



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• September 2011 • Volume 55 • Issue 9 •

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

### September 4

#### INGATHERING

##### LAST 10:00am SERVICE!

Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell

Worship Associate: Claire Beery

After our summer slow-down, we kick things off for the new congregational year with this annual ritual reconstitution of our community. Bring a memento of your summer that fits in your hand to contribute to our Ingathering Artifact. We'll also hear the latest from Fabelia. The service is for all ages.

### September 18

#### THE ART OF CURIOSITY

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman, and the T.I.E. Steering Committee members.

"What is this?" Suzuki-Roshi taught his students to simply ask that question again and again. Whether confronting oneself, the present moment, other people, we should be open, compassionate and curious. Here at UUCSR we practice this engagement with self and other through our TIE groups, which we'll consider today, but you can practice it with anyone at any time. Come learn how.

### September 11

#### IN THE MIRROR OF THE MISSING TOWERS

##### First day of two services! 9:15 and 11:00

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Lucia Milburn

On this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terrorist attacks, we'll consider what has happened in the world and our nation since then, and what we've learned about ourselves as a result. We'll honor the victims of violence, and we'll seek within our Principles and Sources for a way toward the world community of peace, justice and liberty that we long for.

### September 25

#### THE SPIRIT OF A MAN

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine, Scott Miller, Others

Many of our UUCSR men will have attended the Annual Men's Retreat in late August, and today some will share the insights and wisdom they gained there about the challenges and rewards of the spiritual lives of men in 2011, and consider how to best lead our boys. Invite a male friend to the service today, please!

### October 2

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTH BAY UU REVIVAL

##### One 10:00 Service only!

Service Leaders: Rev. Peter Morales, Rev. Chris Bell, Rev. Bonnie Dlott, Rev. Chip Wright, Jan Ogren, Deborah Mason, Marlene Abel, the bands and choirs of the North Bay, and many more!

The theme of the day is "Reviving Liberal Religion" as we join with four other UU congregations and UUA President Rev. Peter Morales to proclaim our hopeful message of justice and transformation. Actual hand-clapping, butt-swinging, UU gospel music will be heard! Invite your friends and bring the kids. Food trucks will provide the opportunity for fellowship after the service. Many volunteers needed!

Held at Sonoma Country Day School. Take the Airport Blvd. exit west off 101, turn right on Aviation Blvd., and look for the sign.

## Get in a Circle



It strikes me more and more, as I get older, that the deepest wisdom comes in the simplest form. I think my fellow UU minister Robert Fulghum got it right when he said that everything we need to know comes in kindergarten.

For example, I think the fundamental solution to many of the worlds problems comes from getting people to sit together, and stay together. That's it. Sit in a circle or get to the table together, and you will find the way. The rest of the business is details. If we were to strip away the specifics of every negotiation method and look past the lingo of every conflict resolution process, we would see that the core goal is getting people to sit together, to listen and hear each other, and to represent their own interests while learning to compromise.

Now, like everything in life, it's easier said than done. Way easier. A quick glance at the conflicts of the world shows that even getting people to the table can be a years-long, violence-fueled struggle. Many enemies must have skilled facilitation even to agree to how to talk in the very first place.

Congress didn't help my case much earlier this month, either, I suppose.

But perhaps I can build a case a little closer to home.

Once a month I meet with the facilitators of our small group ministry program, which we call Together in Exploration. These folk facilitate the our T.I.E. groups (which tie us together; get it?), the circles of 6-10 people that come together twice a month.

Since the beginning of our program six years ago, we have strongly emphasized good training and support for our facilitators, and I'm certain that the strength of our small group ministry is due primarily to the practical and spiritual "care and feeding" we provide the leaders. Every program in the congregation could learn from these practices.

There is a full day of training at the beginning of each year, and I participate, at least to bless the proceedings and give great thanks. Each TIE group has two facilitators, which lightens the load of leading. Most importantly, we have a monthly meeting of every facilitator, which I facilitate.

Basically, we try to make the Facilitator's Meeting a lot like a regular TIE Group, with one exception. At check-in, we hear about the doctor's visits and grand-

children and job changes and every other thing that makes up the fabric of our daily lives. Then we spend some time discussing any issues that have arisen in the groups, and handle any tasks that may have arisen around scheduling or participants. (A normal TIE Group doesn't have to do any of that, thank goodness!) Our excellent steering committee handles all of the logistical duties of the program, however, so we are usually able to preserve most of the first hour for learning from each other about how to make TIE groups the most enriching and meaningful experience possible for everyone involved. We share challenges, and uncover together the wisdom to face those challenges, guided by a spirit of service and a commitment to our Principles.

For me personally, it's one of the most grounded moments of my entire month. The quality of the attention and care that the facilitators bring to their work is inspiring to me. It makes me want to pour my attention and care onto them.

Facilitating a conversation is different from teaching, certainly different than preaching. It takes some selfless attention to the overall dynamic. Doing it well may even mean not ever getting to make your precious point, or share that joke that you thought was perfect. A good facilitator can't be too attached to where the conversation goes, because he or she is paying more attention to the quality of the conversation as it unfolds. Quality in this case means depth, feeling, and personal sharing. Through mindfulness and careful, gentle steering, a good facilitator can help midwife such an experience.

TIE facilitation is an act of ministry, very clearly, and one of the things that is driven into your head in divinity school is that ministers need to be fed, too. And lo, the noble and righteous path brings benefit to self *and* others, so I also gain from the time spent. I learn about how to solve problems of communication, how to handle someone who doesn't respect other people's time, or strays too far from the topic, or steadfastly refuses to say how they feel, even when the TIE Topic is, say, "Feelings!" In fact, all of the perennial issues of free beings with differing personalities that make congregational life interesting and challenging emerge in these meetings, and they are faced with compassion and curiosity.

Then, for the second hour, we jump right into a topic (death, faith, community, children, love, anger,

*Cont. on page 3*

## Greetings from the Board

On August 11 the Board elected its officers as follows: President, Laura Jean Hageman, Vice-President, Mary Louise Jaffray; Corporate Secretary, Cathie Wiese; and Co-Treasurers, Art Rosenblum and Amy Young. UUCSR by-laws do not require that the Treasurer(s) be Board members, although they are expected to attend Board meetings and are members of the Financial Stewardship Council.

Currently Board *members* are elected at the Congregational Meeting in June and, because UUCSR does not hold meetings in July, the Board *officers* are not elected until the first official meeting of the new Board in August. The By-laws Committee will be proposing changes to the UUCSR by-laws

that would allow for the Board *officers* to be elected as soon as the new Board is confirmed.

In September the Board, in consultation with the Financial Stewardship Council, will decide how much of the surplus from last year can be used to produce a revised FY 2011/2012 budget. The Board will propose how to allocate that surplus to those items that were not fully funded in the budget passed in June. The Congregation will vote on the revised FY 2011/2012 budget at the congregational meeting on October 16.

Laura Jean Hageman  
President

## How Many Members does it take to change the Light bulbs at UUCSR?

We need you to complete the **2011 VOLUNTEER SURVEY** included as the center-fold in this issue of the "UU Update." A box is available in the work room to receive your completed form. They will be catalogued to use with Committees as they form in September

Thank you for your participation.

Bob Watkins

Volunteer-Volunteer Coordinator



Answer: All of them

## Get in a Circle Continued

*Cont. from page 2*

God, etc.), usually splitting into two groups in order to give everyone enough time to say something of real meaning. I'm sure all the facilitators agree that we wish this part went on longer, and sometimes it does! We've learned not to try to reconvene the whole group because the smaller ones never come back on time. It's not just that UUs love to talk. A good small group ministry topic will lead thoughtful people almost immediately to some insight, to the remembering of a forgotten story, to bottled-up anger or sorrow or joy. Genuine communication at that level is like nectar in our twisted world of spin doc-

toring, advertising in the grocery line, Super-PACs, two TVs in the car, website "comments," texts and tweets. I wish more of it for all of you!

I'm not a Luddite by any measure. But I know that even in a religious community, it is very easy just to talk past, or at, each other. "How are you?" "Fine." We get easily wrapped up in the business of our daily lives. Congregational Leaders get wrapped up in the business of volunteering and governing the congregation. Creating the time for genuine human connection is the antidote. In fact, it's the whole point of living. Please, make some space for it in your life, starting now. Get in the circle.

## Treasurer's Report

Good News and Other News (maybe not so good)

OK, I'll start with the good news. The Congregation wound up in the BLACK for Fiscal 2010-2011 (sort of). Our Profit and Loss Balance Sheet as of the end of June has a plus balance of approximately \$26,000. While this is not ALL gravy (some of the funds need to be held in reserve), it was sufficient for the Financial Review Team to recommend that the Financial Stewards recommend to the Board that they could increase this year's budget by \$15,000, thereby addressing some of the critical underfunded items in the Balanced Budget that was voted on at the June Congregational Meeting. The updated budget will be presented for your approval at the October Meeting.

In addition to recommending the amount to be applied to increases this year, the Financial Stewardship Council also provided their recommendations on where the increase should be applied. The BOT will take it up in late August or at their September meeting.

Now for the "other news" . Under our Council System there are six committees or task forces involved in our financial management. In addition to the Stewardship Council are the following:

Canvass Committee (6-7 members) responsible for our annual pledge drive.

Budget Task Force (5 members) who gather the information and put together our annual budget.

Financial Review Team (5 members) who on a monthly and quarterly basis keep an eye on how we are doing (actual vs budget).

Fundraising Task Force - a joint BOT-FINSTEW group to recruit individuals who will accept responsibility for one or two fundraisers (\$10,000 in all) over the next couple of years.

Endowment Committee (5-6 members) responsible for the care and feeding of our Endowment Fund.

As is obvious from this listing it takes a whole lot of members to keep the UUCSR on an even-keel financially. Some (all?) of these groups could use some additional support - support from members who know which end of the pencil the eraser is on! So if one of the financial gurus asks you to help out by joining one of these groups, please recognize that we are asking you because we believe your individual capabilities would be most useful to your community. To paraphrase Nancy Reagan - Just Say YES.

Art Rosenblum

## Annual UUCSR Auction Extravaganza

**SATURDAY, October 22nd, 2011**

**5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Social Hall**

Get ready to join the fun and excitement of UUCSR's biggest social event of the year! Mark your calendars, set your Blackberries, or just put a sticky note on your front door...you won't want to miss our Annual Auction Extravaganza!

Our annual dinner and auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for UUCSR's general operating fund. YOU. our creative and generous members and friends offer wonderful donations for our silent auction...dinners, yard work, theater tickets, theme parties, dog walking, hand crafted jewelry, trash hauling...the list has no boundaries! Volunteers scour the city and countryside to gather fabulous donations from local business to add to the offerings. So, consider what you might be able to donate this year to the fun! Look for our table display in the Social Hall for donation forms and a list of many ideas. Ask your favorite

places of business if they might want to donate (tax deductible) a gift certificate or two. Watching the bids go up on your donations gets the blood pumping in the ol' veins!

For the evening of our Auction Extravaganza we invite you to arrive in festive finery...this is a first class establishment! Fine dining awaits you, Roger Corman will entertain us with his piano jazz licks as only he can! Childcare and kid food will be provided. Silent auction bidding will take place as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner . Following the silent auction, during dessert, we cap off the evening with our live auction starring those masters of auction mischief sure to keep you laughing as they do their best to lighten your pocketbook for this worthy cause...UUCSR (US!).

Keep an eye out for our table which will be set up in the Social Hall. Look for the Top Hat and Tales guy dancing in a sea of star spangled purple! Any questions? Call Kitty Wells at 433-1196, Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, Nancy Freeman at 537-1897, or Linda Farison at 539-3650.

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

On September 11 we will begin our new year of curriculum in Religious Education. This year our youngest children will continue to learn about how Unitarian Universalist values apply to their lives. Our older elementary grades and middle school will learn about world religions this year to deepen their understanding of neighboring faiths, know more about the bible, and appreciate the religious diversity of our culture. Our monthly schedule will be: 1st Sunday Children's Chapel with all ages together. The 2<sup>nd</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> , and 4<sup>th</sup> , Sundays will be in age grouped classes and taught from the curriculum. Here are the descriptions of the curricula we will teach this year:

**Infants, Toddlers, & Preschoolers:** Our youngest children are cared for during the service by two paid preschool aids. The morning always includes the lighting of the chalice, a story, an activity as well as free time for play. With a range of developmental stages in the group our staff provides a flexible, loving, and child centered program. Our goals are to teach the children that this is a safe and caring place where they are affirmed and appreciated.

**Grades K-2:** Our kindergarten through second grade children are exploring the world through story. *Wisdom Stories* uses some of the most wonderful picture books in children's literature to illuminate the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Young children learn best through play and imagination. These stories provide windows to see a world beyond their everyday lives and mirrors to help them better understand how they can live with kindness and care. From *Horton Hatches the Egg* to *The Everything Seed* they will explore life's mysteries in a way that is fun and expansive. A story is at the center of each session with time for exploring and questioning its message. Then there is an activity - a game, art project or a skit - to further illuminate the lesson.

**Grades 3 - 5:** An understanding of the Bible is important to Unitarian Universalist religious education. We are using the UU the curriculum *Bibleodeon* which is an exciting introduction to Hebrew and Christian scriptures. *Bibleodeon* tells stories for children from the Bible and invites action, thought, response, and involvement. *Bibleodeon* presents the greatest Hebrew and Christian stories in a Unitarian

Universalist setting. Participants explore connections between biblical events and UU principles and values, between biblical ideas and their own lives. They experience the Bible as one of many wonderful and important UU sources. Just as important, *Bibleodeon* is fun. Children listen to some stories, and act some out. They investigate others, the way television reporters would. They immerse themselves in music and art and creative activity, achieving in the process new understanding of and appreciation for some of civilization's most important books.

**Middle School Grades 6-8:** *Neighboring Faiths* introduces middle school youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious communities. In keeping with all of the UU Principles, especially *affirming the free and responsible search for truth and meaning* this program actively engages youth in exploring religious traditions not merely as observers, but as people being religious together. Youth will hear stories, experience spiritual practices, learn about traditions and rituals, and experience worship services of a variety faith communities. They will explore their own values as they relate to many other beliefs and become more aware of the many connections between Unitarian Universalism and other faith traditions. The *Neighboring Faiths* experience will increase the understanding and appreciation of religious diversity while strengthening commitment to our UU faith and community.

**Youth Group Grades 9 - 12:** Meets every Thursday of from 4-6pm. In a casual setting youth explore life's bigger questions, develop ties to UU peers, and have fun (pizza is also involved!). Together they will craft a worship service for the larger congregation in the spring, and participate in community service projects several times during the year.

I think it will be a very exciting year for our kids!

In faith,  
Deborah

## Advocates for Social Justice

### SHARE THE BASKET

On **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**, one half the collection will go to support **The Living Room**. More and more women are finding themselves, and their children, homeless and out of work. The Living Room is the one place in the city that they can come during the day for a hot breakfast and lunch plus help with parenting, learning or polishing up job skills and a safe and loving place for their children.

Please be as generous as you can, and to learn more about what your money is doing, come to the Hot Topics after the service!

On **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**, half the basket will go to support our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. As most of you know, this is our largest community-service project and has become a vital part of Santa Rosa's safety net! Your consistent generosity is a miracle and a blessing. Thank you!

## Hot Topics

As many of us remember, one of the reasons we chose to move from the bucolic countryside of Todd and Stony Point to downtown Santa Rosa was so we could be more able to reach out to the community. We have done so in many ways, two of which are our participation in the 'Circle of Support' for our across-the-street neighbor, The Living Room, and our contribution of time and talent to the Family Support Center on A Street.

On **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**, representatives from both groups will be with us to describe their programs and answer our questions about what they do and how we can help. Celeste Austin, Program Director of The Living Room, will be here as will Chuck Fernandez and Jennielynn Holmes of the Family Support Center. Come with your curiosity and questions to **the Board Room at 12:30 pm**. A light lunch will be available for a modest donation.

## Congregational Vote on Ordination

At the next congregational meeting, you will be voting on whether to ordain me, Jamie McReynolds, as a Unitarian Universalist minister. In keeping with our UU tradition of congregational polity, only the congregation has the authority to ordain ministers. I "grew up" in *this* congregation, working with many of you to help this religious community grow and thrive. In turn, you provided support and encouragement during my journey into ministry, and I am hopeful that you will vote to ordain me into the UU ministry next year, on Sunday, October 28, 2012.

When I started attending the UU Fellowship of Sonoma County in 1995, I quickly realized that I had found my spiritual home. Little did I know that ten years later my spiritual journey would lead

me to seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. My leadership roles at the UU Fellowship of Sonoma County and later the UU Congregation, Santa Rosa, eventually led to my decision to leave my career in finance and pursue UU ministry. Serving on the 1998 ministerial search committee, as president of the Board of Trustees, and as worship associate deepened my commitment to serve our UU movement. I moved to the Berkeley area in 2006, and graduated from seminary in 2009. For the past two years, I have worked full-time as a hospice chaplain. As an ordained community minister, I plan to continue providing spiritual care as a hospice or hospital chaplain, helping people come to terms with life transitions.

## TIE (Together In Exploration) Groups Start in October

"Together In Exploration" (TIE) is the name of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa's (UUCSR) Small Group Ministry Program, which is a nationwide Unitarian Universalist program. "TIE" is UUCSR's tailor-made version of the Small Group Ministry Program. The purpose is to provide a comfortable, non-confrontational environment in which participants discuss topics and get to know each other. They explore their own and their fellow members' views on different subjects. A group of no-more-than 10 to 12 people, (normally less, including the 2 facilitators) meet twice a month to talk and listen. An established format provides the opportunity for all to speak if they wish. Past participants say they became very close to the others in their group and communicated deeply in a manner unusual today. Some say that for the first time they felt "truly heard" by others. And many people report an increased sense of community. TIE groups are not providers of "therapy" or "fixers" of anyone's problems.

The September 18th service topic will be about TIE Groups. After both services, short TIE Group sessions will be held for anyone interested in sampling one. Participants do not need to be UUCSR members. TIE Group signups will then be held that

Sunday, September 18th, with continuing signups September 25th and October 2nd, as space allows. (Last year, 90% of signups occurred the first day.) The meetings will commence the week of October 2nd or shortly thereafter. To avoid group disruption, participants are asked to attend regularly, but they have an opportunity to leave the group after 4 sessions. Questions will be answered and group member expectations will be explained at signup. (Don't worry - homework is not assigned.) If you are unavailable to sign up on these dates, you may email Michele Murphy (wymurphy@att.net) or leave her a phone message (479-3661) to enroll in a group. If you miss signing up, a few new groups may be started in January.

Treat yourself to a wonderful experience, whether you are new to TIE or a TIE veteran!  
Sign up for a TIE Group.

Submitted by the TIE Steering Committee, the members of which are: Chairperson Marge Wright, Jeanie Bates, Rev. Chris Bell, Diana Breslich, Carol Kraemer, Dorris Lee, Carolyn McLeese, and Michele Murphy.

## Women Together

### ELDER TALES

Save the date: **Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**, to hear **Phyllis Clement** recount her adventurous and

compassionate life! We will meet from 2 to 4 pm in the Lunch Box Room. More details as we get closer to the date, but you won't want to miss it!

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 2011**  
**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail Submissions**  
**Greatly Appreciated!**  
**Newsletter Assembly**  
**10 a.m.—September 28, 2011**

## Circles of Community for Fall

September is here and it is time to begin sign ups for our Fall Circle Dinner Groups. This year we are doing things a bit differently so PLEASE NOTE!

\*\*To avoid confusion, you must sign up on our Fall Circle Dinner list to be included in a group.

\*\*We will not automatically carry over your name from the last list (mix ups happened in the past as a result of this practice)

\*\*Sign ups will happen at UUCSR and via EMAIL beginning THE WEEK OF AUGUST 21st AND END SEPTEMBER 11th.

\*\*Check the bulletin board for a sign up sheet and look for a table during Social Hour

\*\*Email to [Cathie@sonic.net](mailto:Cathie@sonic.net) is good, too.

What's all this about????? Read on.....UUCSR CIRCLE DINNERS are re-forming again and will begin this October! We are excited about this wonderful program and "Growing our Circles!" Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a pot-luck meal. As participants in Circle Dinners since our old Todd and Stoney Point days, Robert and I have really enjoyed getting to know folks we might never have otherwise. We have had some wonderful times visiting other members' homes (large and small---it doesn't matter!) and always look forward to great food and conversation. Some of our groups have even kept on meeting after the official Circle Dinners period has ended just because we enjoyed getting together so much!

How do they work??? Members and Friends (interested in membership) of UUCSR let the

Circle Dinner organizers know they want to be on the list. We then take all the names and shuffle them into groups of 7 or 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a "Circle Dinner Group" for the 4 months of the Circle Dinner period. In the October Newsletter and on the Focus List we post the Fall/Winter Circle Dinner Lists. The groups then contact each other, decide on a date, time and place to gather and who will bring what. The rest takes care of itself! Before the fun is over, the group decides the who, what, where and when for the next month's gathering.

You DON'T need dinner service for 8, a family sized dining room, linen napkins, or even a room with a view! All you need is an enjoyment of meeting new friends, connecting with old friends, and the love of a good meal and conversation (maybe even playing games or music... 'cause that can happen, too).

Interested? We are taking sign ups beginning August 21st through September 11th. Look for a sign up table in the Social Hall on Sundays or please contact Cathie Wiese at 829-3634, or Cathie's email at [cathie@sonic.net](mailto:cathie@sonic.net). We will need your name, phone number and email (if you have one) to post on the list so that your Circle can connect!

We will do our best to accommodate special needs for daytime groups but cannot do dietary restrictions . **REMEMBER--**

**YOU MUST SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 11TH TO BE ON THE LIST.**



## The UUCSR Writers

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa, Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., 707-568-5381. Information: Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com

### Next Regular Monthly Meeting - Presentations and Feedback:

**Monday, September 12, from 4 - 6 pm.** Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress". Meet in the Green Room at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa 707-568-5381. Info: Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com.

**UUCSR Writers Forum: Saturday, Oct 8, 10-4 pm**  
Writers, Poets, Panels and Special Workshops are being confirmed.

Details to be announced. Save the date.

### Confirmed Forum Presenters include:

**David Templeton - "Film Noir and the Screen Writer"**

"UUCSR Writers Literary Laureate 2010-2012"  
Presentation and discussion about the Balance between the Work of the Screen Writer and the Need of the Craftsperson to find his/her audience.

**Catharine Bramkamp - "The Sound and Fury - tensely texting and talking about Twitter"**

With all the talk of twitter, texting - micro blogs, blogs, web sites, pod casts, it's a wonder writers don't weep. Language has always evolved, but aided by an explosion of technology, the evolution is now fast and furious. What does this mean for the creators of stories and the writers of words? Come join the evolution.

**Bill Brewster - "Poetry applied to music lyrics. Words are your craft."**

Discussion, Music and Writing Workshop.

**Steve Boga**, well known for his Memoir classes Adjunct faculty at the Santa Rosa Junior College.

**Vilma Ginsberg**, Healdsburg Literary Laureate 2008/2009

Hosts Healdsburg Literary Guild's monthly Third Sunday Salon.

**Granny Vee, Poet** - Margo van Veen. French Teacher, Translator, Environmentalist, Political Activist, Satirist. First Prize in nationwide Alliance Francaise contest, Winner of and SRJC Literary Award.

### Open Mike - Poetry Readings

**Tom J. Mariani**, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate 2010-2012, Our Poetry Moderator.

Any questions about the exciting afternoon devoted to poetry are to be directed to Tom at marianis@sonic.net.

**Bookstore** - Speakers' and Panelists' Books will be for sale. Meet the authors, get your book signed.

### Thursday's at the "Haven Coffee House"

**Every Thursday morning, 10 am - 12 noon**

Located in one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County, the Video Droid on 1901 Mendocino Avenue in the Santa Rosa JC area. It's in the same parking lot as CVS Pharmacy. Parking is free.

Buy yourself a good cup of coffee or hot chocolate and a morning pastry of your choice. Enjoy the ambiance at the "Haven" as well as the pleasure of our humor, clever conversations and the periodic, spontaneous outburst of laughter that permeates the atmosphere.

Take Care,  
Georgette G. deBlois



## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, September 8th 11 at 7:00 pm at 547 Mendocino. Our selection this month is Song of the Exile by Kiana Davenport. The October selection is Loving

Frank by Nancy Horan. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Linda Lampson

## Fall Adult Education Class for Women

Come celebrate the Divine Feminine in a 5 week course starting September 21 at UUCSR. Revised(2007) UU curriculum, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" is an affirmation of the wisdom of rediscovering the Divine Feminine form as a way of bringing peace and justice to the Earth. Topics to be explored:

*The Sacred Female,*

*In the Name of Mother and Daughter,*

*Woman Power,*

*The First Turning: Shift from Goddess to God, and*

*Reclaiming Women's Heritage of Peace.*

Dates: Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & 19, Nov. 2 & 16th.

Time: 7pm-9pm.

Led by Julie Ristich Malm, MS in Education, UU for over 50 years, educator, former Director of Education at UUCSR, meditator, swimmer, grandmother, seeker of the Divine Feminine.

For questions and/or registration, email Julie at [Julie-Ma840@aol.com](mailto:Julie-Ma840@aol.com) or phone 539-5897.



## Job Announcement from UUCSR Religious Education

We have two paid positions in our preschool:

Preschool Teacher and Preschool Teacher Aide

Both positions require experience working with preschool aged children and are for 2 to 3 hours per week.

If you or someone you know is interested

please contact Deborah for the

complete job descriptions and application procedures.

[dlre@sonic.net](mailto:dlre@sonic.net) or 568-5381

## Meet the Minister

These are brief, informal meetings held once a month following the 11 a.m. Sunday Service as indicated below. They provide an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet with our 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.

**SEPTEMBER 18**

**OCTOBER 16**

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 11, August 2011

Meeting Called to Order at 6:34 p.m. by President, Laura Jean Hageman

Members Present: Jeanie Bates, Ann Chambers, Joe Como, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (President), Mary Louise Jaffray (Vice President), Alan Proulx, Peter Wilson, Craig Work

Members Not Present: Lois Nagle, Cathie Wiese (Secretary)

Non-members Present: Chris Bell (Minister, Member Ex-Officio), Sibyl Day (HR Committee representative), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer)

Opening Words: Chris Bell read Mary Oliver poems "The Journey" and "Sunrise"

BOT Minutes of 16 June 2011 Approved as Revised (enclosed)

Open Mic: No participants

Election of 2011/12 Officers: (1) President: Mary Louise nominated Laura Jean, Craig Work seconded. No additional nominees. Laura Jean elected by voice (9-0), (2) Ann Chambers nominated Mary Louise for Vice-President, John Farison seconded. No additional nominees. Mary Louise elected by voice (9-0), (3) Mary Louise nominated Art Rosenblum for Treasurer, John Farison seconded. No additional nominees. Art elected by voice (9-0), (4) Co-Treasurer: Mary Louise nominated Amy Young for Co-Treasurer, Peter Wilson seconded. No additional nominees. Amy elected by voice (9-0), (5) Corporate Secretary: Craig Work nominated Cathie Wiese for Secretary, Allan Proulx seconded. No additional nominees. Cathie elected by voice (9-0).

Financial Review Team Report: Art Rosenblum provided the status of several topics. (1) Review of Property Tax Appraisal. The appeal to further reduce property taxes beyond that due to general real estate devaluations was withdrawn because the appeal was not well received by the tax board. (2) The Financial Review Team reviewed process/procedures as well as making an evaluation of yearend financial statements. (3) Financial Stewardship meets Thursday, Oct 18, to make a recommendation NLT Oct 25 regarding the effect of 2010/11 actuals upon potential modifications to the 2011/12 budget. (4) The 2010/11 general operations showed a P&L loss but was more than offset by the positive Glaser Center operations. July actuals are not yet available. (5) Discussions are in-process regarding how to treat "next year" pledges that are received at the end of the waning year as well as "retreat" income versus expenses so as to more accurately reflect the congregational financial condition.

John queried whether planning has considered potential loss of rental income due to the possibility that the Islamic congregation may leave the building. Allan proposed that the 2011/12 goals of BOT include planning for this outcome. ACTION: Chris to ensure that this topic be considered at the BOT retreat/planning in September.

Staff Medical/Dental Plans: Sybil Day presented a comparison of existing Kaiser insurance coverage for staff to (a) renewal with and Kaiser and (b) changing coverage to that of Health Net. Sybil explained that coverage and cost of companies other than these two were considered but the viable comparisons were reduced to these two. After extended discussion, the following actions were taken. (1) Health Insur-

ance: Joe motioned to accept the HR Committee's recommendation to renew the Kaiser health coverage. John seconded. Motion passed by voice (9-0). (2) Dental Coverage: Joe motioned and John seconded, to reject the Committee's recommendation to change to Health Net plan if the employees agreed and, instead, to renew the Kaiser dental plan. Motion passed 8-1, Laura Jean opposed. (3) Vision Plan: Joe motioned and Craig seconded to accept the Committee's recommendation to renew the VSP vision plan. Motion passed by voice (9-0).

Preparing for the FY 2011/12 Budget Revision: Laura Jean presented a chart comparing the "original request" budget to the actual budget adopted by the congregation. The information is to be considered while determining a process at the 25 Aug meeting for specifying line item changes. Alan mentioned that priorities had been discussed in the budget determination meetings. ACTION: Laura Jean to have available previously established priority information. Laura Jean explained that after establishing the decision-making process at the 25 Aug meeting, the altered FY 2011/12 budget recommendation will be determined at the September meeting, for presentation to the congregation in October. ACTION: In response to a request by Peter, Laura Jean agreed to provide access to BOT meeting minutes which addressed the FY 2011/12 budget. ACTION: Laura Jean agreed to provide a review of last year's budget review process.

BOT/Financial Stewardship Council Fundraising Task Force: Laura Jean distributed a proposed process for establishing budgeted revenue. The process dealt with revenues for pledging, donations, interest/other income and fundraising. She especially noted that fundraising revenue estimates would be jointly determined by the Fin/Stew Council and the BOT with responsibilities for generating the revenue designated to specific individuals and/or committees.

BOT retreat Logistics, Initial Planning: Laura Jean explained that the retreat will commence Friday afternoon, 2 Sept and conclude late Saturday afternoon, 3 Sept. Ann will host the meeting at her house. Meal details were discussed. Chris will be the facilitator. Chris invited the members to suggest specific ideas to be addressed at the retreat.

Timing of BOT Officer Elections: Mary Louise observed that our by-laws currently create a portion of the year, from June 30 to August where no officers represent the congregation. Alan added that at General Assembly, UUCSR does not have a president, toward which some activities are directed. There was general agreement that this situation should be remedied. Peter noted that eventual changes be conveyed to the Nominating Committee.

Closing: Laura Jean read a selection from Peter Drucker addressing leadership and empowering others to contribute.

Next Meeting: 25 August 2011

Meeting Adjourned: 8:46 p.m.

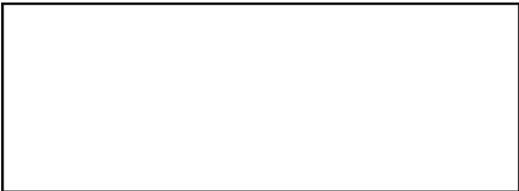
Respectfully submitted,

Terry Graham

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September 2011

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

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## Storytelling Comes to the Glaser Center this Fall & Winter

“As a culture, we have been gradually losing the art of everyday storytelling,” observes Petaluma stand-up comic Dave Pokorny. “Sitting in a room full of people, listening to someone tell a true story, it’s just such a cool, wonderful, fun, exhilarating experience. What I’m hoping to do is to bring the art of storytelling back to Sonoma County.”

This fall and winter, Pokorny and other Bay Area storytellers will be bringing the art of the well-told tale to our Sanctuary stage, and I couldn’t be more excited. Beginning this month with Pokorny’s luxurious one-man-show ‘Based on a True Story,’ running Friday September 9, 16, and 23 at 8:00 p.m., the storytelling continues on November 19, which is the annual national “Tellebration” day, with storytelling events all over the country. We’ll be hosting four of the Bay Area’s best storytellers, tall tale-spinners, and yarn-weavers, taking turns dazzling us with their ability to put incredible pictures in our heads using own their words and their voices. It’s a free event, open to the entire community. Also in November, we welcome the absurdly amazing Roy Zimmerman back for an evening of music and comedic storytelling, as Roy proves why he’s been compared from coast to coast to the great Tom Lehrer, who paved the way for Roy’s patented blend of comedic songwriting. And of course, December 10 brings Twisted Christmas back for its ninth annual showcase of off-the-wall holiday tales, read aloud by some of the Bay Area’s funniest people.

So, what is it about storytelling that captures our imaginations, and why, in a world oversaturated with television, videogames, and phones that play movies, do we still find it so captivating to simply sit and listen to a person on a stool telling a story?

“I’ve had people come just to be a part of the audience,” Pokorny says of the monthly West Side Stories open mike events he hosts in Sebastopol and Petaluma, “and by the end of the show they are saying, ‘I think next month I want to tell a story myself!’ And these stories, because they are true, just have a kind of electricity that you don’t find in a lot of other art forms. It’s like watching someone juggle on a tightrope—you can’t imagine that what your seeing is possible, but you can’t deny that it captures your attention like nothing else.”

It was Pokorny’s discovery of the power in true-storytelling that sparked his evolution away from traditional stand-up comedy, and led him towards a more revealing and personal brand of comedy. Out of this came his critically-acclaimed one-man-show, which we are proud to bring here for three consecutive Fridays. *Based on a True Story* is a comfortably episodic, long-form tale, in which Pokorny traces his adventures from hard-working comic to befuddled family man, along the way relating his adventures teaching comedy traffic school. It is alternately hilarious and heart-warming.

“I got out of stand-up comedy precisely because there was no room in the stand-up world for the kind of storytelling I wanted to do,” Pokorny explains. “Good storytelling has more than just laughs. In good storytelling, there’s room for all kinds of emotions.”

Pokorny likens his promotion of storytelling to a dad coaxing his kids to eat broccoli.

“If they think it’s good for them, they won’t eat it,” he laughs. “So you have to slather it with cheese. Then they’ll try it. That’s a terrible analogy though. I *hate* broccoli!”

**Based on a True Story**—September 9, 16 and 23, 8:00 p.m.

\$15.00 donation; tickets available in the office and after services

**Roy Zimmerman: Live From the Starving Ear**—Saturday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.; \$15 donation, tickets available in the office and after Sunday services

**Tellebration!** — Saturday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.; all seats Free

**Twisted Christmas 9**—Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.; \$15 donation, tickets available in the office and after services on Sundays.