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: Bill Foshee, Judy Hutchinson, Mary Lill Lee, Lucia Milburn, and myself. You can find us between or after services - just look for the lavender nametags.

Yours in shared community,

Cathy Read, Chair
COSM

Announcing the 2014 North Bay Organizing Project People's Assembly

On Sunday April 27th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm,

NBOP Leaders will announce our course of action for the 2014-15 year. We will participate in Leadership Workshops in both English and Spanish, based on the principles of Community Organizing.

We will come away with plans of action that UUCSR can readily implement, and that lead to greater power for marginalized people in Sonoma County.

We will break bread together for supper in small bilingual circle conversations after the workshops are over.

Lets show our unity and love, come out on April 27th!

Location TBA – stay tuned for announcements of details

Spring is Here!

Spring is here, at last, and the days are growing long enough for us to stay out a bit later than usual. Across the globe—or the parts of it in which spring means the return of the warm weather—different people celebrate the season in the ways that make the most sense to them. In Washington D.C., preparations are being made for Easter and the annual White House egg hunt. In Thailand, the Water Festival will include the dousing of happy revelers with water sprayed from the trunks of live elephants. In India, the Festival of Colors will be celebrated with vibrant costumes and painted faces. In Mexico, some folks are rehearsing for Holy Week with recreations of the passion of Christ, acted out in the streets of the towns, while others head to the beach to build sand-castle replicas of The Last Supper. In Gloucester, England, daredevils gather to chase a tumbling round of cheese down the very-steep Cooper's Hill. And in Canada, folks are enjoying the weather, and looking forward to celebrating Queen Victoria's birthday next month.

We are celebrating, too.

In addition to this month's annual Easter flower communion, the Glaser Center calendar is crammed with exciting musical events, designed to lure us all out of our houses and huts and cozy domiciles, so that we can share the beauty of music and song together as a community.

Forestville singer-songwriter **David Luning**, just 27 years old, dazzled millions of people with his audition in the current American Idol show. Selected out of thousands of participants to be one of the top 100, he made his home county proud, and this month, he'll be performing his first full concert since returning from Hollywood. His songs are expertly crafted gems of life, love and loss, and you will not regret taking advantage of his appearance here on Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Later in April, one of our best regular guests, the Junior College's celebrated Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus, will be joined by the California Redwood Chorale for a spectacular concert. **Eternal Light** is the title of the show, featuring the choral music of

Morton Lauredsen. The concert will be especially meaningful as it will mark the retirement of legendary local choral director Dan Earl, a good friend to the Glaser Center over the last several years. The Shows are Saturday, April 26, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m.

On Sunday, May 4, at 7 p.m. (notice the different day and time), our Showcase Concerts continue with the Glaser Center debut of acclaimed singer-songwriter Teresa Tudury, joined by East Bay troubadour Ira Marlowe. Remember Roy Zimmerman? Well, Teresa Tudury is a lot like Roy, only funnier, and with a stage presence that should be registered with the local police, it's that musically pyrotechnic. Want a little taste? Log onto Youtube, and search for "Teresa Tudury" and "Mrs. God" and "Church of Great Rain." This song, in which she imagines making a phone call to the Creator, and asking to talk to Mrs. God instead, is a perfect indicator of what is in store for us this May. This is going to be a concert to remember.

Meanwhile, we are putting together some amazing events for this Summer, so stay tuned, because after a great spring of outstanding music, a person just has a taste for more. And what's coming up is going to be a doozy of a summer season.

Best to everyone,
David Templeton, Glaser Center Manager and
Artistic Director



Events at the Glaser Center

Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Showcase Concert Series

David Luning

Local singer-songwriter whose American Idol audition showed the world what Sonoma County already knew

Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 at door



Sunday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Narrow Way Stage Company

Little Shop of Horrors THE CONCERT!



Tickets \$13 advance
\$16 at door

Sat., April 12, 7:30 pm

A benefit for the Powerful Voices Project

The Vagina Monologues

www.vday.org



Sun., April 13, 3pm

Healdsburg Chorus

Love Songs

Come fall in love with the Healdsburg chorus

Tickets \$15 general

Sat., April 26, 8:00 pm, Sun. April 27, 3:00 pm

SRJC presents the Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus and the California Redwood Chorale

Eternal Light

featuring music of Morton Lauredsen

Marking the retirement of Dan Earl

All seats \$15

Sunday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Showcase Concert Series

Teresa Tudury & Ira Marlowe

Tickets \$15 advance
\$18 at door



Sat., May 10, 8pm

Sun., May 11, 3pm

Occidental Community Chorus

Tickets \$15 general

547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa

707-568-5381

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 20 February 2014

Members Present -- Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (President), Lois Bell, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (Vice President), Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Cathie Wiese, Marge Wright

Members Not Present -- None

Non-Members Present -- Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Brian Plude (Intern Minister)

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Jeanie Bates

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting – Reading by Bryan Plude: “Some Questions You Might Ask” by Mary Oliver

Agenda Review –New Business, Building Security changed to a non-voting item

Timekeeper Volunteer – Cathie Wiese

Minutes of 12 December 2013 Review -- Draft minutes corrected in situ. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Open Microphone – Jeanie Bates -- (1) BOT annual retreat scheduled for August 22-24, (2) FY14/15 BOT officers to be elected at a Sunday meeting in March or April.

Treasurer’s Report – Linda Balabanian, Treasurer -- Linda distributed the handout highlights for the first fiscal 7-months, July-January: (1) Pledge Revenue continues to be over budget, (2) Sunday Basket revenue is steady at 14% under budget, (3) Glaser Center net income is \$1K under budget – a more detailed analysis of Glaser Center P&L expected to be completed in May, (4) Total Expenses are on budget although expenses are overstated due to the cost of lighting retrofit. The retrofit On-Bill-Financing has been approved by PG&E, hence expense accounting adjustments (deductions) will be made end of month February, (5) outside of “Other Income”, Net Income is \$25K and (6) Cash position remains strong and consistent. Financially, the congregation is doing well.

FY2014/15 Endowment Fund Distribution – A BOT member must consult with the Endowment Committee regarding Financial Stewardship Team (FinStew) recommendation that \$7K of the Endowment Fund be used to fund the planned website redesign. The consultation is required to bring this item to a vote in the June congregational meeting. Laura Jean volunteered.

Credit Card Update – Web site donations can now be made via PayPal. The drop-down list of candidate organizational recipients is expected to be expanded in the redesigned website. Jeanie requested that FinStew analyze the impact of PayPal.

Group Goals

Facilities – John Farison, Joe Como -- Joe reported that equipment and permit delays have caused the electrical panel installation to slip from the originally planned January to April.

Financial – Alan Proulx, Laura Jean Hageman, Linda Stabler – Alan reiterated that a “goal setting” exercise is being planned which will involve the congregation and the Endowment Fund committee. A Long Range Financial Plan is envisioned to help guide BOT and congregational decisions – specific plans to develop the plan will be forthcoming.

Cont. on page 15

Board of Trustees Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 14

Community Support & Communications – Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates, Lois Bell, Cathie Weise, Marge Wright

(1) Marge requested commitments from BOT members to staff the *Meet a Board Member* table on Sundays. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Cathie mentioned that a notebook has been added to record member comments and concerns to help facilitate follow up. (2) BOT members were encouraged to unilaterally engage with their liaison congregational committees/teams. (3) The planned “Leadership Assembly” meeting of leaders of committees/teams and BOT members to foster inter-team communications was cancelled in lieu of a questionnaire, requesting leader responses. (4) Jeanie introduced two handouts from Sibyl Day, representing UU Conversation and Action Network (UUCAN), regarding invitations to BOT members to participate in the March 7, “The Arc of the Universe Bends Toward Justice” meeting with North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) representatives.

Review of the Congregational Meeting – (1) Meeting conducted smoothly, upbeat, lots of floor participation, (2) Alan offered that some mention of UUA, District and NBOP should have been made since they represent a sizeable dues-paying commitment and (3) Jeanie put forth Phyllis Fitzgerald as a candidate District Assembly representative. Cathie motioned, Joe seconded designating Phyllis as District Assembly representative. Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

Human Resources (HR) Committee – Linda Stabler
Job Reclassification Process – At BOT’s earlier request, Linda presented a detailed job reclassification process. Laura Jean suggested that the process be modified to interject BOT review and approval prior to FinStew review. Linda concurred.

Total Compensation Meetings with Staff – Feedback from staff is being collected concerning compilation of the Total Compensation package.

HR Committee Volunteers – Lois noted that the Committee is very small and volunteers are needed.

Energy – Clean Power / PG&E Forum – Alan reminded members that the congregation will necessarily decide between the two power suppliers. Alan urged members to attend the March 4 forum.

Leadership Reception Event – Discussion centered on the planning details of the canvas related event.

Sexton Update – Linda Stabler -- The candidate selection process was discussed in detail. Marge motioned and Alan seconded that given positive background checks, the sexton position be offered to either the first or second choices of the twenty applicants. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 with 4 abstentions.

Glaser Center Support Staff – Linda Stabler – Linda’s handout described the need for and duties of part-time staff to support Glaser Center operations. The request to authorize David Templeton to hire individuals was not approved. Joe motioned and Marge seconded to approve the submitted job description and to authorize David to bring forth candidates for HR to perform the vetting of the potential candidates and for HR to inform BOT of the hiree(s). Motioned passed unanimously, 10-0.

Building Security – Jeanie Bates – Current policy is to keep the front door locked and/or monitored during business hours. Jeanie invited BOT members to contribute to the issue of building security.

Closing Words – Bryan Plude: Reading “Variation on a Theme by Rilke” by Denise Levertov

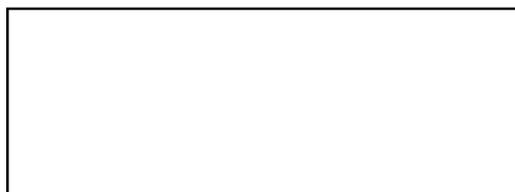
Meeting Adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham

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April 2014

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Board of Trustees

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Vice President@uusantarosa.org

Treasurers: Linda Balabanian
Treasurer@uusantarosa.org

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Board Members:

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Linda Stabler

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Marge Wright

Recording Secretary

Terry Graham

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Send submissions to Announcements@uusantarosa.org

Editor: Janis Brewster

Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

UU Update Newsletter:

Send submissions to Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to Administrator@uusantarosa.org with your name and e-mail address

Editor: Janis Brewster

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

Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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Choir Director: Sadie Sonntag, Pianist: Richard Riccardi

Glaser Center Director: David Templeton, Ext.103, glasermanager@uusantarosa.org

Sexton: Peter Wilson, Sexton@uusantarosa.org

Sunday Religious

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Shawna Hoxsie

Fiona Mackenzie