



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• August 2014 • Volume 58 • Issue 8 •

**Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.**

**Theme: New Beginnings**

**August 3, 2014**

**“September: Beginning Again”**

*Worship Leader: Patrice Curtis, M. Div.*

*Worship Associate: Roger Corman*

Sometimes beginning again happens just as we imagine: full of joy, our wings strong enough to catch the wind. Sometimes, however, a beginning does not start the way we imagined.

Patrice currently serves Church of the Larger Fellowship, an online Unitarian Universalist church, as Minister of Congregational Life. She completed her ministerial internship in June 2013 at First Unitarian Church in Portland, Oregon, then served as Summer Minister through August. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA.

**August 17, 2014**

**“On Conversion”**

*Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell*

*Worship Associate: Linda Proulx*

Conversion is a concept that distresses many religious liberals, tied as it is to cajoling or compelling others to believe or act a certain way. The armed fundamentalists in Africa and Iraq (or Operation Save America) are only the latest example of this ancient and dangerous impulse. But conversion also refers to a striking and powerful internal shift that can be a core part of the spiritual journey, if we are open to the possibility. And sometimes even if we are not...

**August 24, 2014**

**“Mind and Body**

**Growing Up with Mental Health Issues”**

*Service Leaders: Eric Fischer & Isabel Fischer*

Growing up, we all experience feeling different in some way. Adolescence is a time of searching for acceptance and a sense of self. Youth struggling with mental health issues face additional challenges that can make this overwhelming. Using Isabel Fischer’s short film “Mind + Body,” we will explore the journey of young people finding themselves while living with mental illness.

**August 10, 2014**

**“Here We Go Again!”**

*Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell*

*Worship Associate: David Hope*

This week we officially welcome back Rev. Chris, and hear his reflections on his sabbatical and his aspirations for the next phase of our relationship as minister and congregation. We’ll consider what risks we might take as individuals and as a community for the fulfillment of our Mission and Vision. Sometimes we have to risk letting go the old, and other times we have to risk taking on the new. That’s not always easy; but without risk there is no growth. No fun, either!

**August 31, 2014**

**“Born and Reborn Again”**

*Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell*

*Worship Associate: Frances Corman*

Sudden conversions aside, most of us find that change comes slowly and with great effort. While remaining open to such breakthroughs, we have to know that even the most dramatic epiphany can fade in impact before our lifelong habits and the inertia of the mundane. If we are to grow into the kind of person that the Great Big Thing calls us to be – and that we know inside we CAN be – regular attention is required. Our UU tradition has long addressed this challenge. Today we’ll consider some simple and practical ways to grow your soul every day and to make a difference in the world.

## Greetings from Rev. Chris



This past May I attended TribalFest in Sebastopol, one of the premier belly-dancing festivals in the world. I am an inveterate seeker of new experiences, but I didn't even know there *were* belly-dancing festivals. I had only seen belly-dancing before a couple of times at a Persian restaurant, and appreciated its technical skill, its joyful embrace of real female bodies, and just how plain sexy it can be, if your minister is allowed to confess that.

I was also quite curious about the women who embrace the art form. After all, it was developed in cultures that have generally devalued women and strongly controlled their sexuality, and yet here it was being practiced by a host of presumably liberated ladies from California and beyond. I recalled Stephen Colbert observing that men have surely won the battle of the sexes if *pole-dancing* can be considered a mainstream form of exercise, which, in some circles, it is. Might belly-dancing fall into the same category? Were these women unwitting dupes of the patriarchy?

Maybe, but I am certain the dancers would say "Absolutely not!" What I discovered was one of the most empowering and supportive environments I could ever imagine. Dancer followed dancer to uniformly vigorous cheering and applause. Nearly everyone present was female, and they clearly weren't dancing for the few stray men like myself, (now feeling quite self-conscious and out-of-place.) No, they were dancing for each other, and for themselves. The whole thing had the feeling of a giant family reunion, even, dare I say, of a church whose message was simply, "You are beautiful."

Furthermore, the dancing was AMAZING. One memorable group danced a wildly fast-paced number, hips wiggling like cans of acrylic paint in the mixer at Friedman's, all with swords perfectly balanced on their heads! I've never seen anything like it. Meanwhile, outside the performance hall, booths were filled with exotic clothing and accessories, in an unusual style worn by most of those around me. There clearly was a whole sub-culture here that had been happily doing its thing, completely beyond my awareness, for who-knows-how-long. I was struck again by the astonishing, almost overwhelming, diversity of humanity.

Right now, all around us, people are living lives almost completely different from our own, with different axioms, presumptions, values, aesthetics, priorities, uniforms, food, and experiences of history and culture. Belly-dancers, bikers, death metal fiends, D & D players, hippies, Mexicans, Pomo, Russians, WASPs, gay, straight, rich and poor and on and on and on. We think they're weird, they think we're weird, and we're all right.

I mean, *I mean*, there are even people who have never even heard of The Grateful Dead. Even more shocking, there are people who have heard them, and still don't like them. The world just doesn't make sense sometimes.

One of the primary foundations of the UU worldview is that this fantastic diversity is something we should celebrate. We believe that the human tapestry is enriched by all the many different colors and textures, even the ones beyond our understanding. Of course, UUs have our biases and prejudices, too. I offer the sweeping condemnations of Christians ("only the bad kind, of course...") and Texans that I regularly hear as evidence. But in general open-mindedness, respect and tolerance are our core values. We recognize that all people care for their babies (and love making them), that all people can recognize beauty in nature, all breathe the same air, drink the same water, rely on the same natural laws, and live within the same creation. As Unitarian Universalists we further believe we all share the same self-nature – worthy and dignified, no matter how lost or confused we may be – and that we are all sustained and nourished by the same Great Big Thing, however we name or understand Her/Him/It/Them.

Tragically, such humanistic worldview remains under constant attack. The old survival mechanism of "us vs. them" is still just too compelling for many. Fundamentalism thrives, not just in places like Iraq and Afghanistan (where our bringing war didn't help matters), but also in our own country. Indeed, just two weeks ago a group of activists from Operation Save America, a quite scary anti-choice/anti-abortion organization, invaded the First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans DURING THEIR WORSHIP SERVICE and tried to "convert" its members to their point of view with shouting and signs. They even tried to get access to the kids of the Religious Education program to show them grisly pictures of aborted "children."

It's hard to hold to tolerance and the celebration of diversity at such times. I'm happy to say that our colleagues and friends in that church simply surrounded the group, began singing louder than their shouting and peacefully moved them from the sanctuary. They even invited the silent few to stay for the service. The police were called, but there was no violence.

Our kin remembered that such folk are people, too, trying their best in their way, and met them directly with a spirit of love and respect, even if it wasn't granted in return. Ideas and actions may be abhorrent and harmful, and we must confront those whenever the call of justice and love demands it, but it is not for us to condemn others as less-than-human. For Universalism teaches us that all of us – belly dancers, religious liberals, and anti-choice activists alike, are already part of God's family. Some folks just haven't woken up to that fact yet. Our times demand the bold proclamation of this view, if we are to ever know the peace and harmony that can and should be our birthright. There is simply no other path to that future but love and tolerance. Awakening those who can't see The Uniting Love yet is our collective work, now as desperately important as ever, and it is my prayer that our community and our UU faith makes this brave stance easier for each and every one of us, every day of our lives.

## Greetings from the Board President

**WELCOME BACK, REV. CHRIS...**How good it was to see Rev. Chris at our lovely 10th Anniversary Celebration on July 13. We will do an "official" welcome on August 10....both in the service and at a bit of a reception following the service. I am finding myself reflecting on this Sabbatical Period, remembering my anxiety as it approached and now, wondering what that anxiety was about. It seems clear that our lay leadership and our congregation as a whole accepted the invitation to step forward and stretch a bit. We had super support with Kathy Huff and Bryan Plude in spiritual leadership roles. Worship was rich, business was done and then some. Who knew?

**AND IT FEELS REALLY SWEET TO WELCOME REV. CHRIS BACK.**

**A WORD (ok, more than one) ABOUT OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION...**What a full, festive, reflective, joyful event. We had a day of celebration to remember. Hats off to the planners who thought through all the details and all of the participants, the music makers and word makers. I walked away with a heart full of appreciation for this amazing community. I thank all those who came before me and those who call UUCSR home now for doing the hard work involved in keeping this boat afloat.

**BIG THANKS TO KEN, JAN AND HEATHER FOR REPRESENTING US AT**

**GA...**I look forward to hearing their reports from GA. They will certainly have a spot on the Fall

Congregational Meeting agenda but perhaps they will decide to do a bit of a gathering after service one Sunday for those of us who want to hear about their experience in more detail than a few minutes at the October 12 meeting will allow.

**CORRECTION FOR FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DATE...**We announced, at the June 8 Congregational Meeting, the schedule for this next year's meetings and have now discovered a WHOOPS in our planning. Turns out that October 5, the date we announced, falls during the Men's Retreat. So, we are pushing our meeting out to the next week, **October 12.**

**BOARD RETREAT...**Your new board, for 2014-2015, will be headed for Walker Creek Ranch for a 2 day retreat August 22-24. We will be reviewing this past year and setting our goals for the coming year. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO TEND TO THIS YEAR.** I hope we have made it clear to all in our community that we are happy to have your input. You may contact any of us. We are: Susan Bartholome, Marge Wright, Linda Stabler, Alan Proulx, Joe Como, J. D. Thompson, Pam Tennant, Marilyn Beckerbauer, Jeanie Bates.

With wishes for a lovely late summer,  
Jeanie Bates  
President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

## Get Ready!! Our Annual Service Auction is Coming Up!

We are gearing up for our Annual Service Auction which will be held on **Saturday, November 8th, 2014.** This is a huge, fun annual event that is our biggest fundraiser.

Almost every person in our congregation gets involved in preparations. Here are ways you can be part of the fun:



- Host an event or offer a service
- Donate gift-quality items
- Arrange a donation from a favorite business
- Volunteer to help the night of the auction

**Mark your Calendars** now and come join the fun. Let's make this our most successful fundraiser ever!

For more information contact Kitty Wells at 433-1196 or Nancy Freeman at 537-1987.

## Love Reaches Out: Our Journey to the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island

As one of our congregation's newest members, it was a great honor to represent us at this year's General Assembly. Ken and his daughter Jan Ogren were also delegates. You can see them voting at a business meeting at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uuworld/14342174697/in/photostream/>. UU world highlighted Ken as the oldest delegate there. So UUCSR had a mini moment of fame at GA.

The General Assembly is our denomination's annual national gathering of UU congregational delegates, administrators, ministers, religious educators, lay leaders, members, and friends of Unitarian Universalism to enjoy fellowship, share best practices for the benefit of our congregations, and to handle denomination-wide matters of governance.

This year's theme was "Love Reaches Out" - expanding on the great work and themes of our "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign. (See <http://standingonthesideoflove.org> for more information.) As usual, the General Assembly was characterized by an overwhelming number of extraordinary workshops to attend. I am frequently astounded by the diversity of wisdom and creativity found amongst our member congregations. One workshop I attended was led by Rev. John Crestwell, the minister responsible for launching AWAKE ministries in Annapolis, Maryland, utilizing "soulful music, emotional literacy and personal growth teachings" to spread UU values within a multi-cultural environment. Another workshop was entitled, "Future of Faith - Dive Deep", where Rev. Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar presented her doctoral thesis wherein she presents compelling reasons as to why our denomination has not grown as vigorously as many would like, tracing cultural reasons that stretch all the way back to our Puritan ancestors! I believe bold voices and innovative minds like those of Revs. Crestwell and Moldenhauer-Salazar are the voices of the future of Unitarian Universalism,

helping us to see how we can grow and share the opportunity for others to connect with an open-minded, progressive faith that reaches out to strengthen the communities we live in.

In the Plenary Sessions, congregational delegates voted on a new denomination-wide Congregational Study/Action Item (CSAI) for 2014 - 2018. The topic is [Escalating Inequality](#), addressing the growing income disparity amongst the poorest and wealthiest residents of our country. As described in the CSAI summary: ". . . The American Dream has become a myth. Half of all Americans are impoverished or struggling, as the middle class shrinks and billionaires take the profits. Where's our commitment to the Common Good?" Congregations around the country are urged to study and take local action on this topic throughout these next 4 years, tapping into our concentrated collective energy to multiply our impact on this urgent matter (which UUCSR voted for as its second choice for study items). This CSAI overlaps with our CSAI for 2012-2016: [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](#)

Unfortunately, it's impossible to cram all the wonder and learning of the General Assembly into one brief article. There is talk of scheduling an extended opportunity for debrief, questions, and answers about both the General Assembly and our 2014 District Assembly, sometime in the coming months, perhaps just after a service. Keep an eye on our announcements flyers if you are interested in attending such a gathering. ***(If you want to learn more details about the General Assembly and see video of what happened in the plenary sessions, please visit: <https://www.uua.org/ga/>)***

**Our next General Assembly will be in Portland, Oregon, June 24-28: 2015 Portland, OR; mark your calendars now!**

Submitted by Heather Mutz

**September 7**

**INGATHERING(S)**

**BACK TO TWO SERVICES**

9:15 and 11:00

The books are closed, and the annual reports are in, so come, come, whoever you are, to our annual end-of-summer homecoming service and the kick-off to a new "church year."

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

We are gearing up for a new year in RE! Even though school starts in mid August, our summer program, of Children's Chapel for ages, will continue through the month of August. We will begin the new congregational year on September 7 when our schedule of two services (9:15am and 11:00am) resumes. For me August is the month of planning and preparing.

I want to give a preview of the children's RE programs we will offer beginning next month, so that parents can know what is in store, and so that everyone who would be interested in working with our children can glimpse what they could teach. Here's the line up:

**Grades K-2 will have a program called Wisdom Stories.** Each Sunday a beautiful picture book, selected from the very best of children's literature, and that exemplifies our UU Principles and Sources will serve as the centerpiece of the session. In addition to the opening worship so beloved by our little ones there is an activity, such as arts and crafts, games and skits that relates to the message of the story. These sessions are simple and sweet, perfect for our young learners.

**Grades 3-5 will learn about the Bible through a UU curriculum called Bibleodeon.** One of the sources of our living tradition is "Jewish and Christian teachings that

call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves". Bibleodeon is not your standard scripture study. Bible stories are taught in a way that UU children can understand in the context of their lives. The way the stories are presented invites action, thought, response and involvement. The program includes lots of fun activities to bring the lessons home.

**MUUGs – grades 6-8 will experience Neighboring Faiths.** Another of the sources we draw upon is "the wisdom of world religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life". Neighboring Faiths asks our youth to select several faith traditions they want to learn more about. Then lessons are prepared for each religion and they go on a field trip to experience the worship practices of each faith. In past years students have participated in services of Judaism, Russian Orthodox, Buddhism, Hinduism and more. Teachers by no means have to be experts in the religions. We have lesson plans in place. But if you are interested in learning a lot and teaching what you learn, this is a wonderful RE experience. Students who have gone through this class in the past have counted it as one of their most profound RE experiences.

It is going to be another great year in RE. With these programs and the incredible kids we serve how could it be any

## Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

The Sr. High Youth Group will be on hiatus in the month of August. We will resume on September 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Rev Chris serve as Youth Advisors. Contact Deborah [REDACTED] for more information.

**Summer program RE sessions and the worship service at 10:00am.**

All ages grades K-6 meet together during the summer months. Sessions include worship, a brief lesson, games and crafts. We keep it fun and simple!

Childcare for babies, toddlers and preschoolers will be provided by Fiona Mackenzie and Shawna Hoxsie.

**August RE class schedule – Children begin in the sanctuary. All ages meet together in one class.**

Date	Theme
08/3/14	<i>Your Divine Spark</i>
08/10/14	<i>The Blessings of Nature</i>
08/17/14	<i>It Matters How We Treat Each Other</i>
08/24/14	<i>Walking with Waldo (Emerson)</i>
08/31/14	<i>Chalice Art</i>

## Treasurer's Report

By popular request, this month I'm devoting this space to an explanation of the eScrip program and how we can all use the program to help generate funds for UUCSR with only a small effort and no additional cost on our part. What is eScrip?? Merchants, including many on-line merchants, will make contributions to UUCSR based on a percentage of the purchases you make from them. Starting this month, there will be a table in the narthex on Sundays where you can learn all about it, find out about participating merchants and get help signing up to use eScrip from a group of friendly volunteers.

I have been signed up for eScrip for years but my purchases have not been bringing in much in donations – just a few dollars a year. Since the eScrip folks indicate that an organization of our size with members who actively use eScrip should expect to receive tens of thousands of dollars a year, I decided I was going to try to understand why we were not coming anywhere close.

So I talked to several of you, took a deep dive into the eScrip website and here is what I found out ...

Some local merchants have special requirements for eScrip. For example, at Safeway, you must swipe your Safeway Club Card (not use your phone number look-up), you must pay with cash or debit card rather than credit card and you must reregister your card on the eScrip website annually to receive eScrip credit. At Oliver's you must sign up at the store for eScrip using their store eScrip card and it is necessary to reregister it at the customer service desk annually. Other local stores, Molsberry and Petaluma Markets have similar restrictions. The percentage contribution from these merchants depends on your monthly expenditures in the store, between 2% and 5%.

There are a few local restaurants, Sazon, Pepe's, Spengler's, The Villa and about 10 others, which participate in eScrip (2.5% of the total spent plus another

2.5% if you provide an online review). There are also some other merchants, Big O Tires and some travel companies that participate.

In order to receive eScrip from any of these merchants it is necessary to register the specific store cards mentioned and for those without specific cards, you must register the credit cards you will use at the stores and restaurants. This is the method by which your purchases are tracked and eScrip calculated.

There are also *hundreds* of on-line merchants in the eScrip program! Many of them are stores you may visit physically but eScrip contributions are only available from their on-line stores. Kohl's, PetSmart, JCPenney and Target are a few. Others are on-line merchants only, such as Amazon and Priceline. The eScrip contributions from most of these on-line merchants are between 2.4% to over 5%. For example, I just purchased my monthly dog food from one of these on-line merchants (rather than their physical store) and we will receive 5.4% of the total.

In order to receive eScrip contributions from the on-line merchants it is necessary to access them on-line through the eScrip website. The eScrip website has a link to its "On-line Mall" and from there links are available to all the participating on-line merchants. If you are an on-line shopper, I suggest that you register on the eScrip website and then bookmark the eScrip website as a favorite on your computer and access it before you shop on-line.

Using the eScrip program is a great way for you to help fund our mission and vision without spending any additional dollars of your own. With a small effort, you can help us to gain contributions from those merchants you support. Please look for your friendly eScrip volunteers after the service on Sundays or go to the eScrip website - [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) - to register and get started.

Linda Balabanian, Treasurer

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2014**

**[Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)**

**E-mail Submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

**Newsletter Assembly**

**10 a.m.— August 27, 2014**

## Music Notes

The theme for services in August is “New Beginnings – Starting Over,” which is very appropriate because we will be welcoming Rev. Chris back from his sabbatical. We will also be hearing some new musicians provide music. Beginning on August 3, Ananta Hooper will play a violin solo that she composed entitled “Heartbeat.” She is a professional musician who has generously offered to play for our services. If you would like to know more about her and hear some of her music, you may visit her Website at: [www.anantafiddlehooper.com](http://www.anantafiddlehooper.com)

Then, On August 10, Stacy Sincheff, who sings both with our choir and the Love Choir, will be singing with a few members of the Love Choir an old favorite by Guy Lombardo called “Enjoy Yourself.”

Bobby Jo Valentine will be singing and playing as a Guest Musician for the service August 17. Rev. Chris heard him at last year’s Interfaith Pride service and invited him to play for a service some time. He is also a

professional musician who composes his own music. If you would like to know more about him and hear some of his music, you may visit his Website at: [www.bobbyjovalentine.com](http://www.bobbyjovalentine.com)

On August 24, an entire family from our congregation - Eric, Billie Sue and Izzy Fischer -- will be doing the service, including providing music.

Finally, On August 31, the UUsual Suspects, including Eric Skagerberg, Natalie Brundred, Robert Howseman, Roger Corman, and perhaps a few others, will treat us to two very familiar songs, “I Can See Clearly Now” by Johnny Nash and “Turn, Turn. Turn” by Pete Seeger.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

## Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month after the 10 A.M. Sunday Service ( in August) and following the 11 A.M. Service beginning in September.

They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister Rev. Chris Bell who has just returned from a six month sabbatical.

Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Bring your coffee or tea and meet us in the Green Room, located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.

**August 17**

**September 21**



## Hot Topic—SAY Dream Center

**What is Happening with the SAY Dream Center<sup>®</sup>: Hot Topic for August 10th at 12:15.** Cat Cvengros, the Development Director for SAY (Sonoma Advocates for Youth), will be entertaining us with stories and news about SAY and its Dream Center. When we first heard about Sutter's incredible offer to SAY (They offered their previous hospital site on Hoen, free of charge!), we were amazed at such generosity. We were very concerned when we learned of efforts by some groups to stop the Dream Center before SAY had even accepted the offer of land and the facility. Then, after the program had gained approval from the planning commission and the City Council, the Dream was again

threatened- this time with a law suit! Cat will also be talking about the building designs (Maybe there will be drawings!) for the facility and how the fund raising and remodeling are progressing. The Dream Center will provide housing for homeless kids and it will provide a more central location for its many services. SAY is celebrating its 43rd anniversary and has an exciting array of services designed to serve the needs of former foster children and youth ages 5-24 and their families. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions and to learn what's happening in our community in the effort to help children in need.

## Advocates for Social Justice

**On Sunday, August 10,** half of the collection will go to The Jewish Community Free Clinic. This clinic provides completely free medical care to anyone in need, of any race or religion. In the past year they helped more than 2500 uninsured adults and children. This is a valuable community asset which helps the medically underserved. Please be generous.

**On Sunday, Aug. 24,** we will share the offering with our Saturday Breakfast Program. This important program is an integral part of the work we do in the community; it is entirely planned and staffed by our members, and is an important way that we can connect with and assist individuals who are having a hard time financially. Thank you for your support.

## UU Men in Retreat

### UU Men in Retreat: Sunday 31 August and 3-5 October

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual UUCSR **Men's Weekend Retreat** will again be on the first weekend **in October** at Saint Dorothy's Rest overlooking Camp Meeker. Look for registration information later in August.

Never attended a men's retreat? Curious about what happens at our annual UUCSR Men's Weekend Retreat? There will be an informal 30-minute **Men's Weekend Retreat orientation** with Q&A in the RE Wing following the service on **Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>**. No RSVP, no obligation to attend anything, nothing to bring, just drop in.

If you are still curious (or better yet interested) after the orientation don't leave. Our third **UU Men's Potluck & Half-day Retreat of the year** will be **Noon to 4pm Sunday 31 August** in the Social Hall & RE Wing.

All men associated with UUCSR are welcome to attend any of the men's retreat gatherings. No registration or fee is required for the August 31<sup>st</sup> potluck, but donations to repay the deposit cost for Saint Dorothy's Rest and retreat expenses will be warmly welcomed. If you plan

to attend the potluck **please RSVP** to Ethan Foote (email [REDACTED]) and state what type of potluck item you are bringing to share with the group (e.g. entrée, salad, fruit, finger food, desert, etc.). B.Y.O.B. (non-alcoholic please). No prior experience necessary! If this is your first time be our guest for lunch and just bring yourself.

Coming to the Saint Dorothy's Rest weekend retreats appears to be enjoyable, as attendance has increased annually. First time participants are often pleasantly surprised at the relaxed, flexible, atmosphere and look forward to returning. The half-day retreats and potlucks, new this year, have also proved successful. Many find these gatherings as the best way to deepen relationships among men in the general congregation. Please join us.



## UUCSR Writers—A Stimulating Environment

### Writers of all Genres

Date: Monday, August 4th. Time: 2 - 4 pm. The UUCSR Writers regular monthly meeting: Writer presentations of a work in progress. Novelists, Poets, Memoirs, screenwriters, whatever your chosen work, come and share your written words with us. Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave.

PLEASE E-MAIL GEORGETTE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

Georgette G. deBlois. [REDACTED]  
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>.

Please note: "The Sting" movie discussion series has been cancelled.

## Faith and Fitness

Faith and Fitness August hike is Saturday August 9th at Armstrong Woods in Guerneville. Car pool from Santa Rosa Safeway on 4th and Farmers near Redwood Credit Union at 10:00 or meet at trail head main parking area (free) 10:40. Bring lunches, water.

Inclines with easy footing, comfortable pace, old growth redwoods, lots of shade, 3 to 5 miles depending on group preference. Back to Santa Rosa by 3. Info, write [fitness@uusantarosa.org](mailto:fitness@uusantarosa.org), or call Gretchen [REDACTED] Hope to see you there.

## Women Together

Come celebrate (or mourn) the End of Summer at a Pot-luck Lunch on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12 pm to 3 pm at the home of Phyllis Clement, 465 Eileen Drive, Sebastopol. This is always a relaxed and fun gathering where you can renew old friendships and make new ones. Please bring a lunch dish to share. If you would like directions, call Phyllis at [REDACTED]

**Save the date: Saturday, November 15**, for our 1-day Retreat, 10 am to 3 pm, at Friends House. This is an opportunity for those who missed our retreat in May to have fun and get to know one another on a deeper level than we can have in our busy (and noisy) Social Hall. More information will follow but we wanted to be sure you don't make other plans!

Linda Harlow/Women Together

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group is on vacation for July and August. Meetings will begin again in September. We have selected the books for the 2014-2015 year.

We welcome new members as well as visitors. Please join us if any of the following selections are of interest to you.

### Month

September  
 October  
 November  
 December  
 January  
 February  
 March  
 April  
 May  
 June

### Book

Life after Life  
 The Boys in the Boat  
 A Tale for the Time Being  
 Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore  
 The Girls of Atomic City  
 Americanah  
 Cat's Cradle  
 The Swerve  
 The Bone People  
 Potluck

### Author

Kate Atkinson  
 Daniel James Brown  
 Ruth Ozeki  
 Robin Sloan  
 Denise Kiernan  
 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
 Kurt Vonnegut  
 Stephen Greenblatt  
 Keri Hulme

## Adult Religious Education—Coming Soon....

**Making Friends with Death:** Classes begin Saturday, September 6, 1 – 4 pm and continue every other week through November 14.

Death is inevitable; all of us will die sooner or later. Death comes whether or not we are prepared. Our natural reaction to this fact is often denial, defiance or fear. How can we enter into a more open relationship with death? We will practice approaches both ancient and modern as ways to deepen our relationship with death. We'll treat death as someone we want to know better. How do we make a new friend, especially with someone we think we know? What are the steps to a deepening relationship? Facilitator 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. Enroll on Sunday at the Adult RE Table, or call Kathy Norman

**Write and Connect:** Free Sample Creative Writing and Practice Workshop – Sunday, September 7, 12:00-2:00

If you've been curious about how to develop a deep writing practice and tap into your authentic creative voice, come to this free sample of Write and Connect, a creative writing and practice workshop that will be offered weekly beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>. Workshop is designed for everyone – women, men, novices, aspiring and advanced writers. Instructor, Patty Somlo, has been writing and publishing articles, short fiction and essays for nearly 35 years. No enrollment is necessary for the September 7 sample workshop. Enrollment for the workshop to begin in October will begin on September 7 and continue after that at the Sunday A.R.E. (Adult RE) table.



## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 19 June 2014

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

**Members Not Present** -- Cathie Wiese

**Non-Members Present** -- Linda Balabanian (Treasurer), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), J.D. Thompson

**Meeting called to order** at 6:38 p.m. by Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Jeanie Bates

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting** – Reading by Jeanie: “Cherish Your Doubt”

**Timekeeper Volunteer** – Joe Como

**Minutes of 15 June 2014 Review** -- Minutes accepted as submitted.

**Agenda Review** – Add Linda Stabler, Request for additional funds

**Open Mic** – No participants

**Request for additional funds** – Linda Stabler conveyed a request from Jennie Harriman for \$50 payment that had already been paid for services of two individuals. The Board and Treasurer questioned the repeated after-the-fact requests and the source of the funds. Determination was made that the Music budget is the source of funds prior to a motion by Lois and a second by Joe to approve the payment. Motion passed 8-1-0.

*Cont. on Page 11*

## Board of Trustees Minutes Cont.

### **Cont. from page 10**

**Treasurer's Report** – Linda Balabanian, Treasurer -- The year-to-date July – May (11 months) financial report:

Revenue -- Pledge revenue in April was about \$7K under budget and year-to-date pledge revenue continues to be over budget. Currently \$27K is required in June to achieve \$400K annual pledge revenue. Sunday basket revenue for the month was \$800 over budget but is 14% (\$3.5K) under budget year-to-date. Glaser Center revenue and expenses are on budget.

Expenses – Total expenses are \$6K under budget. Utilities, Repairs & Maintenance and Printing & Reproduction are significantly over budget.

Net Income – Net income is \$18K.

Cash -- Cash remains strong and fairly consistent month to month.

New Financial Stewardship Members – Linda requested BOT approval of three members who are willing to serve: Terry Graham, Keith Kaulum and Linda Proulx as well as two potential members who have not yet committed: Dolores Miller and Hilary Sowers. Lois moved and Joe seconded the motion to approve the five as FinStew members. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

### **Continuing Business**

**Spring Congregational Meeting Review** – Jeanie applauded the BOT members for the quality of their presentations. Joe commented that the projector quality was poor but that it has since been corrected. Joe intends to do a follow-up to his pledge analysis presentation in the August newsletter. Linda Stabler requested that the BOT establish a policy regarding public sharing of employee income information. Linda indicated that the budget presentation was overly informative regarding employee salaries. Jeanie tabled the discussion.

**Glaser Center Business Plan Status** – Joe and Linda Balabanian met with the Glaser Center Committee on 18 June. Linda is restructuring the Center accounting structure to better reflect revenues and costs. The draft Business Plan addresses the Glaser Center mission, goals & objectives, market analysis, a long term strategic plan, a "pro forma" P&L and balance sheet. David Templeton has provided insightful revenue data analyses. The operational organization is being better defined.

### **New Business**

**Job Description Review** – Lois presented three Job Descriptions for review: Glaser Center Manager, Office Administrator and Director of Religious Education. Numerous additions, deletions and changes were made by the members. In an associated action, Jeanie moved and Laura Jean seconded to designate J.D. Thompson or another Board Member to serve as the supervisor of the Glaser Center Manager. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

### **UUCSR Delegate to General Assembly --**

Heather Mutz had requested to be a GA delegate. Laura Jean motioned and Marge seconded that Heather Mutz be approved as a GA delegate. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

**Historian/Archivist --** Marge reported that Freda Powers requested that another individual become responsible to fulfill the historian/archivist function. Freda is concerned that items that should be retained are not. Marge will resolve.

**BOT Retreat Planning** – The working retreat is scheduled for 22-24 August. The planning team is Alan, Linda, Susan and Jeanie. The participants will be the FY14/15 Board members and Reverend Chris Bell.

**Final Reflections re End of Current BOT Year** – Lois: rich experience, appreciated the efforts of all participants; Joe; special thank you to Jeanie as chairperson and to John for his work on the facilities; Laura Jean: after 4-years on the BOT, witnessed many accomplishments with outstanding members through those years, FY13/14 was very well managed in a year with the sabbatical; Jeanie: appreciation for Laura Jean's support in Jeanie's first year as chairperson, got to know the individuals much better, appreciation for John's ability to "make us laugh" and reminded everyone that Cathie said her goodbyes at the May meeting.

**Closing Words** -- Reading by Alan, "Daydreams"

**Executive Session** – closed

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham



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**Treasurers:** Linda Balabanian  
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Marilyn Beckerbauer	
Joe Como	
Alan Proulx	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
Linda Stabler	Terry Graham
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**Order of Service Announcements:**

Send submissions to Announcements@uusantarosa.org  
**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**UU Update Newsletter:**

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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