



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
10 am July and August

Upcoming Services

Sunday July 27, 10 am

Jeffrey Melcher, with Worship Associate Rainer Hoenicke. "Better Tomorrows by Seeing Yesterdays" How is knowledge relevant? How does our experience inform our life? Why is knowing Unitarian Universalist History important to our psycho-social-spiritual health? Are spirituality and politics connected? Recent UU seminary graduate Jeffrey Melcher will with engage us around some of these questions.

Sunday August 3, 10 am

A Very Special Service, the one you have been waiting for! Members and Friends of the Fellowship are invited to read a short selection (poetry or prose)--no more than 3 minutes (so we can hear as many as possible) whose insight you have found helpful on your spiritual journey. Please tell Jim Craig (jec2720@comcast.net) that (not what) you would like to participate.

Sunday August 10, 10 am

Rev. Bonnie Dlott, with Worship Associate Suze Bobzien: "The River Why." Nature is a time-honored refuge from the stress and monotony that creeps into our lives. What is it about the ocean, a mountain, or a forest that feeds and renews our spirits? It was the Rogue River in southern Oregon that made your minister wonder about this, and revisit a favorite book about a river, the questions we ask ourselves, and the answers we find when we leave the safety and routine of our "civilized" lives.

July 20, 2008

Dear Members and Friends of UUFNB,

Birthday wishes go out to our own Mary Skouge today as she turns 92. Mary is a constant reminder to me that "Life has loveliness to sell." Thanks to Suze Bobzien for helping Jim Skouge pull off a great party at the Meadows this afternoon! It was a treat to see so many members of our Fellowship there.

Because of the vacation time I am taking this month, there will not be another digest until August 3. If you need to remind folks about a Fellowship-wide event or program before then, please get in touch with the appropriate Worship Associate before Sunday (they are listed to the left) and he or she will make your announcement or call on you to make it. If you would like an e-mail copy of a sermon I have given at UUFNB, send me a note. If you wish to have items included in the Sunday Digest for August 3, please submit them to me by noon on Friday, August 1!

Happy Trails!

The Rev. Bonnie Dlott

minister.uufnb@mac.com

or (925) 256-4334

UUFNB Calendar



Monday July 21, 8 p.m.

Monday Night Meditation

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

Wednesday, July 23rd 7:00 p.m.

St. Helena Chalice Circle

St. Helena Public Library, Community Room. Join us for some good conversation! For more information, please call Barbara Back at 942-8810 or Mary Ellen Morgan at 294-2759.

Thursday, July 24th, Noon

The DVD group will be viewing a presentation by Huston Smith--"In Awe of the Mind"
Barbara Kummer's home--1260 Shadybrook--226-1191

Saturday, July 26th, 5:00 pm

Movie Night and Potluck Dinner (Bring a dish to pass, your drink and something to grill)
Bob and Mary Ellen's, 657 Montecito Boulevard, Napa, 294-2759.

Sunday July 27, 2-4 pm

We Stand for Peace

Soscol and First Street

Sunday August 3, Noon

CUUPS Lammas Celebration (see page 6)

Kennedy Park: for more info call Doug Taylor at 226-7500 or northbaycuups@gmail.com.

Sunday August 3, 2 pm

Popcorn Theology (youth group)

657 Montecito Blvd. Mary Ellen Morgan, 294-2759

Wednesday, August 6, 4:30 pm

RE Council Meeting

657 Montecito Blvd. Mary Ellen Morgan, 294-2759

Wednesday August 6, 7 pm

Covenant of UU Pagans Meeting

68 Coombs Ave, Studio D4. Doug Taylor, 226-7500

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

UUFNB Announcements

Adult Summer Programs: For July and August, these programs will be offered at 11:15, after the 10 am worship service, at the Boys & Girls Club, 1515 Pueblo Ave.

- **July 27 - Social Justice Film. "Hacking Democracy"** is a modern true to life "David and Goliath story, but in this version it's "Bev Harris Vs Diebold Voting Machines". This Seattle grandmother is both computer savvy and determined to investigate allegations of election fraud reported by citizens of counties from five different states in 2006. After downloading incriminating evidence from Diebold's own website, she travels with fellow activists and HBO filmmakers to document voting machines programmed to steal elections, "security holes in the machines 'custody of care'" (who has access all year-round) and uncovers evidence of purposely miscounted votes. HBO also documented incidences of secrecy, cronyism, and incompetence. After viewing the movie, there will be a presentation and discussion with Joann Gifford, Calistoga High School teacher computer buff since their inception in the seventies, organizer, activist and mom.
- **August 10 - "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.

Share the Plate!

10% of this month's non-pledge plate donation will go to Equality California, an organization that is mounting a campaign to defeat Proposition 8, the ballot initiative that seeks to deny lesbians and gays the freedom to marry. Please be as generous as you can!

A Message for the Summer from Your Minister . . .

One of the most exciting things that came out of the Leadership Retreat on May 10 was the idea that we engage the whole UUFNB community in a Social Action project that would help us to approach our ministry in the North Bay with a common sense of mission. Unitarian Universalists love to honor diversity, but unity is also important when faith communities wish to change the heart of a culture. I believe our culture needs changing!

In an effort to choose an all-Fellowship project that will appeal to many of us, the Social Justice Committee and I are **asking for proposals from you** for projects that might engage our whole community in an effort to work toward expressing our UU values visibly in the North Bay. Possible projects might focus on environmentalism, peace-making, human rights, or anything else you think UUFNB members are passionate about.

If you would like to submit a proposal, please get in touch with me right away and I will send you some guidelines. At the end of July, we will publish any proposals we have received and let you, the members of UUFNB, decide which one you would like to take on. In September we will begin making that project a part of our worship, our Adult and Children's Programs, and our outreach into the North Bay community. We already have one group excited about a proposal to learn about and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions. Let's see how creative we can be!

On another note, like many of you, I will be taking a vacation in July. I will be rafting with my family in Oregon from July 7 until July 18. During this time it will be very difficult to contact me, and so I have arranged ministerial coverage for that time. **Should you need emergency pastoral care**, the Rev. Chris Bell from the Santa Rosa congregation, and the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyer, Consulting Minister for the Petaluma congregation will be available. Rev. Bell can be reached by calling 568-5381, and Rev. Kocs-Meyers can be reached at 773-2835.

I will back in Napa between July 20 and July 25, and then gone again to Utah for a family reunion until August 2. During that time I expect to have phone and internet access, and so you can reach me there in case of an emergency by calling my cell, (Board members have my number) or sending me e-mail.

Have a safe and blessed Summer!

Rev. Bonnie Dlott



REflections

I just returned from attending the Unitarian Universalist's annual denominational meeting, General Assembly (GA) held this year in Ft. Lauderdale. While GA officially runs from Wednesday evening through Sunday evening, Monday through Wednesday are heavily scheduled with meetings for the professional staff of our churches, (ministers, religious educators, musicians, and administrators) and the semi-annual meeting of the Presidents of our District Boards. I spent Monday and Tuesday with the Association of UU Administrators, as I am the Treasurer of their Board and all day Wednesday with the District Presidents. So although the first three days of my week there was spent doing the work of the denomination, the rest of the week was spent in workshops for the Fellowship.

One of the workshops I attended was "Religious Education for Small Congregations". I was interested in seeing what kind of information the Minister and credentialed Religious Educator had that could enrich our program. Small congregations are those under 150 members, and the workshop facilitators started out by asking by a show of hands the size of the congregation we served. Most of the attendees were from churches that were between 100 and 150 members. The facilitators then asked us to respond with a show of hands to the following, how many churches:

- Have a paid Director of Religious Education?
- Have some measure of ministry involved in the RE Program?
- Have a teen program?
- Have Adult Programs?
- Have an RE Committee?
- Have youth involved in the Sunday service?

I was surprised and pleased to see that I was the only attendee to raise my hand to every one of those questions. In fact, most of the attendees (and none of the larger churches) had any of these in their program.

Clearly, this is mainly due to your farsightedness in expanding the RE program for the children who will be here, your willingness to welcome the new programs I have offered and to have willing volunteers to teach the children and adults. All of this energy serves to deepen the faith of our church family and serves as a visible outward sign to the wider world that we are a religious people, who take religious education seriously.

We have done much, but there is more to do. The RE Council has an ambitious plan for next year and is still formulating the details. We could always use new ideas and energy, won't you join us? Please call me so we can discuss how you can join our team!

Mary Ellen

Director, Religious Education



News from North Bay CUUPS

*"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush- bright with promise;
Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing
Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn."*

- Michelle L. Thieme, *August's Crown*



*North Bay CUUPS & Spiral Essence
invite you to join their celebration of*

Lammas

*on Sunday August 3, at noon
Kennedy Park*

*After our ritual we will share a meal together.
Bring things to grill, a dish to share, and your
own utensils and plates. Some drinks will be
provided. For more information call Doug
Taylor at 226-7500 or e-mail him at
northbaycuups@gmail.com.*



Bring Drums! Ritual Garb Encouraged

The festival of Lammas, also known as Lughnasadh, celebrated by the ancient Celts on or near August 1, marks the first harvest of the year and the beginning of the time of decreasing light. Many earth-centered people feel this turning, and use the Lammas festival to express their gratitude for the Earth's bounty and to prepare for the transition into the dark time of the year. Corn and wheat are featured in celebrations of Lammas.

Community Bulletin Board and Area Events

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

An Invitation from the Napa Interfaith Council

A Call For Transformation

Increasing our participation, effectiveness, and expansion in our community

Saturday August 23, 2008

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2721 Laurel St., Napa

Lunch will be Provided

RSVP to Yvonne Baginski, 226-7127 or Judy Andrich, 252-4689

This retreat will be professionally facilitated by Catherine Krause of Transformational Associates, an expert in organizational transformation and group process. Catherine will lead us in defining, in partnership, what the next steps are for the Napa Interfaith Council.

As we come together in a spiritual experience, we hope to define those connections that give us life as an organization. We want to revitalize and re-energize the spirit that will lead us into transformation so that as people of faith, we may be a light for our Napa community.

We need visionaries, leading-edge thinkers and mystics at this retreat. We also need people who want to grow an organization with energy, time, and hands-on practical experience. We invite you to attend!

Jeremy Taylor Back in Napa!

Friday, Sept. 19 from 7-9 (Introductory session)

Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Father Edwards Center at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville
Lunch will be provided.

The cost of this event is \$100 for both days, and lunch. Please bring one dream to work on at the workshop.

Please RSVP to Yvonne at: 707-226-7127, or email back. Send check to:
Yvonne Baginski, P.O. Box 6863, Napa, CA 94558