



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• May 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 5 •

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

Theme: Building Community

May 4, 2014

**“Building Community:
Our Saturday Morning Breakfast”**
Worship Leader: Bryan Plude, Intern Minister
Worship Associate: David Hope

For many years our congregation has offered a breakfast on Saturday mornings for the homeless and hungry. What has this experience meant for our volunteers and for the community we are trying to help? What has it meant for our congregation? What might it mean?

May 18

“Fiction and the Religious Imagination”
Worship Leader: Andrew Hidas
Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

Imagination is perhaps the most distinctive of all human qualities, and the basis of all our literature, both sacred and secular. Paradoxically, the imaginary tales of great literature often explore deeper truths about the lives we lead and the people we are than the most carefully constructed scientific or historical texts. Today, we'll reflect on fiction, the imagination, and their role in the religious quest in this service led by Andrew Hidas, a UUCSR worship associate, writer, editor, and blogger.

May 11, 2014

“Loving the Strange”
Worship Leader: Rev. Kathy Huff
Worship Associate: Roger Corman

Hospitality is one way of the ways we build and strengthen our community. Today we consider what it means to embrace the literal stranger, the stranger within, and the stranger in those we love.

May 25, 2014

“Let It Begin with Me”
Worship Leader: Bev Ludwig
Worship Associate: Scott Miller

Memorial Day will be honored tomorrow. Bev Ludwig will present a “remembering” of all the soldiers—and civilians—who have died in past wars. “War is not the answer” is posted on many signs produced by the American Friends Service Committee. But what is the answer? Bev will talk about non-violence as the answer as shown by Gandhi and King, and many others.



Monthly Musings from Rev. Kathy



The phrase “it takes a village to raise a child” quite literally describes my childhood. I grew up on a small island in the south Pacific about 14 degrees off the equator, Savaii, (Western

Samoa. There are several villages on the island, ours was a small self-made semi-international community made up of Samoans, and those who described themselves as Yanks, Aussies, Kiwis, and Swedes.

My memories of growing up there are idyllic. The Pacific Ocean was our front yard, the rainforest the back. My brother and I spent long hot days swimming, snorkeling, climbing trees, exploring the rainforest, and going to school half days in a one-room schoolhouse that doubled as a community house. There was a generator for electricity, a tank catchment for drinking rainwater, and our food was supplied either from our own gardens or the local markets. We could also order items to be shipped over by the small boat that arrived once a month from the other island. No television of course. Communications with the outside world happened by Ham operated radio. On weekends we'd gather for community meals and sometimes dances. There were theme nights and Fia Fia's (Samoan equivalent of a Luau.) All holidays were celebrated in community and birthday celebrations included everyone in the village.

Growing up like this meant everyone knew everybody else and for us kids it was like having one big extended family watching over you. This was a

good thing, most of the time. It meant when I fell from a tree I had someone near to tend my scrapes and my bruised ego. It also meant I never heard the end of any foolishness! It was hard to believe that none of us knew each other before starting off on this ten-year adventure, but in what seemed like no time at all it was as if we had been together forever. As a child I was protected from any of the adult conflicts that surely must have been a part of community life, for no community is perfect, but it certainly seemed like somehow everything always worked out.

Quaker author and community builder M. Scott Peck defines community as any group of two or more people who, regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds, have been able to accept and transcend their differences. They are able to communicate openly and effectively; and to work together toward common goals, while having a sense of unusual safety with one another. My village was a lot like that. Our UU religious community here in Santa Rosa seems a lot like that too. There is something beautiful and powerful when people make a choice to be together. We may be different from one another, and we may not always agree, but we choose to stay in community because what we do together for each other and the world matters.

Perhaps we should say “it takes a village to raise a human being.” I know I would not be the person I am today if it were not for those communities of caring. How about you?

GUESS WHAT!?!

It's time to mark your Calendars for our

Annual Service Auction

Save the Date!!

November 8, 2014

Greetings from the Board President

Because of the time line for preparing the newsletters for the coming month I am often writing these notes as much as 2 weeks before you receive your newsletter. Tonight I am writing following our Easter service, our Flower Communion. Hours and events later I am still holding in my mind and heart the beauty of our service. The "altar" of flowers, representing each of us, was a reminder to me of the love and joy in our community. I know we have our challenges and certainly our disagreements but I am convinced that these grow from our commitment to our free faith. This service touched me and reminded me why we all work so hard to keep our boat afloat.

Board members and officers for 2014-2015, Current members at end of their service

The new board, 2014-2015, met on April 6 to elect officers and begin the getting to know you process. The new board members are, as elected in February, Pam Tennant, Marilyn Beckerbauer, and JD Thompson. The officers for this coming year are: me, as President, JD Thompson as Vice President, Linda Balabanian as Treasurer and Sibyl Day as Corporate Secretary.

It will be hard to say goodbye to our members who are ending their service in July: Laura Jean Hageman, John Farison, Cathie Wiese and Lois Bell, but say goodbye we must. It has been a joy to be part of this board. How often do you see "joy" and "board" in the same sentence? That's how good it has been.

Congregational Meeting June 8

We will have an interesting agenda for this meeting, including appreciations, reports from groups within the congregation, a special report from our DA delegates as

well as reports from the Board's goal groups and the Budget Task Force who will present the preliminary budget. Our Youth Group will provide breakfast as a fund raiser for their service trip to Taos.....good food, good cause.

DA delegates

District Assembly, this year in Sacramento, will be April 25-27. We have a wonderful group of delegates who will represent us: Phyllis Fitzgerald, Mary Louise Jaffray, Dorris Lee, Susan Bartholome and Andy Levine. We look forward to their report at the June 8 Congregational Meeting.

Goal Group News

The Community Support and Communication group is having a grand time with our Ask A Board Member table. You all ask great questions and we get to investigate when we don't know the answer. We have, however, noticed a reluctance on your part to accept our nickels!

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our Activities Fair and we will, I am sure, deem it a great success. We imagine this being an annual event.....we have such an active congregation and this seems a lively way to learn about everything that happens here.

We have dependable electricity, thanks to our Facilities and Ops folks. The installation went well and, I think, with a minimum of disruption. So many thank yous are in order for this project.

And so it goes, in joyful community, in appreciation of all of you,

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.

MAY 20

JUNE 15



Intern Minister

I write this article having just returned from our UU Pacific Central District Assembly. It was a lovely three-day weekend in Sacramento. I was joined there by fellow sojourners from UUCSR Mary Louise Jaffray, Andy Levine, Susan Bartholome, Dorris Lee and Phyllis Fitzgerald.

Imagine attending intergenerational worship with about 300 fellow UU's. Imagine a worship service with a middle and high school youth choir, an adult choir, and a band. This is how we wrapped up Sunday morning. There was a children's story with part of the story enacted by the children. We honored Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, who is retiring from 25 years as president of Starr King School for Ministry, the seminary in Berkeley which I attend. We were treated with three short reflections by district ministers. I found the reflection by Rev. Wendy Bartel particularly moving. It was written as a poem, delivered with a rap cadence, about our UU faith. There was something in this service for everyone, including lots of singing!

For those of you who have never attended one of these events, here is some background. Our national denomination is divided into districts. Our district comprises 37 congregations in northern California, part of the San Joaquin Valley, northern Nevada and Hawaii. Once each year, sometime in the spring, we gather together for a few days of

worship, workshops, a business meeting and breaking bread together. It is a wonderful time to renew and make new friendships.

Workshops are a highlight for many. The problem is that they run concurrently, and most of us don't have Hermione Granger's ability to be two places at once. Here is a sample of the twenty-one workshops offered: "Living the Seven UU Principles through the Practice of Compassionate Communication"; "Spiritual Ministry: Leading into Generosity"; and "Tasting Beloved Conversations". I attended a workshop in which we discussed how we make UU a healing and welcoming space for veterans.

Our dedicated delegates attended the business meeting late Saturday afternoon. We listened to discussion about a proposed change to the bylaws which reduced the size of the district board and made some other structural changes. It passed. We heard a report by our new District Executive, Dr. Josh Searle-White and reports on congregational development, growth, racial and cultural diversity and the Youth Council. We reviewed our budget—it is in fine shape.

I hope that you will consider expanding your UU horizon by gathering with fellow UU's from across our district when we meet next April in San Francisco.

Blessings, Bryan Plude, Intern Minister

Children of All Ages

I've always wondered about that slightly corny phrase, "Children of all ages." I've heard it all my life, and long ago came to the somewhat cynical conclusion that it was shorthand for, "This show is actually aimed at children, but if we don't say something clever to make adults want to see it too, then we might not have an audience," and thus, "appropriate for children of all ages" became a common phrase. Of course, it can also be used to point out the fact that some of us never completely grow up, that there is a place in our heart for childlike wonder and magic, no matter how old we are.

The origins of the phrase actually date back to the mid 19th-century, with traveling circuses and the iconic ringmasters welcoming "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, and children of . . ." well, you know. P.T. Barnum—a Unitarian, it so happens—did not coin the phrase, but he certainly helped make it popular.

Anyway, in recent years, I've wondered why that phrase couldn't be thought of the other way around sometimes, too? Maybe it's not the adults whose capacity for childlike expression should be in question, but our children's capacity to be engaged by music, plays, movies and poetry that does not necessarily target them as the main audience. I was 8 years old when I saw Zefferilli's 'Romeo & Juliet,' and though much of it WAS over my head, I still understood it, and was captivated by it, and thus began a lifelong association with the works of Mr. Shakespeare. Last week, one of our renters—the Santa Rosa Charter School

for the Performing Arts—used our Sanctuary to treat elementary kids to their first taste of opera. Trust me, there was not a bored face in the crowd.

My point is this. As important as it is to give children art that is tailored to their specific level of cognitive development—to let them run through the playgrounds of their minds—it is also good to expose them to art that is just a bit beyond their grasp (or attention span). While I do not suggest bringing babies to our various recitals and shows, I would love to see more young faces at some of our Showcase Concerts (a twelve year old, for instance, would love Teresa Tudury—Sunday, May 4, 7:00—and would have lots to think and talk about). On May 17 (2:00 p.m.), the New Horizons Band will be presenting an afternoon of truly fun, rousing music, and though the players are all the age of their grandparents, I think kids would love this music (even if they pretend to prefer playing video games). And for the Road to Edinburgh encore of my one-man-show 'Wretch Like Me,' well, I know from experience that the audiences who tend to appreciate my coming-of-age story the best are teenagers, who identify with what I describe, perhaps better than anyone.

So, next time you glance at the list of upcoming events, really do consider bringing your kids along. They might not even know it themselves, but there's a really good chance they'll appreciate the opportunity to be treated like an Adult of All Ages.

David Templeton, Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director

Religious Education for Children and Youth

There is a big divide between the RE program and the Adult programs at UUCSR. Each week the children are visible during the Story for All Ages and as they recite their Children's Affirmation and then they disappear into the unknown territory of Sunday School. This month the RE Committee will host an event that will bridge the gap and bring adults into the known world of UUCSR children. Here is what we have in store. On May 25th shortly after the 11:00 service we invite you to attend a light lunch and a presentation about the RE program. Our aim is to bring adults, those who have children in the program and those who do not, into the community of UUCSR children and youth by providing a close look at what we do back here in the RE Wing. We will engage attendees in mock RE classes, talk about what we teach and why, show you how fun it is to be around UU kids and answer questions. The event will be informative, participatory and fun.

Our congregation strives to embrace diversity within the community. Creating a truly multigenerational congregation is one way we can live the values of inclusion and diversity. As our numbers of families with children increase we, as an inclusive community, must find intentional ways of connecting with people of all ages. The event on May 25th is a step toward creating a congregation where young and old are as one in community.

Please look for announcements about this event and come if you can. We will need advanced RSVPs in order to plan for food. This will not be your typical open house, we are hoping that people will plan ahead to join us. Email me at debmasonuu@gmail.com if you'd like to rsvp or have questions.

In faith,
Deborah



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.

May RE class schedule

05/4/14	Children's Chapel all ages together	Theme: Celebration of Beltane
05/11/14	Grades K-2 <i>Wisdom Tales</i> Duck for President 5 th Principle	Grades 3-6 <u><i>We Believe:</i></u> Session 19 The Global Village 5 th Principle
05/18/14	Grades K-2 <i>Wisdom Tales</i> Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon 1 st Principle	Grades 3-6 <u><i>We Believe:</i></u> Session : 20 Working It Out 6 th Principle
05/25/14	Grades K-2 <i>Wisdom Tales</i> Giant Steps to Change the World 5 th Principle	Grades 3-6 <u><i>We Believe:</i></u> Session 21 The Web of Humankind 7 th Principle

Treasurer's Report

As I contemplated what to write in this article, I decided to take a look at May newsletter articles from previous years. It seems the more things change, the more they stay the same. Of course, part of that is simply because of the time in our congregation year – just completing our pledge drive and finishing up the budget that will be presented at the June 8 congregational meeting.

But it was interesting to note that last year we were anticipating the HVAC repair that was scheduled last June and worrying about the issue of our electricity going out and the need for a major electrical panel replacement. Here we are a year later with both of those big projects completed. Kudos especially to our Ops Committee for their hard work.

Our Financial Condition in Three Quarter Time...

At the end of our third quarter, the news about our finances is positive. We are still a little ahead in pledge revenue and still a little behind in our expenditures, a very good combination. However, during these last three months of our fiscal year our pledge revenue is usually quite low – several people have paid most or all of their pledges for the year already. And it is easy to be distracted by springtime and miss some pledge payments. And it is

common for committees that have been operating under budget to feel the need to “use up” their whole budget allotment before the year ends.

By the time you read this, the Board will have conducted a special meeting with the Budget Task Force to decide how we will make up the almost \$25,000 shortfall between what we anticipate in revenue next fiscal year based on our recent pledge drive and the expense requests from our committees, payroll and building costs. Our hope is to cut as little from the budget as possible (there really is no fat) but it appears some cutting is inevitable in this situation.

I'm not the Chicken Little type and long-term, I remain optimistic that we will be able to raise revenues from various sources to fund our wishes in the budgets to come and even make some progress on those hopes and dreams beyond the budget. We continue to make progress in reducing long-term expenses where we can, such as paying off the mortgage with member notes and our LED lighting retrofit. My hope is that we will continue to open ourselves to opportunities to untether the generosity around us that will nourish and sustain us financially for the long haul.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

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 May is Building Community.

“In and through Community lies the salvation of the world.”

--- M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*

A group of UU religious leaders once got together and agreed on a bold design statement about community. Consider what this statement might mean for us here at UUCSR. Our congregations embody and celebrate the world as we hope it will become. Our communities are bursting with people from a diversity of theologies, philosophies, ethnicities, cultures, colors, classes, gender identities, abilities, generations, sexual orientations and political persuasions. We live a culture and covenant of *mi casa es tu casa*, “my home is your home, my heart is your heart.” We stay at the table with love through comfort and discomfort. We are a universal home honoring all souls. We honor commonalities and traditions, we open ourselves to the gifts of difference and innovations. We embrace the Ubuntu spirit, “I am who I am because you are who you are” we practice bold hospitality, with trust, compassion and forgiveness. We recognize when we say “we” each day we mean one more.

Reflection Questions:

What is the defining community spirit of UUCSR? What do we mean by “we”? In what ways do we embrace diversity? Where is that a struggle? How do we welcome one another? Where does forgiveness and compassion dwell?

Spiritual Practices:

Meditate on the word welcome. Write about, or share with others a time when you felt most welcome. Consider what your host did to make you feel their hospitality. Volunteer to do something to benefit the community out of your comfort zone. Find a reflection partner and share what you have learned. Regularly invite people you do not know very well to share a meal with you. Go beyond small talk. Deepen your practice of hospitality each time. Bless strangers and those you know quietly, secretly with “may you be happy, may you know peace”.

Movies & Books for Adults (A) Children (C), Youth/Teens (T):

Chocolate (PG-13); *Lost Boys of Sudan* (NR); *Babe* (G); *A World Waiting to be Born* by M. Scott Peck. *Radical Hospitality* by Daniel Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt (A); *Walk with Four Spiritual Guides: Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Ramakrishna* by Andrew Harvey (A); *Beyond Tolerance: Searching for Interfaith Understanding in America* by Gustav Neibuhr; *Meet Jesus* by Lynn Tuttle Gunney (C,Y) *Bubba and Beau Meet the Relatives* by Kathi Appelt, (C) *Rosy's Visitors*, by Judy Hindley (C)

Music Notes

Our May services include a couple of holidays and one special congregational activity, so music has been selected to reflect these events. First, because several sopranos, altos, and women tenors will be attending the Women’s Retreat on May 4, the men in the choir will sing “Stand by Me” for both services that Sunday. For Mother’s Day on May 11, we will hear special music performed by two groups: Robin Rogers, Roger Corman, Susan Panttaja, and Natalie Brundred will sing and play “God’s Gift.” Robert Howseman, Roger Corman, and Susan Panttaja will sing and play "The Waltz That I'm Dancing with You." On May 18, the

choir will sing “Pure Imagination,” a song from the movie, “Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” for both services. Finally, on May 25, which is Memorial Day weekend, Roger Best, Eric Skagerberg, and Natalie Brundred will sing and play “The Band Played Waltzing Matilda,” which was written to remember the 50,000 Australian soldiers who died in the Battle of Gallipoli against Turkish troops during WWI. As you can see, there will be a wide variety of interesting music this month which we hope you will enjoy hearing.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

Attention Legacy Circle Members (or Potential Members)

If you have made a donation to UUCSR’s Endowment Fund or included the fund in your will, you qualify for membership in the UUCSR Legacy Circle. We want to give you the recognition you deserve, so we want to make sure that we have a complete list of current members of the Circle.

If you are currently a member of the Circle or have included UUCSR in your will without previously notifying the Endowment Committee of that bequest, please contact Phil Harriman, Chair of the Endowment Committee, at (707) 206-0488 or endowmentcommittee@uucsr.org.

Faith and Fitness

Faith and Fitness hikes in May: Saturday, May 10 at the new Laguna trail off highway 12 in Sebastopol. Meet at the free parking area at 10 am. On Tuesday May 20th, an evening hike starting at 6pm at Riverfront Park, carpools to be arranged. We're also hoping to

schedule an outdoor evening potluck for nature loving hikers and non-hikers in the near future. Details to follow. Questions and concerns to fitness@uusantarosa.org or call Gretchen at 889-3007. Happy trails to all.

Service Trip Fund-raisers

A Million Thanks to everyone who bought a cake or a ticket to the Cake Auction and All Congregation Spaghetti Dinner.

Both events were very successful:

The Cake Auction brought in \$875.00 and the Dinner raised \$1014.22!

You are a generous congregation and the youth group is very appreciative

Hot Topic—A Readers Theater: Stories of Diversity and Inclusivity

Stories of diversity and inclusivity will be presented by the Diversity Working Group, Advocates for Social Justice, on May 18, from 12:30-2:00 PM. We invite you to come and hear these first person stories from our congregation members. This is sure to be a thought

provoking program. You are welcome to submit a story, our deadline for submitting stories is May 5. We will meet in the RE Common Room and, as usual, a light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering

On Sunday, May 11th, half the collection will be given to the Jewish Family and Children's Services. Founded in 1850 by immigrant pioneers, it offers a wide range of services to people of all beliefs and backgrounds to

solve the problems in their lives, from post adoption to older seniors. When the ushers come your way, please support this much needed and effective program.

Linda Harlow

Gay Pride Parade

Please join us to walk in the parade on Sunday, June 1st. Last year we had 20 people representing UUCSR. Let's try to double the number this year!

We will be gathering outside Coffee Bazaar, at 14045 Armstrong Woods Road in Guerneville, between 10:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. where we will find out our exact

location to assemble. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. and we must be in place by 10:30 a.m. If you would like to carpool, please meet at UUCSR at 9:15. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Dickey at susanlf.dickey@gmail.com.

Caring Connections Presents:

A GOOD LIFE A GOOD DEATH

Sunday, May 11, 2014

12:30pm in the RE Wing

Speaker: Gretchen Vap, Retired FNP, former Hospice Nurse Supervisor
Jacquie Robb, Hospital Chaplain

Breath—Mobility—Balance

Monica Anderson will lead her class on Sunday, May 18th from 10:15 to 10:50 am in the Board Room. This

is a fun and easy way to improve these three vital functions!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions

Greatly Appreciated!

Newsletter Assembly

10 a.m.— May 28, 2014

Adult RE—More Classes!!

Adult Religious Education (ARE) 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:

The Seventh Principle and the Gaia Hypothesis

Taught by Phil Harriman: BS. Physics, Caltech; PhD. Biophysics, UC Berkeley. This course will be centered on the UU 7th Principle: "Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part". In this class we'll look at the science that relates to this principle. We'll start at the origins of life on Earth, over three billion years ago, and see how life and the geology of our planet have influenced each other over the millennia. We'll also delve into the genetic and biochemical evidence that all life on Earth descends from a common ancestor. We'll then explore the Gaia Hypothesis, proposed by atmospheric scientist James Lovelock and evolutionary biologist Lynn Margulis (a classmate and friend of Phil's in graduate school) in the 1970s. This theory proposes that organisms interact with their inorganic surroundings on Earth to form a self-regulating, complex system that contributes to maintaining the conditions for life on the planet. How has the theory influenced scientific and public thinking? Has more recent scientific knowledge supported the hypothesis? How does it relate to humans and global warming? There is no single text for this course, but any of the books by James Lovelock would provide good background information and worth reading before the course starts (although Lovelock's later books become more pessimistic about the future of Gaia). Handouts will

be provided as well as recommended websites and books available from the Sonoma County Library.

Four 90 minute classes, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, June 5, 12, 19 and 26th.

Write and Connect: Creative Writing and Practice Workshop

Inspired by weekly prompts, readings and feedback, you will write with others and learn how to develop a deep writing practice and tap into your authentic creative voice. Workshop is designed for everyone, from aspiring to advanced writers. Instructor, Patty Somlo, has been writing and publishing articles, short fiction and essays for nearly 35 years. This workshop will be offered on Mondays beginning Oct. 6, 2014 from 10 am to 12 pm. Info on registration and fee will be coming this summer.

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.

UUCSR Writers—A Stimulating Environment

May 5th 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>



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

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

Members Not Present: Cathie Weise, Alan Proulx,

Non-Members Present: Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Linda Harlow (Recording Secretary), Sibyl Day (Corporate Secretary), Bryan Plude (Intern Minister)

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: Reading by Bryan Plude

Agenda Review: Bring Proposal to include reports from NBOP/UUCAN, District & General Assemblies, and other entities at Congregational Meetings to April meeting.

Minutes of February 20, 2014 Review: (Ken Ogren approved as delegate to GA by e-mail vote, March 6.) Minutes accepted as amended.

Time Keeper Volunteer: Sibyl Day

One-on-one Sharing Topic: Bryan

Open Mike:

Annual Retreat confirmed for August 22-24 at Walker Ranch. Cost \$133.

BoT officers will be elected at Sunday meeting on April 6 after 11 am service.

May 18th Revival has been cancelled.

Reports:

Treasurer – Linda Balabanian. In addition to her written report, Linda told us: 270 Pledge Cards were sent out, 50-60 have not yet been returned. We have 6 new Pledging Friends. Pledge revenue looks to be the same as last year with no increase as was hoped so the Board will likely be asked to give direction as to what to cut.

Goal Groups:

Financial – Laura Jean Hageman: No report planned, Alan Proulx met with Endowment Committee in regard to long range planning.

Cont. on page 11

Board of Trustees Minutes Cont.

Cont. from page 10

Community Support and Communication –

Susan Bartholome: The “Talk with a Board Member” seems to be worthwhile; Activity Fair April 27 between the services and after the 11am service, Governance Task Force will meet with Rev. Kathy Huff on April 1. The By-Laws need to be more specific. There will be no Leadership Assembly They would like to put together Facilities Use guidelines They’re exploring how committees are doing, particularly in regard to maintaining membership.

Continuing Business:

Infrastructure – John Farison: PG&E sent a contract which we signed to replace the electrical panel. The tentative date for this work is the week of March 31 to April 4, 2014. It will be confirmed next week. Joe Como will work on getting a repayment of approximately \$6,300. We have no update on bids for sound reduction in the Social Hall. The only one so far is \$40,000. The work would be phased in and we can do some of it ourselves.

Building Security – Jeanie Bates: She met with David Templeton, John Jaffray and Janis Brewster on February 27, 2014. They came up with ideas for increased security which went to the Operations Team on March 4, 2014. David Templeton and Daniel Reid are exploring and discussing options. It is a work-in-progress.

New Business:

Power provider choice – Joe Como (and Alan Proulx in absentia): If we do nothing we will become a customer of Sonoma Clean Power which may be initially slightly less expensive than PG&E but over time will average about the same. Joe Como suggests we go with that option. We’ll discuss the options at the next meeting. Jeanie Bates will find out from Janis Brewster what correspondence we’ve had with the power companies. Jeanie Bates also read Alan Proulx’s recommendation that we go with Sonoma Clean Power. Marge Wright requested that we explore the Green option(s).

Funding for Delegates to GA, DA, and Regional Assemblies – Laura Jean Hageman: See hand-out she gave us. Remaining questions for the Board are: How much money to request for Leadership Development in the budget and should scholarships be based on need or open to anyone. Marge Wright told us that in the distant past the Congregation paid half of the registration and people could write a letter to the Board asking for help with transportation. The Board is eager to send delegates to these Assemblies.

Laura Jean Hageman moved that we allocate \$670 to support delegates to GA. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Laura Jean Hageman then moved that we approve Susan Bartholome and Andy Levine’s request to be delegates to District Assembly. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Congregation Members as Employees Policy – Linda Stabler: This will be on the April 2014 Agenda.

Interim Supervision for Staff during Sabbatical Period – Linda Stabler, HR: The need for an interim supervisor for our staff during the Sabbatical period was discussed. John Farison moved that Lois Bell be Supervisor of RE Director, Administrator, and Glaser Center Manager during Rev. Chris Bell’s Sabbatical. It was seconded by Laura Jean Hageman and passed unanimously.

Approval of 2014-2015 salary increases for regular staff – Linda Stabler: The board approved the proposed salary increases for regular staff with minor changes.

Approval of 2014-2015 salary increases for RE teachers – Linda Stabler: The board approved the salary increases for RE teachers as presented.

Final reflections, questions, appreciations: We thanked Sibyl Day for keeping time and Marge Wright for a delicious supper!

Closing Words: Laura Jean Hageman read a lovely piece, Unity, by David Bumbaugh.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Harlow

March 22, 2014



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