



UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• December 2012 • Volume 56 • Issue 12 •

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

DECEMBER 2nd Practicing Prayer

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Panttaja*
The Choir performs at both services.

This service will center us in a beautiful song and give us a chance to tackle an ancient and troubling word for the sacred, while offering a “how-to” on the practice of prayer from a variety of perspectives, particularly from our own UU ancestors. Prayer is about our own deep intentions, and is a powerful tool for discernment and action, whatever your beliefs may be about the Great Big Thing.

DECEMBER 9th The Light of Peace / Hannukah

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Erin Howseman, Bryan Plude*
Local group “Festival of Friends” performs at both services, and the Choir performs at 9:15.

Many a protestor has cried, “No justice = no peace!” Sometimes we have to upset the peace for the sake of justice, but war and conflict are rarely just. Can this tension be resolved? We will consider the question through the example of the Middle East and the old story of Hannukah, and we will rededicate our own temple to justice AND peace.

DECEMBER 16th Moral Psychology & the Righteous Mind

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Beverly Helfer-Grand*
Music: *The UUsual Suspects at both services, and the Choir at 11:00.*

In these times of conflict and division, there is no more useful tool for building the world we dream of than understanding. Jonathan Haidt’s new book *The Righteous Mind* gives powerful insight into the development of morality, how liberal and conservative people see the world differently, and how to bridge the gap. All healthy humans are moral, but it turns out there are many ways to be so. Come learn more.

DECEMBER 21st (Friday) WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE

5:30 Drumming Circle; 6:00 Service and Potluck
Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Susan Bartholome, Andy Levine*

Music from Nancy Hayashibara and the UUsual Suspects.

Our annual celebration of the shortest day and the longest night of the year, with reflections and songs on darkness and rebirth and a fire in the courtyard. This intergenerational service is great for families, and there will be childcare for the littlest ones. Scientists, skeptics, pagans, and theists – come one, come all, and please bring drums and something for the potluck.

DECEMBER 23rd Images of Buddha/Images of Christ

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Linda Proulx, Bryan Plude*

Isn’t it fascinating that the Buddha proclaims life’s suffering while smiling from a seated position of ease, while Jesus proclaims the Good News while tortured on a cross? These radically different images are trying to tell us about two different sides of the spiritual life, both of which must be present for us to be balanced and whole. Many classic works of spiritual art will augment our service today.

DECEMBER 24th (Monday) CHRISTMAS EVE - 6:00pm

Service Leaders: *Rev. Chris Bell, Scott Miller*
Nancy Hayashibara and the Choir offer music.

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 30th Deconstructing the Lord’s Prayer

Service Leaders: *Bryan Plude, David Hope*

Does The Lord’s Prayer have anything to offer Unitarian Universalists? Our Father? Heaven? Bread, sin and debt, not to mention temptation and evil. It’s all here in this staple prayer of Christians the world over. Join intern minister Bryan Plude as he deconstructs this short prayer and reconstructs it with a UU spin.

A Magical Season



I love magic. When I was a child, I was a big fan of Doug Henning. His *World of Magic* was a television special that ran a number of times on NBC, and I recall vividly the first one in 1975, in which Henning successfully performed Harry Houdini's "water torture escape" illusion. (He was the first since Houdini to do it.) In more recent years I've watched Criss Angel's *Mindfreak*, often with my jaw on the floor,

even though I know (know!) that what I am seeing - a man walking on water, a disappearing elephant - must be simply an illusion.

I don't need over the top spectacle to wow me, though. When I was a waiter at the Boulder Broker Inn in Colorado, "The Amazing Lamont" would work the tables with card tricks. Lamont looked like a doomed door-to-door salesman or something: thin, nerdy, bespectacled, balding and wearing a bad suit. But I swear (swear!) that he took a card I wrote on and calmly reinserted it into the deck, only to moments later pull that very card from a sealed envelope that he pulled from his sock! I and everyone around me would scream in delight and astonishment. I watched him do the trick 20 times, watched as closely as I believe a person can, and I could never figure out how he did it.

Sleight of hand? Of course.

"Magic?" Well, that depends on how you look at it.

The very word *magic* has come to have two quite conflicting meanings. On the one hand it refers to the practices above, where misdirection, sleight of hand, and special tools such as rigged card decks or boxes with secret compartments convince people that the impossible can be done, or that their perception of reality is no longer trustworthy. It's compelling and wholly entertaining, but in the end we all know that somehow (somehow!) we are being fooled. Here in the real world, no one (no one; sorry, J.C.) can walk on water. But submerged Plexiglas tables and paid accomplices sure can make it look convincing.

Accordingly, per the faceless masters of Wikipedia, "some modern illusionists believe that it is unethical to give a performance which claims to be anything other than a clever and skillful deception. Most of these performers eschew the term 'magician' (which they view as a claim to supernatural power) in favor of 'illusionist' and similar descriptions. For example, performer [Jamy Ian Swiss](#) bills himself as an 'honest liar.' On the other side, many performers say that magical acts, as a form of theater, need no more of a disclaimer than any play or film; this viewpoint is reflected in the words of magician and mentalist [Joseph Dunninger](#), "For those who believe, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe, no explanation will suffice."

That is the conundrum of faith, too, I observe. This brings us to the other definition of magic, a term used frequently in religious studies, where it refers to the host of diverse arts and practices that aim to produce a certain desired result through special ceremonies, rituals, spells, incantations, dances and the like. Shamanism in its many forms would fall under this definition of magic, as would witchcraft and wicca, and much folk religion within any of the great traditions across the globe. This understanding of magic is rooted in the belief that humans can and do have some control over the forces of the natural and/or supernatural worlds, which I certainly think we do. It's just that today's magicians are usually called scientists.

Today I raise the subject of magic because we are approaching "the holidays" and I know of no other time of year where magic is so regularly and openly invoked. On the side of illusion, commercials offering the "magic of the season" abound, and apparently they work, although I doubt that true happiness and fulfillment is going to come from a new Lexus as much as I doubt that Criss Angel walks on water.

So, too, the stories of the season - ancient tales of the Solstice, the miracles of the Menorah and the Virgin Birth, are also replete with magic. The feelings of hope and peace and possibility they engender deeply move many of us. To the extent that we embrace and engage these stories, even if we don't really think that the events occurred on a factual level, we are actually, I think, making magic. Mircea Eliade, a giant of religious studies, said in his book *Shamanism*, that religious stories and rituals don't just commemorate heirophanies, theophanies and epiphanies of the past, but also literally offer us the chance to actively participate in them again, right now in the present. That is where the power of the story comes from. The hope and promise of the new-born sun, or the newborn son, can be made real again, now, if we will but believe in a spirit of play.

I don't want to be the first kind of magician anymore. I'm don't want to trick anybody into anything, and I don't need to believe in supernatural miracles. But I am very happy to be the second kind of magician, a shaman, if you will, and I do want to invite you to share in, and scream in delight and astonishment at, our co-created universe and its infinite possibilities.

At the end of each *World of Magic*, Doug Henning would address his audience with these words: "Anything the mind can conceive is possible. Nothing is impossible. All you have to do is look within, and you can realize your fondest dreams. I would like to wish each one of you all of life's wonders and a joyful age of enlightenment." May it be so for all of us.

Happy Holidays, my dear congregation, and may magic be found everywhere you look in these days of darkness and light.

Greetings from the Board

October marked a very busy and exhilarating month in the life of UUCSR.

On October 7, more than 100 members attended UUCSR's early morning Fall Congregational meeting. Much was accomplished in the allocated 90 minutes: a final budget for FY 2012/2013 was presented, discussed and approved; the Board's goals for the current year were outlined; three new members of the Endowment Committee (Bob Anderson, Ann Chambers, and Phil Harriman) were elected; and three dedicated volunteers (Terry Graham, Jan Hess and Betz Miller) were recognized.

The following Sunday the North Bay UU Revival in Petaluma was attended by several hundred UUs from all over the Bay Area. Rev. William Schulz, President of the UU Service Committee, gave an inspiring sermon entitled, "Hope, Hell Yes!" If you missed the Revival, you should listen to Rev. Schulz's sermon which is now available on the UUCSR website (select *Sermon Sampler* under *Worship*.) Following the service we enjoyed eating a delicious lunch and meeting members of other north-bay congregations. I want to recognize Mary Louise Jaffray who once again played a major role in the coordination and planning of this very successful event.

The day of the Revival was capped off by a sold-out performance of Holly Near at the Glaser Center. This fundraising event arranged by David Templeton netted nearly \$3,200 for UUCSR!

Finally, on October 28, our congregation had the honor of ordaining Jamie McReynolds as a UU Minister. Before entering Starr King School for the Ministry, Jamie was a long-time member of UUCSR and served as Board President during a very challenging time. More than a dozen UU clergy and PCD leaders participated in the ordination after which Jamie was given a beautiful stole designed and made by Elizabeth Marrs. Following the ceremony the Ordination Committee (Lucia Milburn, chair, Carol Kramer, Julie Malm, Carolyn McLeese, Ellen Skagerberg, Mary Wagner, and Rev. Chris) provided a lovely reception.

In this holiday season I am feeling especially grateful to the many members who, by generously contributing their time and talent, make UUCSR such a caring and vibrant congregation.

Laura Jean Hageman
Board President



December Board Meeting Date Change

Please Note:

The Board meeting in December has been changed to
Thursday, December 13th. Please mark your calendars!!

Together In Exploration (TIE) Groups

Would you like to join a TIE Group in January? TIE stands for Together in Exploration, and these groups of 8-10 folks meet twice a month to explore a topic and get to know each other better.

We have a few openings in ongoing groups.

Watch for signups on the last two Sundays of the month.

Women Together

Holiday Party!!

All UU women and their friends are invited to our umpteenth annual Holiday Party from noon to 3 pm on Saturday, December 15th at Helga Lemke's

lovely home, 1983 Grosse Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Take a breather from shopping and enjoy an afternoon of fun and relaxation with friends, old and new. Please bring a lunch dish to share.

Climate Change

Are you feeling helpless about Climate Change? Don't feel helpless any longer! You can do something:

We are scheduled for our Climate Change Lobby training session with Mark Reynolds on January 19th in the UU Board Room. The training will be from 1 PM to 4 PM. The training is open to the public.

In order to get prepared to get the most out of that training, please take a little time to listen to the introductory call, which happens every Wednesday at 5 PM.

Some of you have already listened to it, and some have not. If you have listened, you may want to get on the call again. Mark gives a lot of info in that short 45 minutes, really more than one can absorb in that time. It is suggested to listen to the call several times to get the most benefit. Remember to dial in 5 minutes early to introduce yourself and say where you are from. 1-866-642-1665 access code 400 699#. Remember to put Jan 19 at 1PM on your calendar right away so as not to discover a scheduling conflict later on.

Here's What's Happening in RE Classes

We provide loving childcare for children from infancy through age 4 in our preschool room. Rachel Alexander and Fiona Mackenzie are our child care providers.

Sr. High Youth Group meets every Thursday from 4-6pm. Deborah Mason, Rev Chris and Eric Fischer serve as Youth Advisers. Contact Deborah (debmasonuu@gmail.com) for more information.

Grades K-2 and 3-5 are using a curriculum called In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program

Middle School youth are working on values clarification and the 7 UU Principles

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012
Newsletter@uusantarosa.org

E-mail Submissions
Greatly Appreciated!
Newsletter Assembly
10 a.m.—December 26, 2012

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Once again the holiday season is upon us. The winter holidays can be a time of great joy, and for families with children the holidays provide many special moments for building a sense of stability and belonging that fosters shared values. However, as Christmas has become consumed by consumerism it can be difficult to find sacred moments amid the rush to find the perfect gifts. One of the keys to having a joyful holiday season is balance and intentionality.

Parents and children together can be intentional about whether or not to follow old family traditions or create new ones. Some traditions may not suit the family anymore and become dry routine. Hanging on to old family rituals just because they have always been done can drain energy and add stress. Families are not static they are forever changing: children grow, new babies come along, extended family members are sometimes near, sometimes far away, and relatives die. Holiday rituals should reflect what is happening in the family and honor its changing needs. That being said, rituals that continue year to year are an important aspect of family identity and strengthen family ties. Annual events like putting up the Christmas tree, playing dreidel or taking a drive to look at elaborate decorations add magic to the holiday and offer opportunities to appreciate togetherness.

You don't need to do *everything*. Whether it is your baby's first Christmas or your children are in high school, the family can take time together to share the things that they love the most about family holidays. Knowing what is important to the family allows you to make choices

about how the holidays will be celebrated. Often the things people look forward to are not elaborate or expensive. You may find that the favorite parts of the celebration do not require hours of preparation and hard work.

Questioning or reducing consumerism will reduce stress. As families are bombarded with advertisements imploring them to buy! buy! buy! other choices can be made. Here are some options: Decide on a gift limit, say one or two per person. Offer to forgo traditional gifting with extended family members or office mates. Instead, try something fun like "Secret Santa" , in which participants choose names from a hat and gift that one person a gift, instead of every person in the group. Other things you can do include supporting local small businesses and artisans, and choosing gifts that will get a great deal of use because they inspire creative play or exploration, or even gifts of time and activities.

There are many ways to appreciate the love of family, friends and community in this season of longer nights and colder days. The winter solstice provides a special opportunity to slow down during the hectic holiday season. Our annual Solstice Service is full of singing, beautiful ritual and celebration. I hope you will consider bringing the kids to this special night on Friday, December 21 at 6pm. Childcare will be provided for babies and toddlers.

Wishing you peace,

Deborah



December Schedule:

12/02/12	Children's Chapel	Theme: God is Love	All Ages Together
12/09/12	Grades K-2 : Friends & Enemies	Grades 3-5: Deciding for Peace	Grades 6-8: First Principle
12/16/12	Grades K-2: Friendship with People Different from You	Grades 3-5: Respecting Others, Valuing Diversity	Grades 6-8: Second Principle
12/23/12	Grades K-2: From Enemies to	Grades 3-5: Creative Conflict	Grades 6-8: Third Principle
12/30/12	Children's Chapel	Theme: Goodbye 2012 Hello 2013	All Ages Together

Ending and Beginnings

About our Winter Events at the Glaser Center

The Winter Solstice is a time when people honor the changing of the seasons, saying goodbye to the old year as a new cycle of seasons is ushered into the world. With that in mind, our upcoming winter events at the Glaser Center (the UUCSR's thriving Arts & Culture Ministry) will include some new annual series, and the ending of a decade-long tradition.

This year's Twisted Christmas Live, our tenth annual literary-comedy-variety show, will be the last. I began this show ten whole years ago, at a time when my life was far simpler, and now—with a plate far fuller than anything I could have imagined—I've decided that the ten year anniversary is a good time to let it go and make room for other opportunities and endeavors.

This year's show, on Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m., will feature some favorite stories and performers from the past, along with some new faces, and brand new stories. Among the old favorites are political satirist Will Durst, actress Diane Amos, and Geoff Bolt, once again appearing as the bizarre holiday expert Dr. Muti Lederhosen, explaining the odd details of his country's National Dairy Products Day celebration. Our newcomers include actor Rick Gomez, best know for his performances in Tom Hanks mini-series 'Band of Brothers,' and for being the announcer voice on the Bravo T.V. network. We also welcome actor Stephan Stubbins, whose Broadway appearances include a stint in Walt Disney's 'Mary Poppins.' Sadly, Debi Durst—who has appeared in all previous nine shows—is unavailable this year, but she will be represented by an original story she wrote for the second Twisted Christmas show, all those years ago.

And of course, the show will feature one final performance of my story, 'Crumbs at Midnight,'

the story that inspired me to start Twisted Christmas in December 2003.

We hope you will take advantage of this final Twisted Christmas Live, and invite your friends and family to attend as a pre-Christmas celebration of laughter and fun.

December carries several other festive events in the form of various collaborations with local groups, from the New Horizons Band concert on December 1st (2:00 p.m.), to the Healdsburg Chorus on Sunday, December 2, at 2:00 pm, to the SRJC's presentation of 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' (December 7, 7:30 pm; December 8, 8:00 p.m.; December 9, 3:00 pm).

And in January, we start something new.

Beginning Saturday, January 5, at 7:30 pm, we kick-off the Glaser Center International Singer-Songwriter series, with a casual Social Hall performance by the popular local folk-rock duo Blacktop Moon. You won't want to miss this dynamic twosome, with beautifully crafted songs that tell emotionally rich stories. The series continues on Saturday, January 26, with a return performance by the luscious French Cabaret trio La Ginguette.

In February, on Saturday, Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m., you will want to join us for Nancy Hayashibara and Friends, another surprise-packed evening of piano music and comedy from our own Nancy Hayashibara.

My hope for the new year is that our Arts & Culture Ministry will continue to be used by all of you as a way to gather friends and family together to be entertained and inspired by some of the best artists and musicians our community has to offer.

Happy Holidays to you all.

David Templeton
Glaser Center Manager and Artistic Director



Special Thanks to our 2012 Auction/Raffle Community Donors—Please Support Them and Pass on our Gratitude when You Do

6th Street Playhouse	Franco's Ristorante	Savory Spice Shop
Actors' Basement	Gaia's Garden	Santa Rosa Symphony
Asef's Appliance	Hair Focus	Shelton's Natural Foods Mrkt
Bad Ass Coffee Company	Jahnthong Banbua	Sift Cupcake and Dessert Bar
Bean Affair	KRCB	Simply Chic
Bruno's	Kindred Fair Trade	Syy's Thai Massage
California Luggage Co.	La Gare	The Pottery Studio
Cinnabar Theater	Liv Fashion Boutique Mackey	Ting Hau Restaurant
Coddington Vet Clinic	Picture Frame Co.	Tone: Pilates, Dance and Yoga
Cokas Diko	Movement Oasis	Toy Works
Copperfields Books	Positively Fourth Street	Trattoria Cattaneo
Heidi, Divine Design Salon	Press Democrat	Joyce Unangest Electrolysis
El Capitan Taqueria	Craig at Rascals Hair Studio	Western Farm Center
Eye Care Institute Optical	Rendezvous Bistro	
Fabiani's Ristorante	River's Edge Kayak & Canoe	
Flavor Bistro	Safeway	



UUCSR Writers

The Great Courses on DVD will not meet from 3:30 - 6 pm on Monday Dec 3.

The UUCSR Writers Sonoma County Poetry Slam meets at 7 pm on the first Thursday of the month at the Glaser Center. Next Slam is on Dec 6, and next year on Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, with the Grand Slam on May 2. Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa. Sign up to perform 6:45 - 7:10 pm. Slam - Emcee: Tom J. Mariani, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate 2010-2012 or Guest Former Slam Winners. Poetry Slam Information contact: Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com.

Our next Regular Monthly Meeting is from 4-6 pm, Monday, Dec 3, at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa.

Regular monthly meetings are held once a month on the first Monday of the month from 4-6 pm. We do not meet in January, July and September.

Whatever your creative endeavor: fiction, non fiction, memoir, poetry, essay, etc., our focus is to provide an atmosphere where serious writers improve and hone their writing skills. The UUCSR Writers is open to the novice, the more experienced, and the published author. Membership at UUCSR is not required.

Thursday Morning Coffee at Whole Foods in Coddingtontown, Santa Rosa 10 am-12 noon. Buy the beverage/food of your choice. We meet once a week with other Writers for lighthearted conversation and talk about who's doing what in our literary community.

Information

Georgette G. deBlois, ggdeb@sonic.net

Tom J. Mariani, southforkboots@gmail.com

UUCSR Writers, Glaser Center at Unitarian Universalist Congregation

547 Mendocino Ave. 707-568-5381

Know Your Bylaws!

Congregational Forum January 6, 2013

Once the holidays are over, members of the UUCSR will be redoubling their efforts to keep on fulfilling our four part mission - Celebrating Life, Empowering People, Caring for One Another, and Building a Better World. The UUCSR Bylaws are the basic document that describes how we make decisions in this congregation and who has the ultimate authority to get things done.

On January 6, Sunday, after the 11 AM service, in the Board Room, interested people (members or otherwise) are invited to join the Bylaws Committee for a Forum regarding proposed revisions to those Bylaws. The current Bylaws are always available online at uusantarosa.org. Copies of the proposed revisions to Articles VXIII will be available after January 1. Please contact Ellen Skagerberg, Carol Kraemer, Cathie Wiese, or Mary Louise Jaffray.

Breath, Balance and Mobility

Save the Date - Sunday, January 20th!

After a successful introduction in October, Monica Anderson, founder of Tone Dance, Yoga and Pilates Studio, will offer a monthly session focusing on breathing, stability and mobility. Starting on Janu-

ary 20th, 2013, from 9:30 to 10:45 and continuing on the third Sunday of each month, Monica will meet with us in the Board Room for this fun and valuable work.

JANUARY 6th

ANNUAL MILESTONES SERVICE

Service Leaders: *The Worship Associates Team*

Hot Topics

Hot Topic ~ Homelessness in Sonoma County

What are the services available to homeless people in Sonoma County? What programs have been successful? What more do we need? How can UUCSR help? On Sunday, **December 16th** four people knowledgeable about different aspects of this issue will explore those questions with us. They are Jenny Lynne Holmes of Catholic Charities,

Jenny Helbraun Abramson of the Continuum of Care, Matthew Martin of SAY (Social Advocates for Youth), and David Grabill of the Sonoma County Housing Advocacy Group. Please join them in the RE Common Room from 12:30 to 2, and bring your questions and concerns. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

Advocates for Social Justice

Share the Offering:

On Sunday, **December 9th**, one half of the collection will go to **The Living Room**. As many of you know, this is the only day-time, drop-in center for homeless women and their children in the city. Now that winter is here, it is more important than ever that these folk have a place to go during the day where they not only can be out of the elements but get two good meals and the opportunity to access a wide range of programs to help them get back on their feet. We see many of these families at our Saturday breakfast so we can tell

that the need is great. When the purple bags come your way, please be as generous as you can. Help to brighten these holidays for our neighbors in distress.

On Sunday, **December 23rd**, one half the collection will go to support our **Saturday Breakfast Program**. We are serving between 175 and 250 folk each week and we are hoping that we can sustain that on one collection a month so we can share the other monthly offering with wonderful organizations in our community that you suggest. Please help make that possible!

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 16

January 20

Music Notes

The reactions music evokes are not feelings, but they are the images, memories of feelings.

(Paul Hindemith)

This quote describes some of the musical selections you have heard sung by our choir this past month, including - (1) *Dinge for Two Veterans*, a hauntingly beautiful setting by our former Music Director, Doug Bowes, of Walt Whitman's moving poem, which fit so well with our Veteran's Day service; and (2) a very lovely and interesting arrangement of *Autumn Leaves* which closed the Fall season.

As we move into December, which is a great time for celebration, some of our selections will no doubt evoke many memories. We will begin with a setting by John Rutter of a traditional blessing from the Old Testament book of Numbers, which is used in both Jewish and Christian services, *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. We are honored to have a marvelous guest soloist, Mark Kratz, who will sing both a solo piece and a solo with the choir for both services.

For the next two services (9:15 on December 9 and 11:00 on December 16) you will hear a traditional Hebrew folk song often sung during Hanukkah --

Bashana Haba'ah. The text is a wish for peace in the coming year: Next year, when peace will come, we shall return to the simple pleasures of life so long denied us.

On December 23, we will break with tradition to sing a choral setting of a familiar melody by Gabriel Fauré - *Cantique de Jean Racine*. The text is a French translation, by the 17th century French dramatist Jean Racine, of a medieval Latin hymn, *Consors Paterni Luminis (O Light of Light)* attributed to St. Ambrose.

Our Christmas Eve service will feature both traditional and non-traditional music. The choir will sing a beautiful and perhaps familiar piece by Samuel Barber - *Sure on This Shining Night*.

Pat Russell will join me to play some piano/keyboard duets of traditional Christmas carols. And, of course, you will have the opportunity to sing some carols as well, especially *Silent Night* as we light our candles to illuminate the Sanctuary.

Submitted by Jenny Harriman, Music Committee Chair

UUCSR Circle Dinners are Re-forming in January

What are Circle Dinners, you might ask ??? Circle Dinners are informal social gatherings over a Potluck meal. They are opportunities to enjoy getting to know folks you might never have met otherwise. As participants, 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 6 to 8 (singles and couples) which becomes a "Circle Dinner Group" for the 4 months of the Circle Dinner period. In the January Newsletter we will post the Spring 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). Some groups meet for lunch, and some even decide to meet at a restaurant.

Interested? We are taking sign ups until December 2nd and 9th. Watch for details in the Social Hall and for the sign up table. We will need your name and phone number to post on the list so that your Circle can connect! **Participants already in the Circle Dinner program will continue unless they let us know otherwise.**

To be added to the list, or with other questions, contact Lynn Riepenhoff at 525-8424 or Kitty Wells at 953-0620.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa 18, October 2012

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words: Bryan Plude (intern minister).

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34 p.m. by board president Laura Jean Hageman.

Members Present: Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates, Lois Bell, John Farison, Laura Jean Hageman (president), Mary Louise Jaffray (vice president), Lois Nagle, Alan Proulx, Cathie Wiese (secretary), and Peter Wilson.

Members Not Present: Joe Como

Non-Members Present: Bryan Plude (intern minister), Sibyl Day (acting recording secretary) and Art Rosenblum (co-treasurer).

Agenda and Minutes: Minutes approved with the following changes: 1) Under HVAC Replacement, change the second sentence to: Including the cost of the crane, the cost to replace the two units was quoted at \$16,000," 2) to the heading below Open Mic, heading changed from "Welcome to New Board Secretary" to "Welcome to New Recording Secretary."

Update On Bryan Plude's Contract and Services Agreement: The contract has no due date; the service agreement needs to be completed by mid-November. The final draft of the agreement will be presented to the intern committee by next week, with Linda Stabler included. Although the internship is not now paid, Bryan would like information about the ability to accrue days off and sick time.

One-On-One Sharing

Open Mic: None.

Treasurers' Report: Art Rosenblum reported on the mortgage buy-back program. Letters were sent out to current note holders explaining new procedures and to other people who might be interested in the program. The Endowment Committee is not monitored by the finance committee—it is monitored by the board. The committee meets quarterly. Art will talk with Michael Randolph, the account manager, to decide what to do with recent donations totaling \$13,000. Art will try to get the committee to meet in advance of the set quarterly meeting. Members are Tom Bond, Gail Alford, Art Rosenblum, Amy Young, Bob Anderson, Ann Chambers, and Phil Harriman.

Financial Stewardship Team Charter & Vision: The change is on the second page: under Responsibilities, I (e): the introduction of the Glaser Center Committee. The Glaser Center Committee . Motion by Jeanie, seconded by Cathie, and approved to approve Financial Stewardship Team Charter & Vision (Rev. 10-2-12).

Policy/Procedure For Responding To Congregants Presentations To The Board: Determine if there is a relevant committee or task force that is charged with the issue presented. If there is not a relevant committee, it may later become an agenda item. Laura Jean sent out a revised version of this policy/procedure last week. Jeanie moves to adopt Laura Jean's revision, with an amendment added to give out the policy to those that show up at Open Mic, seconded by Cathie, and approved.

Reports From Board Goal-Group Conveners:

Spiritual Life: Susan Bartholome reported that they talked about developing leadership; having a pastoral helper provide training; RE and children's RE curriculum. Deborah Mason last year asked that the board members volunteer to participate in children's RE the 1st Sunday of the month. Laura Jean participated 2 Sundays ago. Rev. Chris will look into having the craft projects be a catechism about UU. Chris sent out an email and there is a schedule where board members are already assigned to children's RE.

Community—Within & Without: Alan Proulx reported that they met the Friday before the congregational meeting. They meet prior to the board meeting and members are assigned to work at their established goals.

Infrastructure: John Farison will update his spreadsheet, and develop a process for identifying what the needs are and how to address them and will have a draft to present to the board next month. The board needs to identify key stakeholders to invite to meetings with relevant committee members. Then have a larger meeting with representatives of the various groups. Laura Jean will draft up the expectations and responsibilities of the 12 governing teams and explore how and with whom they will interact. Mary Louise will figure out an approach to coordinating the emergency and obsolescence fund policies and bring it to the Financial Stewardship team. John is working to nail down the specs, the price tag, and the cost of the contract to get the HVAC replaced (including additional quotes). Laura Jean will send to John an updated draft of building security procedures and practices. Input is needed from the operations team about the goals and recommendations about what to accomplish in 2013. Solar panels are listed on the wish list but require a \$200,000 outlay. Also the "building envelope" needs to be tightened up. 2 other issues: the availability of meeting rooms available in prime times; and comparing it with the needs of Glaser Center.

Evaluation of Fall Congregational Meeting, October 7: 104 people attended; thanks to Peter Wilson for the slides and presentations; the summaries were well done; thanks to Jeanie Bates for presenting the Appreciations; and the whole meeting went very smoothly.

Evaluation Of October 14 Revival In Petaluma: Thanks to Mary Louise who did such a good job. This time there was a logistics team. Petaluma took a lot of ownership in hosting the event. Good that everything was projected on the screen—maybe a suggestion for the spiritual life group.

Preparation for Jamie McReynolds Ordination, October 28: Good for board members to attend.

Final Reflections, Questions & Appreciations: Thanks to John for his work on infrastructure. Thanks to Sibyl.

Closing Words: Cathie Wiese
Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.; light dinner by Mary Louise Jaffray at 6:00 p.m.; sharing topic by Mary Louise Jaffray; closing words by Joe Como.

