



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• December 2011 • Volume 55 • Issue 12 •

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

December 4

9:15 and 11:00

Finding the Sacred in the Family

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine,
Susan Panttaja*

The Choir performs at 9:15.

For some of us, family is a source of great comfort and strength. For others, a source of sorrow or hardship. Can we still find the blessings of family? Can we find them here? Our December services will use some of the parables of Jesus as a launching pad for considering what it means to find the Sacred in our daily lives.

December 11

9:15 and 11:00

Finding the Sacred in the Workplace

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller

Special Music: Billie Sue Fischer, Roy Zimmerman

Today we consider the need for good and dignifying work, whatever our occupation, and what a just economic order might look like. We will also see if Jesus's parables offer any insight to a working person.

December 18

9:15 and 11:00

Finding the Sacred with our Friends and Neighbors

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Frances Corman

The Choir and UUusual Suspects appear at both services!

UUs believe that the sacred is found in and among people who practice love, justice and forgiveness through their words and deeds. Living together ain't easy, but it is the only way of practice we really have. Today we will welcome new members, and, as with all the December services, let a parable or two of a certain radical rabbi guide us.

December 21st

WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE (and potluck!)

6:00pm

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Maureen Peterson,
Andy Levine, Susan Bartholome*

Join us for the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. Now darkness triumphs; and yet, gives way and changes into light. Our UU Solstice celebration will draw from a variety of sacred traditions and I encourage everyone to participate. Please bring drums! The Solstice service will be followed by a potluck supper.

December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE: THE LIGHT OF HOPE

6:00pm

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman,
Nancy Hayashibara, The Choir*

Our beautiful and inclusive service of candles and carols, followed by the Bell-Butterfield Christmas Eve Party at Yulupa Co-Housing. The collection is taken completely for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which is available throughout the year to our members in need.

December 25th

CHRISTMAS MORNING

10:00am (only one service!)

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Rita Butterfield

Yes, we shall gather for worship. Come prepared to share stories of your favorite Christmas, or a Christmas poem, and join our intimate, singing-filled celebration of peace and hope. Come in your jammies if you want. We'll have hot cocoa. One service only, at 10:00am!

January 1st

ANNUAL NEW YEAR MILESTONES SERVICE

10:00am (only one service)

Service Leaders: The Worship Associates

A service of many voices, reflecting on the triumphs and tragedies of 2011, in our own lives and the lives of the larger world. One service only, at 10:00am!

Reason in the Season?



Because there really, really, can be too much of a good thing, I have learned to steel myself a bit each mid-November as I approach another round of the annual celebration-orgy-endurance-test that is "the holidays." I try to stay out of the stores after October 31 as long as I can. I avert my eyes at the sight of tinsel and trees, and I fend off Santa's demands for the list of who has been naughty or nice until well past Thanksgiving. (He and I met at Divinity School, and I now do some consulting for his operation.) Shopping at midnight on Black Friday? Blech. I fear that within the decade stores will be feeding people full Thanksgiving dinners just to get them into the stores even earlier. Perhaps we'll have to enlarge our Thanksgiving dinner here at UUCSR to provide counter-balance...

I'm not a humbug, though! Come early December, I finally throw caution to the wind. I wander the mall and 4th St. and take in all the decorations. I find the Christmas tunes on the radio. I might even drink a peppermint mocha latte while I daydream of being able to buy everyone I know a new Lexus. (That's how you really show someone you love him or her, right? I saw that on TV.) I throw my coins in the red bucket, and try to donate to a coat drive or toy drive or blood drive.

There is a spirit of possibility and joy in the air at this time for me no matter how many ludicrous commercials or sale signs I'm subjected to, and I suspect that has mostly to do with my upbringing. I feel gratefully blessed that Christmas Eve and Christmas morning are a time of very happy memories for me. Just one smell of coffee cake and a few bars of Frank or Ella singing carols and I'm 9 years old again, teaching my baby sister all about presents and stockings as she enjoys her first conscious Christmas morning. In my mind we are both wearing pajamas with footies on them, and I am filled with a sense of love and belonging.

For many, nostalgia rules this season. We have special foods or rituals that simply must be enjoyed or practiced during this season, whether we celebrate Hanukkah or Kwanzaa or Christmas or the Solstice or Buddha's Birthday, in order for it to be right. For me, there

should be coffee cake on Christmas morning, and an orange, and gold coins in your stocking. I suspect for my kids there will have to be a party on Christmas Eve, after a service with candles and Silent Night. (I look forward to learning more about your holiday traditions on Christmas morning.)

But I also know that this season isn't joyful for all people. If we have lost loved family members we often feel their absence more acutely at holiday times. The darkness literally brings many of us down physically. If we are struggling materially, the unbridled shopping fest can seem particularly gross.

I have some sympathy for those who urge us to remember the "reason for the season", but not just for those who would turn us to Jesus (although he's actually way cool) but those who would turn us toward the lights of the Menorah, or toward the deep wisdom of Earth and Her fallow time, or even just toward simple kindness and caring for one another. Given the world's problems, I certainly do wish for a little more "reason for the season" but I think it would be nice if it were actual Reason. As in, how about all of us trying to be reasonable about how we live, what we consume, how we celebrate, and what we teach?

Whether or not we approach this season religiously and/or spiritually, I suggest that we can still use it as a time for real reflection. Whether or not we celebrate, or even like, Christmas or Rohatsu or Festivus, we might use this season, with its shorter days and colder nights, as a time for seeking out that which brings us strength and joy within our selves, each other, and Creation. Why not?

That's one of the beautiful things about being a UU. We insist upon "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." We are encouraged to use our own reasoning mind and our own intuitive heart to figure out what we value and how we want to live. We would make our own meaning in our lives, as opposed to having the meaning of things defined for us. (Although we certainly don't mind hearing what others throughout history have had to say about life.)

Cont. on page 4

Greetings from the Board

T'is the season to be thankful. And, as your Board President, I have much to be thankful for: the opportunity to serve a vibrant liberal religious community and be nurtured each Sunday by thoughtful reflections, inspiring sermons and beautiful music all of which are gracefully interwoven and presented; the ability to hear outstanding speakers on pressing social issues at monthly "Hot Topics" events sponsored by the Advocates for Social Justice (aka A4SJ); the rich and varied offerings of our Arts and Culture Ministry; and the privilege to work closely with talented Board members, whose dedication exemplifies "community" at its best.

The Board's three "goal-groups" (focusing on the Community In and Out, Spiritual Life and Infrastructure) are reaching out to many of our councils and committees to better understand their needs

and aspirations. As we make these contacts, we are struck by the significant contributions of the many volunteers who make our congregation so productive and alive.

I am sure many of you, too, have marveled at the generous donation of time and talent of so many. I am tempted to name a few, but such a list would be woefully inadequate. Instead, I have placed on the table in our entry a "thanksgiving" box into which you can put a note of appreciation to one or more individuals whose talents and hard work you want to recognize. I will collect your notes and mail them to the recipients in a UUSC holiday card before the end of the year.

Wishing all of you a joyful holiday season,
Laura Jean

Treasurer's Report

This month's column is dedicated to two favorite UU activities: Having Fun and Raising Funds! OK, so maybe the second one is not so much a favorite activity but it is a necessary one and one where the UUCSR combines with having some fun.

If you take a look at the 2011-2012 budget that we approved at our October congregational meeting you will note that we included a projection of a "fund-raising goal" of \$30,000 in this balanced budget. The fund-raising bridges the gap between what we, as a community, contribute as our annual pledges and the costs of staffing and operating our wonderful community. In effect, this "fund-raising goal" is our commitment to ourselves and our desires for a balanced budget.

Now for the good news and the not so good news about this year's fund-raising efforts. Our major fund-raiser for the year, the annual Service Auction, normally accounts for two-thirds of the total needed from fund-raisers. The 2011 Service Auction we just held was "bang on target" and thanks to the great work of Nancy, Kitty, Cathie and a whole passel of volunteers and the on-going generosity of our members.

That leaves the Board of Trustees and Financial Stewardship Council with the task of finding one or two members who would be willing to take on responsibility for coming up with an idea, plan, project (something!) which would be FUN, while at the same time raising \$5,000—\$10,000. We have one such fund-raiser already in the planning stage. Tom Bond is planning for a Jazz Concert in May featuring the nimble fingers of our own Roger Corman and Friends.

What we NEED NOW is another innovative idea from another enterprising member, someone who can get the idea underway and round-up the help he or she might need. Both the Board and Fine Stew are eager to hear your ideas and help you get started. You are not on your own but are part of a great sharing community SO put on your thinking caps, get out of the box, fantasize—do anything to come up with the winning idea. If you have one let Amy Young or I know and we'll get it to the Board and Fine Stew.

**REMEMBER FUND-RAISING IS FUN-
RAISING HERE AT THE UUCSR.**

Art Rosenblum

Growing our UUCSR Adult Religious Education Program

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, members of the Board of Trustees and Rev. Chris will host an Information and Ideas "Round Table" after the 11:00 service, at 12:30pm, in the Board Room. All who are interested in growing a rich, diverse, and inspiring Adult RE program for UUCSR are invited to attend this meeting. The agenda will include gathering your ideas about what you would like to

see offered for Adult RE, how those offerings would be best presented to meet your interests/needs, and what resources we might tap to bring your ideas to fruition. One of our Board of Trustees goals this year is to intentionally grow our Adult RE Program. This gathering is the "kick off" to making that happen. We hope to see you there!

WhaleCoast Alaska 2012

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2012 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly home stays and unique tour activities. See wildlife,

including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Reason in the Season Cont.?

Cont. from page 2

Personally, I have come to be of the mind that I don't want to "make my own meaning," so much as let the meaning of things emerge. It's much too easy to make my meaning in my own image, and I have proven repeatedly that I am far from fully wise. So I try just to look more deeply within each moment, and within each person, and ask, "What is sacred here?"

Seeking the best in things, and in people, and having confidence that what is right and good can and

will emerge is what I define being faithful. I find the sacred everywhere during the "holiday season" and I hope you can also allow this time to renew your hope, strengthen your commitment to being a peaceful, generous and caring person, and increase your sense of loving and being loved. Put on some jammies with footies and play a board game with a two-year-old and see what happens.

Blessings to everyone! ~ Rev. Chris

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

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

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Ah December! A time of dropping temperatures, gatherings of family and friends, and the hub-bub of commercialized Christmas. Every season is a busy time for families in this day and age, but the winter holiday season can be over-the-top. When Rev. Chris and I sat down to plan for the holiday season we were visited by a prophetic voice on high (who sounded remarkably like Chris) who instructed us to take heart: *we need not do EVERYTHING in the month of December.* So, with the voice of great wisdom on our side we decided that the celebration of Chalica can actually happen at *any* season of the year, and between Thanksgiving and Hanukkah and Christmas may not be the best time to engage in yet another holiday ritual. In the interest of salvaging sanity and the hope of greater participation we will celebrate Chalica in the spring this year. (If Chalica is not a holiday you are familiar with stay tuned, you will hear all about it come springtime).

There is another tradition that affirms and promotes UU Principles during the holiday season that I encourage you to participate in this year and every year. *Guest at Your Table* is an annual fund-raiser and awareness-raiser of the

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The Service Committee serves the cause of justice around the world. Their programs advance human rights, the rights of workers, and serve people whose needs are often under served in justice work . By placing the *Guest at Your Table* box on your dining table and putting coins or bills in it at every meal, you will participate the spirit of generosity that marks this season in a very meaningful way. When my children were small they would scour the house for loose change before dinner, digging deep into the couch to come up with the random lost quarter to put in the box. I read the stories of the people depicted on the box and raised their awareness of the need for all of us to take part in working for justice. This daily ritual was a reminder of what it means to give, and of how impact of our faith is larger than just what is happening here at home.

I hope your holidays will be filled with warmth, generosity and peace.

In Faith,
Deborah

Here's what's happening in RE Classes this month:

Date	Grades K-2: Wisdom Tales	3-5: Bibleodeon	6-8: Neighboring Faiths
12/04/11	Children's Chapel	All ages worship & have	Fun together!
12/11/11	<i>P.J. Funny Bunny</i>	Hanukkah <i>Theme: Religious freedom</i>	Judaism What Do We Know About the Jewish Faith
12/18/11	<i>How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss</i>	Christmas <i>Theme: Birth of Jesus</i>	Exploring Judaism with a guest from Congregation Shomrei Torah
12/25/11	Merry Christmas!	Intergenerational Service	One service at 10am

Senior High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4 - 6 pm



Adult RE Class: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting continues

Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30pm in the RE wing

Dec 6 Celebrating Holidays: in a way that expresses your values and faith

Dec 20 Respite From the Winter Holiday Rush: Finding personal meaning in the season

Music Notes

On December 4, we will have a special guest soloist, Eileen Morris, who will sing "Homeward Bound," by Marta Keen, as a solo for the 11 am service. For the 9:15 service, she will sing the same song with the choir accompanying her. Eileen has performed in and directed shows at Pocket Opera and Cinnabar Theater. She is starring in the role of Donna Elvira in the upcoming Cinnabar Theater production of Don Giovanni.

Our choir will be helping to ring in the holidays with special music at both services December 18. To celebrate Hanukkah, we will sing "Light the Candles" by Jill Callina. Then, we will really get into the holiday spirit with a medley of Irving Berlin songs, including "Count Your Blessings

Instead of Sheep," "Happy Holidays," and, of course, "White Christmas," (which we can only dream about in Sonoma County). There's a special surprise for the postlude, so don't leave early!

On Christmas Eve, you are in for several treats. You will hear the lovely voice of Kendra Light-Rossing sing a traditional Christmas piece and perhaps a more modern one. A surprise piano duo will play selections from the Nutcracker. Following an introduction by members of the choir, we will all light our candles and sing "Silent Night."

We wish everyone a joyful holiday season filled with beautiful music!

The UUCSR Writers

The **UUCSR Writers Community Outreach** is now established in the Santa Rosa Literary Community. And, we still have many Literary Outreach steps to travel.

Our "Forum" in July was very well attended--a most successful event. The Monday's in November NaNoWriMo "Write-In's" are fun, intellectually stimulating and attracted a younger college level crowd. The Poetry Slams we are sponsoring at the Video Droid "Haven Cafe", far exceeded our UUCSR Writers Steering Committee's expectations...more poets and poetry lovers are coming each month; the younger generation of poets is so very aware of life and living. The content and performance each poet expresses in his/her poems reflects such a deep feeling of hope in the middle of chaos and confusion. Words, words, words, how well the poet weaves a word into a pulse, a rhythm of words I can understand and define as Poetry.

The Next UUCSR Writers Regular Monthly Meeting - Presentations and Feedback - is on Monday, Dec 5, from 4 pm - 6 pm. Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress". Meet in the Green Room at the [UUCSR](#) Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa 707-568-5381. Info: Georgette G. deBlois, GGdeB@aol.com.

"UUCSR Writers Presents" Spring 2012 Schedule:
Poetry Slams: Due to the Sonoma County Library lack of funds and cut back in hours, they cannot offer the Poetry Slams in 2011 - 2012.

The UUCSR Writers has picked up the baton and will sponsor the Poetry Slams. Mark Lowe has, most enthusiastically, agreed to have the Slams at the Haven Coffee House in Video Droid -- one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County. The Video Droid is located at 1901 Mendocino Avenue in the Santa Rosa JC area. It's in the same parking lot as Big Lots and CVS Pharmacy. Parking is free.

FRIDAY, January 20, 2012, at 7 p.m. SLAM - EMCEE: Tom J. Mariani, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate

2012, SPRING SCHEDULE: The Third Friday of each month

Monthly Slams: Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16. Apr 20, May 18
Grand Slam: June 15

POETRY SLAMS: each Slam begins at 7 p.m.

SIGN UP to perform 6:45 - 7:10 p.m.

Cont. on page 7

The UUCSR Writers Continued

Cont. from page 6

PRIZES: MONTHLY SLAM: 1st Place - gift worth \$50, 2nd Place - gift worth \$30, 3rd Place - gift worth \$20. **GRAND SLAM:** 1st Place - \$125, 2nd Place - \$75. 3rd place - \$50

The Big Read, Sonoma County - March 2012:

Our UUCSR Writers Steering Committee is in favor of applying for a grant for "seed money" to help fund a project to encourage reading in our county. Your ideas and participation would be greatly appreciated. **Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on December 30, 2011.** Please read the following E-mail received from Melissa Kelley, project coordinator for the Big Read, Sonoma County. Then, contact Georgette G. deBlois with your suggestions.

"KRCB Public Radio & Television has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to host The Big Read throughout Sonoma County during the month of March 2012. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The Big Read book selection for Sonoma County is *Bless me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. As in previous Big Reads, there will be special programs and activities for all ages reflecting the story and themes in Anaya's book. (Note that *Bless Me, Ultima* is commonly read by high school students, but the author also has written books for younger readers, such as *Roadrunner's Dance*.)

In order to encourage creativity and a variety of events in the community, individuals, organizations or schools can apply for "seed money" to help fund their idea. We will award small grants ranging from \$50 to \$250 each through this program, for a total of \$4,000. Projects must reflect the themes in Anaya's book, *Bless me, Ultima*, or other books written by the author, and be held during the month of March 2012... Visit this Web site for additional information as it becomes available:

www.krcb.org/thebigread"

"Script Frenzy" April is National Script Writing Month - "Script Write-In's"

As of 12:01 am, April 1, 2012, Script writers all over the world will start to write the first page of a 100 page

script to be completed in 30 days. NaNoWriMo introduced "Script Frenzy" in April of 2011. Script Writers all over the world participated and just as November is National Novel Writing Month, now recognize April as the official Script Writing Month.

Join the Script Write-In's every Monday in April 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Glaser Center UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

Come to all the Write-In's or to as many as your schedule permits. Bring your computer, paper and pen, notebook, parchment and quill. We'll have coffee, tea, conversation and tables set up for those who want to write a page a day! Whatever your reason, come as you are or dress up as one of your characters. Free - Open to the General Public. Visit www.nanowrimo.org to register - region: Sonoma.

Schedule Mondays, April 2012, 6-8 pm

Script Write-In's - April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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

GGdeB@aol.com

<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

Advocates for Social Justice

Sin Pais (*Without a Country*), an award winning short film about a North Bay family fractured by deportation, will be shown on **Saturday, December 3rd** at 7:15 pm at Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa. The family depicted in the film is expected to attend. Following the showing there will be a panel of involved and knowledgeable people to answer questions and suggest ways we can help. The film-maker, Theo Rigby, will present the movie. Undocumented immigration is not just a border issue - it's right here! See the flyers at the Advocates table.

Share the Basket

On **Sunday, December 11th**, half the offertory collection will go to The Living Room, the only place for women and their children to go in the daytime. Our quarterly donation helps our neighbor across the street keep their doors open to serve these

families with hot meals, counseling, parenting classes and wholesome recreation for moms and kids, job search skills, long-range planning, and friendship. As the weather gets colder and wetter, and during the holidays when children are out of school, these services are even more important. When the basket comes your way, please be as generous as you can to help make these holidays as bright as possible.

On **Sunday, December 25th**, half the basket will go to our Saturday Breakfast program. As you can imagine, with the economy as it is, the need is real and growing. In November we served over 1,000 people, too many with children! So again, when the basket comes your way, please continue your amazing support of this much needed and valued program.

Thank you!

Hot Topic

Until recently, if you were a victim of family violence you would have to have gone to up to a half dozen different places to get the help you needed. But since October we have **The Family Justice Center!** The professional staff and volunteers empower family violence victims to live free from violence and abuse by providing comprehensive services centered on the needs of the victim through a **single point of access**. Linking to remote neighborhoods and building on strong inter-agency collaborations, they protect the vulnerable,

stop the violence, and restore hope. On **Sunday, December 4th**, Laura Colgate, the Executive Director, will meet with us in the Board Room from 12:30 to 2 pm to describe their services, answer questions, and suggest ways we can help. This trail-blazing agency has already made a difference to many families in our community! A light lunch will be available for a donation. For more information contact Linda Harlow: lmh1937@sbcglobal.net or 526-3528.

Women Together

On **Saturday, December 17th**, from noon to 3 pm, all UU women and friends are invited to Women Together's Annual Holiday Party. This year it will be at the new and newly remodeled home of Mary Wagner, 4190 Woodland Shadows Place, Santa Rosa, off of Montecito Avenue. As in past years, this will be a fun and relaxing break from the Holiday frenzy. Plan to bring a lunch dish to share and carpool if possible as parking is limited. For more information or questions, contact Linda Harlow: lmh1937@sbcglobal.net or 526-3528

Together in Exploration (TIE) Group News

The seven new Together In Exploration (TIE) groups are all meeting regularly, twice a month, to enjoy the deep listening, the intriguing topics, and the respectful good humor that bind these temporary groups together. Every TIE group practices the joy of being in a close group, treasuring the time they spend together, even while realizing that the group will be over at the end of May. These skills are necessary for successful living in our UU community and the Steering Committee works hard to make the TIE experience available to anyone in the congregation willing to make a commitment to it. Spaces for additional participants may be available in January. If you are interested, please call or email Michele Murphy 707-479-3661, wyomurphy@att.net <<mailto:wyomurphy@att.net>>.

Also, ***SAVE the DATE, Saturday, January 21 for the TIE Potluck.*** All current and former TIE group members are warmly invited to join the Steering Committee for a potluck lunch on that day.

At UUCSR, there are many great ways to connect with others in the congregation. One such way is through women's support groups. Women meet and share in a loving and intimate manner. If you are interested in joining an existing group or want to help start a new one, contact Mary Wolfe mwolfe@sonic.net or 544-3134 Be well, Mary Wolfe, Women's Support groups facilitator

Women's Support Groups

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Evening Book Group

Our December meeting we will focus on poetry. Bring several poems to share with the group. These can be old favorites, ones you've recently discovered, or some you have pondered about and want some help interpreting. Also bring a light snack to share. We will meet on December 8th at 547 Mendocino from 7 to 9 p.m. in the RE wing. For the January meeting, read anything by M.F.K. Fisher.

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.

December 18

January 15

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Redwood Arts Council presents

KRONOS QUARTET

Friday, December 2
8:00 p.m.



Free Holiday Concert New Horizons Band of Sonoma County

Sonoma County's renowned & acclaimed all-senior-citizen band returns for an afternoon of upbeat holiday tunes, rousing marches, Broadway hits, and one or two musical surprises

Saturday, Dec. 3
3:00 p.m.

Healdsburg Chorus

Holiday Concert SONGS FOR SOCKS

Sunday, December 4
3:00 p.m.



Sonoma County Chamber Singers

"Yule Love This Concert!"

Saturday, December 3
7:30 p.m.



Sutter VNA Hospice presents Service of Remembrance

Music, candle lighting,
Reading of names

Wednesday, December 7
6:30 p.m.

Music & Laughter for the Holidays

A Home for the Holidays

Music, Song & Dance

A Benefit for the Sloan House

Sunday, December 11
6:30 p.m.



David Templeton's Twisted Christmas LIVE

No. 9

Outrageous holiday stories read aloud by some of the Bay Area's funniest people!

Sat., December 10
7:30 p.m.

Actors Basement presents
William Shakespeare's

Twelfth Night

December 16 & 17



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 20, October 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Laura Jean Hageman

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

Members Not Present: None

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Terry Graham (Recording Secretary), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer)

Opening Words: Chris – Readings from Richard Fewkes and Steve Stock

Agenda Review: No changes

Minutes: Minutes approved as submitted

Open Mic: John initiated a discussion regarding “UUs visiting other UUs” with mention of his recent visit to a Milwaukee UU congregation of ~360 members and brought back a “welcoming packet” which could serve as an example of a similar packet for UUCSR. A brief discussion ensued with references to congregations in Tulsa, San Francisco and Washington D.C.

Joe mentioned the recently published memoir by Harry Belafonte and the references to BOT member Craig Work in the book.

Miscellaneous Announcements: Laura Jean shared that Co-Treasurer Amy Young’s surgery was successful.

Laura Jean distributed a handout e-mail from PCD regarding an upcoming series of events entitled “Transforming Ourselves and the World” 4 Feb 2012 & 27-29 April 2012. Chris is intending to participate & will provide agenda details as they become available.

The North Bay Sponsoring Committee will join other Industrial Areas Foundation groups from the Bay Area in a Community Economic Conference: “Reclaiming Our Citizenship; Taking Responsibility for the Common Good”, October 23 at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco.

Laura Jean distributed copies of the “Covenant of the 2011/12 UUCSR Board of Trustees” which was adopted 2 Sep 2011 at the BOT retreat.

Treasurer’s Report: Art briefly addressed: (1) the handout monthly financial statements. Both the Income and Expense through Aug (fiscal month 2 of 12) ran approximately \$10K below budget, netting a near zero Income minus Expense, negative \$650 and (2) the Financial Stewardship Council requires resolution of several issues requiring BOT involvement, viz. (a) identification of the owner of the canvas effort and (b) identification of owners responsible for the TBD major fund raisers.

Art addressed several items regarding the Endowment Committee. Art’s Congregational meeting response to a question concerning the Endowment Fund contribution to the 2010-11 Operations was corrected to indicate that the approximate \$4K was not returned from Operations to the Endowment Fund. Also there is \$5K of Endowment Funds in the Operations 2011/12 budget. An addendum to the congregational meeting minutes is appropriate. The Committee, with Laura

Jean in attendance, will meet 3 Nov to deal with the outstanding issue of annual transfers from the Fund to Operations.

Art initiated a discussion regarding the effects of the Glazer Center activities upon the total Income statement. Topics of discussion touched upon the (1) timing of actual Glazer center income versus that of the budget, (2) expected cash flow from the Glazer Center (David Templeton) may be inconsistent with the budget, and (3) event reservation cancelation policy.

Authorization of Bank Account Signers: Two handouts were distributed specifying that LJ Hageman, ML Jaffray, C Wiese, A Rosenblum, A Young and C Bell are authorized signers for (1) two Exchange Bank accounts and two Schwab accounts and (2) an Everbank account. Separate motions were made by Joe Como and seconded by Alan Proulx to accept the authorizations. Each motion passed unanimously viva voce.

Board Member Evaluation of Reverend Chris Bell for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee: ACTION: Each Board member is to complete an evaluation NLT the November meeting. Forms were distributed by Laura Jean. Laura Jean will compile the inputs in preparation for approval at the December meeting.

Children’s RE Task Force: BOT to invite the Children’s RE Task Force to report status at the next BOT meeting.

Developing Responsibility Grids & Timelines for Short Range

Goals: The Board members separated into three working groups to initiate planning, identify stakeholders & assign responsibilities toward accomplishing the short term goals which were established at the BOT retreat in September: (1) Community, consisting of Jeanie, Mary Louise, Lois and Alan, (2) Spiritual Life, consisting of Joe, Cathie, Peter & Chris and (3) Infrastructure, consisting of Ann, John, Laura Jean and Craig. ACTION: A presentation is due from each group NLT the November BOT meeting re tasks, timelines and contact status.

Planning & Execution of Recent Events: Congregational meeting review comments included (1) ended on time, (2) BOT members more active participation a plus, (3) handling questions & mic usage less than desirable – better up-front orchestration required, (4) clarity of message questioned regarding FY 2010/11 budget surplus.

Revival review comments included: (1) generally positive response, particularly on Facebook, (2) lengthy, (3) Mary Louise venue work/planning appreciated, (4) detailed planning required earlier, (5) should solicit opinions from other participating congregations regarding what worked & didn’t, (6) a budget is required, (7) food trucks proved inadequate concerning quality & long lines, (8) wheel chair access not adequately planned, (9) an officer-of-day required, (10) outreach effort needs strengthening to encourage first time participants.

Closing Words: Ann read a Margaret Mead quotation: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Graham

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