



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• February 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 2 •

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

February 5

Outcasts

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer,
The Youth Group*

It has been said, from the Prophets onward, that those on the margins - the rejected, broken, poor and lonely - have a special relationship to the Divine. But being on the outside really stinks! Today we'll consider how to make EVERYONE belong with the help of our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists.

Sunday, February 12

Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations

*Service Leaders: Clovice Lewis, Susan Panttaja,
Frances Corman*

Our second UU Principle calls us to act toward others with justice, equity, and compassion. Compassion allows us to bridge gaps of race, creed, and society that might otherwise stop us. Compassion can be a momentary event, or it may be the spiritual basis for an entire lifetime of other-centered action. Clovice Lewis will share an experience of an extraordinary act of compassion and courage that took place at the height of the civil rights era. Though he was a child at the time, the selfless act of kindness by strangers has inspired him throughout his life.

Clovice Lewis is a member and past president of Lake County UU Fellowship, and is an award-winning cello player. He will be sharing both his thoughts and music with us.

February 19

"Well, I'm Not Really Much of a Joiner..."

*Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, David Hope,
Andrew Hidas*

The Choir will offer music at 11:00

Political parties, charities, clubs and social groups, the Parent Teacher Organization, the Board of your condo association, the company for whom you work and, of course, the UU Congregation Santa Rosa. It seems like everybody wants a piece of you and it can get a little overwhelming. If you give of yourself without losing your self, however, the benefits of *joining*, both to you and the world, can be priceless.

February 26

An Unfinished Life?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Andy Levine

Coinciding with a set of performances this weekend at the Glaser Center, this morning we will explore the music and message of Kate Wolf, the California folk singer who died in 1986. Her affirmation of love in the face of death was, and is, a sacred thing. And her music is as sweet as a sunrise over Annadel. Come sing with us.

March 5

Together we share, and by this we live.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Claire Beery

Yes, it's Annual Pledge Drive time. I will not ask you to *give*, nor to *donate*, nor to *pay for*, but to *invest* in this community and its brilliant possibilities. Jesus suggested that kind and generous people receive their dividends in heaven. Maybe so. But I say we also receive them right here and now...

Into Each Life . . .



Rain at last, rain at last, thank God Almighty there's rain at last!

Although I cannot possibly complain about the weather that we've had over the last eight weeks, I must admit I found myself starting to worry about the real possibility of a drought this year.

This is new to me, this worrying about our cows and our grapes and our salmon and my long meditative showers. It is strange to actually yearn for being cold and wet. I grew up next to a Lake Erie in Cleveland. It's a pretty big lake, you know. I never worried about water there. In Boulder we were right at the foot of a massive mountain range which sent roaring water through narrow canyons all year long. And Boston? Let's just say a lack of precipitation was never, ever, a concern.

Nearly everyone knows the old expression, "Into each life some rain must fall." These words are often offered up as comfort to someone who is facing hard times or sorrow. They come from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, that giant of 19th Century American letters, who just happened to worship at the First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts, my home church while I studied at Harvard. It has been a Unitarian congregation since 1829. The poem, titled simply *The Rainy Day*, goes like this:

THE day is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
My thoughts still cling to the mouldering past,
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart, and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary.

The image of the rain evokes our tears, and the leaves blowing from the vines speaks to our inevitable experience of loss and change. Some days do just kind of stink. Whether the poem is comforting or not depends, I suppose, on whether we actually believe that behind the clouds the sun is still shining. Indeed, sometimes we might struggle to believe that there is a sun at all.

In Zen we sometimes speak of enlightenment as being like the sun, or the moon or a mountain peak, which is hidden by the clouds of our delusion. We can speak of God the

same way. Such images suggest that the truth - our connectedness, our freedom, our peace, our wisdom - is always there whether we see it or not. Faith is just acting as though we really believe it.

As the years have passed, I have come to see both clouds and moon as necessary, as not separate from each other. The moon is the clouds and the clouds are the moon. Happiness and sorrow go together, inevitably, even beautifully. I would not ever really know that I am happy (as I generally am) without having had the experience of sorrow, anger, disappointment, and grief. I strive now to embrace everything that life brings as a part of a larger whole that transcends both good and bad as we conventionally define them. Just as we must accept a child or lover completely, warts and all, if we are to truly say we love them.

Longfellow tuned into awareness, too, as he wrote in *A Psalm of Life*:

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.
Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than today.

We can't escape our fate, in other words. But what we can do is change how we respond. We can *act*, if we choose, in a life-affirming way that goes beyond mere "enjoyment" for a deeper and more mysterious sense of contentment and possibility.

Over the next month, our congregation will hold another round of neighborhood house meetings sponsored by UUCAN (oh, yes you can!), our "Conversation and Action Network" that exists to strengthen our community internally and to lead our community organizing efforts with other local congregations. These upcoming meetings are for no other purpose than to bring us together as friends and neighbors to discuss the rain that is falling in our lives right now. Far too often, we suffer privately. These meetings will allow us to be umbrellas for one another, as it were, simply by being present and opening ourselves to each other, and considering how we can support each other. I hope you will attend and that it will strengthen your sense of belonging and neighborliness with your fellow members and friends.

Of course, you know, you don't have to wait for an official reason to get together. All you need a little will-power, and maybe a good pair of galoshes...

So let it rain, and let us be comfort to one another. I hope to see you in the warm dry halls of UUCSR soon.

Greetings from the Board

For many the term "governance" in the context of our church community does not elicit a lot of excitement or interest. But our governance system is important because it is key in making the work of our dedicated volunteers and staff rewarding, fun and productive.

A key part of governance is how we organize our activities into committees and groups. Several years ago we developed a governance system that put all committees and groups into one of five councils. The councils were intended to improve coordination and communication of activities and free the Board of Trustees to focus on long-range planning. For the most part, however, these goals were not realized. This year the Board adopted as one of its short-term goals a comprehensive review of the council system and a reorganization of the system as indicated by the review.

To this end, on January 7 the Board, Minister and DRE held a lively and productive Powwow with the leaders of the five councils. Each council-group discussed the needs of its constituent committees and groups and the effectiveness of the council system in addressing those needs. Many committees and groups were found

to be self-managing and did not benefit from the council system.

The Board presented an alternative model made up of twelve "teams" which involve committees and groups that have similar functions and occasionally need to be coordinated. The new model was well received as a starting point for a new governance system. A number of modifications to the model were suggested and adopted during the meeting. More fine-tuning will occur in the next few months.

A report of the Powwow, which describes the constituents and contacts for each of the twelve teams, will be distributed at the **Congregational Meeting on Feb 19**. A beautiful circular diagram, representing the relation between the twelve teams, the Board, the Minister and staff, and the Committee on Shared Ministry, was designed and produced by Board members, Ann Chambers and Peter Wilson, and will be distributed on Feb 19. That alone is reason enough to attend the Congregational Meeting!

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President



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.

February 26

March 18

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions
Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly
10 a.m.—February 22, 2012

Treasurer's Report

If it's Spring it must be time for the Rain and our Canvass.

March is the time for our annual Pledge Drive, the time when we as members of this supportive community make known our support to the UUCSR Community.

This year we will kick off the Pledge Drive on March 11 and hope to wrap it up by the 25th. For the first time in several years we plan a "Face to Face" campaign, with canvassers from YOUR community meeting with EACH member on a face to face basis. There are several reasons for using this approach:

- * Every couple of years this reaching out from the congregation to the community is necessary to keep our community ties strong and resilient.
- * Feedback from these canvasser-member meetings provides an important channel for the Board, Shared Ministry and the Minister keeping abreast of the pulse of the congregation.

While this type of canvass is necessary every several years there is one major drawback to a face-face canvass, it is labor intensive -- it requires a lot of Canvassers and Canvass Captains to make it run smoothly and to

spread the work. Alan Proulx and the rest of the Canvass Team will be in touch with you shortly to ask you to serve as a Captain or Canvasser (training to be provided). When you are called - Just Say Yes.

Serving as a Canvasser is a great way to get to know some of your fellow congregates better and for them to get to know YOU. The first time I canvassed (my first year with the UUFSC), the Reverend Mary Harrington set me up to canvass three female octogenarians - it was one fantastic experience and boy did I enjoy it. You will too!

On another note, the Budget Audit Team, led by Jan Hess with Bob Watkins and I, reviewed the Congregations' books for the six months. Except for some minor areas which need to be cleared up with the Administrator (Janis Brewster) the team found our books, bank accounts, etc. in good order. The team prepared a memo for the Board and can report that the UUCSR is in good fiscal condition.

And with that good news I'll return to watching the blessed rain falling on my deck - hope you enjoy it also.

Art Rosenblum, Co Treasurer

Congregational Meeting—February 19, 2012

Please plan to attend our first UUCSR Congregational Meeting of the 2012 church year on Sunday, February 19th at 12:45pm.

Come hear what your Board of Trustees has been working on, what visions are being discussed for the future of UUCSR, and the latest plans for the Annual Budget Drive — plus much more.

Lunch will be provided courtesy of the A4SJ with the proceeds funding the Adrienne Swenson Award.

Childcare will also be provided!!

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Last month we completed the 7-session class, *The Art of UU Parenting*. The class provided a setting for parents to explore their own spirituality and look at specific ways they can teach their children through family ritual, meaningful holiday celebrations and spiritual practice. One of the things that made the class rich was that the families included children from age 13 months to 13 years. Parents learned a lot from the experiences others. Over the course of four months, sharing became more deep and a feeling of support and connection was felt. The Art of UU Parenting was so useful to the families who participated that they decided to keep the group going and open it up to any parent who wants to join in. The group will focus on how to raise your children in a spiritually alive home. It will be a place to share the struggles and the wonders of raising UU children and get support from other families on this path. The group is re-forming so it does not require that you participated in the previous sessions. It has not yet been decided if the group will meet once or twice monthly, the group will make that decision at the first meeting.

The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting
Thursday, February 23 from 7 - 8:30pm in the RE wing
All parents are welcome. Childcare will be provided
Contact Deborah Mason for more information and to sign up.
debmasonuu@yahoo.com or 568-5381

Cakes for Kenya

Just in time for Valentine's Day the children of RE will be offering beautiful cakes for your Valentine's delight. On Sunday, February 12 after the 11:00 service cakes made by creative pairs of kids and adults will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. This is our first fundraiser of the year to support our adopted village in Kenya. Not only will you have the opportunity to take home a delectable cake, you will learn more about our project in Kenya. Kids should plan on staying after RE for the auction and everyone should plan on bidding high for this great cause.

In faith,
 Deborah



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

02/05/12	Children's Chapel	All ages worship together	Theme: Celebrating Love
02/12/12	Cake Auction <i>The auction will take place right after service - please plan to stay.</i>	Children will spend the morning preparing their cakes for auction	Proceeds will go to support the children's village in Kenya.
	Grades K-2: Wisdom Tales	3-5: Bibleodeon	6-8: Neighboring Faiths
02/19/12	<i>Old Turtle and the Broken Truth</i> by Douglas Wood	Moses part 1- <i>Theme: Leaders</i>	Buddhism - Learning about Spiritual Practice
02/26/12	<i>Miss Rumphius</i> by Barbara Cooney	<i>Moses part 2 - Theme: Chosen People</i>	Visit to a Buddhist Temple

Child Care is provided in our Preschool Room every Sunday during the 11:00 service for children infancy through age 4.

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4 - 6. Youth Group Advisors are Rev. Chris Bell and Deborah Mason

Music Notes

In February the UUCSR choir will be singing songs in honor of Black History Month. These songs include some spirituals such as *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* as well as a song called *The Dream Keeper* with text by Langston Hughes and music by Rollo A. Dillworth.

Spirituals had a very important role in African American history. Forbidden to read, slaves often learned stories from the Bible through singing spirituals. Also the spirituals were songs that allowed slaves to express sorrow over a life in bondage and hope for a better life. Frederick Douglass said, "Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears."

The meaning of the words in spirituals had various roles. Though some people may be put off by the words used in spirituals it's important to understand the context in which these songs were sung. Spirituals were actually subversive songs that allowed slaves to communicate secret messages and information to each other.

For example *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, which was a favorite of Harriet Tubman, conveyed information about the Underground Railroad. The words of this spiritual say, "I looked over Jordan and what did I see/ Coming for to carry me home/ A band of angels coming after me." This refers to an Underground Rail-

road station atop a hill across from the Ohio River. The river was hard to cross so fugitives had to wait for help coming from the hill. *Wade in the Water* was a cautionary song - instructing runaways to use the water as a way to keep dogs from catching their scent.

A more modern song *The Dream Keeper* expresses a collective hope in the power of dreams. The song blends chanting and jazz in a beautiful setting. In the song the keeper of dreams is summoned and delivers a message:

"Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers.
Bring me all of your heart melodies
That I may wrap them in a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers of the world."

In a post-Obama era many columnists/bloggers have been questioning the necessity of Black History month. It's a question that sparks heated debates and I as an Asian American certainly don't have the answer. But as an American and a musician, I feel the songs we'll be singing in Black History month tell a story of a history that should never be forgotten.

Submitted by
Nancy Hayashibara



Lunch before the Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, February 19th, the Advocates for Social Justice will be selling a delicious bag lunch before the Congregational Meeting. The proceeds will go to funding the Adrienne Swenson Award.

This award goes to a local high school Senior who has been active in peace and justice work and plans to continue her/his education at college or technical school. This is the fourth year we have given this Award in honor of the late Adrienne Swenson, long-time member of our congregation, tireless leader for peace and justice known and respected through-

out the County, and who was also a dedicated teacher.

We have made some changes in our process this year. We are working with three high schools, Piner, Analy, and Santa Rosa. We have already met with the Principals and given them the materials they'll need to choose a student from the class of 2012. Also, due to the ever increasing cost of education, even at public institutions, we have decided to increase the Award to \$1,000. So that's where the lunch comes in!

Thank you for your support ~ and bon appetit!

UUCSR Writers

The UUCSR Writers sponsors the Poetry Slams. Your financial support accounts for 100% of the funds needed to provide the Prizes at each Slam. Our goal is to raise \$1,000, to pay the winners in the 2012 Slams. Any amount donated shall be greatly appreciated.

Monthly Slams: 1st Place \$50, 2nd Place \$30, 3rd Place \$20

Grand Slam: 1st Place \$125, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$50

Please make your Tax Deductible check payable to: UUCSR

Please write "UUCSR Writers" on the memo line.
Mail to: UUCSR, 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

Thursday's at the "Haven Cafe"

Meet every Thursday morning, 10 am - 12 noon

Join us at the Video Droid's "Haven Cafe" 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, a morning pastry and enjoy the company of "wannabe literary folks" - writers, poets and film makers - in a very relaxed "just a lot of talk" atmosphere.

Take Care,
Georgette G. deBlois



North Bay Sponsoring Committee News

Unitarian Universalist Conversation and Action Network (UUCAN)

There are two ways that our community organizing works, one is within the UUCSR community and the other is in the larger community. Some people think that the work of UUCAN and the North Bay Sponsoring Committee is strictly political/justice oriented. Not so. Our work is both an internal effort to enhance and support the well being of the congregation and its members as well as a mechanism for working politically for the common good in the larger world. These two aspects can have significant overlap when the concerns within the congregation reflect issues facing the larger community of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County or the State.

This month we have events happening in both of these realms.

On the home front, beginning February 4 we will be holding House Meetings in homes of congregants to bring together members who live in the same general vicinity. In Sonoma County "neighborhoods" can encompass a large area, but we will attempt to create the feeling of neighborhood though we may not live right next door. The purpose of the House Meetings is to get to know your neighbor - to share from the heart so that we might know one another better and be a stronger circle of care. Our Mission calls for us to care for one another, and our Covenant calls us to supportive, loving relationships. When we know one another on a deeper level our

faith is strengthened and our community is more meaningful. If you haven't received a call about the House Meetings yet, you will. If you have but need to call your leader back, please do. We hope to have all who can be part of this.

On the larger community front, there will be a "Leader's Assembly" gathering members from all of our NBSC institutions to hear about the good work of our three Research Action Teams (in the areas of Mental Health, Education, and Police Community Relations/Immigration). We will present stories of our people connected to our local research work as we create a narrative for the Common Good in Sonoma County. You will hear what we have been up to, what we are up against and where we are going. There will be an opportunity to share with people from our sister institutions so that we might create relationships that enhance our work and give us power. And we will begin planning toward an Issue Conference/Gathering for the Common Good with key allies in the Spring. Come one come all whether you consider yourself a leader or a person who wants to know more, we hope you'll attend.

Leader's Assembly - County-wide Internal Action

Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00PM
Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation,
Santa Rosa

Advocates for Social Justice



Share the Basket

On **Sunday, February 12th**, $\frac{1}{2}$ the collection will go to **Community Bikes**. Community Bikes is a reuse and repair training program operated by LITE Initiative. It is one of a handful of bicycle shops serving western Santa Rosa and West County. The staff teaches all interested parties how to maintain, repair and refurbish bikes and bike equipment. They also restore and sell donated bikes to the public. Thousands of people visit the shop and attend Community Bikes events. In 2008, an average of 50 bikes per month were processed. Catholic Charities, Interlink Self Help Center, The Middle Way, Green Acres Boys Home, New Ways to Work and Analy High

School's Student Commute Program have all benefited, and training classes are being planned or have been conducted for Analy High School, Green Acres and Catholic Charities' homeless shelter. This is an innovative way to encourage people to get out of their cars, teach useful skills, and provide low-cost transportation. Please be as generous as you can in support of this creative program.

On **Sunday, February 26th**, $\frac{1}{2}$ the collection will again go to our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. This year our grant monies may be cut and as you know the need continues unabated. Your monthly support is what makes it possible for our Congregation to provide this much appreciated service. Thank you!

Hot Topic—Sunday February 5th

WHAT IS SOCIAL LOCATION, AND WHAT IS YOURS?

Please join Stephanie Puentes, a Diversity Educator, for this interactive session designed to help us understand how our society teaches us to think about ourselves and others. Through interactive exercises, we will explore our own social location (our lens and filters) as a basis for affirming justice and equity for others. As the saying goes, a fish doesn't recognize water, so until we become aware of the uncon-

scious assumptions we have made and continue to make, we will not be able to transcend the limitations of our social group. Many years ago Rogers and Hammerstein said it clearly: "You've got to be taught before it's too late/Before you are six or seven or eight/To hate all the people your relatives hate/You've got to be carefully taught." Sadly, most of us have, whether we know it or not.

We will meet from 12:30 to 2 pm. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, February 9th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing.

The February selection is *Yankee Lawyer* by Arthur Train. Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

The selection for March is *You Know When the Men Are Gone* by Siobhan Fallon.

Linda Lampson



Committee on Shared Ministry

The Committee on Shared Ministry is charged with overseeing the general health of the congregation, supporting the minister in his various roles, and providing conflict resolution when needed. In the past we have also offered classes to promote healthy communication in our community. If you have ideas for such a class, or have concerns about the congre-

gation, please feel free to contact any of us. We all appreciate your input on any topic. Our monthly meetings are confidential.

The committee members are Cathy Read (chair), Rev, Chris Bell, John Chenoweth, Bill Foshee, Mary Lill Lee, Andy Levine and Mary Wagner.

Glaser Center News

Defining the term 'Outreach' within our Arts & Culture Ministry

Going too far.

According to my handy online Wiktionary, the word "outreach," as a noun, is defined as "The act or practice of visiting and providing the services (of a charity or other organization) to people who might not otherwise have access to those services." I prefer the verb definitions: "To reach further than; to surpass or exceed; to go too far."

From the beginning, I have viewed our arts & culture ministry as an outreach that stretches wide enough to include our UUCSR members, their friends and family, AND the wider community in which we live and serve. It is not enough to simply offer music and theater and film and spoken word programs for us (or, ahem, those of us who take advantage of the programs offered as part of our Arts & Culture ministry), for these programs to have the impact we intend, we must reach folks outside our family. We must reach the people we work with, the folks who live in our neighborhoods, the members of organizations we belong to and the schools we attend. To have an effective outreach, we must "surpass or exceed" what we have been doing. We must risk "going too far."

It's not as scary as it seems.

When you have something people want, they don't really mind you offering it to them. The trick is deciding who the people are "out there" in our circles of existence who would welcome hearing the words, "You know, you might be interested in this . . ." followed by details of an upcoming event. You could even simply hand them a flyer. Or include a link to our website. Whatever.

The point is, the programs we present really ARE going to be of interest to at least some of the people you know, and part of our outreach (the part that includes me and you) is getting the information to them. For example . . .

For three days at the beginning of February, the award-winning, Santa Rosa-based, off-Broadway appearing youth theater company known as Walking Elephant Theater will be performing its new documentary theater project: 'Civil Disobedience: The Musical.' As anyone knows who saw one of Walking Elephant's productions of 'Prop 8 Love Stories' or 'Bully,' these are remarkably

funny and moving shows. In the new one, the kids (aged 8 - 18) interviewed a string of activists, from founding members of the Black Panthers and people who walked with Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma to others who've put their ideals—and their bodies—on the line in actions of civil disobedience. The stories they tell, now recreated word-for-word by the young actors (some set to music!), are inspiring, electrifying, a little bit scary, and riveting. Walking Elephant shows are always a bit of a celebration, so be thinking of who you know who would welcome hearing about these performances, and who might appreciate an invitation from you to attend.

Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, are at 8:00, and Sunday, February 5 is at 3:00. Tickets, available after the service most Sundays, are \$15 general, \$10 for seniors and students.

Last fall, the theater department of Sonoma State University presented a play, on campus, that electrified the students and drew the attention of the whole community, leading to sell-out crowds and long lines of people seeking tickets. The show was Paula Vogel's extraordinary drama 'How I Learned to Drive,' a beloved 1997 off-Broadway hit about difficult subjects, made lyrically accessible, even uplifting and humane, in the poetic words of Vogel. In the play a grown woman narrates the story of her Southern youth, growing up a misfit in a family that does not understand her. Known as Lil' Bit, she strikes up a relationship with her Uncle Peck, who begins giving her driving lessons, forays into personal freedom that quickly lead Lil Bit into uncharted territory, as Uncle Peck's interests clearly become inappropriate. With surprising humor and shattering honesty, the play shows how this young woman grows into a self-determined survivor, without losing sight of the wounded, broken humanity of the man from whom she learned to drive, and in a sense, to finally stand up for herself. SSU's production of 'How I Learned to Drive' will be presented here, in full, on Friday, February 24, at 7:30. A fundraiser for the UUCSR, tickets are \$15 general and \$10 for seniors and students. Chances are, there is someone in your sphere who loves first-rate theater, or perhaps would be interested in this powerful story.

Cont. on page 10



Glaser Center News Cont.

Cont. from page 9

Chances are good, also, that someone you know is in love with the music of Kate Wolf, the Sonoma County folksinger who died in the early 80s of cancer. Her songs (*Give Yourself to Love, Across the Great Divide, Love Still Remains*) have lived on, in on the weekend of February 25 and 26, a new choral work, *Unfinished Life*, will be premiered here at the Glaser Center in a pair of performances by the California Redwood Chorale. Composed by Randall Keith Horton, the piece interweaves pieces of Kate's music into a larger work that celebrates the songwriter's life and singular voice. The show on Saturday, February 25 is at 8:00, and the Sunday

matinee is at 3:00. Tickets are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door.

Take a chance. Reach out to those around you. These events, designed to inspire stimulating conversation and transformative discussion, could be a way of deepening your relationships with others. Who knows, one of these programs might even change someone's life. Check the website (www.glasercenter.com) for other upcoming programs. Enjoy reaching out!

David Templeton

Glaser Center Artistic Director

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 15, December 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:33 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), Craig Work

Members Not Present: Peter Wilson

Non-Members Present: Chris Bell (Minister), Sibyl Day (Acting Recording Secretary), Susan Dickey (RE Committee Member), Deborah Mason (RE Director), Art Rosenblum (Co-Treasurer), and Amy Young (Co-Treasurer)

Opening Words by Rev. Chris

Agenda Review: No changes

Minutes: Approved as amended, with the following added to the end of the last sentence of the Community Group report: "to facilitate increased attendance at congregational meetings."

One-on-One Sharing

Open Mic: Rev. Chris reported that David Templeton was approached about having the Glaser Center as the venue for the week long Santa Rosa International Film Festival beginning next September. In lieu of money payment, the festival representative proposed having a permanent movie screen installed (16' and about an \$8,000 value). ACTION: The board agreed for David to have further discussions with the representative and keep the board informed. ACTION: Rev. Chris will ask David to get more details of the festival's week day schedule; how concessions will be handled; a timeframe for decisions; and whether or not the installation of the screen requires permitting.

Children's RE Task Force report to Board: Deborah Mason, DRE, reported that the RE program is focused on attracting and retaining new families; informing the wider community about the program; and having enough volunteers to run the program. The RE Task Force is working on making a clear and consistent statement about what is taught in RE. The Adult RE class, The Art of UU Parenting, has continued and has seven participating families. The Youth Group is planning for General Assembly in June, and the MUUGS group recently visited the Sts. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church. RE would like a commitment from the board for improving RE and family ministry. Deborah suggested that the board co-host an after-service open house in the RE wing; and consider RE needs in the budget negotiations (new shelving system, paint, etc.).

Treasurer Report: Budget Task Force – Art noted that there are budget timelines that need to be met. Next month budget requests need to be submitted to the Budget Task Force. The Service Auction netted \$21,287. ACTION: The budget request form from last year needs to be located and distributed.

Pledge Drive Task Force: Alan Proulx, co-chair of the task force, said that the theme for the pledge drive has been identified and it will be a one-on-one canvass. Andrew Hidas's firm will help design the brochure. March 4th will be the kickoff with a Sunday sermon and the drive will continue for two weeks. The task force will next meet on January 9th. ACTION: Alan will talk to Art about the budget needed for promotion of the pledge drive, and Alan will email more details before the next meeting.

Cont. on page 11

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Cont. 15, December 2011

Cont. from page 10

Board Approval of consolidated Board-Evaluation of Rev. Chris:

ACTION: The evaluation of Rev. Chris, as consolidated and reviewed by the board, was approved. The motion was moved by John, seconded by Craig, and passed unanimously. **ACTION:** Laura Jean will review the report with Rev. Chris.

Decision to join the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations:

There are 19 UU congregations in the Bay Area that are members. Dues are \$100 a year. For this year, the money for the dues will come from the Board's Leadership Development budget; then classified as dues in next year's budget. There is a requirement for a liaison. **ACTION:** Moved by Cathie, seconded by Joe, and passed with one abstention (John), UUCSR will become an associate member of the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations in the Bay Area. **ACTION:** Jeanie agreed to be the liaison. **ACTION:** Rev. Chris will fill out the form and give to Janis for payment of the dues.

Board approval of Chalice Lighter grant application: This is a grant used for growth, and would be used for next year's revival, including hall rental, advertising, and promotion. Bill Schultz, former president of the UUA, is committed to attend next year. **ACTION:** Alan will write the grant application on Monday and send it out to the board by email for review and board approval.

Goal Groups Reports: Spiritual Life Group – Adult & Children's RE (Peter, Joe, Cathie, Rev. Chris) – Cathie reported that she met with 10-12 members on December 11th to brainstorm ideas about RE. The group will meet again after the holidays. **ACTION:** Cathie will write up and distribute to the board a list of ideas from the December 11th meeting.

Community Group (Alan, Jeanie, Lois, Mary Louise): Lois reported that she and Mary Louise attended a meeting of the membership committee, whose new chair is Sybil Hunt. Alan suggested having donation envelopes in pews and also available when the baskets get passed. Jeanie reported on her meeting with Deborah about UUCAN and ways that the congregation and board can learn more about UUCAN and the North Bay Sponsoring Committee. **ACTION:** Jeanie will send information to the Focus List regarding UUCAN being on the agenda for the congregational meeting.

Infrastructure Group (John, LJ, Craig, Ann): Regarding Governance, Laura Jean had a brainstorming session to plan a Council Powwow On January 7th from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the board room. Rev. Chris will facilitate this meeting on the 7th, and it will deal with how councils work and what role they play in the budget process. Also, regarding what groups interact and what ones may be extraneous to the council system. John will meet with the Operations committee regarding planning the development of the physical plant. Financial Stewardship will send their

charter to the board for review and feedback, probably before the January board meeting. **ACTION:** Council Powwow on January 7th. **ACTION:** Agenda item for next month's board meeting regarding what to present at the next congregational meeting about progress on the Congregation's short-term goals.

Update on Fundraising Efforts (Alan, Lois, Mary Louise, LJ):

Alan reported on a brainstorming meeting attended by David Templeton who suggested that fundraisers not be "events" which would compete with Glaser Center "events". David suggested that UUCSR sponsor a dress rehearsal at the 6th Street Playhouse. Alan learned that this could net \$750 to \$1,700; however, the only rehearsal available this year would coincide with the pledge drive in March and therefore is not a viable option. Laura Jean reported that a crab feed could net between \$835 and \$1,700, but would be fairly labor intensive. The Roger Corman concert (his appearance donated by Tom Bond and Laura Jean) should bring in \$3,000 to \$4,000. For next year, we will consider for fundraisers a 6th Street Playhouse rehearsal and Rev. Chris in Conversation, possibly with an author on a book tour. It was agreed that a targeted initiative or funds for something new is a better reason for a fundraiser than a budgetary shortfall. **ACTION:** Table the issue of extra fundraising for now.

Board membership for 2012/2013: Cathie Wiese, John Farison, and Laura Jean Hageman agreed to serve another 2-year term. Ann Chambers and Craig Work are finishing their second term and retiring from the Board.

By-law Revisions: The Board suggested that only the changes in Section 2 of Article 4 be on the agenda for the winter congregational meeting. This section, as amended, will have board members nominated and elected at the winter congregational meeting, to begin serving their terms in July. There will be an opportunity for an after service discussion about the bylaws' amendment prior to the congregational meeting. The revised section of the bylaws would be voted on at the congregational meeting, and, if passed, the board members would be elected at the same meeting. **ACTION:** The proposed amendment will be emailed to the board by Cathie, and will be considered at the next board meeting. **ACTION:** Laura Jean and Cathie will see that the notice about the after service discussion gets into the January newsletter.

Final reflections, questions, appreciations...: Laura Jean asked that board members think about volunteers to be recognized at the next congregational meeting. She also noted that it would be nice for board members to write notes or cards of appreciation to the volunteers and put in the "thanks giving" box in the lobby.

Closing Words: Jeanie read "Dreams" by Langston Hughes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. Next Board meeting is on Thursday, January 19, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sibyl Day



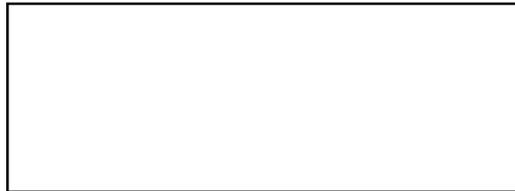
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