



# UUFNB SUNDAY DIGEST

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay  
PO Box 4051, Napa, CA 94558 (707) 226-9220 [www.uunorthbay.org](http://www.uunorthbay.org)  
Services held at 1515 Pueblo Ave, at the Boys & Girls Club of Napa, 11 am

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday March 23, 11 am

Rev. Michael Dowd: "Thank God for Evolution!"  
with Worship Associate Rainer Hoenicke.

"It matters what we think about evolution. Trying to understand reality without an evolutionary worldview is like trying to understand infection without microscopes or the structure of the Universe without telescopes. It's not merely difficult; it's impossible." The Rev. Michael Dowd began life as a born-again evangelical believing Darwinian biology to be the work of the devil. Now, he preaches the gospel of science. Don't miss this great evolutionary storyteller!

### Sunday March 30, 11 am

Mary Ellen Morgan, DRE: "Passover for Unitarian Universalists" with Worship Associate Lenore Hirsch. (Remember to join us at 9:30 am for breakfast, as part of our plan to eat together each fifth Sunday that occurs during the year!)

Why is Passover an important spiritual holiday for UU's (even for those of us who aren't Jewish) and how can it inform the meaning of our days? Join Mary Ellen Morgan as she explores the historical significance of Passover.

### Sunday April 6, 11 am

Rev. Bonnie Dlott: "**Humanism: Religion without God?**" In 1933, the *Humanist Manifesto* was published, setting off a firestorm of debate in the religious community. Humanism has changed a great deal since then, and a new movement has emerged which appeals to many Unitarian Universalists, called Religious Humanism. What do Religious Humanists believe? Come and find out.

## March 16, 2008

Dear members and Friends,

Spring is here! The Vernal Equinox occurs at about 1 am on Thursday, March 20. I hope to see many of you at our Spring celebration on Saturday (see details on page 3), but I will not see you in church next Sunday, as it is my day off, so I will wish you a Happy Easter in advance!

The first meeting of the Sonoma Chalice Circle will be held on April 10th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the home of Matt and Wendy Metzler. Chalice Circles are a wonderful way to connect with others on a deeper level and to have an intentional time every month to discuss issues important to us all. Please call the Metzlers at 935-7191 if you plan to attend or call Mary Ellen Morgan at 294-2759 for more information.

If you need to remind folks about a Fellowship-wide event or program next Sunday, please get in touch with Rainer Hoenicke, who will be our Worship Associate next week, and he will make your announcement or call on you to make it. If you would like an e-mail copy of any sermon I have given at UUFNB, send me a note. If you wish to have items included in the Sunday Digest for March 23, please submit them to me by noon on Friday, March 21!

See you in Church!

The Rev. Bonnie Dlott, (925) 256-4334 or  
[minister.uufnb@mac.com](mailto:minister.uufnb@mac.com)

# UUFNB Calendar



Monday March 17, 8 p.m.

**Monday Night Meditation**

Susan Levine's home, 2341 Joanne Circle, 226-3975

Tuesday March 18, 7:00 pm

**Carquinez Cluster**

Tom and Darlene Dragavon's house at 1468 Tamara Ct. in Benicia.

For more information, contact Tom at [thosdragavon@aol.com](mailto:thosdragavon@aol.com) or 745-5290.

Thursday March 20, 10 a.m.

**No Name Book Club: "My Antonia" by Willa Cather**

At Else Ross's, 695 Cabot Way---224-6752

Saturday March 22, 3 p.m.

**Spring Equinox Celebration And Potluck Dinner**

1260 Shadybrook; See announcement next page

Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m.

**We Stand for Peace Vigil**

Corner of Soscol and Main

Monday March 24, 6:00 pm

**Rev. Michael Dowd: "Thank God for Evolution"**

Napa Library Community Room (more info on pg. 6)

Thursday March 27, Noon

**DVD presentation: Paul Pearson "Heart Code" (more info on pg. 6)**

Home of Abbey Silva--1177 El Centro-224-8716

Thursday March 27, 7 p.m.

**St. Helena and Vallejo Chalice Circles**

For location and program call Rev. Bonnie Dlott (925) 256-4334

Sunday March 30, 9:30 am

**"Food on the Fifth" Pancake Breakfast**

Boys and Girls Club, \$10 donation suggested

To view the UUFNB Calendar, go to <http://www.huntcal.com/cgi/calview.cgi/uufnb/UUFNB>

# Spring Equinox Celebration

Saturday March 22nd, 1260 Shadybrook Lane, 3 p.m.

*Come with an open heart, with family and friends,  
as the wheel of time turns from Winter's darkness  
toward Spring's light and greening.*

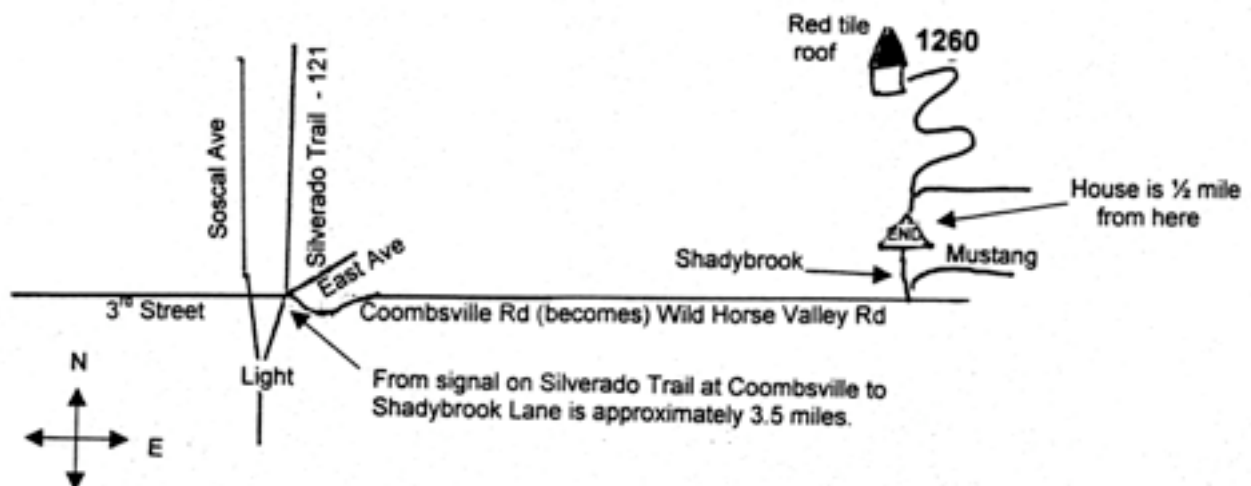
3:30 PM ~ *walk in the hills with the wild flowers: This is a 1 mile  
walk on rough terrain, so please no small children.*  
OR - *take a labyrinth walk*

5 PM ~ *Children's Activity in preparation for our  
Circle of Celebration*  
*Bring drums, rattles or other instruments*  
*And a few dyed eggs*

5 - 6 PM ~ *Potluck, please bring A dish to share  
and table service for you and your family.*

*For further information contact Barbara Kummer at 226-1191.*

*Carpools will be leaving from the Middle school from 2:45 to 3:30*



# UUFNB Announcements

**Adult Programs: Sunday Mornings 9:40 to 10:45 a.m. Boys and Girls Club, 1515 Pueblo**

- **March 23 – “Social Justice Sunday”** Join us this morning for a screening of Al Gore’s film “An Inconvenient Truth.” Due to the length of the film, we will start at 9:00 a.m.
- **March 30 – “Food on the Fifth”** Pancake Breakfast served at 9:30 am, prepared by our own BJ Pheiffer. A free will offering of \$10 per person will be received to defray expenses of the breakfast.
- **April 6 - “New to UU”** Looking for a way to connect? Join Rev. Bonnie Dlott for a presentation about the various committees and groups here at UUFNB.

The Artist's Way starts this Tuesday at 7:00 pm!

We have room for a few more students and will close the class on March 25th.

To register or for more information,  
call Doug Taylor at 226-7500 or Mary Ellen Morgan at 294-2759.

## **A Message from the UU Legislative Ministry of California Stop the Anti-Marriage Petition Campaign!**

We have less than 45 days left to prevent social conservatives from gathering enough signatures to place an anti-marriage-equality constitutional amendment on November’s ballot. The amendment would prohibit gay and lesbian couples from marrying in California.

We need you to help us prevent them from getting the signatures they'll need to qualify for the ballot. UU Legislative Ministry Action Network is joining Equality for All ([www.equalityforall.org](http://www.equalityforall.org)) and dozens of other human rights groups around the state to volunteer at strategic shopping center locations where we know there are large numbers of "undecided" voters who may be fooled by paid petition gatherers into signing the anti-equal marriage petitions.

Our strategy is not to confront petition gatherers, but simply to ask people to sign a pledge to refuse to sign any petitions that would put the government in charge of telling people who they can or can't marry. Our goal is not to completely stop the petition gatherers, but to reduce the number of signatures they get. You receive good training, are part of a group, and many people will show you their appreciation. High school youth are also welcome to participate with an adult – a great way to model civic engagement with our youth!

To sign up to work on any weekend coming up, please email your name and best phone number to Rev. Lindi Ramsden at (916) 441-0018 x 202, [lramsdn@uulmca.org](mailto:lramsdn@uulmca.org); or Chris Clark at (916) 441-0018 x 201, [cclark@uulmca.org](mailto:cclark@uulmca.org) .

**Saturdays (morning/afternoon), March 8, 15, 22, 29 April 5, 12**

**Sunday (afternoon/evening) March 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6, 13**

Shifts are also available during the week working the phone bank or in the office.

## Save the Dates!

Monday March 24, 6:00 p.m.

Michael Dowd: Thank God for Evolution!

UUFNB is sponsoring this presentation by Rev. Dowd at the Napa Library Community Room. Come and hear a story that's billions of years old and restores hope for people of any religion or belief system. For more information, go to [www.thegreatstory.org](http://www.thegreatstory.org).

Thursday March 27, Noon

DVD presentation of Paul Pearson's "Heart Code." Paul Pearson, a psychoneuroimmunologist, relates his observations of the intricacies of our hearts place and asks, is the Newtonian mechanical viewpoint (that the heart is only a pump) the total story? Paul's observations, as he works with heart transplants, is that the heart is the center of our ground of being. Bringing forth the love of the Hawaiian hunna--and the intricacies of those who have received the transplanted hearts from others--it is much, much more. We meet at the home of Abbey Silva--1177 El Centro--224-8716



## Share the Plate!

*March's Share the Plate donation (10% of all non-pledge plate donations) will go to Heather House, which provides temporary shelter, food and case management to the homeless in Fairfield.*

### Community Bulletin Board and Area Events

Disclaimer: The announcements in this section are not UUFNB endorsed or sponsored.

#### Pacific Central District Assembly

April 25-27, Fremont Marriott

Join 400 vibrant and vital Unitarian Universalists for a weekend of laughing, learning, networking and worship. This year's DA features Robert Latham, author of "Leaving Church Folly Lane", and Rev. Victoria Safford, author of "Walking Toward Morning: Meditations." Roy Zimmerman will entertain us with "Funny Songs About Ignorance, War, & Greed!" Rev. Bonnie will be presenting a film and workshop titled "Traces of the Trade," the story of a white northern seminary student who discovers that she descended from a prominent slave trader. For more information, go to <http://pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2008/index.htm>.



**Drinking Liberally"**

*(Yes, this really is a National Organization designed to encourage liberal thinkers to gather in a social setting)*

meets St. Patrick's Day, March 17th @ Embassy Suites, 5 pm



## March Musings from your Minister . . .

February was an exciting month for UUFNB. We launched our second Chalice Circle, which met in St. Helena. Bob Jones reported that twelve people came to the home of Lester Hardy and Janet Pagano for coffee and conversation last Thursday. Mary Ellen Morgan led a discussion of our spiritual journeys and our paths to this Fellowship. Almost everyone indicated that they had left some earlier religion and had searched for years before finding us. Their joy was a reminder of how important our Fellowship is to people's lives.

Barbara Back, who organized this event, said she was delighted because she had been waiting years for such an event in the North Napa County. It was an historic event. Eight were new to UU from Yountville, St Helena and Angwin. This Chalice Circle will meet again next month, on March 27. Stay tuned for time and location.

The February gathering of the Vallejo Chalice Circle was hosted by Margaret Kelso and Bob Lux, and was attended by ten people. The topic was Aging, and it was especially well covered because we had people addressing the issue from the perspective of being in their 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's. The next gathering will be on Thursday, March 27, and the topic will be Compassion. The Rev. Bonnie Dlott will facilitate the discussion.

Chalice Circles are a great way to get to know people on a deeper level than you might just chatting at Coffee Hour after our services. Our topics will vary each month, and our format allows for each participant to share from the heart and listen actively to others. Although our Chalice circles are located outside of Napa, to foster connections with folks who live further away from our Fellowship, anyone can attend.

Very soon we will be starting Chalice Circles in the Sonoma and Fairfield areas. If you know someone in either of these areas who could host a Chalice Circle gathering, please get in touch with me or with Bob Jones at 252-1885. For general information about the Chalice Circles, contact me at 925-256-4334 or [minister.uufnb@mac.com](mailto:minister.uufnb@mac.com).

As the Spring Equinox approaches on March 20, watch for the earth to be reborn! Remember that this is a time when sunlight and dark are balanced, and think about ways to balance your own life. Spend some time outside and enjoy the paradise we live in!

And then, I'll see you in Church,  
Reverend Bonnie Dlott  
(925) 256-4334

# REflections

From our Director of Religious Education

I love this time of the church year! This is the time when the staff and committee chairs get to dream while planning for the upcoming church year while putting together their budgets. These lists of numbers carry the hopes and dreams of your fellow congregants, they have such big plans for what the church's programs will look like next year. It's such a hopeful and enthusiastic time, when all things look possible.

I've begun the conversation with the RE Council to discuss what religious education will look like next year. In looking ahead, we first have to look back to see where we have been, what curriculum we've used and what programs might engage learners of all ages in the new fiscal year. This conversation will be continuing over the next few months.

This month our Youth RE Class will be studying about the spirituality of words and story telling. The Sunday schedule for March follows:

March 9th Bonnie Dlott (Words and Naming)

March 16th Tracy Ruhs (Communicating)

March 23rd Community Sunday (No classes, childcare only)

March 30th Tracy Ruhs (Meaning-Making Stories & Our Lives)

Please let me know your thoughts about our religious education program, we are dedicated to meeting the needs of all ages!

In faith,  
Mary Ellen

