



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• August 2008 • Volume 52 • Issue 8 •

Sunday Services at 10:00am

August 3rd

"In Praise of Dionysus"

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Conrad

Worship Associate: Orlando Raola

Long before Jesus, there was Dionysus, who shares many parallels with the central figure of Christianity. In this playful service we will revisit the myth of Dionysus (a story of suffering, rebirth, surprise, and celebration). We will honor the spirit of Dionysus, the Greek god of communal celebration, and explore the healing nature of collective joy. Together we will discover how to reclaim the benefits of sacred joy and playfulness for ourselves as individuals, and for Unitarian Universalism as a religious movement.

August 17th

"Streets of Gold"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Similarly, Zen master Hakuin described our human predicament as unknowingly being wealthy, yet wandering among the poor. What are these guys getting at? Perhaps that you have everything you need to live a meaningful and happy life, no matter how grim your circumstances or the state of the world. Perhaps that you already have the key to walk on streets of gold...

August 10th

"Passing Judgment, Making Peace"

Service Leader: Deborah Mason,

Director Religious Education

Worship Associate: Cathie Wiese

How easy it is for us to stand in judgment! We all **know** when something doesn't sound right, or look right, or come out right and many of us are quick to let that be known (especially when it involves those closest to us). The great & wise teacher Jesus said "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone". This morning we will reflect on judgment, justice, and making peace through story and song.

This will be an intergenerational service with our children and youth sharing in worship with our adults. We will have inspiring special music from Susan Panttaja, Mac Freeman and friends.

August 24th

"On Prayer and Praise"

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associates: Cathy Wiese & Heather Lawton

Although fellowship, friendship, intellectual stimulation, social justice, education, committee meetings and coffee are important aspects of our shared life at UUCSR, all could clearly be gotten elsewhere. UU minister Earl Holt argues that we can only truly fulfill our mission as a religion if we own and offer those gifts that are unique to a religious community: worship and prayer. What might those words mean for a creedless but principled group of agnostics and seekers? We will begin an exploration today that will recur throughout the year.

August 31st

"Loving Mercy"

Micah 6:8 "What does God require of you but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Service Leader: Dr. Rita Butterfield

Worship Associate: Erin Howseman

There are many reasons to oppose the death penalty: it is applied in an arbitrary and biased manner; innocent people have been sentenced to death; it is more expensive than life in prison; it does not deter crime. But for me, the most important reason is that capital punishment is against my religion. Our Universalist heritage, in particular, urges us to remember that the Universe bends toward good and that anyone is capable of being redeemed and forgiven. Our work is to do justice, and when that is not possible, we are obliged to love mercy—not revenge.

Inside & Outside—Rev. Chris

As part of my summer replenishment I've begun reading two books simultaneously. On the one hand I have Karen Armstrong's *History of God*. On the other is J.M. Roberts's *Oxford History of the World*. I should have grabbed his *Short History of the World*, which is only half the length of the massive complete version, but I'm loving it all the same. It is fascinating to consider the great ebb and flow of people alongside the developments in theology that prompted them and comforted them along the way.

So far I've been through the formation of the earth, human evolution, 60,000 years or so of the pre-history of homo sapiens, and the rise and fall of the earliest civilizations in the Near East. All in 100 pages! I love Roberts's sense of the scale of time. Remarking on the all-but-forgotten Hittites, for example, he'll casually note that "they flourished for six centuries - three times longer than the United States has existed."

Whoa. It is humbling to remember that again and again throughout human history great peoples and traditions have risen, fallen and disappeared. Oddly, just how young my country is (and by extension how new our religion is) brings me hope, along with a healthy dose of realism. In every time and place fine folks thought they had finally gotten it right, that they had the right kind of culture, leadership, economy, religion, and god or gods to last forever, and some gave it a reasonable shot, too - the Egyptian civilization chugged along for 3000 years! But change is indeed the only constant, and eventually all peoples must perish or become something new.

I'm hopeful because as far as I can tell humanity has been going to hell in a handbasket since its inception - yet it never quite fully gets there! Not completely, not forever. No time of history has been so bad - and, let's be honest, some have been really horrible - to put an end to song, to art, to laughter, to love. Prophets, mystics, artists, healers and revolutionaries are quashed sometimes, yes, but new ones have always, always, risen to take their place. The inevitability of change includes the eternal potential of change for the good. We need never give up.

Here's where Armstrong comes in. Observing the rise and fall of gods, goddesses, theologies, philosophies and traditions, she argues that the criteria

humanity has always had for her religions is that they *work*. Whatever the current conditions of the world and the known horizons of human understanding, religion has always sought to give meaning, direction and sense to the world. If the answers don't work, they change or die off.

For the many UUs who have come from other traditions (80 - 90%), many of the old ways such as the personal male God, hierarchical authority, magic and superstition, revealed texts, etc., no longer work for them. They don't work for me, either. On the other hand those who have come from no spiritual background have found that *no* faith also doesn't work. (I'd like to think we can meet in a middle called Unitarian Universalism.) Unfortunately, the steady departure and disappearance of most UU children from our faith would indicate that what we've created over the decades doesn't work for them, either. And that has got to change, soon, or we're headed the way of the Hittites.

My dream for us over the coming years is to craft a shared faith that *works*. Modern, reasonable, free, yes, but also unashamed of its ambition to change people and change the world and unafraid to call upon the real, if mysterious, powers that underlie human experience and evolution. A faith that works declares meaning, hope and goodness, sees the larger view beyond the self, and opens resources to us that we might not otherwise know we have. Too often we have let our skepticism and anger drain our own tradition of its sacred power. The evidence is clear: such a religion doesn't work. I am often saddened or frustrated when people come to me with marital problems, with impending death, with the loss of their dreams, and Unitarian Universalism offers no clear hand of assistance. Our favorite false god, community, is insufficient when a lonely heart is clouded with the real evil, confusion and suffering in the world.

When the world offers no comfort, when I feel selfish or mean, I open to the universe as a field of living love, and I experience forgiveness, a call to a better way, and the opportunity to move on. When I am frustrated or fearful, I remember my true nature is awake, limitless and free. Or at least I try - the important thing is that I believe them to be true. Counseling another, I'd like to say, "The Great Big Thing is with you and loves you and wants your well-being",

Cont. on page 3

Splinters from the Board

When I became vice president of the UUCSR Board of Trustees last year and was wondering exactly what vice presidents are supposed to do, Rev. Chris counseled me not to worry. "Linda Proulx is the most competent person I've ever met," he declared. "Just lean on her."

It was enormously comforting to me then to know that Linda was nearby as president, steering the Board of Trustees ship with her ultra-competent hands firmly on the rudder. Now, however, I find myself in a rueful rather than comforted state of mind as I think, "Oh, this is great—I have to fill the shoes of the world's most competent person."

And so it is that I begin, in entirely justifiable humility, my tenure as UUCSR board president. I'm still going to be leaning on Linda this year as she transitions to the role of president emeritus and trusted advisor to the board. And with five holdover board members and three gifted newcomers, there will be plenty of helpful hands contributing their unique skill sets and passions to the shared enterprise of representing our members in the nearly inexhaustible business that comes with a vibrant and growing spiritual community.

Last year was characterized by several major new initiatives such as the transition to a council system of governance, a budding affiliation with the North Bay Organizing Committee to promote inter-faith social justice work, the establishment of new positions such as

the sexton and volunteer coordinator, and movement toward adapting outdoor spaces for a memorial garden and children's playground.

It may well be that the board won't take on as many new projects this year, since most of the items mentioned above are still in the formative stage and will require substantial attention before bearing fruit as the year progresses. We'll know a lot more once we conduct our board retreat at the end of August, when we can devote concerted time and effort to understanding what is before us and what the needs and goals of our congregation might be. Then we begin to map out how we will work to achieve them.

On that note, I know I speak for all nine board members in always welcoming input on matters of importance to individuals and groups within the congregation. Much as we vow to keep our ears to the ground while sipping Sunday coffee (and trying not to strain our necks while performing that feat), there's no substitute for hearing directly and forthrightly from congregants on matters near and dear to their lives in our community.

So speak up, make your voice heard. It's the first step on the road to creating the most competent congregation Rev. Chris has ever met.

Andrew Hidas
Board President

Inside & Outside Continued

Cont. from page 2

which is the only thing that has ever sustained me in the darkness, but I can make no presumption of that shared faith.

I want to find a way - together - to express such impulses in Unitarian Universalist language, and then share them with the hurting world. For me, this must involve an affirmation of sacred wholeness, sometimes called God. So, along the way, I ask for friendliness, flexibility and a sense of humor from all you skeptics out there, as well as from my own inner skeptic, who is a doubtful and irreverent fellow indeed...

In spite of all our centuries of violence and stupidity and short-sightedness, I strongly believe that humanity is steadily moving in the right direction - toward a world of peace and justice and harmony with nature. I believe it because creativity, freedom, interconnectedness, beauty and most importantly love are real, dependable and undying. Our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors rolled all those qualities into One and claimed that that One is and always will be for All. They saw that faith as one that would unite all humanity. It worked for them.

Perhaps it may work for us, too...

Blessings every one! Rev. Chris

Treasurer's Report

Again you wonderful folks at UUCSR have taken a proactive approach to our community life and voted on an ambitious budget for 2008-09 that contains funding for several very exciting new initiatives. The association with the North Bay Sponsoring Committee is the beginning of a relationship that will eventually have far reaching results for UUCSR, Santa Rosa and Sonoma Co. The hiring of a part time volunteer coordinator has many exciting possibilities and the increase in benefits and hours for our Sexton, Tony Crevelli is the result of the wonderful job he has done and the value he has added to our community life.

One item folks may have not noticed is that there is no income producing budget for the coffee hour. The Board felt strongly that offering 'free' coffee to members and guests is just one more way to show we are a Welcoming Congregation.

For the coming year Bonnie Daines will continue as co-treasurer and the Board welcomes Denese Pender as our other co-treasurer. With pledges coming in on a regular basis as they did last year thanks to our congregants, we will avoid 'cash flow crises' and have another successful financial year.

Signing off - former co-treasurer Suzie McPhee

Advocates For Social Justice

Share the Basket

On Sunday, August 3rd, 1/2 the money collected will go to our wonderful Saturday Breakfasts. As we've all noticed, food prices are going up while jobs in construction and tourism are being lost due to the economy and gas prices, consequently more and more people are having trouble. When the basket comes to you, please help our "flagship" outreach program as much as you can!

Vote No on 8 Coalition of Sonoma County

Equality for All



Last month a small group of UUs and others gathered together to form a coalition of community organizations to work together to defeat Proposition 8: the proposed amendment to the California constitution that would ban gay and lesbian marriages forever in our state. We have now teamed up with the state-wide organization *Equality for All* and are their Sonoma County Field Team. In July we had three events providing the opportunity to learn

about the issue, and begin the work of recruiting & training volunteers, and identifying voting allies. The goal of our work is to contact as many of those undecided California voters as possible and persuade them to vote for basic fairness and equal rights under the law. This is a huge task! It will take the energy of a lot of people to win this fight against injustice. We hope you will check out all of the volunteer opportunities available to you at the Advocates for Social Justice table and join us in this important work.

1-Day Silent Meditation Retreat

Saturday August 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at UUCSR

Refresh your mind and body with a day of sitting meditation, walking meditation, and body relaxation practices. Some meditation experience is required, but not much.

For more info or to register, call Rose Saint John, 865-0755.

The price is \$4 (for lunch).



Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE)

It is hard to believe that summer break is nearly over! Soon the kids will be back in school and UUCSR RE will be starting a new year of classes. We are going to schedule things a little differently this year and we will be using some cool new curricula! So, I thought I'd give you all a look at what we have in store for the kids this church year.

CLASS SCHEDULE : SEPTEMBER 2008 THROUGH JUNE 2009

1ST SUNDAY: KIDS START IN THE SERVICE, THEN TO RE WING FOR YOUTH WORSHIP CIRCLE

2 & 3RD SUNDAYS: KIDS WILL BE WITH THEIR GRADE-MATES USING THE CURRICULA BELOW

4TH SUNDAYS: SOCIAL JUSTICE/COMMUNITY SERVICE SUNDAY - ALL AGES TOGETHER WORKING ON A PROJECT OR SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM THEY CAN HELP WITH.

5TH SUNDAYS: ARTS SUNDAY - FACILITATED BY A LOCAL ARTIST

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 9/7, 11/2 & 11/23

Here are our curricula and themes for the coming quarter.

Preschool Curriculum: *Chalice Children*, by Kate Tweedie Covey

We will be continuing with the curriculum *Chalice Children* this church year. This program is designed to help young children learn about their church and congregation. The curriculum is based on the belief that preschool children gain a sense of belonging to their religious community and the Unitarian Universalist faith when they have concrete experiences with its people and places. Each session begins with a stated theme and the morning is organized into seven sections, including chalice lighting and a UU song. Continuity is provided by the ritual of the format, the theme, and the symbol of the chalice in a community of people. The rituals are simple rhymes, fingerplays, and games that start the morning with a "call to worship" and a way of getting to know each other. Through repetition, children learn about their religious community and about listening and sharing with others.

K-2: *Around the Church Around*

The Year: by Jan Evans-Tiller.

The curriculum content and process is developmen-

tally appropriate for ages five to seven. The goal of *Around the Church, Around the Year* is for young children to become more familiar with their own Unitarian Universalist community ---its people, buildings, rituals, and celebrations. The second goal is for the children to enhance their overall understanding of Unitarian Universalism. By the end of the program the children should be familiar with many of the congregations' lay and staff leaders and the work that they do, know their congregation's building inside and out, and have a sense of the worship and social life of the congregation. They will also have exposure to what UUs believe about life, death, people, and the environment. They will become familiar with the symbol of the flaming chalice; the Flower Communion ritual; and the UU approach to Christmas, with its focus on the sacredness of every birth and the unique worth of every person.

Date	Around the Church, Around / Year
9/14	#1 Knowing Me Knowing You
9/21	#2 Our Room, Our Community
10/12	#3 A Walk Around My Meeting Place
10/19	#4 More Church Friends - People Hunt
11/9	#5 Lots of Churches
11/16	#8 A Fall Walkaround

Grades 3-5: *Spirit of Adventure* By Kate Tweedie Covey

Spirit of Adventure was written with the needs of active children in mind. With so many religious education curricula using the same teaching techniques used in the school setting, the author of this program has created a program outside the usual academic structure and added learning from physical movement and learning from the challenge of adventure. *Spirit of Adventure* teaches Unitarian Universalist identity without the usual arts and crafts projects. It includes activities like dissecting a computer, building cantilevered architecture using graham crackers, interviewing a sports coach, and singing Jingle Bells in "dog" language. Yes, all of these activities are related to famous Unitarian Universalists in history and all relate to our principles! This should prove to be a fun and innovative way to develop a deepening sense of Unitarian Universalism for our grade school kids.

Children's and Youth Religious Education (RE) Cont.

Date	Spirit of Adventure
9/14	#1 Sports—What is your favorite sport (1st principle)
9/21	#2 Sports—Lessons for Life (5th principle)
10/12	#5 Saving Lives
10/19	#6 Medicine—A Special Doctor: Albert Schweitzer
11/9	#13 Food—Doggy Treats & Henry Bergh UU founder ASPCA
11/16	#14 Food—A Visitor: Volunteer from Saturday Morning Breakfast Program

Date	Gospel According to the Simpsons
9/14	What Is Important In Life " <i>One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Blue Fish</i> "
9/21	The Power of Prayer " <i>Bart Gets an 'F'</i> "
10/12	Skepticism and Blind Faith " <i>Lisa and the Skeptic</i> "
10/19	When Bad Things Happen to Good People " <i>When Flanders Failed</i> "
11/9	What Is a Soul " <i>Bart Sells His Soul</i> "
11/16	Little Sins & Big Sins " <i>Homer vs. Lisa & the 8th Commandment</i> "

Grades 6 & 7:

The Gospel According to the Simpsons

By Mark I Pinski and Samuel F. Parvin

Perhaps you never thought of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie Simpson as religious educators. Well think again! Taken from Mark Pinski's book "The Gospel According" to the Simpsons, this curriculum is a fun way to explore spiritual topics like "What is Important In Life" and "Skepticism and Blind Faith". Mark Pinski has seen how popular culture can be a valuable and powerful mechanism for providing moral, if not religious, instruction to children. How many of us can remember being moved by the moral lessons of the Waltons, the Brady Bunch, or Little House on the Prairie. So it is that the moral struggles of this whacky animated family provide a framework to look at life's deepest questions. Each session begins with an episode, (such as "Bart Gets an F", "Lisa the Skeptic", and "When Flanders Failed") and is followed with scripture lessons from the old and new testaments and questions for discussion.

The Youth Group - Grades 8 - 12 will be using "Neighboring Faiths" - an exploration of a variety of faith traditions - as well as their own process of spiritual growth and connection They will be forming the group and developing leadership for it. They will be looking for a youth advisor - so stay tuned.

Staffing:

Our preschool will be staffed by a paid teacher and assistant

Staffing for 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays will be by congregants with special skills and interests that fit the themes.

Staffing for 2nd & 3rd Sundays will be staffed by the grace and generosity of parents & volunteers from the congregation. We are looking for two volunteers per class to volunteer for the 6 Sundays that comprise the first quarter of the church year (9/14 to 11/16).

If you are a person:

who genuinely likes to work with the kids

who is willing to commit to teaching all 6 sessions

We have a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved with the kids in R. E.

In faith,
Deborah



Flower Committee

A new grandchild? Let the Sanctuary flowers say "Welcome, Baby, " with a notice in the Order of Ser-

vice. Contact Jan Hess (528-8063, hess-aguirre@msn.com), and \$30 does it all.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

June 10, 2008

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Friends at Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa:

We hope that you will share this letter of appreciation and gratitude widely in your congregation.

We are writing to thank you for your stewardship of Unitarian Universalism in Santa Rosa, and for your full Fair Share contribution. We know that many congregations struggle with this contribution, and we know it is the hard work of the leaders of societies which make this possible. Thank you.

We know that support within a congregation does not stop at the board level. It is the stewards sitting in the pews which make your budget possible, and that budget supports good works of Unitarian Universalism in the world. Together as an association, we can do more than we can do alone. We can be represented in Washington, D.C. We can affect decisions made outside our own cities and towns by working together. We fund the creation and provision of high quality resources and services available to all member congregations. Your monetary support makes these things happen. Once again, thank you.

Your congregation will be listed in the upcoming Annual Report on Giving as one of our Annual Program Fund (APF) Honor Congregations. The Annual Report on Giving gets posted online at www.uua.org/giving and is placed in the UU World magazine. This is another way for us to say thank you and affirm your congregation's generosity in support of our wider Association.

If either of us might assist you, we are pleased to respond to your request. We are honored to serve our association of congregations and honored to be associated with the good work we do in the world.

In appreciation and in faith together,

Handwritten signature of Laurel Amabile in cursive.

Laurel Amabile
Director, Annual Program Fund
Office of Stewardship and Development
Office: 617-948-6513
LAabile@uua.org

Handwritten signature of Barbara W. Brown in cursive.

Barbara W. Brown
General Chair, Annual Program Fund Committee
Cell: 314-496-1064
BBrown@uua.org



Affirming the Worth and Dignity of All People

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2008**

Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

**E-mail submissions Greatly
Appreciated!**

The Feldenkrais Method® Classes

Feeling stiff and out of sorts? Are you often in pain or uncomfortable in your body? Are you recovering from a stroke or other illness? Or do you simply want to move more easily? **The Feldenkrais Method® may be for you!**

The Feldenkrais Method was developed by Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais, a Russian born physicist, mechanical engineer and martial arts expert who cured his own debilitating knee injury. After being told that he would never walk again without surgery, but with surgery had only a 50% chance of recovery, he decided that there must be a better way. By drawing from his extensive background and studying anatomy, neurophysiology, psychology, and child development he created **this method of somatic education that teaches you how to move with minimum effort and maximum efficiency.**

About 20 years ago, I had a serious knee injury after taking a terrible fall during an Aikido class. My instructor sent me to a Feldenkrais practitioner to help with my recovery. My knee got better. I got back to doing what I love, Aikido, a Japanese martial art and found that as I continued the Feldenkrais lessons, my posture improved, my all over sense of well being improved and hence, decided that I should learn to become a practitioner!

One of my favorite sayings of Moshe Feldenkrais is, **"If you know what you are doing, you can do what you want."** He believed that most of us go through life using habitual patterns of movement that may be inefficient. We may have injured ourselves in the past or developed habits of repetitive movements or we may sit

for long periods of time. And, we get in a hurry and we don't pay attention. Who doesn't? The Feldenkrais notion is that by slowing down and noticing what we do, **our neuromuscular system can relearn light, easy and graceful movement.** Feldenkrais believed that when we present the brain with a choice of how to move, it naturally, adopts the most efficient way. And it feels good!

The Feldenkrais Method is taught in two ways; in group classes and privately. In "Awareness Through Movement" group classes, the Feldenkrais® practitioner verbally leads a student through a very gentle sequence of movements in basic positions: sitting in a chair, lying on the floor or standing. Many lessons are based on developmental movements and ordinary functional activities (reaching, standing, looking behind yourself, etc.). A lesson generally lasts from 30 to 60 minutes. Our lessons at UUCSR will be 20 - 30 minutes long.

All abilities welcome!

Want to try it out? Come to UUCSR on August 10th and the 24th! On the 10th, I will teach a 5 minute mini lesson during the service. On the 10th and the 24th, at 11:30 AM after the service, I will teach a 20 - 30 minute lesson. Please come!

Susan Hammond is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais® practitioner & 3rd degree black belt in the martial art of Aikido. She has helped people with MS, sciatica, people recovering from strokes and other injuries. Please feel free to call or email with questions. 707/585-2776 or www.EaseIntoAwareness.com



Service Auction Date Set for Saturday, November 8th!

**Our annual Service Auction is set for the evening of
Saturday, November 8, 2008
Mark your calendars!!**

Come up with ideas for the services you would like to offer, such as awesome meals, picnics, hikes, gardening, and the limitless possibilities of your imagination. We also accept gift quality items. Be sure to ask places where you do business for donations to the auction. In return for their donations, they get free advertising that reaches the hundreds of people who receive our newsletter.

For questions or to volunteer your help, call Kirsten Olney at 542-4694 or e-mail her at olney@computer.org, Nancy Freeman at 537-1987 or Cathie Wiese 829-3624.

T.I.E. T.I.E. T.I.E.

UUCSR will be starting its fourth year of T.I.E. groups this fall. Keep a look-out in September when they will be organized.

Four years ago, Carolyn McLeese attended General Assembly and a workshop on Small Group Ministry. She came back all fired up, and with our interim minister Fran Dew formed a study group which became the Steering Committee, and after a year of study the first T.I.E. groups were formed. T.I.E. is an acronym for Together In Exploration.

T.I.E. groups have about 10 members and go from October through May and meet twice each month for two hours. Most often, we meet at the Glaser Center and not infrequently at someone's home. Meeting times, days and locations are chosen to accommodate most anyone's schedule.

There are many ways to organize groups, and T.I.E. groups have a very special format and intention that allows for everyone to be heard. Listening, with many moments of rich silence, is key. They offer an excellent way to know members personally and to discuss many topics in a deeper fashion than we often do.

T.I.E. groups are not where you go to get fixed, but you will find support. They are not a social hour, but you will get to know people. They are not simply a discussion group, but you will discuss many things deeply.

So, keep your eyes and ears to the ground. There will be more information coming your way, as well as testimonials during services in September and an information table in the lobby.

Submitted by Ray Teurfs, TIE facilitator and member of the UUCSR study group that brought the Small Group Ministry program to this congregation.

Women Together—Farewell to Summer!



Save the date...August 16th! Women Together is hosting our annual End of Summer Gathering. (End of Summer on August 16th??? Isn't that a bit early? Thousands of children will be asking the same question when they start school again the following



Monday!) All women of our congregation are invited to join for food and conversation at the Sebastopol home of Cathie Wiese on Saturday, August 16th from noon to 3:00 pm. We will soak up the summer sunshine, share summer stories, take a dip in the pool if you want, and enjoy those great Women Together potluck dishes as

we say farewell to summer in Cathie's spacious backyard. There will be plenty of shade, too! Bring your favorite potluck lunch dish to share, a beverage of your choice, and a swimsuit and towel if you think you might like to have some wet recreation.

Plates, utensils, and iced tea will be on hand. We would love to have you RSVP at 829-3634 so we can look forward to your company.

Spontaneous gatherers are welcome, too! The address is 220 Frankel Lane in Sebastopol. It is in town and very easy to find. Call for directions if you'd like.

Inquirer's Meetings

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 10 am Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our minister, Rev. Chris Bell, and one or two lay leaders. Questions are not only welcomed, but encouraged! Bring your coffee or tea and join us in the Green Room, located at the opposite end of the hall from the social area.



August 10 (following 10 am service)

Nancy Hayashibara in Concert, September 27th!

We are honored to feature our own Nancy Hayashibara playing the piano as only she can, on September 27, 2008. Nancy will perform several classical solos as well as duets with other musicians. She will also accompany vocalists and add a few of her own surprises. Several

other UU musicians will be contributing their talents to make this a remarkable night. You won't want to miss it. Invite your friends and family. Tickets will be going on sale soon at the Glaser Center box office.



Musings from your Caring Committee

There is a very special group of volunteers within the Caring Committee; the Lay Pastoral Associates. These wonderful UUs have special training and a lot of experience behind their unique skills. Their function is to attend, be with, assist, support any member of the congregation who is having difficulties. Rev. Chris is usually the first to visit a member in need. When appropriate, after his visits, he assigns a Lay Pastoral Associate to continue the ministry. This care may follow an illness, a death, an onset of frailness, or any other difficulty.

The work of our LPAs is entirely confidential, and directed by Rev. Chris. You may not ever hear much about their activities, but the shared ministry they provide is wonderful, and available to all UUs. Their name tags have a "heart of gold" so as to identify their special service. Active LPAs include: Marlene Kaulum (Section Chief), Mary Wagner, Julie Malm, Jewel Ford, Ollie Ostlund, Dolores Miller and Michael Walsh. Your chairperson is most grateful to have such a wonderful team.

News from the Committee on Shared Ministry

Over the past several months your CoSM has been in the process of developing goals for 2007-2008. The result is that we are focusing on three areas. In two recent newsletters we have shared our first two goals. This month we are sharing the third of the three goals here.

Goal #3 is to review and update CoSM's charter. We have done this under the leadership of Rev. Chris and out-going committee chair, Judy Taylor. Currently we are using this charter as a basis for continuing to communicate our role to the congregation.

We are also pleased to add the news that the Board of Trustees has approved Nancy Hargis and Chris Farkas to join us as the newest members of the Committee on Shared Ministry. Elizabeth Marrs will chair the committee for the coming year.

Upcoming Building Facelift

The UUCSR Building Maintenance Committee is hoping to begin making needed repairs to the exterior of our facility. You may have noticed the white streaks on the block walls or the ceiling stains on the inside of the building. These are telltale signs of water intrusion. The exterior walls need waterproofing and painting. And while we are at it, the top of the parapets need a metal cap. It would be great if we could do this before another rainy season.

We are wrestling with issues of volunteer labor, the

timing of the work and the challenge of our limited budget to find a way to make these building improvements. You may soon see the preliminary steps to prepare the courtyard walls for treatment. The vines will be removed and the Clematis saved for re-installation later on a new lattice framework. Please be patient with our process and tolerant of the changes being made in the pursuit of a more sound and pleasing building for our congregation's enjoyment.

Claudia Mayfield, Chairperson,
Building Maintenance Committee

UUCSR Writers

UUCSR Writers

The next UUCSR Writers meeting date is Monday, August 4, 2008, from 4 - 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

About the UUCSR Writers

Whatever your creative endeavor: memoirs, letters, history, biography, the Great American novel, short story, poetry, essays, dissertation, Master's thesis, song lyrics, report, term paper, cook

book, web pages, blogging, etc., our focus is to provide an atmosphere where serious writers improve and hone their writing skills.

The UUCSR Writers is open to the novice, the more experienced, and the published author. Membership at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa (UUCSR) is not required. We meet once a month at UUCSR in Santa Rosa, CA on the First Monday of the month from 4:00-6:00pm.

UUCSR Online Writers

Can't attend monthly meetings? Live in another City, State or Country? Request an Invitation to join our "Online Writers" Blog. You can learn more about our group, and current "Work-in-Progress", at the UUCSR Writers Blog.



UUCSR Community Outreach Projects

"Literati" A quarterly Publication - release date TBA, "Write a Book in 30 days" Summer Workshop, "Sonoma County Book Festival" A Community Event in which UUCSR will participate. The next Book Festival will be on Saturday, September 20, in downtown Santa Rosa Old Courthouse Square.

Diversity Task Force

The Diversity Task Force is very excited to be able to bring to UUCSR the film: *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible* by Dr. Shakti Butler. The film has a unique perspective featuring white women and men telling their own experiences about challenging notions of racism and white supremacy. We saw this film at

the Multicultural/Multiracial UUA Conference in San Jose and knew immediately we wanted to bring it "home." It is moving, thought-provoking and well made. The 50 minute film will be shown Sunday Aug. 10, at 11:30 in the Boardroom. Guided discussion and snacks to follow.



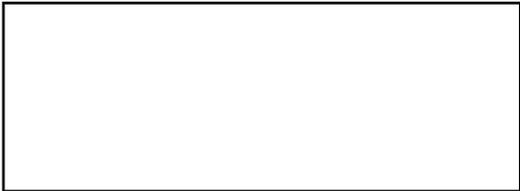
Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group is on summer vacation for July and August. Meetings resume on Thursday, September 11 from 7-9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. Here is our tentative schedule for next year.

<p>September: Watermelon Nights by Greg Sarris</p> <p>October: Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story by Timothy B. Tyson</p> <p>November: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak</p> <p>December: A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway</p>	<p>January: Rats, Lice and History by Hans Zinsser</p> <p>February: Out Stealing Horses: A Novel by Per Petterson</p> <p>March, April, May: TBD</p> <p>June: Select books for next year; finger food potluck</p>
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August 2008

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

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Deadline: Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

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 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.

<p>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</p>	<p>Sunday Religious Education Staff Anne Blevins</p>
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