



Redwood Reachout

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City
2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062

www.uufrc.org; (650) 365-6913; office@uufrc.org

Vol. 48, Issue No. 8

August 2007

Sunday Services

August 5:

9:15: **Quiet Service** — A Time of Reflection and Sharing

10:30: **To Know About the World: Transitions and Change** — Rev. Ben Kocs-Myers
"We had the experience and the meaning came later" — T.S. Eliot. Our lives are filled with transitions—bridges between "old" and "new," joy and pain, beginnings and ends, holding on and letting go. Transitions are trying times: "trying" in the sense of difficult, but also in the sense of testing and learning who we are, which sometimes leads to greater understanding—but that depends on our ability to welcome, embrace, even invite the inevitability of change. How does one do that?

August 12:

9:15: **Quiet Service** — A Time of Reflection and Sharing

10:30: **Affirmatively Yours: The Necessity of Yes!** — Rev. Ben Kocs-Myers
This is my last summer worship service with you at UUFRC. This sermon has grown and changed with me over my years in ministry. My reflections always begin with, and are based on, a quote by Dag Hammarskjöld which I hold most dear and which is the basis of my faith, my ministry, and my life: *"To say 'YES' to life is at one and the same time to say 'YES' to oneself, even to that element in one which is most unwilling to let itself be transformed from a temptation into a strength."*

August 19:

9:15: **Quiet Service** — A Time of Reflection and Sharing

10:30: **Return Again** — Rev. Julia Older

From our General Assembly in Portland to a Prison Ministries Conference, Julia will come back to the pulpit to share the summer's fruits.

August 26:

9:15: **Quiet Service** — A Time of Reflection and Sharing

10:30: **Once More into the Breach** — Rev. Julia Older

What questions do we ask of ourselves at the beginning of this new cycle in the church year? The profound work is always to wake up and grow some more. May we challenge ourselves to greater self-awareness and become more hospitable to those who need our care.

Report From The Board Of Trustees' June Meeting

- John Anning, Corresponding Secretary

UUFRC Pays for the Solar System! Well, not exactly, but we accelerated the payments and are finished paying for our solar panels. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this effort.

Budget Review: The board agreed to pursue the following:

- Update budget with money for Pianist to match \$7500 – take \$1000 from reserve to supplement \$6500.
- Separate adult RE and children's RE into two line items for the new year.
- Make sure line item is included for Membership Coordinator role.
- Show income and expense for plate donations on special cause Sundays.

Futures Reserve: The board voted to create a Futures Reserve to be set aside to accommodate the potential costs of future growth of UUFRC, including building renovation and/or acquisition, fund raising costs, consulting fees, etc. The initial contribution to the reserve will be the \$22,792.55 net income from the 2006-07 year.

Contractor Training: The board agreed that it is not appropriate for UUFRC to pay for contractors to attend training for their own development pursuant to federal employment law.

Classroom Expansion: As our RE program continues to grow, we are continuing to review ways that UUFRC can accommodate this growth. The board reviewed several options for improving our current space. These options include working with Open Gate to have more flexible classroom arrangements, and converting storage space to usable classroom space. The board is reviewing the costs and benefits of these options.

Board Priorities: Each board member agreed to put together a list of priorities for the coming year. We will use this as the basis for our planning retreat in August.

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**Introducing Nina Kalmoutis,  
Our Ministerial Intern: The  
Journey So Far**

On Sept. 2, Nina Kalmoutis, our ministerial intern for the 2007-2008 church year, will be introducing herself to us by sharing her life journey: growing up in the Unitarian Fellowship movement of the 1950s, coming of age in the 1960s, and reflecting on what ultimately led her to explore ministry as a vocation in her 50s.

**From the UUFRC  
Writing Group**

imagination  
waits unfrustrated  
beneath  
scratchy blankets  
of doubt

stop rearranging  
the covers  
and run through  
the night

*- John Anning*

**PIA Update** — *Beth Harrison, PIA Communications Liaison*

Our PIA Local Organizing Committee met Wednesday, July 18, to discuss important ongoing PIA actions this summer and continue preparing for our tutoring program at Roosevelt School.

- Sunday, July 21, there was a rally to protect immigration rights: “Dignity for Peninsula Families.” Several UUFRC members attended to show support for immigrant families and to protest the ICE raids last spring.
- Another ongoing PIA action is urging Congress to increase funding for Federal Health Care for Children. Clergy and their congregations will be calling their senators and representatives to ask them to vote for the \$50 billion budget.
- Several UUFRC members and friends have volunteered as literacy tutors for the fall—but we still need more. See the article to the right for more information.

Please mark your calendars for our next meeting: **Wednesday August 22, 7:30 pm** at UUFRC. Our PIA Committee is always looking for new members interested in working for social justice in our local area—we invite you to join us!

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Bag-Making Fun at the Farmer’s Market — *Marianna Tubman*

The Social Action Committee is partnering with the Redwood City Public Library this summer to offer children’s activities at the Redwood City Farmer’s Market. Join us on Saturday Aug. 25 or Sept. 1 between 8 a.m. and 12 noon to help kids decorate canvas shopping bags. If you’re not free for a couple of hours one of those days, can you help with supplying fabric paints or markers (we have bags already), or offering bag knitting/crochet demos on another Saturday? (I’ll supply yarn). Please let me know.

Make a Difference: Volunteer as a Literacy Tutor!

Do you enjoy working or being with children? Do you love to read? Can you spare 1–2 hours a week of your valuable time to help others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might want to join our PIA Volunteer Literacy Tutors at Roosevelt School 2007-08. You do not need any experience teaching, tutoring, or working with children to become a tutor. What you need are: enthusiasm, a love of learning and reading, empathy, flexibility, a respect for confidentiality, a respect for different cultures, and a positive attitude. Tutors are mentors as well as teachers, so we hope to develop rewarding relationships with the children we teach.

The initial tutor commitment will be one to two times a week for 30-60 minute sessions over a four month period: September to December or January through April. You will also be required to take the training, be fingerprinted, and take a TB test. Our first training date will be **August 9, 1–3 pm**. A makeup training session will be offered **August 21** for those who can’t attend the initial training.

If you can meet these criteria and are interested in tutoring, please contact Pat Crawford at **opengator@aol.com** or 365-1039. We’d love to have you join us!

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**Social Action Committee Notes**

- The next styrofoam recycling date is Sunday, Aug. 5. Packing material and packing peanuts are fine, but please no clamshells or food containers. Please bring it in plastic bags, not boxes.
- If you would like to nominate a nonprofit group for our once-a-month donation of the Sunday offering, plan to come to a Social Action Committee meeting; the next one is Sept. 2 at noon. You can also contact a committee member.
- Donate produce from your garden on Aug. 12! More information is on p. 8.

**August Hike: Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve**

– Kaye Bonney

We'll head to Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve on the west side of Skyline Blvd. in hopes of cool ocean breezes and a little fog for our August hike. Starting the hike on Tunitas Creek Road will give us a choice of three loop hikes: 13.5, 11.5, or 4.5 miles.

We'll start at Grabtown Gulch Trail and turn down Borden Hatch Mill Trail, descending 1,000 feet to Purisima Creek. At this point, those that want to take the short hike will return up Purisima Creek Trail and thence back along Grabtown Gulch to the trailhead.

At Purisima Creek, those going for the longer hike(s) will continue down Purisima Creek Trail to the trailhead at Higgins Purisima Road. This is the decision point. We can take Harkins Ridge Trail to Soda Gulch for a long hike or Whittemore Gulch and the North Ridge Trail to Soda Gulch for a *really* long hike. We'll make our decision Saturday morning depending upon the weather and our energy level. And of course the group can split again if a few hikers want to do each route.

Both long hikes will descend 1600 feet and climb back up with some hills in between as well. The trail will be mostly wooded and shady but, as you might expect from the names, there are some open ridgelines with great views of the coast on Whittmore and North Ridge.

Meet at UUFRC at 9 a.m on Saturday, Aug. 4, to carpool. Bring lunch and water.

**Women's Group Meeting**

– Geri Kennedy

Welcome UUFRC women to an evening of discussion, camaraderie, and a little fun. We'll be meeting on August 15 beginning at 7:30pm at the Kennedy's home, in the little cottage in the back. Call Geri Kennedy if you have any questions.

**August Book Discussion Group**

– Carolyn Chaney

On August 13, at 7:30 in the front lounge, we will discuss Wallace Stegner's last novel, *Crossing to Safety*. Stegner traces the bond that develops between two couples from their first meeting in 1937 through their eventual separation to their final get-together in 1972 when Charity is dying of cancer and is determined "to do it right." Excellent reviews, such as: "magnificently crafted story ... brimming with wisdom."

For September 10, we will read *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards. And for those who like to read ahead, October will be *Dog Years: A Memoir*, by Mark Doty. All readers are welcome to join us at the book discussion on second Mondays.

For those who were disappointed when we decided not to discuss David Korten's book *The Great Turning*, you will be delighted to hear that this book was a great hit at General Assembly, with many GA sessions devoted to the concepts discussed in the book. We can't do the book justice in a Monday night, so we are planning a series of 3 or 4 dates in the fall for discussion of portions of the book. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please e-mail Carolyn Chaney ([cchaney@sfsu.edu](mailto:cchaney@sfsu.edu)) or Geri Kennedy ([gerilou@aol.com](mailto:gerilou@aol.com)) with your preferred times. We are tentatively thinking of an hour before or after church.

**Pledge Payments: Please Mark Those Checks!**

Thanks to everyone who has already paid or started paying toward their 2007-08 pledge. We do, however, get lots of checks intended for lots of different things. When you write your pledge check, please put "Pledge" on the memo line so we can be sure to credit it properly. Generally, undesignated checks for \$20.00 or less in the Sunday plate are considered to be for the Sunday offering.

## **Save the Date! 11<sup>th</sup> Annual PCD Men's Retreat, October 19–21**

Come join men from all around the greater Bay Area for a weekend of fun, community building, kinship, singing, workshops, and more! We will be gathering once again at the Westminster Center in Alamo (10 miles south of Walnut Creek).

Our theme this year is Coming Home to Our Selves. We will be exploring the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of our selves through experiential workshops and kinship groups. There is also free time on Saturday afternoon and the always-popular No-Talent Show on Saturday night.

The cost for the weekend—Friday through Sunday, Oct. 19-21— is \$225. Scholarships are available. For more information and to register, go to <http://pcd-uua.org/men/frames.htm> or contact Ed Massey at 408-297-9478 or [massey1281@yahoo.com](mailto:massey1281@yahoo.com).

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## **What Is “Radical Hospitality”?**

(Adapted from a sermon by Reverend Ned Wight, a past UUA Trustee; a timely message as we prepare to welcome visitors to UUFRC during the Bay Area UU Marketing Campaign this fall.)

According to the book *Radical Hospitality*, written by Father Daniel Homan, a monk from a Benedictine monastery in Michigan, and Lonni Collins Pratt, a laywoman, radical hospitality is a fully embodied stance of openness and affirmation toward “the other,” that is, anyone who’s not you: spouses, children, close friends, acquaintances, strangers—even your “enemies.”

There are five things to remember about radical hospitality:

- Radical hospitality comes from deep inside of you. It begins with self-affirmation. It involves your own capacity to be lovable and loved, just as surely as your capacity to love. Hospitality is about the comfort of being accepted and the challenge of accepting others. “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Radical hospitality is about “inclusion and exclusion.” Each encounter with another person is a chance for you to act out of inclusive or exclusive motives. Radical hospitality always sides with inclusion, on the side of seeing in the other—the stranger—a person of inherent worth and dignity, a child of God, just like you.
- Radical hospitality is about staying open. It’s not about controlling, manipulating, or changing people to conform to your preconceived idea of what’s good for them, but rather granting them the freedom to be who they are. This sounds like a basic underpinning of our faith! In the process, we’re more likely to learn something significant from them. As the authors state, “The stranger opens our eyes.”
- Radical hospitality is about giving another person your full attention and treating them with kindness. It is about *active listening from the heart*. It is about switching the focus from yourself to the other.
- Radical hospitality is about understanding, acceptance, and intimacy. Acceptance helps us all “discover [our] true selves,” according to Father Homan. He asserts that “intimacy is the goal of hospitality. Hospitality is a call to revere what is sacred in every person....”

Radical hospitality is about paying attention to the little things—and more importantly, paying attention to the big things: approaching one another with inner openness and positive regard; practicing compassion, patience, and active listening; and, last but not least, striving to accept others where they are—as we ourselves long to be accepted.

## ***Who's Who and How to Contact Us***

### **UUFRC Regular Events**

Every Sunday ~ Worship Services, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.  
Every Monday ~ Yoga, 10:00 a.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> Sundays ~ Social Action Committee, noon  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays ~ RE Committee, 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays ~ Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays ~ Board of Trustees, 7:00 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays ~ New Horizons, 1-3 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays ~ Parent Discussion Group 9-10:15 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays ~ Membership Committee, 12:15 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays ~ Worship Committee, 7:15 p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sundays ~ Green Sanctuary Committee, 11:45 a.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Mondays ~ Painting Group, 7:00 p.m.  
Last Thursday ~ Newsletter assembled for mailing, 1 p.m.  
Last Fridays ~ Chant Night, 8:00 p.m.

To join our UUFRC email group, send any email message to: **uufrc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**. View some helpful info about the group by sending any message to: **uufrc-help@yahoogroups.com**. (You needn't be a subscriber to receive the Help reply.) Once you have subscribed, you can post to the group by emailing your message to **uufrc@yahoogroups.com**.

### **UUFRC Staff**

**Reverend Julia Older, Minister**  
older@sbcglobal.net 363-2409  
Office hours: Tuesdays 4 to 6 p.m.

**Tracey Fecher, Director of Religious Education**  
dre@uufrc.org  
Office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Judy Cronin, Administrator**  
Office hours: Mon. & Wed., 8 a.m. to noon, and  
Tues., Thur., & Fri., 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
office@uufrc.org

**Office: 365-6913 ~ Fax: 368-1461**

**Susan Nitzberg, Choir Director**  
stnitzberg@yahoo.com

**Susan McBain, Newsletter Editor (volunteer)**

**Newsletter Deadline: 12 noon, Friday before the  
last Thursday of the month**

Email articles to: **editor@uufrc.org**

### **Board of Trustees (2006 - 2007)**

*Contact a board member if you have ideas to share regarding the organization and governance of the church.*

|                                  |          |                          |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| John Anning (Corresponding Sec.) | 365-2748 | anning@rcn.com           |
| Jeanne Durnford (President)      | 325-5055 | jeannedurnford@yahoo.com |
| Peter Hartzell (Vice President)  | 363-3638 | pdhartzell@earthlink.net |
| Lori Longo                       | 365-0203 | Lori@Longo.net           |
| Mike McGrew (Recording Sec.)     | 802-9102 | mmcgrew@earthlink.net    |
| Janette Rabin (Treasurer)        | 508-8500 | janetterab@aol.com       |
| Liz Sloan                        | 306-7818 | sloaneliz@gmail.com      |

### **Committee on Ministry (CoM)**

*Contact a CoM member if you have ideas to share regarding the shared ministry of the church, e.g., worship, outreach, caring for those in need, how we are treating each other, how the minister is serving the congregation.*

|                 |          |                           |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Heather Hopkins | 473-0618 | hmhopkins77@yahoo.com     |
| Frank Montoro   | 574-4757 | akordn@earthlink.net      |
| Jorie Schulz    | 326-7043 | jorienchris@earthlink.net |
| Alex Stagner    | 328-9433 | astagner@gmail.com        |

## **Choir Will Resume Sept. 6**

A reminder that starting on Sept. 6, the choir will be rehearsing on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Additional details about choir and music program plans will be in the September newsletter. Please consider joining us this fall, and have a great rest of the summer!

## **UUFRC's Own Beverly Morgan Performs**

UUFRC member (and songstress) Beverly Morgan announces that her duo Ol' Blue Genes has a NEW gig on Saturday nights (8-10 p.m.) at the ICE OASIS, 3140 Bay Road, Redwood City (650-364-8090). They will play there twice a month, beginning Aug. 4 and 18. The ICE OASIS offers a good menu, beer and wine, and all the ice skating and ice hockey you can stand.

## *Handy Pull-Out Calendar of Events at UUFRC, August 2007*

| <b>AUG</b>    |           |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday     | 1         |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Thursday      | 2         | 7:30p                                   | RE Committee                                                                                                                                                              |
| Friday        | 3         |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Saturday      | 4         | 9a                                      | Hiking Group                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>9:15a</b><br><b>10:30a</b><br>12n    | <b>Quiet Service</b><br><b>Service: To Know About the World: Transitions and Change</b> — Rev. Ben Kocs-Myers<br>Social Action Committee<br>Bring styrofoam for recycling |
| Monday        | 6         | 10a                                     | Yoga                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Tuesday       | 7         |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday     | 8         |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Thursday      | 9         | 1-3p<br>7p                              | PIA Tutor training (Roosevelt School)<br>Board of Trustees meeting                                                                                                        |
| Friday        | 10        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Saturday      | 11        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>9:15a</b><br><b>10:30a</b>           | <b>Quiet Service</b><br><b>Service: Affirmatively Yours: The Necessity of Yes!</b> — Rev. Ben Kocs-Myers<br>Bring produce to donate                                       |
| Monday        | 13        | 10a<br>7:30p                            | Yoga<br>Book Discussion Group                                                                                                                                             |
| Tuesday       | 14        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday     | 15        | 7:30p                                   | Women's Group meeting                                                                                                                                                     |
| Thursday      | 16        | 7p<br>7:15p                             | Intro to Meditation Practices<br>Worship Committee meeting                                                                                                                |
| Friday        | 17        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Saturday      | 18        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>9:15a</b><br><b>10:30a</b><br>12:15p | <b>Quiet Service</b><br><b>Service: Return Again</b> — Rev. Julia Older<br>Membership Committee                                                                           |
| Monday        | 20        | 10a                                     | Yoga                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Tuesday       | 21        | TBD                                     | PIA Tutor training (location TBD)                                                                                                                                         |
| Wednesday     | 22        | 7:30p                                   | PIA Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Meeting                                                                                                                              |
| Thursday      | 23        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Friday        | 24        | 12n                                     | Newsletter deadline                                                                                                                                                       |
| Saturday      | 25        | 8a-12n                                  | Redwood City Farmer's Market bagmaking                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>9:15a</b><br><b>10:30a</b>           | <b>Quiet Service</b><br><b>Service: Once More into the Breach</b> — Rev. Julia Older                                                                                      |
| Monday        | 27        | 10a<br>7p                               | Yoga<br>Painting Group                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tuesday       | 28        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday     | 29        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Thursday      | 30        | 1p                                      | Newsletter assembly                                                                                                                                                       |
| Friday        | 31        | 8p                                      | Chant night                                                                                                                                                               |

**August 12: Summer Service Project—Bring Gifts from Your Garden**

For the next all-church service project, on Sunday, Aug. 12, please bring to church any vegetables or fruits from your garden that you can share. Members of the Social Action Committee will deliver the produce to local groups serving the homeless and battered women.

**September 8: Rummage Sale**

Yes, the annual rummage sale is on Sept. 8, so start setting aside that stuff you no longer need but that someone else could use. This annual sale is a benefit for the entire community, as it allows a lot of folks to get things they need at drastically reduced prices and others to clear out their homes without adding to the landfill. We can start bringing items to UUFRC during the last week in August. We'll need loads of volunteers the first week in September to sort, price, and help on the day of the sale. Mark your calendars to spend some time helping. There is something for everyone of all ages to do!

**November 2–4: UUFRC Annual Retreat**

Our annual retreat will be held the first weekend of November at the beautiful Monte Toyon Camp in the Santa Cruz mountains. This is a weekend for all to enjoy a beautiful atmosphere among the redwoods, unique workshops, delicious homemade food, and fellowship with family and friends. This year's retreat will be coordinated by Susan McBain and Erika Pretell. Please stay tuned for more information on the retreat, and in the meantime, mark your calendars!

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of Redwood City  
2124 Brewster Avenue  
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August 2007

Submissions for September issue due **August 24**

Save us a stamp! You can read the *Redwood Reachout* on our website, have it sent to you as an e-mail attachment, or pick up a printed copy the next time you come to the Fellowship. Contact the office if you do not wish to receive this newsletter by mail.