



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. 50, Issue No. 12

December 2009

Sunday and Holiday Services

Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m.: ***In Our Own Words: A Hazy Shade of Winter*** — John Anning et al.
Autobiographical writing and wintry music from your fellow congregants. Share the Plate offering for Abilities United.

Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m.: ***A Holy Rhythm*** — Rev. Laurel Liefert
As the days grow darker, we will explore the holy rhythm of light and shadow, of faith and doubt, of breathing in and out.

Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m.: ***Annual Christmas Pageant***
This Intergenerational Service features our annual Christmas Pageant. This year: “The Spirit of the Christmas Tree.”

Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.: ***Christmas Eve Service*** — Rev. Bill Kennedy
We will tell the story of the birth of a baby who changed the world. Using Gospel readings and traditional Christmas carols, we will celebrate the arrival of this very important child. Come light a candle, and get the Christian part of your heart filled with some traditional Christmas Eve joy. Share the Plate offering for Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA); other kinds of donations also welcome (see p. 5).

Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m.: ***Let Go and Open Up*** — Bob Honea
Listening and contemplation on the seasons that are passing, and what we are called to let go, and what we are called to receive, begin, and continue in seasons to come.

Welcome All!

***We nurture each other on our personal and spiritual journeys
As we work for peace, compassionate justice, and a healthy planet.***

Pat Crawford: In Memoriam



Pat Crawford's memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. in the UUFRC Sanctuary. Our Administrator, Debra Schwab, sent this poem in Pat's honor. Nobody "lived her dash" better than Pat.

The Dash — Linda Ellis, 1996

I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
from the beginning ... to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth
and spoke of the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
that she spent alive on earth ...
and now only those who loved her
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;
the cars ... the house ... the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard ...
are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.

If we'd treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile ...
remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read
with your life's actions to rehash ...
would you be proud of the things they say
about how you spend your dash?

Board of Trustees November Meeting Highlights – Beverly Morgan, Corr. Secretary

- Pat Crawford was remembered by each Board member as the chalice was lit. We discussed plans for the service on Nov. 13, the memorial on Dec. 12 [changed to Dec. 20—ed.], and attending to Pat’s family. We reviewed how to inform Rev. Julia of community milestones while she’s on sabbatical.
- Administrator Debra has a new copier and wireless printer networked within the office.
- Welcoming Coordinator Cindy Johnson may need to take more leave to tend to her father.
- New members joining mid-year will be approached about pledging when they join; longtime members whose pledges lapse will also be contacted. The Board asked Cindy to approach the Budget Drive chair to do this now, and these tasks will be added to the role of future Budget Drive chairs.
- “How to Navigate the UUFRC Website” by Dave George will be in the next directory.
- The Silent Auction will be chaired by Steve Hill.
- The Budget Drive for 2010–2011 will be chaired by Charlotte and David Stoutamire.
- The Holiday Pageant will be chaired by Derby Davidson & Amy French; Dawn Reyen will play piano and Rev. Laurel will preside.
- The Board plans to fund an intern in 2010–2011, and this expense will be promoted as a key element in the Budget Drive. The Minister’s Reserve fund will be used only if required.
- A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, to discuss a revision to the by-laws relating to the changes in the Denominational Affairs Committee. Other agenda topics are being discussed.
- A Disaster Task Force has been formed and is being led by Janette Rabin. It will not be a formal committee so will not require a charter. Thanks to Janette and the other volunteers!

Monthly Conversations with Rev. Laurel

Our first conversation with Rev. Laurel Liefert, our Sunday minister during Rev. Julia’s sabbatical, on the topic of “Gratitude” was enjoyed by about 40 people. It was an opportunity to get to know Rev. Laurel a little better and for her to know us — and we got to know each other better as well! There will be three more conversations (mark your calendars), Dec. 20 on the topic of “Faith,” Jan. 10 discussing “Theology,” and Feb. 14 reflecting on “Love.”

Invitation to Newcomers

Newcomers are warmly invited to join us for our monthly “Newcomer Circle” on Dec. 13 after the service. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about our Fellowship and to ask any questions that you may have about us. We’ll meet in the Back Lounge at 11:45 for this 30-minute gathering. Childcare is available. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Johnson, Welcoming Coordinator, at 650-364-4995 or welcome2uufrc@pacbell.net.

Christmas Pageant Dec. 20: Calling All Performers ...



Our annual Christmas Pageant will be during the service on Dec. 20. This year, we will be performing “The Spirit of the Christmas Tree.” We are recruiting for all roles: shepherds, angels, wisepeople, the Holy Family, and friendly beasts of all types. No rehearsals required! Materials for making costumes will be available during the

intercession on December 13. We encourage all who want to participate (adults and children) to contact Derby Davidson (650-598-9849 or derbyche@sbcglobal.net) or Amy French (650-306-9048 or amyfrenchsings@yahoo.com).



The Holiday Boutique: Keep Those Donations Coming!

Our traditional Holiday Boutique will be held on Dec. 6 and 13 before and after the service. Please check those drawers and closets for unwanted nice things to donate ... from functional, to whimsical, to collector’s items! Items that children might like to buy as gifts are especially welcome.

Please continue to leave items on the table in the Social Hall near the door across from the Sanctuary. Lorie Esposito is in charge of the Boutique and could use some help. Please contact her if you’re able to help out.

The Holiday Bazaar

The one-day Holiday Bazaar is new this year. Nineteen tables of treasures will be available, made by our members, friends, and other local folks: handmade crafts, crocheted items, gift boxes, tote bags, jewelry, food, and more! The Holiday Bazaar will be held at UUFRC on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be available for sale. For more information, contact Susan Lehman at susposdis@yahoo.com.

Yule Log/Solstice Ritual

On Monday, Dec. 21—the longest night of the year—take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season for the annual Yule Log/Solstice ritual. The Yule Log service will start at 7:30 p.m. and include singing and silent meditation. Afterwards we’ll enjoy wassail, games, and cookies in front of the Yule fire. Led by Laura Zimmerman and Jorie Schulz.

Cookie Baking: Everyone Invited!

Carol Cross’s annual holiday cookie baking and lunch will be held at her home on Saturday, Dec. 5. Carol provides the basics (butter, sugar, flour, eggs), as well as recipes. If you need a special ingredient, like almond paste or candied cherries, please bring that. She also provides lunch! It’s an all-day event—come about 10:30 for the morning session, or for the afternoon, or both! Please let Carol know if you’re planning to come.

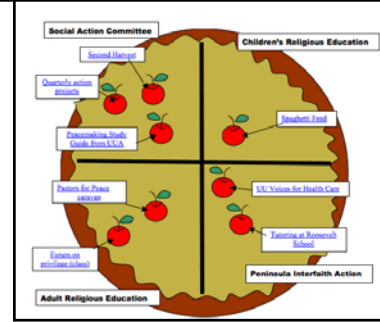
And Another Birthday Party!

Beverly Morgan is celebrating a milestone birthday at UUFRC on Saturday, Dec. 26, 6–10 p.m. Plenty of live music, beer and wine, and hors d’oeuvres. For more information, contact Beverly at bevie.lou@gmail.com.

Community Action: Maple Street Shelter, Dec. 20

Mark your calendars to volunteer!! Help out the residents of the Maple Street Homeless Shelter on Dec. 20. Volunteers are needed to help create and serve dinners for 75 homeless single adults. They could really use the magic of the kind folks here at UUFRC to help them through this tough time in their lives.

There will be different ways to help, including cooking, cleanup, and donations of food or funds. There is a sign-up sheet on the Social Action Committee bulletin board in the Social Hall. You can also contact Laura and Michael Withers at laurawithers333@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.



Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA): Education News

We continue to grieve for our beloved Pat Crawford, who served as volunteer coordinator for our Roosevelt School tutoring program, as well as spearheading several other education projects in the Redwood City School District during the past three years.

In Pat's honor, we are continuing—and hoping to expand—our tutoring program, and we'd like more of you to volunteer. The time commitment is minimal, only one to two hours a week, but the impact and satisfaction are both very great. Please contact Beth Harrison, the new volunteer coordinator, at harharbp@gmail.com or 650-368-3638 to find out more about the program or to volunteer.

Weekly Spanish classes offered through PIA will continue in the winter. The Wednesday Spanish conversation class that began in September will continue, Jan.13–March 3, from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

The first Spanish class was so well received that another beginning class has been scheduled for Tuesdays, Jan. 12–March 2, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. There will be an informational meeting at Roosevelt School on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 3 p.m. You may also contact the teacher, Sarah Harmon, directly at courses@sarahharmon.com.

“Share the Plate” Collections for December

We will be sharing our collection with two worthy organizations during December: Abilities United on Dec. 6, and Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) on Dec. 24.

Abilities United (formerly Community Association for Rehabilitation) offers services to people in the Bay Area with developmental and physical challenges and provides the training, education, and support they need to lead the lives they choose. More info at www.abilitiesunited.org.

CORA provides transitional housing, referrals, and counseling to family members who are victims of domestic violence in San Mateo County. Many of the victims flee their abusers with only the clothes they are wearing so, in addition to a monetary collection, CORA also needs personal products and baby supplies for residents. Please check CORA's wish list on the Social Action table and bring anything you can before our special collection on Christmas Eve. More info at www.corasupport.org.

All You Need Is Love, Luv! Silent Auction Feb. 6, 2010

Save the date for a FAB party at our Feb. 6 SILENT AUCTION!! Our theme this year is “All You Need Is Love.” We need suggestions for:

- Raffle prizes
- The bigger Silent Auction items
- The opulent Live Auction extravaganza!

We’re also looking for a few folks to join our Marketing team! Please contact Debra Pritchard at debpritchard@comcast.net if you have ideas or can help.

Welcoming Congregation Class To Be Held at UUSM, UUCPA, and UUFRC

UUs in San Mateo, Redwood City, and Palo Alto are coming together to sponsor a “Welcoming Congregation” class. This UUA-sponsored program is designed to enhance our congregations’ commitment to welcoming and supporting bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people in our congregations and our communities. The passage of Prop. 8 in California and Prop 1. in Maine are evidence of the work that remains to be done.



This class will have three meetings in the winter quarter, one in each city. You are welcome to attend any or all of the classes.

- Jan. 17, 7–9 p.m.: *Fish Out of Water*. Held at Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo , 300 E. Santa Inez Ave., San Mateo. We will view and discuss this fascinating documentary, which explores “the impassioned relationship between homosexuality and the Bible,” using animation and academic interviews to dissect the seven Bible verses used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination. You can see a trailer at www.fishoutofwaterfilm.com/trailer.html.
- Feb. 21, 7–9 p.m.: *Transgender Identity: What it Means*. Held at Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto , 505 East Charleston Road , Palo Alto. What does it mean to be transgender? What is it like for those who don’t find their sexual identity or expression fitting neatly with their anatomy? We’ll discuss a variety of experiences from cross-dressing to sexual reassignment surgery.
- March 14, 7–9 p.m.: *Racism and Homophobia*. Held at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City , 2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City. We’ll look at the common roots of these two forms of oppression, and the similarities and differences in how they are expressed and experienced today. We’ll also consider the special difficulties faced by people of color who are bisexual, gay, lesbian, or transgendered.

Please register by sending an email to events@uucpa.org.

Committee and Group Activities

December Book Club – Carolyn Chaney

Our Dec. 14 book will be *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. This book is constructed using the letters exchanged between a young author, Juliet, and her London publisher, as well as her “new” friends from the isle of Guernsey in the British Channel Islands, members of a book club established during the German occupation of Guernsey.

The Book Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the front lounge. All are welcome. Bring book suggestions for the coming year.

Women’s Group – Geri Kennedy

The UUFRC Women’s Group will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7–9 p.m. at the Kennedy home (small cottage behind the garage). Our topic for December will be Surrender in honor of the Goddess Yemaya. Surrender does not mean giving up; rather you are giving over, asking for assistance so you can do what you want to do. Seems a timely topic for those busy days around the holidays. This is an open, drop-in group for all UUFRC Women.

Holiday Card Bee – Geri Kennedy

Instead of a sewing bee, on Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon we’ll have a Solstice/Christmas/Kwanza/New Year/Hanukah/you-name-it card making/signing/addressing bee. Bring your premade cards and year-end letters and address book, and get them all ready to mail while enjoying company and conversation. We will also have materials out to make your own cards. This is an intergenerational morning — children are welcome. I know those holiday letters can be pretty hokey, but when I look back at the ones I have saved from other folks, it is always a pleasure.

New Horizons – Jonelle Preisser

We are looking forward to seeing you at our annual Christmas potluck on Friday, Dec. 11 at 12:00 noon. Since this is the usual time most of us eat lunch, we have moved up the time to satisfy any hunger pangs ... Remember: 12:00 instead of 1:00. Please call me at 368-9047 and tell me what you will be bringing at least a few days before our luncheon. See you there.

Annual UUFRC Bird Walk – Kaye Bonney

Saturday, Dec. 5, we’ll go out for our annual 3.5-mile bird-watching walk around the Palo Alto Baylands. Expect to see grebes, pelicans, egrets, herons, avocets, curlews, dowitchers, godwits, stilts, willets, geese, and lots and lots and lots of ducks.

This one-way loop involves a short car shuttle. We’ll leave some cars parked at Terminal Blvd., just off the east end of San Antonio Road in Palo Alto, then carpool back along East Bayshore Road and out Embarcadero Road to Byxbee Hills Park. From there, we’ll start our walk along Mayfield Slough out toward the bay and around Adobe Creek Loop trail on the levees back to Terminal Blvd.

We’ll gather at Terminal Blvd. in Palo Alto at 9 a.m. We’ll take our time and probably finish around noon. Wear warm clothes in layers (be prepared for rain, too), and bring field guides and binoculars.

Early Newsletter Deadline

Because of the holidays, the deadline for the January issue of the *Redwood Reachout* is earlier in the month than usual, Dec. 18.

Who's Who and How to Contact Us

UUFRC Regular Events

Every Sunday ~ Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Every Thursday ~ Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
1st Sundays ~ Social Action Committee, 12 noon
1st Mondays ~ Connections Committee, 7:00 p.m.
2nd Sundays ~ RE Committee, 8:30 a.m.,
and Newcomer Circle, 11:45 a.m.
2nd Mondays ~ Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m.
2nd Tuesdays ~ Committee on Ministry, 7:15 p.m.
2nd Thursdays ~ Board of Trustees, 7:00 p.m.
2nd Fridays ~ New Horizons, 1-3 p.m.
3rd Tuesdays ~ Worship Committee, 7:00 p.m.
3rd Wednesdays ~ Women's Group, 7:30 p.m.
and PIA Local Org. Comm., 7:30 p.m.
4th Mondays ~ Arts & Crafts Group, 7:00 p.m.
4th Wednesdays ~ Finance Committee, 6:20 p.m. ,
and UU Voices for Health Care, 7:30 p.m.
Last Thursdays ~ Newsletter assembly for mailing, 1 p.m.
See the *Calendar of Events* at www.uufrc.org for updates

To join our UUFRC e-mail group, send any e-mail message to: [uufrc-subscribe @ yahoo.com](mailto:uufrc-subscribe@yahoo.com). View some helpful info about the group (no subscription needed) by sending any message to: [uufrc-help @ yahoo.com](mailto:uufrc-help@yahoo.com). Once you have subscribed, you can post to the group by sending your message to [uufrc @ yahoo.com](mailto:uufrc@yahoo.com).

UUFRC Staff

Reverend Julia Older, Minister
(on sabbatical until March 2010)
Reverend Laurel Liefert, Sunday Worship Minister
[revlaureluufrc @ yahoo.com](mailto:revlaureluufrc@yahoo.com)

Reverend Bill Kennedy, Pastoral Care Minister
[wkennedy @ uuma.org](mailto:wkennedy@uuma.org)

Tracey Fecher, Director, Religious Education
[dreuufrc @ yahoo.com](mailto:dreuufrc@yahoo.com)

Debra Schwab, Administrator
Office hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 10 a.m.–noon and
1:00–3:00 p.m. [office @ uufrc.org](mailto:office@uufrc.org)
Office: 365-6913 ~ Fax: 368-1461

Cindy Johnson, Welcoming Coordinator
364-4995 [welcomezuufrc @ pacbell.net](mailto:welcomezuufrc@pacbell.net)

Music Director: position vacant
For info, contact Music Committee co-chairs:
John Anning: [anning.john @ gmail.com](mailto:anning.john@gmail.com)
Jennifer Davidson: [jbahr-davidson @ sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbahr-davidson@sbcglobal.net)

Newsletter Editor (volunteer): Susan McBain

Newsletter Deadline: Noon, Friday before last Thursday
of the month. Email articles to: [newsletter @ uufrc.org](mailto:newsletter@uufrc.org)
(preferred), or mail or bring hardcopy to the office.

Board of Trustees for 2009 - 2010

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

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| David George (Recording Secretary) | 568-3265 | georgedave @ gmail.com |
| Peter Hartzell (President) | 368-3638 | pdhartzell @ earthlink.net |
| Ralph Humphries | 592-1571 | ralph_humphries @ yahoo.com |
| Lori Longo (Vice President) | 365-0203 | Lori @ Longo.net |
| Mike McGrew | 802-9102 | mmcgrew @ earthlink.net |
| Janette Rabin | 508-8500 | janetterab @ aol.com |
| Beverly Morgan (Corresponding Secretary) | 366-6378 | bevie.lou @ gmail.com |

Committee on Ministry (CoM) for 2009-2010

Contact a Committee on Ministry member if you have issues to discuss regarding the shared ministry of the church. Examples include worship, outreach, how we are treating each other, and how the settled minister is serving the congregation.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| Steve Hill | 361-1567 | hilldepotfarm @ msn.com |
| Heather Hopkins | 233-9887 | heather @ mynewredshoes.org |
| Anna Olsen (chair) | 361-1393 | annamichelle @ aol.com |
| Cal Sloan | 306-7818 | calsloan @ hotmail.com |
| Susan Walker-O'Brien | 361-8797 | susanobrien @ sbcglobal.net |

New Directories Available

Updated copies of our Fellowship Directory are now available. You'll find them located on the Welcome Table in the church foyer each Sunday this month. If you don't spot them, please ask the Greeters for help.

Calendar of UUFRC Events, December 2009

| | | | |
|-----------|----|---|--|
| Tuesday | 1 | | |
| Wednesday | 2 | 7p | Yoga and Meditation |
| Thursday | 3 | 7:30p | Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday | 4 | | |
| Saturday | 5 | 9a | Hiking Group: Annual Baylands Birding Walk |
| Sunday | 6 | 9a–12:30p 10:30a 12n 12n–5p 7p | Holiday Boutique Service: In Our Own Words: A Hazy Shade of Winter — John Anning et al. Social Action Committee Holiday Bazaar Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientation |
| Monday | 7 | 6:45 7p | Finance Committee Connections (Membership) Committee |
| Tuesday | 8 | | |
| Wednesday | 9 | | |
| Thursday | 10 | 7p 7:30p | Board of Trustees Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday | 11 | 12n | New Horizons |
| Saturday | 12 | 9a–12n | Workshop: Christmas Cards for All Ages |
| Sunday | 13 | 8:30a 9a–12n 10:30a 11:45 12n 5:30 | RE Committee Holiday Boutique Service: A Holy Rhythm — Rev. Laurel Liefert Newcomer Circle Forum: Introduction to Buddhism Youth Group Meeting |
| Monday | 14 | 7:30p | Book Discussion Group |
| Tuesday | 15 | 7p 7:15p | Worship Committee Committee on Ministry |
| Wednesday | 16 | 7p | PIA Local Organizing Committee – Education Women’s Group (Kennedy home) |
| Thursday | 17 | 7:30p | Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday | 18 | 1p | Newsletter deadline |
| Saturday | 19 | | |
| Sunday | 20 | 10:30a 12n 2p 3–6p | Service: Annual Christmas Pageant — Rev. Laurel Liefert Conversations with Rev. Laurel: Faith Memorial for Pat Crawford Barbecue for Maple Street Shelter |
| Monday | 21 | 7:30p | Yule Log/Solstice Ritual |
| Tuesday | 22 | 7p | Job Seekers Group |
| Wednesday | 23 | 7p | PIA Local Organizing Committee: UU Voices for Health Care |
| Thursday | 24 | 7p | Christmas Eve Service — Rev. Bill Kennedy |
| Friday | 25 | | |
| Saturday | 26 | 6p | Beverly Morgan birthday party |
| Sunday | 27 | 10:30a | Service: Let Go and Open Up — Bob Honea |
| Monday | 28 | 7p | Arts & Crafts Group |
| Tuesday | 29 | | |
| Wednesday | 30 | | |
| Thursday | 31 | | |

Supporting Our Community

Planned Giving: A Gift from Your IRA — *The UUFRC Planned Giving Committee*

If you are age 70½ or older, you can send a contribution directly to UUFRC from your Individual Retirement Account without paying income tax on the withdrawal. You may not take a deduction for this gift. The gift must go directly from your IRA to the Fellowship.

The law allowing this type of giving expires at the end of 2009. If this seems like a good way to make a gift to UUFRC, see the information below. You can also check for more details on the internet or with a tax professional.

A charitable gift made directly from an IRA will not be taxed as income as long as

- the gift is made in 2008 or 2009;
- the IRA holder is age 70½ or older;
- the gift totals \$100,000 or less each year;
- the charity is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions;
- the charity is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization; and
- the withdrawal goes directly from the IRA to the charity.

The donor does not need to itemize his or her taxes to take advantage of the rollover. If the donor does itemize, however, he or she cannot also take the contribution as a deduction.

For more information, contact your tax advisor or go to:

frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h1424enr.txt.pdf

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2124 Brewster Avenue
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December 2009

Submissions for next issue due at noon **Friday, December 18.**

The *Redwood Reachout* is on the church web site at www.uufrc.org/newsletter.html.

If you are unable to access the church web site, you can contact the office to request a printed copy.