



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• February 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 2 •

Sunday Service at 9:00am and 11:00am

February 3rd

"The Wounded Healer"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Andy Levine

Finding a way to be of healing service to others, to the world, and to ourselves is one of the great challenges presented by the spiritual journey. Sometimes we let ourselves off the hook by saying, "I can't help others, when my own life is so full of need and brokenness." Other times we rush in to help and end up like a bull in a china shop. With wisdom from Buddhist, Christian and psychological sources we will explore how to navigate our own needs and the needs of the world, and explore the secret to kindness and compassion for other people - awareness of our own broken heart. The choose-a-topic-winner at the Women Together Retreat was Cathy Read.

February 10

"Mysteries of the Kama Sutra"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

Birds do it; bees do it. But when humans do it, it just might inspire a sonnet, a symphony, a sculpture, or a samba. In ways ranging from the sublime to the silly we humans celebrate the pleasure, power and spiritual meaning of our sexuality. We'll take a close look at the Kama Sutra from the Hindu tradition, one of the earliest texts to elaborate the various possibilities for sexual pleasure, and still a popular resource. This service will be a joyful exploration of how our sexuality enriches our lives: physically, emotionally, and spiritually; individually and in relationships throughout life. Victorious Service Auction bidders Maureen Wallace & Kirsten Olney chose today's topic. Hearer discretion advised!

February 17th

Service Leader: Shepherd Bliss

In Praise of Sweet Darkness

Darkness too often gets a bum rap. Benevolent aspects of darkness also exist, like the womb, night, sleep and chocolate. This service will celebrate the fruitful dark through music, poetry, and prose from ancients, such as Lao Tzu and St. John of the Cross. The Kokopelli Players on various instruments, including drums, guitar, cello, violin and gongs, will add music. Light and dark will be explored as a long-term married couple deeply committed to each other. Psychologist Carl Jung writes about the importance of the Shadow and notes, "One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness visible." Shepherd Bliss, D.Min., is a former Methodist minister who teaches at Sonoma State and has an organic farm in Sebastopol.

Congregational Meeting Following Service Today

February 24

"The Four Remembrances"

Service Leader: Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Leslie Giffen

As this congregation knows only too well, losing the people we love - old friends, lovers, church members, family - hurts. We may feel unsettled, sorrowful, wistful, or painfully aware of our own mortality. A sad fact of life is that the longer you live the more death you encounter, thus to live gracefully with loss is the task before us all. One clue is in the Four Remembrances of Buddhism: "I am of the nature to grow old, to have ill health, to die. Everything that is dear to me is of the nature of change." Oddly, the embrace of this blunt wisdom goes hand-in-hand with recognizing that we are all part of one eternal whole, wherein lies our comfort and strength.

9:00 AM Service:

It is a smaller gathering, we have the same readings and message that are given at the 11AM Service, plus we have time for a discussion of the sermon topic. What UU doesn't like a discussion? There is childcare available. Any questions contact Andy Levine @ 887-9810.

Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

As many of you know, since 1991 I have kept (with varying regularity) a Zen meditation practice in addition to following a Unitarian Universalist spiritual path. I got really serious about Buddhism when I took the precepts (a set of moral guidelines) with Richard Baker-roshi in 1993. I began to sit extended retreats at his center in Crestone, Colorado, and to help bring him to Boulder for weekend seminars. Later, my practice deepened after connecting with James Ford, one-time member of this congregation, who became my ministerial mentor, friend and Zen teacher all in one. James is a dharma heir of John Tar-rant, who teaches in Santa Rosa at the Pacific Zen Institute, so here I am blessed with spiritual guidance in the same tradition. Indeed, I've just returned from four days of silent meditation. What a great gift.

The distinctive mark of my school of Zen is the use of koans, those odd, evocative conversations and questions and events of the ancient Zen masters which are used to bring the mind toward direct engagement with the moment as it really is. In meditation and through dialogue with a Zen teacher on the koans, we are offered a glimpse into the living, changing Empty-Infinite nature of things, which is simply our own true self, too. Such a glimpse awakens one to a much freer and compassionate approach to ourselves and others. That's the idea, and some of my own experience confirms it.

Now when I first encountered Unitarian Universalism I fell completely in love. Here was a world-view I believed could sustain long-term peace and harmony for human beings and the planet. Here was a tradition that encouraged me to seek wisdom wherever I might find it - as I did from Zen, Taoism, science, philosophy, art and ultimately Judaism and Christianity. Here was a religious identity that did not require adherence to a particular vocabulary or story, as useful as those can be. And I loved all the radical old ladies!

UUism had other strengths, too. In Zen communities there is little or no room for children and families. They tend to be less involved in the broader culture as a force or voice for social change. They don't throw very exciting parties. And they more or less exclude everyone who can't sit on their rear for three hours.

As a UU my deepest concern is how we make community work together, right now, by celebrating and utilizing our many differences. Ours is a path of intentional relationship. Welcoming the stranger, treating everyone with respect and curiosity, listening closely, embracing diversity, and speaking out for peace and justice are opportunities for our own growth, as well as the necessary ingredients of the better world to come.

Seeking, alone and together, a loving, honoring, healing way of life that is rooted in awareness and experience, and open to awe and mystery, is what I'm aiming for spiritually. So I have had two religions for most of my adult life, and I have found that Zen meditation and Unitarian Universalist community have complimented each other in pushing me toward the person I want to become.

I have needed Zen because Unitarian Universalism has no clear universal technique for transforming consciousness, which is the essential purpose of religion to me. There is no mystical tradition, no meditation school, no method of prayer. (What would an indigenous UU spiritual practice look like? I still don't know. Perhaps there are as many answers as there are UUs!) Our first Source speaks of "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life." As any long-time contemplative practitioner will tell you, such direct experience can take some real work to uncover and integrate into one's life. It takes time to let go of all our bad habits and our bizarre culture and our parents and all the other baggage we're carrying. To consciously live in a state of openness to new truth and unfolding meaning, to cultivate compassion and respect for others, to be a free and happy being in the face of change, to set down harmful ways and take up healthy ones, to know God - these all take practice. Changing one's own life, or the world around us, usually requires some real discipline and structure. I wonder what that looks like for you?

As I see it there are many paths to enlightenment, but their shared goal is responding freely, with naked appreciation, curiosity and compassion, to everything our life presents. From this state of mind the value and potential of each individual becomes not just a belief or hopeful assertion, but a lived reality.

Cont. on Page 3

Splinters from the Board

February, 2008

February is the month for our second of three congregational meetings. This year we'll meet on Sunday, February 17th, shortly after Valentine's Day. What better time to come together and celebrate our community. This is the meeting where we look forward to spring and ask members of our congregation to serve as delegates for District Assembly and General Assembly. As a congregation, we confirm these delegates with our vote.

So what's the deal with General Assembly, I used to wonder when I was a newer member, attending the congregational meetings at Todd and Stony Point. Keith Kaulum answered my question one year when he came back all fired up after attending GA. He was obviously inspired.. Although I can't remember Keith's exact words, what I got was that GA was a place to be exposed to the great minds, great spirits and great hearts in our movement and to realize that we were part of a much larger whole. Keith's experience provoked my curiosity and motivated me to attend General Assembly in Fort Worth three years ago. I was not disappointed.

The opening ceremony, the richness and diversity of worship services, the wonderful music, the challenging guest speakers and workshops, and the opportunity to participate in actions of immediate witness - all of this inspired and engaged me. The plenary sessions are where much of the business of our Association is conducted. Boring? No way! We heard fascinating accounts from congregations who had "breakthroughs" in growth

and in other dimensions of congregational life. We sang together, considered study/action issues for the future, and celebrated the many accomplishments of the UUA and our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

It's my hope that everyone in our congregation will have an opportunity to attend a General Assembly and that a few of you will give serious consideration to attending and serving as UUCSR's delegates this year in Fort Lauderdale. The dates are June 25th - 29th and the theme is "Common Threads" that weave together the fabric of our UU faith and community.

Closer to home, the Pacific District Assembly offers another opportunity for inspiration, learning, and meeting other UUs from our 38 member congregations. This year District Assembly will be held at the Fremont Marriott from April 25 - 27. Please call Dorris Lee, chair of our Nominating Committee, if you are interested in serving as a delegate at either meeting.

During our February 17th congregational meeting, we'll be sharing some video highlights of breakthrough congregations that were featured at past General Assemblies. You won't want to miss it. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Linda Proulx, President
Board of Trustees



Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

Cont. from page 2

The whole as an ever-changing, inter-connected sacred web is seen most intimately. We realize that we are always arriving, yet never fully arrived, in our relationship to love

and truth. My hope and prayer is that each of us may have the discipline to realize these truths directly.

Blessings on your practice, friends!

Treasurer's Report

Financial matters for the UUCSR are on track. Pledges continue to be a little more than budgeted. A sincere "thank you" to everyone for continuing to be up to date with pledges. Expenses are a bit below expectations for the first half of the year, but as committees spend down their budgets this spring - we foresee expenses

rising to meet budgeted expectations. For further enticing details - please attend the Congregational Meeting following the service on February 17.

Bonnie Daines
Co-treasurer

Together in Exploration/Small Group Ministry News

After a break for the winter holidays, the Together in Exploration Groups resumed their regular twice monthly meetings. Fourteen new members joined the first of January 2008.

Currently, there are 96 members including the facilitators! The topics we discuss open the door for people to share their experiences, views and beliefs.

The topics discussed thus far include: Faith and Belief, Guilt, Transience v. Immortality, and The Road Not Taken. We have quite an extensive collection of topics, and each facilitator is free to choose which topic to select. In April, the Steering Committee plans to have a potluck luncheon for all current and past participants.

Submitted by Marie Fox

Save the date!

~~~~~

All UUCSR Members and Pledging Friends  
are warmly invited  
to a gala Congregational Dinner  
on Saturday evening,  
March 15, 2008

Followed by *Celebration Sunday*  
on March 16, 2008

Details to follow  
(Brought to you by Canvass 2008)

~~~~~

Save the date!

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

It was a busy and fun first month in Religious Education! I am really beginning to settle into the flow of our RE program and it has been a pleasure to get to know the kids, parents, and volunteers. Our get together in January provided a wealth of guidance for me. I hope the spirit of open communication will continue. I need your feedback in order to provide our children with enriching, interesting, and fun religious education.

I have taken the suggestions I received to heart and will be working to implement your ideas. Two priorities I heard from you were RE for all of the ages together and planning fun activities for families. We had an all ages together day on MLK Sunday with the theme of "heroes" it seemed to work well and it was such a delight to have kids from Kindergarten to ninth grade in the same circle. Beginning this month I will plan all ages worship and activities on the first Sunday of every month (we will have them other times as well for special occasions and holidays). The children start in the Worship Service and then we will continue the theme of the adult's service with the children in RE.

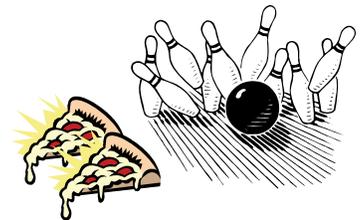
Our first Family Fun Night of the year is scheduled on Saturday, February 16: Family Bowling Night from 6:30 to 8:30 at Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park. The cost is \$13.50 per person for two hours of bowling (shoes included). We will gather for pizza at Mary's Pizza before the bowling begins. You can talk to Andrew Hidas or me for details and to sign up for what should be a really fun time.

We have a new addition to our RE staff! Kara Margolis has joined us as preschool teacher. Kara is a Child Development major at SRJC and plans to have a career as a preschool teacher. She comes to us with work experience in youth camps and the SRJC child care center. Welcome Kara!

Because we care about the safety of our children we have initiated a sign in/sign out process for all children preschool through the 5th grade. Teachers will have the sign in sheets at the beginning and end of each class. **No child will be released from the RE wing until their parent or guardian signs them out. Please talk to your children** and explain this to them, so that they know to expect a new procedure. As we discussed in our gathering it is really important for parents to pick up their child(ren) immediately after the Worship Service and to supervise them during the social hour.

The third quarter of Religious Education will begin in March. Teachers are needed. Please contact me or one of the members of the RE Steering Committee if you are willing to give the gift of teaching our children next quarter.

Peace,
Deborah



Guest At Your Table
CONGRATULATIONS!!
We raised \$1,527.00 for
Guest At Your Table.

March 2
 "The Most Radical Thing You Can Do!"
 Guest presenter John Dale, who helps forge relationships between UU churches in the U.S. and the Transylvanian Unitarian churches in Romania and Hungary, will also lead a workshop after the service.

A Willing Way
The Endowment Fund
is a way to leave a legacy



Contact: Brian Wells or UUCSR Office
Phone: 707-568-5381
E-mail: office@uusantarosa.org

Advocates For Social Justice

"SHARE THE BASKET"

On Sunday, February 3rd The recipient of half the basket will be "The Children's Village of Sonoma County." This remarkable place has been in operation for a year and has created a unique alternative model of foster care where full-time, live-in Village parents are trained, supervised and supported, and where the Village is dedicated to giving children secure and happy childhoods. One of the unique features is the Village Grandparents; Elders who live on site, thus providing an inter-generational component. As village grandparents they are available to read and play, share special skills, provide parents with support, and serve as mentors. Another important aspect of the Village is that it keeps siblings together. Here are some statements made by the children:



This is like a family place, no one is left out Boy age 12

It feels like a home, not like the other places I've lived. Girl age 12

Our rooms are comfortable, it has a lot of space. I have my own room; my brother is across the hall.

Boy age 11

Compare this to what another child wrote:

I was placed in my first foster home at age four and for the next eight years I moved in and out of foster homes and several shelters. Twice I was sent back to live with my mother and abused by my step-fathers. There were no summer camps, birthday parties or favorite toys. My childhood was a case of "serial abandonment".

So when the basket comes your way on February 3rd please be as generous as you can (For more information on this exciting facility right here in Santa Rosa, go to thechildrensvillage.com).

HONORING ADRIENNE SWENSON

On Sunday, February 17, the Advocates will be selling lunches before the Congregational Meeting. We will use the proceeds to honor Adrienne Swenson, member of our Fellowship/Congregation since its early days. Adrienne was a founder of and tireless worker for our Social Concerns/Advocates for Social Justice committees as well as one of the creators of the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center. Her knowledge and dedication have inspired many who worked with and learned from her.

As of this writing, the exact form of the tribute is not decided, suggestions are welcome. Please contact Linda Harlow, 526-3528, lmh1937@sbcglobal.net. If you would like to help prepare and/or purchase part of the lunches, please contact Mary Louise Jaffray, 538-4668 or mljaffray@earthlink.net.

The Living Room Update

The Chocolate Raffle Basket to support *The Living Room* raised a grand total of \$343. This money is going to be used to purchase further advertising within the local community.

The Living Room is in great need of monetary donations as their funding is decreasing and the budget is very tight.

Thank you for all of your support.
Lisa Casey--Living Room Liaison



Flower Committee

There are four Sundays in February. Pick one to tell your fellow UUs that you remember or honor a person, principle, or event. For a minimum donation of \$25 the Flower Committee will prepare a special sanctuary bou-

quet and place an announcement in the Order of Service. Contact Joan Thatcher (544-9130, jothatch@pacbell.net) and she will make it happen.

From The Music Director



Special Concert

Our music director, Ben Taylor, is bringing the group he sings with, the San Francisco Choral Artists, to the congregation on *Sunday, February 10*. This professional choir will perform a 25-minute program, including Ben's *Three Japanese Love Lyrics*. The concert is at 2pm. Grab some lunch and then come back for some amazing

music—truly music like you've never heard before!

Music Survey this month

The Music Committee is interested to know what music you like to sing! At the service on *Sunday, February 17*, we'll do a survey to learn what we can about our congregation's richly varied interests in service-song. Your input will help to shape future choices in service music.

Circle Dinners

New Circles Begin in March

Circle dinners are a wonderful for new people to become better acquainted with other members and friends of the congregation. We urge new members and friends to join us. For information on how they work or to sign up for Circle Dinners, call either Joan Thatcher (544-9130) or Shirley Williams (575-9322).

For those who are already participating in Circle Dinners, it's time to let us know if you wish to make any changes in your Circle Dinner status. We need to know of these changes before February 10 when we will be putting together the new list for fall. If you are in Circle Dinners, but wish to be out, let us know. If you are not in but wish be in, also let us know. If you are in Circle Dinners and wish to stay that way, you do NOT need to let us know.

We also have a list of people who wish to substitute, but do not want to participate on a regular basis. Circles

are open to all—singles as well as couples. Circles generally meet three times in a period of four or five months. The next set begins in March. We have new circles in September and in March each year.

Circles do not necessarily need to meet in homes or in the evening. Lunches after church on Sunday or meeting in a restaurant can work as well as evening meetings for some groups. Generally each member brings one dish, either the main dish, a salad, dessert, appetizers or whatever the hostess asks. Restaurant meals would, of course, be Dutch treat.

It is really important for you to let us know if you want to drop out as it CAUSES PROBLEMS for the rest of the circle when you are listed and then do not attend. To drop in or out, or for more information, please call Joan Thatcher (544-9130) or Shirley Williams (575-9322).

Attention Gardeners, Homeowners, Plant Nerds!

As offered in the UUCSR Service Auction, Shaun Simmons' Garden Presentation has been moved from January 19th to March 8th, 1pm to about 2:30pm. But don't worry if you missed bidding on it as it will be open to all for a donation of \$20 per person. Please call Shaun at 707 824-0328 by February 29th to confirm. Topics covered will include Permaculture, Sustainability, Edible

Landscaping, and the Current State of Bees, with Q&A and Problem Solving to follow. Bring your questions and your imagination."



Submitted by Shaun Simmons

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2008

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail submissions Greatly
Appreciated!

The Glaser Center
Spring Events

Friday, March 7, 8:00 p.m.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Presents

The Baroque Sinfonia

Performing Bach's Double Concerto for Violin and Oboe and other works

\$10-\$25 at the door

Friday, March 14, 8:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation presents Singer-songwriter

Jim Scott

(composer of 'A Song for the Earth' and 'Gather the Spirit')

\$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation presents

Singer-songwriter-actress-revolutionary

Holly Near

with Emma's Revolution

\$20 in advance; \$25 at the door

An extra \$14 gets a pre-show reception, sound-check admission and early seating

Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

The Glaser Center and KRCB presents

The Telephone Show

10 of the North Bay's best actors take the ultimate test, bringing the Telephone book to uproarious life, with music by Stiff Dead Cat and The Sorentinos

\$15 in advance; \$20 at the door

www.glasercenter.com

Bookmobile Briefs

This month we have a guest book review from Linda Lampson, who enjoyed this book that she purchased at our Bookmobile. If you have purchased a book from our Bookmobile and would like to write up a short review, please let me know. <joanier@Sonic.net>

Everyday Spiritual Practice
Edited by Scott W. Alexander

Part of my spiritual practice is to find sanctification in the ordinary activities of daily living. What is the joy of doing dishes or pulling weeds? Look at the reflections in the soap bubbles and feel the warmth on your hands. Slow down in the sunshine and work the dirt, smell the clean air, celebrate the beauty of the earth. This collection of essays encourages one to name what is restorative and spiritual in all activities that speak to your heart, from relationships, to creative arts, to right action.

Linda Lampson

In addition, I want to tell you about a new book by Mary Oliver, a favorite poet of many UUs. A former member who now lives in southern California, sent me a book review from the L.A. Times Book Review about "Our World," which is a new Beacon Press book. It contains the photographs of Molly Malone Cook, Oliver's partner of many years, who died a couple of years ago. Oliver gives Cook credit for helping her create the keen quality of attention in her poetry, through watching Cook take her photographs and work in the darkroom. Although we don't have "Our World" at the Bookmobile just now, if you're anxious to get this new book, you could find it at a local bookstore, or on the Amazon site. And -- if you do -- it would be great if you'd volunteer to do a short book review for our monthly Bookmobile column.

Thanks, and good reading.
Joanie Reid

Women Together Events

Saturday, Feb. 9th we'll have our much enjoyed Shared Reading from 2 to 4 in the Lake Room at UUC. All UU women and their friends are invited to bring a piece of writing, poetry or prose, written by or important to them, to share with us. Or you may come just to listen. Please bring finger-food to share.

And mark your calendar: Saturday, March 15th Barbara Lynch will display her collection of women's clothing from 1848 to the present. Check the March Newsletter for details.



And coming on April 6th, Dorris Lee will delight us with her life story at an afternoon of Elder Tales.

Last but definitely not least, save the weekend of May 16-18 for our fantastic Women's Retreat. More on all of these events to follow. If you have questions, call Linda Harlow, 526-3528.

UU Artists: Call For Entries!

UU artists are invited to submit works for group show. We are finally proceeding with the long-planned group showing of works by congregation members of the UUCSR. Depending on the number of entries we receive, this group show will likely take place in April.

If you are an artist with between three and five wall-hangable artworks, please submit a photo or description to David Templeton at talkpix@earthlink.net or at 338-6013.



Santa Rosa Creek Commons

Santa Rosa Creek Commons is an intergenerational limited-equity housing cooperative. Although centrally located near public transportation, we are in a secluded wooded area beside a creek on two acres of land. We share ownership of the entire property and pay monthly charges that cover the usual expenses of home ownership. We keep costs reasonable by using our individual

skills and interests to manage our co-op ourselves and do much of its labor. All members serve on the Board of Directors and two committees, overseeing the welfare of the community while enjoying a rich social life and a mutual concern for the natural environment. Contact Membership at 707/575-8946.

Submitted by Marley Fein

Book Group News

The Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday February 14th at 7:00 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is *Crescent* by Diana Abu-Jaber. New members and visitors are welcome.

Our selection for March is *In the Time of the Butterflies*. by Julia Alvarez.
Linda Lampson



The Afternoon Book Group

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" by Kim Edwards. For information on the location or other questions, please call Susan Simons at 527-7191. New Members are always welcome!

About This Month's Guest Artist

Jean Halpern Ryden: A Life On Canvas

We are honored and thrilled to be exhibiting on our walls, for the months of February and March, a large number of paintings by Santa Rosa artist Jean Halpern Ryden, whose first solo show took place in 1959 at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, who in 1971 was exhibited at the Unitarian Universalist Church in San Francisco, and who continued to paint until 1998, shortly before she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Our current exhibit, with paintings in the Foyer, Narthex, Choir Room, and tucked in various places throughout the building (there are three in Rev. Chris's office), includes examples from all of these periods, ranging from 1947's *Night Club (The Gay Life)* and 1970's stark but whimsical *Man with Chimera* (both currently in the Board Room) to the urban night-

scapes of 1963's *The Shopper's #13* and 1969's *Now Renting* (on display in the Narthex), to a series of lovely and mysterious, gently colorful semi-abstract paintings of people clustered against fantastical backdrops (in the Foyer). One of these, titled *Tel Aviv IX (1998)*, is among the last painting's Halpern-Ryden completed. There are even a number of gorgeously simple watercolors in the New Room near the Board Room. At the time of this writing, we are still planning a reception, probably to take place in late February, which will be attended by Halpern-Ryden's husband Edward, who partially curated the current exhibit, along with David Templeton and Elizabeth Marrs. Phil Harriman assisted with the hanging. We hope you enjoy these complex and remarkable works, and that you will take the time to visit all of the pieces currently on display.

Mark Your Calendar!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 17, 2008—12:30 pm

Membership News

Please Welcome Our Newest Members: David Hope, Century McAlister, Paula Reid, and Hillevi Wyman.

Susan Ament, who joined in November, grew up in Wisconsin and moved to Sonoma County in 1986. She was raised as a Catholic, but later became involved with a Quaker congregation before discovering our denomination. Susan has two children who participate in our RE program, which was a primary reason that she joined our congregation. She is currently teaching the K-2 group. Susan has two horses, so she spends time horseback riding as well as caring for them. She is also interested in gardening.

Century McAlister is originally from St. Louis and moved to Santa Rosa about 3 years ago. Her religious journey has taken her from the Catholic Church to the Episcopal Church and then to Daoism which continues to be influential in her life. As a an adult she learned that she had some Native American ancestry, so she is also interested in those rituals, as well as Wiccan and Druid practices. With such an extensive exploration of religious traditions, it is no wonder she finally decided to become a UU, and she says she was particularly drawn to us because of our inclusiveness. Century has 7 children, including 3 in Santa Rosa. She also has 3 grandchildren, all in California.

Membership Committee Transition: The Membership Committee has been working on a transition plan for the past few months in order to divide its many responsibilities and activities into two teams. The first part of this transition is now in progress with the formation of a Hospitality Team which will be responsible for all visitor-related activities. Maureen Wallace has agreed to lead this team. New member-related activities will be the responsibility of the previous committee chair, Jenny Harriman. She will serve as a New Member Coordinator while seeking new volunteers to form a second team. Since these two teams will replace the former Membership Committee, there will eventually be two team leaders instead of a committee chair. If you are interested in participating in either of these teams, please contact Jenny or Maureen. There are many ways to become involved in a variety of interesting and rewarding activities, ranging all the way from those with a minimal time commitment to those with a possibility to develop leadership or other skills. If you like meeting and welcoming new people, there is definitely a place for you on either team!

Inquirer's Meetings

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11:00 am Sunday Service. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders. Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room, located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.



February 10
March 9
April 13

May 11
June 8

Outdoor AdventUUers



On Saturday, February 16th , we'll travel north to Riverfront Park, a regional park between Windsor and Healdsburg. This is an approximately 5ish mile hike, with little chance of mud. Bring your lunch, dress in layers, wear

good shoes (this is Mom speaking....). Meet at 9:00 am at 211 Ridgway Ave. (in front of Santa Rosa City Schools office) to carpool. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, please contact Maureen Wallace, 578-7665, mwallace@scoe.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Santa Rosa, CA
Permit #298

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
CALENDAR ENCLOSED**



February 2008
Please Recycle

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

Mailing Address: 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Telephone: 707-568-5381

Email: office@uusantarosa.org Fax: 707-568-5387 Website: <http://www.uusantarosa.org>

Board of Trustees

President: Linda Proulx, President @uusantarosa.org

Vice President: Andrew Hidas,
Vice President@uusantarosa.org

Treasurer: Bonnie Daines, Treasurer@uusantarosa.org

Co-Treasurer: Suzanne McPhee

Secretary: Marlene Kaulum

Board Members:

Bob Barrows

Marie Fox

Suzanne McPhee

Karen Lillard

Orlando Raola

Recording Secretary

Pam Tennant

Order of Service Announcements:

Send submissions to Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org

Editor: TBA

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.

Staff

Minister Rev. Chris Bell, Ext. 108, Minister@uusantarosa.org

Director, Lifespan Religious Education: Deborah Mason, Ext. 101 DLRE@uusantarosa.org

Administrator: Janis Brewster, Ext. 106, Administrator@uusantarosa.org

Music Director: Ben Taylor, Ext. 112, musicdirector@uusantarosa.org

Rental & Events Manager/Artistic Director: David Templeton, x103, glaser@uusantarosa.org

Church Sexton: Tony Crevelli

Sunday Religious

Education Staff

Meredith Brown

Rose Mertens

Liz Latimer

Erin Stewart