



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
Services held at 1515 Pueblo Ave, at the Boys & Girls Club of Napa, 11 am

Upcoming Services

Sunday June 8

Rev. Bonnie Dlott: "The Mission Driven Church" With Worship Associate Vicki Wolf. What would it be like to have a mission in our community? What would it be, and how could it change us? Following the service, we will gather for a very important Congregational meeting (see more information on pages 4, 5, & 6).

Sunday June 15

Rev. Theresa Hardy: "When Shall We Rest?" with Worship Associate Suze Bobzien. Rev. Hardy is a community minister currently working as a Chaplain at John Muir Medical Center in Concord. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley and a 2006 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry.

Sunday June 22

Rev. Bonnie Dlott and BJ Pheiffer, with Worship Associate Lenore Hirsch. "Eat Food." "Eat food, not too much, mostly plants" is the advice we get from Michael Polin, author of *In Defense of Food*, who claims that much of what we eat is NOT food. What is real food, and how can eating it become a celebration of the sacred in life? Join your minister and professional chef BJ Pheiffer for a sermon that will make you hungry for food (and for life)!

June 1, 2008

Dear Members and Friends of UUFNB,

Next week we will be meeting after the service for an important congregational meeting to elect new board members and officers, to amend our bylaws, and to pass our budget for next year. Please be sure to read my message about the budget on page 4, and a message from your executive committee (Bob Jones, Iris Barrie, Meg Kelso, and Rainer Hoenicke) on pages 5 and 6. On page six you will also find the agenda items and slate. This meeting is extremely important, so come and commit some democracy! We need to hear your voice and count your vote.

If you need to remind folks about a Fellowship-wide event or program next Sunday, please get in touch with Vicki Wolf, who will be our Worship Associate next week, and she 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 June 8, please submit them to me by noon on Friday, June 6!

See you in Church!
The Rev. Bonnie Dlott
minister.uufnb@mac.com
(925) 256-4334

UUFNB Calendar



Wednesday, June 4

North Bay CUUPS

New Moon Ritual; 68 Coombs Ave, # D4, Doug Taylor, 226-7500

Sunday June 8, Following the Service

Congregational Meeting, all welcome!

Boys & Girls Club, see page 5 for more details

Wednesday, June 11, 7-9 pm

Sonoma Chalice Circle

Moyer-Metzler's, 1110 Fryer Creek Dr. Sonoma. RSVP to Matt or Wendy at 935-7191.

Tuesday, June 17, 7-9 pm

Carquinez Cluster

Dragavon home, at 1468 Tamara Ct., Benicia. For more information, contact Tom at thosdragavon@aol.com or 745-5290.

Thursday, June 19th, 10 am

No Name Book Club--Oscar and Lucinda by Peter Carey

Home of Else Ross, 695 Cabot Wy, 224-6752

June 20th, 6PM

Soup 'n Bread (actually pot luck this time) Discussion of Bill McKibens' "The World at 350; a Last Chance for Civilization"; Home of Phyllis Boyson, 1993 Waverly, 257-1265

Monday June 23, 8 p.m.

Monday Night Meditation

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

Thursday, June 26th, noon

DVD Club featuring former astronaut Edgar Mitchell as he tell us his story (see pg. ?).

Abbey Silva's home, 224-8716, 1177 El Centro-driveway between 1177 and 1181

Thursday, June 26, 7 pm

Vallejo Chalice Circle

160 Evergreen Way, Rev. Bonnie Dlott, (925) 245-4334 or minister.uufnb@mac.com

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

UUFNB Announcements

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

- **June 8 - "Make a Joyful Noise: Music of the World"** Adults, teens, and children are invited to join with Craig Payne to "feel the joy of your own music." Please bring your drums, rattles, bells, recorders or other music-making instruments, or just yourselves to explore rhythms from around the world, including your own. Craig also provides rhythm makers and a great appreciation for people and their potential. Children under 10 should be accompanied by an adult.
- **June 15 - "The Bible as Literature"** with Jim Craig, is on hiatus until September. See you then!
- **June 22 - "Social Justice Sunday"** This Sunday come and hear from several folks from our local Quaker community about their faith and activism.

Share the Plate!

10% of this month's non-pledge plate donation will go to The Land Trust of Napa County, which works to protect the natural diversity, scenic open space and agricultural vitality of Napa County by preserving lands with significant conservation values for present and future generations and by fostering an appreciation and understanding of the natural environment.

Please be as generous as you can!

A Message from Lenore Hirsch . . .

Hi, all. I'm writing to everyone I can think of who might have some old baseball equipment taking up space that you'd like to donate to the kids and adults in Nicaragua. A group is going mid-June. I'll be happy to arrange to pick up anything you might have, especially the following: youth and adult leather baseball gloves in decent condition, aluminum youth baseball bats sizes 27 to 32, and cleats. Thanks!
Just respond by email or call me at 707-320-0643. Lenore

And . . .

The annual membership report is now available. If you would like an e-mail copy to review before next Sunday's annual meeting, please email Barbara Kummer at barbarak@napanet.net.

A Message From Your Minister . . .

This time of year is usually stressful for UU churches, as we struggle to put together budgets that balance our hopes and dreams with our obligation to practice good stewardship. This year as the economy falters, this struggle has been particularly difficult for churches in our district, and I have heard rumors of drastic cuts and shortfalls in other churches, and even some that approach the value of our entire budget!

Even though many of us are stretched, we had a remarkable year. Our income for 07-08 jumped up over \$10,000 from the year before. We now have sixty-nine active members, with three more who have asked to join this fall. Our average weekly attendance has jumped from 37 to 53 in the last two years (see more details on next page) We were able to hire a Director of Religious Education and a Choir Director last year.

Because of our recent growth, we are finding ourselves in need of a Church Administrator who can work in two areas: general administration, and finance. The areas of responsibility in administration would be maintenance of our Fellowship master calendar and website, as well as other some marketing and mailing responsibilities. In the areas of finance, duties would include developing and maintaining our financial database, and with the treasurer, preparing monthly reports to the board with information such as income and expense comparisons, committee spending, status of all our funds, and results of fundraisers. This person would also work with the Treasurer, Finance Committee, and the Board to generate next year's budget, do all required filings with the IRS and other agencies, and enter monthly expenses submitted to the Treasurer, and make bank deposits. It is our opinion that this job has grown beyond what can reasonably be done by a volunteer, and we are fortunate to have Mary Ellen Morgan with us, who is a bookkeeper by profession and an experienced church administrator as well. We asked her to help during the tax season and need her to continue as our administrator.

We have also proposed that Mary Ellen stay on as our Director of Religious Education. Some of you have expressed your concerns about our RE program, which has seen a decline in attendance over the last year, despite Mary Ellen's honest efforts. Mary Ellen shares those concerns as well, as does the Board. We are currently working with her to focus her contract on the growth of our Children's Religious Education program, and hope to see the numbers turn around next year. Building such a program can take time, but we have faith that we can do it together.

Next Sunday, June 8, we will gather after the service for our annual congregational meeting to elect a new board, approve our budget, and answer your questions.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Keeping the faith,
Rev. Bonnie Dlott
(925) 256-4334 or minister.uufnb@mac.com



WHERE WE HAVE BEEN, WHERE WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE GOING

A Message from your Executive Committee

Our Vision Statement states that we shall, “...celebrate our existence, be it humble or grand, in a supportive and loving community with gratitude, mindfulness and joy while EVOLVING INTO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH WITH A FULL-TIME MINISTER AND OUR OWN BUILDING.” How are we doing on our journey to make our vision a reality? Here are some stats:

GROWTH	Feb 2006	Feb 2007	Growth 1 year	Feb 2008	Growth 1 year	Average Growth per year
Members	59	61	3%	69	13%	8%
Attendance	37	49	32%	53	7%	21%

BUDGET	06-07	07-08	Increase 1 yr	08-09	Increase 1 yr
Expense	\$64000	\$86000	21%	\$88000	2%
Income	\$80000	\$91000	14%	\$86000	-5%

TOTAL ALL FUNDS	As of June 1, 2008
Operating Fund Holdings	
Cash in Bank	\$5,189
General Account CD	\$26,611
Building Fund CDs	\$84,270

We have grown by 8 times the national average of 1%. As we grow each activity becomes too complex to rely solely on volunteers. For example, our Treasurer function requires a trained bookkeeper to meet government requirements for reporting. We are fortunate that Mary Ellen Morgan is a professional accountant with experience as a church administrator. That’s why we increased her duties to take on administrative tasks that are beyond the expertise of a board Treasurer. In short order she has reorganized our books and is able to give the Board prompt and detailed financial reports.

We completed this year (07-08) that had a 33% expense increase with a projected surplus of \$5,310. (See Surplus/Deficit line of budget.) The exact amount will be credited to the 2008-09 budget after June 30; this will result in a surplus for next year. At the Congregational meeting we will offer an amendment to the income side of the budget to transfer the 07-08 budget surplus (estimated \$5,000) to the 08-09 Budget.

FULL SERVICE CHURCH

Our Long Range Plan: “Enhance youth and adult RE”. Every member knows how important it is for our children to have a UU religious education. No other place gives them these important values. That’s why we have committed to provide an RE program for k-12.

As a part of this RE commitment, Bonnie trained two congregation members to conduct our OWL course. Ten jr. high students are now less likely to get pregnant, get a sexually transmitted disease AND have a new appreciation of how to build a successful relationship with a life partner. We are hoping to expand this program in the future. We know that building RE takes several years. It took Neighborhood Church in Pasadena, a congregation with 600 plus members, more than five years to grow their RE Program from a sporadic 10 kids to more than 60. This stuff

doesn't happen overnight! The rule of thumb in ANY business plan is that you have to invest in your business expecting to take a loss for several years before you see a profit.

Starting Chalice Circles in Vallejo, St. Helena, Sonoma and soon in Fairfield to reach 300,000 of the 400,000 in our service area is another example of our investment to bring to more the unique blessing of our faith and our programs. We believe that families in these communities will be drawn to both our RE and our Worship programs.

FULL TIME MINISTER AND OUR OWN BUILDING

Bonnie is fiercely dedicated to building a permanent UU presence here. We look forward to the time when we can advance her from half time to full time. We will try to stay with the Boys & Girls Club for the foreseeable future until we grow in members to be able and can afford our own home. B&G has just given us a 1 year lease!

SUPPORTING AND LOVING COMMUNITY

Above all we know what a rare gift this congregation gives each of us. This is truly a supporting and loving community. May it always be here to shower its many blessing on each member and those who have yet to find us.

UUFNB Annual Meeting Agenda for June 8

1. Election of New Board Members
2. Election of Officers
3. Bylaw Revision
4. Budget for FY08-09

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of nominees for Board positions for the coming year:

Barbara Back and Margo McCandless Smith for election

For Board Officers:

President: Iris Barrie (continuing)
Vice President: Jim Craig (continuing)
Treasurer: Margaret Kelso (continuing)
Secretary: Barbara Back
At Large: Margo McCandless Smith

Iris Daigre and Rainer Hoenicke will continue to serve At Large.
Bob Jones and Lee Long are completing three-year terms.

If you did not receive a copy of the budget for 08-09 or the proposed by-laws revision by e-mail, please get in touch with our Board Secretary, Margaret Kelso at 649-1905, and she will see that you get one.

A light lunch will be available for a \$5 donation. If you would prefer to bring your own lunch, feel free.

REflections

I can't believe it; we're actually at the end of the church year! It seems as though it was just yesterday that we were enthusiastically starting off this church year with two age-ranged classes and a team of teachers all ready to teach our children about spiritual practices from many faiths. Where has the time gone? I'll have a more detailed report on the RE Program for you all at the Annual Meeting, so I won't go into that now.

I'm now beginning to coordinate the curriculum for our summer program. If you know that you will be away and not bringing your children to church from June 23 through September 1, please email me at memorgan@aol.com, so that the teachers and I can plan for that.

While I was at District Assembly last month, I attended a workshop which presented the idea that Children's RE is a portal of entry of membership for the congregation. The workshop stated that when the curriculum engages the children, they bring their friends and then the parents follow, to find out what's happening at this church. It was an interesting idea, so with that in mind, Tracy Ruhs and I will be spending the summer developing the program for our children and teens for next year. Watch this space for our announcement of our program for this fall.

Bonnie and I will be continuing facilitating the Chalice Circles this summer, please feel free to join one near you, for conversations that deepen your faith and can connect you more closely to your Fellowship friends and neighbors. I will also be starting an artistic cluster out of the Artist's Way group the met this spring. This will lead the group into the Artist's Way, Part Two that I will schedule to teach late in September.

I'm attending General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale late in June and will be spending my time there reviewing curriculum, discussing variable attendance with other Directors of Religious Education and trying to discover if there are any new and exciting things that I can bring to your children and you for the next year.

Please let me know your thoughts, we are all eager to make this program what you all want and need it to be.

In Faith,
Mary Ellen Morgan
Director of Religious Education

