

UUFRC Annual Report, June 2007

Table of Contents

Agenda for 2007 Annual Meeting	2
Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting.....	3
President’s Report	4
Minister’s Report	5
Director of Religious Education’s Report	7
Administrator’s Report	9
Reports from Committee Chairs	
Auction	10
Building Committee	10
Caring Committee	12
Committee on Ministry	12
Council of Committee Chairs	13
Denominational Affairs	13
Finance Committee	14
Proposed budget	15
Summary of reserves	16
Green Sanctuary Committee	17
Grounds Committee	18
Membership Committee	18
Ministry of Culinary Arts (MOCA)	20
Music Committee	21
New Horizons	22
Partner Church	22
Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA)	23
Pledge Drive	25
Religious Education	
Adult	26
Children	27
Social Action Committee	29
Worship Committee	30
Changes and Milestones Among Our Membership	33

UUFRC Annual Meeting Agenda

June 3, 2007 at 12:00 noon

1. Opening Words
2. Call to Order
3. Roll Call: Declaration of Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes for Annual Meeting 2006
6. Election of Board Members
7. Election of Denomination Affairs Representatives
8. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
9. Approval of 2007-2008 Budget
10. Revision of Bylaws
11. Announcement of elected officials
12. Adjournment



UUFRC Annual Meeting
June 4, 2006

The Annual meeting opened with 44 members in attendance at 12:14pm with Rev. Julia lighting the chalice.

The consent agenda was passed with a minor modification.

Elections

Four candidates for three Board of Trustee positions were introduced – Jeanne Durnford, Peter Hartzell, Liz Sloan and Frank Montoro. Frank took his hat out of the ring and threw his votes to Peter Hartzell; the other three were elected to the three slots.

Three candidates for three Denominational Delegates positions were introduced – all three were elected:

- Shirley De Martis
- Debbie Mytels
- Susan Walker-O'Brien

Ballots were counted

Building Committee update was given by John Cooney

Recognized and thanked for their service on the Board were Eduardo Pretell, concluding his term as President, and Joanne McMahon, concluding her term as a Board member.

Budget

We are \$5,000 under the proposed budget for 2005-2006.

Reserves are listed on the Balance Sheet

There is \$13,000 in the Chairs Reserves fund for New Chairs.

We have \$112,000 in cash in Reserves.

UULM Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry

Geri Kennedy spoke of the UULM and it was moved, seconded, and carried that UUFRC would create a UULM Committee and participate in various projects as a congregation.



Report from the President of the Board of Trustees

This year, we again found ourselves with the joy of being a growing congregation. We are now up to 150 members! The BOT has been discussing ways for new people to get connected. There are a lot of things to be done and a lot of people to do them. We want people to feel rewarded by their volunteer activities. We formatted a volunteer questionnaire and are collecting the information now. Hopefully it will help us put people in touch with the right opportunities or interests or other people that share the same passions. For those of us who have taken on leadership roles at UUFRC, we have had fun and challenges and found this place to be extremely supportive.

We had a very busy and successful year with some new events, such as the Quiet Service at 9:15 on Sundays; the first group of middle school age children having a youth coordinator (Emily Lehr-Anning), and the first group of 3rd and 4th grade children doing a Rite of Passage. Thanks to Juanita Mast, we also had a very successful silent and not-so-silent auction – attracting more people than the church can hold – and making \$21,000. Under Erika Pretell’s excellent leadership we had another successful pledge drive, bringing in about \$175,000. This is just a sample of some of the many programs and activities that make this place so great. Thank you to all of you who make this community run smoothly both in leadership positions and the countless people behind the scenes coming forth and getting it all done.

Members of the BOT took on the task of updating the bylaws; formed a personnel committee which updated our contracts and employee agreements; and helped plan for our sponsorship of District Assembly. Thank you to all the people who made this DA go so well.

The BOT is forming a Futures Group, which will take on the responsibility of looking at where we are now and where we will be going and what our needs for space and money will be as we go forward. We are likely to use the UUA feasibility study guide, which guides us through the steps so that we can prudently move to the next phase.

I sincerely appreciate the support of the Board of Trustees and the wonderful members of this congregation in helping me through the challenges that I have had to face this year.

Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Sloan
President, UUFRC Board of Trustees
(Prepared by Jeanne Durnford, VP)



Report from the Minister

I hope that the congregation is not tired of all the superlatives I use when summing up our community and our activities and accomplishments. It is hard to imagine that twelve months have gone by until I begin to list all that we've done and remember all the rich connections.

I have noticed at District meetings, when we compare and contrast our congregations, that we have an unusual way of doing things here at UUFRC. What is remarkable is that so many people here have ideas for a project or a new offering or want to create another kind of gathering and feel empowered to bring it to life. I suspect at least two things contribute to this strange and wonderful culture. One may be the best kind of hand-me-down from the time we were lay-led and you had to do everything yourselves, and the other is Work Day, which often feels like a barn-raising kind of energy. If you've oiled the walls and washed the windows and cleaned the bathrooms, you know that this is your place, your community, and your home. We grow our sense of belonging from working together, as much as worshipping together.

I need to commend you yet again and always for all that you give and bring and create here. On every measure by which we might evaluate our church, we are thriving. As of right now, we have 150 members. I believe that makes us the most consistently growing church in the district.

We have a creative and dedicated Board. Our special projects have all been successful from the rummage sale and All Church Retreat to the Silent Auction, Pledge Drive and our part at District Assembly this year. I even did a fair amount of my holiday shopping at our Christmas Boutique. Every Sunday, coffee hour feels like a celebration, and our concerts and fundraisers and holiday parties provide an endless stream of community building. Behind the scenes, you would be surprised to see the great number of people who volunteer for special tasks just on the Caring Committee. And that's only the inside!

Outside we have contributed thousands of dollars in our monthly special collections to causes we care about. We've done research and spoken at city council. We have had quarterly "kids-included projects" like the creek cleanup last fall. We've had forums and films and discussions. We've collected signatures and written letters. We had an evening with Clarence Darrow. We co-sponsored Martin Luther King Jr. events and the Freedom Train and "Cool Cities" with the Sierra Club.

I don't want to reiterate what each committee will be saying in its reports, but I'd love for you to glimpse the rich mosaic we have created together. We are more consciously layered in our planning. Perhaps you saw that Children's RE and Adult RE and worship services each added layers to the same topics all year. Worship has been ambitiously organizing quality services, inventing the early Quiet Service and providing monthly intergenerational services with our kids participating. Music has been varied and exciting. Thank you in particular to Jen Davidson for keeping the music playing with all of the personnel changes. And thank you to all of the special visitors who made music with us.

We are already at work planning for next year with special attention to activities that bring us together in small groups, like the wonderful C-groups that add so much depth to our conversation.

With the talent and interest survey now available online, and a new website being unrolled this summer, an intern joining us next year, and two big coordinator positions being created to be sure that our visitors are welcomed and our new members are woven in as quickly as they want to be, next year is already shaping up.

Thank you to each of you. Thank you to the committee chairs and special project coordinators and every volunteer. Thank you especially to Tracey Fecher who makes our children's program excellent and to Judy Cronin for her steady patience.

I must say again, without any reservation, and from the bottom of my heart, "I love this place."

Julia



Report from the Director of Religious Education

Religious Education at UUFRC had a great year! Two new important programs were implemented and the Winter/Spring semester covering Eastern World Religions included our first visits to outside houses of worship. Meanwhile, the things we have historically done well in RE continued.

This year brought the implementation of new Rites of Passage milestones for our children. We gave “erasers” to our kindergartners to remind them making mistakes is an important part of learning, and ran our first Catechism program for 3rd and 4th graders. Fifteen children finished the Catechism with a wonderful Rites of Passage service in November. The children moved the congregation with their Credo Statements; and many in attendance shared that the children’s credos made them feel more hopeful for the future of the world. Some favorite moments from the Catechism were the tea with Rev. Julia and making the Seven Principles necklaces. I want to thank Maeve Knoth and Jo Ann Cobb for their help implementing the new program as well as their fantastic teaching.

The Middle School Youth Group got off to a great start with the hiring of Emily Lehr-Anning as our youth advisor. Emily brings great enthusiasm and youthfulness to the program. She has been leading our middle schoolers in Sunday school, at social events and in social action. The youth attended the Bridging Communities event on the SF Golden Gate in April. The youth really enjoy Emily, which is evident from the regular attendance of the group.

Last year, Rev. Julia and I worked together to plan Intergenerational services once a month and to connect the themes of the Children’s and Adult RE with those worship services. The connections feel substantial and meaningful. Children participate by reading the welcome words, lighting the chalice, providing music and more. While these services take more of my time than I anticipated, the effort is well spent. I feel it bonds our community more deeply, and helps us grow lifelong UUs who feel the sanctuary belongs to them as well as the adults.

New for this church year was teaching UU Identity curriculum in the Fall and other religions in the Winter/Spring. Previously, Religious Education had the practice of rotating through UU Identity, Western World Religions and Eastern World Religions every three years. It feels more authentic to begin each year by focusing on UU Identity. This year the children learned the Seven UU Principles in all of the classes. The Winter/Spring subject matter was Eastern World Religions. The curriculum committee chose three religions to study: Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The teachers for each religion went above and beyond in their planning, research and teaching. In my time at UUFRC, this was the first time we visited other houses of worship. Our visit to the Muslim Community Center in Belmont was the first field trip. The Imam welcomed us warmly, invited us to observe a prayer service and then answered the many questions of the children and adults present. There was trip to a Hindu temple as well as a visit from a Buddhist teacher. These connections with people who practice these religions in their daily lives enriched the program and made it real for the children and teachers alike. I’d like to thank Beth Harrison, who did the curriculum planning for the Eastern Religion unit. Her help and support really made a difference.

Childcare for Sunday morning services in the blockroom have benefited from the addition of an assistant for Michael Green. Libby Cronin has been working in the blockroom for the year. I appreciate the team Michael and Libby make as well as the stability and consistency

their presence brings to our little ones. Libby will be off to college in late summer. We wish her well at the University of Denver and will miss her.

There were many other successful programs this church year. The annual church retreat had a large number of children in attendance, over 25 and many new families! The Auction for children went very well this year. Childcare was held in two rooms for different ages. The addition of five childcare providers and crafts for the older children was a positive change as well. This year our church co-sponsored District Assembly (DA). I was very involved in the planning of children's activities at DA with the co-DREs of the San Mateo church. For many reasons, this experience was not positive for me; but I enjoyed working with my peers and made a contribution to the eight middle schoolers in attendance at DA.

This upcoming year (2007/2008) there are no new planned programs in Religious Education at UUFRC. We will be focusing on building our processes and structures, such as adding members to the RE committee and augmenting the roles of committee members. Looking towards 2008/2009, the RE Committee is hoping we will be running OWL for 4th to 6th graders, OWL for 7th to 9th grade, Coming of Age for 8th to 10th graders, and a Catechism for 3rd to 4th graders. As I have shared with the Board of Directors and the RE Committee, I believe the RE program will need 30 hours a week of DRE staff time to implement these programs beginning in September 2008. (Currently, our programs are run with 20 hours of DRE staff time.)

This year, I am especially thankful for the support of the Personnel Committee. They have helped me grow as a supervisor and have answered my many questions. I am also very pleased with the Intergenerational services this year. I feel strongly that they have a role in our continued growth as an intergenerational community as well as their importance to our children. My work at the Fellowship continues to be rewarding, and I especially cherish my connections with the children of the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Fecher
Director of Religious Education



Report from the Administrator

The busiest times of the year in the office are during the pledge drive and preparing the Annual Report. I usually work more than twenty hours a week during these times and less in the summer when things are quieter. This benefits the Fellowship as I am here when needed.

Last summer I helped in RE by leading some of the summer programs. I enjoyed working with the children and having the opportunity to meet people who only come on Sundays.

Open Gate continues to be our major tenant, using the building Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Tuesday evenings.

We entered another two-year lease with the Tabernacle of Praise. They are now using the Sanctuary and Blockroom on Sundays from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., and the Sanctuary on Wednesdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. They are using the Social Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of each month

We are renting out the front lounge on a long-term basis on Wednesday evenings, and Julia's office on Tuesday evenings. We continue to rent to the Irish Dance group on Thursday afternoons.

I've worked with service contractors on plumbing, termite and dishwasher issues this year.

As always I'm constantly trying to keep the database as up-to-date as possible. Please let me know if you have a change of address, phone number or email. This should make it easier to maintain a current directory. I plan to work on a new directory over the summer and publish it in September.

I would like to thank the newsletter mailing crew. Every month they stamp and address your newsletter; they make short work of a job that would be tiresome for one person. This year we have started having the newsletter available for pickup on Sunday and then mailing those remaining on Monday. This saves us a few dollars in postage every month. I also email the newsletter to anyone who requests it; this saves on paper, printing and postage costs. Thanks to those of you who choose this option.

Once again, special thanks to Susan Walker-O'Brien, who has filled in for me in times of need and always lends a helping hand with a smile.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Cronin
UUFRC Administrator



Auction

On February 10, 2007 we had a terrific, fun event: the Auction (previously called the Silent Auction). The theme was Laissez les BonsTemps Rouler, "Let the Good Times Roll" and we did!

Our Mardi Gras themed celebration included great N'awlins music by "Natasha and the Boogie Men". Decorations transformed the sanctuary into a party place where we dined on an excellent New Orleans style dinner, watched a parade, bid in a very lively live Auction, and announced the winners of some great raffle prizes. In the Social Hall we had the Silent Auction with a fantastic array of items, dinners, outings and events (180+) to bid on. The children had their own auction and the UUFRC teens participated.

The event was successful in so many ways. It was a good party and a fun time. The publicity and announcements helped attract a good crowd (150 or so). Members of UUFRC generously contributed many wonderful items, dinners and events for both the live and silent auctions. Committee members obtained donations from 43 local businesses. The volunteers made it all happen, 25 committee members worked hard on planning and putting it all together and another 50+ people helped with the setup, decorations, serving, processing auction bids, check out and cashiering, and cleanup.

The Auction benefits included \$22,000 raised to support UUFRC; and building our community, both at the event and at the many dinners, outings and family events we are enjoying through the year.

Thank you to all who participated, donated, bid and worked hard to make our 2007 Auction a terrific success.

Juanita Mast
Auction Chair



Building Committee

In the past church year we have had two fantastic workdays:

- In October we painted the Sanctuary! Volunteers prepared the Sanctuary Friday afternoon and evening, followed by a full Saturday of painting.
- Last April, despite rain, we got a ton of yard work done plus a panoply of other tasks.

On both occasions we had a large group of volunteers, a good lunch, and sufficient chocolate chip cookies. What more could be asked of our church community? Workdays continue to be acts of ministry for all who come, complete with sacraments (food and cookies).

We found some termite damage in the attic in the southwest storage area off the Choir Loft; so we had this area inspected and treated by professionals. Ad and ineh 0 0 1 73.2 4516, we checked other and s of the attic and did not find any additional signs of termites. However, this is something that we need to watch and I have added it to the list of standard work-day tasks.

Other improvements over the last year include putting a UV coating on the large windows in the Sanctuary. We are also testing a new kind of blind on these windows. We want to be able to cut the glare of the sunlight that comes into the Sanctuary during the summer months.

I have acquired a second “Badge of Building Leadership” hardhat and am looking for a co-chairperson to wear it. I think it is time that someone else takes on the role of organizing and leading workdays. I would also like to find someone to organize the search for new chairs; my schedule is just getting too full.

The big challenges facing the Building revolve around space utilization. Tracey and I are working with Open Gate to find ways to make the classrooms more usable for R.E. on Sundays. We are also discussing three construction activities:

1. Expanding the storage facilities above the Block Room. This space is accessed via a pull-down ladder, so it is awkward to get to, but accessible. The plan is to extend the sub-floor and shelves in this area to provide storage for seldom-used items. For example: holiday ornaments, painting supplies, banners, banquet equipment, etc.
2. Turn the Aesthetics Closet into small meeting room by moving out the seldom (if ever) used stuff and installing a large window into the atrium to provide natural light.
3. Enlarge the passageways and build shelves in the two storage areas off the Choir Loft. These are easier to get to than the attic and should be made available for storing more frequently needed supplies.

I am happy to organize and lead this work, but I will require help from many others to get the job done and insure sufficient supplies of chocolate chip cookies.

We have agreed to replace the current water heater with an “on-demand” unit to be installed in the attic above the kitchen. This will allow us to extend the counter into the space taken by the current water heater. The only question is when should we do it?

Perhaps most important is to honor all the people who give their time and labor to keep our building an inviting home. I actually do very little; what happens is that lots of people show up and everyone does what they can. The net result always amazes me. I once referred to workdays as the Ministry of the Building, and I continue to feel this way. As we gather to do together those good works that cannot be done alone, it is indeed an act of Ministry, to those we work with, to ourselves, and to our entire church community. Blessed Be – Thank You!

Respectfully submitted,
John Cooney
Chair, Building Committee



Caring Committee

The Caring Committee has a roster of 42 people signed up to help members of the fellowship in times of need. They are categorized by the type of care they can offer: transportation; shopping; contacting by cards, phone or visits; providing help with chores, child or pet care, insurance forms or paperwork; and preparing and delivering meals. We sent notes of cheer, made phone calls, visited and/or provided meals and transportation to over 15 members (and some non-members) of the congregation when they were ill, housebound or had new additions to their families and needed extra help. One big challenge is to identify those who can use help but don't want to ask.

The response of the Fellowship is heartwarming and inspirational whenever help is needed. I'd like to especially thank Kathy Voss for maintaining the database of care givers and of those needing assistance. She has truly gotten us organized.

If you would like to add your name to the Caring Committee list, please contact Kathy or me. We don't have regular meetings and communicate as much as possible by email or telephone. The time is really devoted to caring for our members. We especially need someone to coordinate responses and make sure that requests are filled, and we need everyone's cooperation to let us know of those who could use special help.

Thank you to everyone for your willing help and concern. This is truly a warm and wonderful place!

Respectfully submitted,
Janette Rabin
Chair, Caring Committee



Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry's charge is to discuss the health of the congregation and serve as a sounding board for the minister. Because of the nature of its function, details cannot be provided.

Next year the committee will lead an effort to refine our congregation's mission and vision. It will begin in the fall.

The committee members for 2006-2007 were Derby Davidson, Frank Montoro, Jorie Schulz, Alex Stagner, and Rev. Julia. Derby's term ends in June and we are seeking his successor.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Stagner
Chair, Committee on Ministry



Council of Committee Chairs

The Council of Committee Chairs is convened every fifth Thursday (about 2-3 times a year) by the Board of Trustees Vice-President. This is a very important communication tool for the Fellowship. At these meetings, all the committee chairs tell what is happening with their group, what is missing, what they need help with, and what plans they have for the future. This is also the group that sets the calendar.

Anyone is welcome to attend and learn more about the committees and what is going on.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Durnford
Vice-President, BOT



Denominational Affairs

This year our elected Denominational Affairs representatives were Shirley De Martis, Debbie Mytels and Susan Walker-O'Brien. Our task is to encourage the Fellowship to stay connected to the larger UU world. Our Fellowship is a member of the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

The big event for us this year was co-hosting District Assembly with the San Mateo UU church. It was held in Foster City at the Crowne Plaza hotel on the weekend of April 27-29. Many of our members signed up, along with UUSM people, for the many volunteer tasks, such as setup and cleanup of the main ballroom and the display tables, hospitality and welcoming at the hotel, and registering participants. For some of the jobs we had too many workers! Several of our choir members joined with UUSM choir members to sing an anthem and lead the hymns in the Sunday morning worship. We forged new closer relationships with UUs from around the District, in particular with the San Mateo UUs we worked with.

Our minister Julia is a member of PCD's Board of Directors; her term is finishing this June. Long-time UUFRC member David Vallerga was just elected to that board and will serve a three-year term.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Walker-O'Brien,
Denominational Affairs Representative

Finance Committee for Year Ending June 2007

Committee members Janette Rabin, Lori Longo (chair), Cliff Christensen, and Geri Kennedy have been joined by Rev. Older at our monthly meetings, currently the third Thursday of the month at 4:30p.m. Reviewing the finances of UUFRC is interesting, and creating a new model for our financial picture for future years will be our ongoing challenge. We encourage members and friends who have an interest and concern about the financial road for our congregation to join the Finance Committee.

At this time we can only give year-to-date figures since our fiscal year ends June 30th. Our prediction is that our income and expenses will nearly balance. Investments did very well this year (Calvert Social Income Fund), and the Rummage Sale income was a bonus to the income line. Pledges are coming in close to budget. Reserve expenses so far this fiscal year have been for a new computer. Our solar panels have continued to keep electric bills low. However, our gas usage was significantly higher this past winter, probably due to overworking the heaters when windows and doors are left open overnight after meetings.

Our total cash as of March 31, 2007 is \$136,207.01. The bulk of the funds are distributed between the Calvert Money Market and Calvert Social Income Fund .

Considerable time and effort was spent on researching financial options with regard to growth and space needs of the congregation. Information gathered and suggestions were passed on to the Board. Also this year a representative of the Finance Committee attended board meetings quarterly to enhance the flow of communication.

Our bookkeeper, Geri Kennedy, informed UUFRC members and friends of a new IRS Tax Rule requiring that all charitable contributions have documentation in order to be deductible. Documentation can be a cancelled check, or a receipt from our bookkeeper. This applies in particular to Sunday offerings; checks are preferred, or cash placed in an envelope with name and address if you wish a receipt.

Regarding Chalice Lighters: according to the PCD report, UUFRC is at the 35% level and we are the 5th best participants in the district. The goal is to get 50% participation, so we have just a few more folks to go and encourage all to join Chalice Lighters.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Longo, Chair, Finance Committee
Geri Kennedy, Bookkeeper



Budget

Resources Summary

Green Sanctuary Committee

During the past year, the Green Sanctuary Committee continued to discuss ways that UUFRC could improve our already high standards of environmental performance. Since UUFRC has already tackled all the “low hanging fruit” in resource conservation – and also achieved one of the hardest, which is the installation of a photovoltaic electricity system on our building – we are working to accomplish some less dramatic goals and also working to educate our church family and the larger community about how we might live more closely aligned with the Seventh Principle, which speaks of the web of life of which we are all a part.

Many of UUFRC’s “green” accomplishments have been undertaken by other groups within the church, such as the cloth napkins that were created by one of the C-groups, the second-round retrofitting of lighting fixtures with new compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) by John Cooney and his Building Committee, and the use of less toxic herbicides by Frank Montoro and the Ministry of Mowing. The Green Sanctuary Committee met several times during the year to discuss addition of ceiling

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Grounds Committee

Care and maintenance of the planted area of the Fellowship is the work of the Grounds Committee. Duties include mowing the lawn and trimming the shrubs and trees. Twice a year additional volunteers are added to the crew to do more extensive work. On Oct. 28 and April 14, Church Cleanup Days, we accomplished much of this work.

In October, Jon Linn, owner of the Peleton Landscaping Co., donated his services by repairing our sprinkler system. New electric controls were installed and a nighttime watering schedule was set. We are grateful to Mr. Linn for providing this service to us at no cost to the Fellowship.

In keeping with the Fellowship's Green Sanctuary Project, we use no chemical fertilizers or pesticides in the planted areas. After consulting with Debbie Mytels, chair of the Green Sanctuary Committee, we are now using a product called "Safer" on the sidewalks to control weeds and grasses in the cracks and edges.

We thank the following members of the Grounds Committee for their year-round work: Jorie Schulz, Chris Fuller, Jonelle Preisser, the Vallerga family, Diane Rahe, Jim Ong, Dennis Wobber, Connie Brede, George Taylor, and Marty Yee.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Montoro
Chair, Grounds Committee



Membership Committee

Committee Chaired by:

David Vallerga
Shirley De Martis

Committee Members:

Marge Axley, Patricia Dwyer, Lori Longo, Sarah Skovlund, Cindy Johnson, Mike McGrew, Sara Morgan, Rev. Julia Older, and Marty Yee

Overview for 2006-2007:

Once again the Membership Committee, and the Fellowship as a whole, had a very successful year.

- We held two ingatherings, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Twenty-two new members have joined UUFRC since September 2006.
- We helped manage two sessions of UU-101, each conducted just before an ingathering.
- We provided welcomers and greeters for each Sunday of the church year.
- We moved the nametags outside to the front of the Fellowship on days when the weather permitted, starting in the Spring.
- We created a Yahoo Groups list to improve our committee communications.

Challenges for next year:

We continue to have a problem in scheduling meeting times. One of the consequences of the increased activity level at the Fellowship is that any time we schedule conflicts with other activities. Each of our committee members is involved with other groups here. To compensate for having fewer meetings we created the Yahoo Groups list to be able to exchange information electronically.

We are managing the multiple colors of the name tags. While this provides everyone with additional information, it is a bit of a challenge to keep track, particularly of who should be moved into the category of “regular visitor.” We think we are getting better at this.

We are having problems with keeping track of people who want to join, or who we should invite to join at the next ingathering.

We cancelled the Ice Cream Socials and need to revisit these, or help with other events that bring our visitors, friends and members into the “work” of the Fellowship, in order to help people become more deeply connected here.

Plans for next year:

Our Fellowship co-hosted the District Assembly this Spring. Many of us attended and participated in several workshops on the topic of growth. We have not yet considered exactly how to implement what we learned, but we will be discussing some changes to accomplish this.

We have invited the New Horizons group to join with us in producing an updated photo directory, and expect to have one by next Spring.

* * *

The co-chairs would like to thank everyone who helped this committee, including the committee members who left this year and the members who joined for making this a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
David Vallerga
Shirley De Martis
Co-chairs, Membership Committee

MOCA (Ministry of Culinary Arts)

As committee chair of MOCA my duties include many things, such a, laundering table cloths, napkins, and dishtowels and returning them to the MOCA closet for future use, making sure there is coffee, tea, sugar etc. and informing the Administrator when coffee is running low so she can order more.

I shop for our "After Service Snacks" which consist of cheese, crackers, salami, pastries, chips and dips, veggies and dips, and fresh fruit. I prepare the food for our special occasion luncheons, such as the one we recently had in celebration of the yearly Pledge Drive.

The other Committee Members are Lee Wakefield, Gene Einselen and Veronica Palmer. Their duties consist of preparing snacks, setting the tables with napkins, dishes, silver ware, water tumblers, coffee and tea cups, making coffee and setting out various tea bags, cream sugar, juice and filtered water. We also make sure the tables are cleared off when the Social Hour is over. We also show up and help the volunteers who sign up for "Coffee Cleanup" to make sure the dishes are done and put away and the kitchen is clean.

We as UUFRC members are happy to offer our services and know we are appreciated by all, especially by the people who have to attend meetings after service, and the choir who start rehearsals at 8:30 and by 11:30 they need a "pick-me-up snack".

It gives all of us MOCA members a sense of satisfaction by doing our part in contributing to this wonderful Fellowship, to see everyone enjoying not only each other but the snacks as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Millie Kowski
Chair, MOCA



Music Committee

The Music Committee members include Sara Morgan, Jen Myhre, Susan Walker-O'Brien, Kathy Warne, Bill Welch, Amy French, Lory Kitamura-Tintor, Kitty Bownass, Ralph Humphries, and Jennifer Davidson (chair). This year was a time of change – Sue Field, our Music Director of the last 2.5 years, gave notice at the end of her contract and did not return. Greg Sudmeier led the choir as Interim Music Director through the end of 2006.

Unfortunately, Greg's schedule did not permit him to continue in this role. A search committee of Kathy Warne, Amy French, and Jennifer Davidson managed the search for a permanent choir director. After bringing in two candidates to direct the choir we hired Susan Nitzberg as our part-time Choir Director in April! In January, our beloved pianist of the last 1.5 years, Aki Amai, resigned due to family issues. We are still searching for a permanent replacement. During this tumultuous year our volunteers have really come forward to carry on our music program and give to the community some wonderful music! Special thanks to our children's choir volunteers Sara Morgan, Amy French, and Lyra Ghose. A round of applause to all of those who performed/accompanied/directed as part of services including Lory Kitamura-Tintor, Amy French, John Anning, Ken Sundermeyer, Chris Fuller, John Cooney, Mike McGrew, Sara Morgan, Jane Paige, Jim Boyson, Bonnie Bahr, Kathy Warne, Bill Welch, and our younger folks Laura Ong, Sarah Fecher, Jasmine Davidson, Jadzia Davidson, Abby Hartzell, Lily Hartzell, and Thomas Fuller. And thank you to the regular choir members who have been showing up faithfully at 8:30 on Sunday mornings this year.

Musical events included:

- 4th Annual Music Fundraiser (April 22, 2007) – featured the adult and children's choirs as well as other UUFRC musicians and friends. Special thanks to all of the new musicians including Teyva Chee, Lyra Ghose, Adam Sundermeyer, Laura Ong, Libby Ross, and Taylor Conrad. And thanks to those who always pitch in including Frank Montoro and Ellen Hill. Approximately \$532 was raised during the event.
- Blues at the Church III (June, 2006) – John Cooney and John Anning facilitated this event which featured the JEN band, Jimmy Boyson, Chris Fuller, and John Anning backing soloists/vocalists playing the blues, and friends of the church jammin' together.
- Annual Christmas Pageant (December 17, 2006)—We opened up participation to all who wanted to sing in "Would You Like to Hold The Baby". Two children soloists were featured.
- New Year's Eve Party—members of the JEN band and other musicians provided rock-n-roll and blues to get the fellowship rockin' in the New Year.
- Bryan Baker (January 13, 2007)—A marvelous concert featuring Bryan Baker, the conductor of Masterworks Chorale, on piano, three soloists, the Thirst & Howl Men's Choir, and Lory Kitamura-Tintor on flute. Bryan graciously donated his time. The event raised approximately \$541.

New Beginnings:

- Susan Nitzberg, our Choir Director!
- Purchase of a portable keyboard to facilitate adult and children's choir rehearsals.

A special thanks to all who filled out the music committee survey last May/June. The results have led us to strive for MORE VARIETY even during this chaotic time. We will continue to seek and use your input to help us provide an enriching/enlightening/fun experience to all!

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Davidson
Chair, Music Committee

New Horizons

Again this year, we took turns being Chair. We had a wide variety of programs — League of Women Voters, election results, vacation stories, book reports, “An Inconvenient Truth”, movie trivia from the ’30s and ’40s, and parties — to name some. Wonderful conversations and a good time always.

We will be in recess during July and August and resume meeting in September, always on 2nd Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonelle Preisser
Coordinator, New Horizons



Partner Church Committee

The Partner Church Committee was inactive this year. After several months' efforts to get an email translated into Hungarian failed late in 2005 (to our Partner Church's minister, Arpad Ilkei), I sent the English version to another minister in Transylvania last summer with a request that he translate it and pass it on to the Minister. There was no response, nor has there been any direct contact from Rev. Ilkei or other members of our Partner Church.

Susan Walker-O'Brien & Julia Older joined a tour group visiting Transylvania in July 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianna Tubman
Chair, Partner Church Committee



Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA)

Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) appealed to members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship because it offered an opportunity to make a difference in the community. Our Fellowship joined PIA two years ago and formed a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) composed of DeeDee Stovel, Ellen Hill, Linda Lehr Anning, Leslie Vallergera, Terry Jacobs, Julia Older, Jonelle Preisser, Beth Harrison, Peter Hartzell, Mary Klein, Kaye Bonney, Sara Morgan, Shirley De Martis, Marianna Tubman, Maria Magana, Bill Kennedy, Susan Walker-O'Brien, and Karen Raab.

In talking to many people within our Fellowship and the community, our LOC determined that our concerns were at-risk youth and healthcare. Our Fellowship has taken at-risk youth as a congregational action and is working with the larger PIA organization on healthcare issues.

HEALTHCARE

Ellen Hill organized volunteers from our Fellowship to gather signatures for an initiative to put healthcare insurance for children and working poor adults on the California Nov. 06 ballot. PIA, along with many other groups statewide, did collect enough signatures to put the initiative on the ballot but the measure failed. In the meantime, PIA organized an action with county supervisor Jerry Hill calling for a commission to study healthcare options in San Mateo County. Hundreds of people attended, including several dozen from our Fellowship. The commission was duly formed and is due to report its findings at another large action June 18.

AT-RISK YOUTH

We realized at the beginning of our organizing that making systemic changes to better serve youth and children is a hugely broad and complex issue and the more we learned, the more complex it seemed. Our LOC members have interviewed parents, teachers, school administrators, board members, education innovators, and community groups to get information and insights into how children and youth are served in Redwood City. These are the individuals we talked to:

- Teresa Alvarez - Parent Involvement Leadership Facilitator, RC School District
- Reina Barragan - Board Trustee, RC Public Library
- Craig Baker - President, RC School Board
- John Baker - Asst. Superintendent, RC School District
- Jan Christensen - Superintendent, RC School District
- Kathy Endia - Project READ
- Don Horsely - Former Sheriff, San Mateo County
- Yvette Irving - Director of English Language Learning, RC School District
- Georgia Jack - President, RC Education Foundation
- Shelly Masur - Member, RC School Board
- Jessica Mihaly - Director, First Five
- Sara Morgan - Teacher, RC School District
- Judy Romero - Director, Teen Center, Sequoia High School
- Tagel Shaw - Director, Redwood City 2020
- Alejandro & Michelle Vilchez - Program Directors, Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
- Parents of students in the Redwood City schools

We have learned that there are many, many people in our community who care about children. We have been impressed with the expertise and dedication of these people and what they provide for children. And yet we have also learned that despite these wonderful people and programs, too many children are not thriving.

So we organized a forum where members of our Fellowship and the community could gather to hear a vision for the school district from Assistant Superintendent Dr. John Baker and to listen to each other. About 40 people from our Fellowship and the surrounding community attended. We condensed our findings into a list of issues that we presented at a meeting with RC school administrators. In attendance were Superintendent Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent John Baker, and Director of English Language Learning Yvette Irving, as well as Beth Harrison, Peter Hartzell, Leslie Vallerga, Linda Lehr Anning, and DeeDee Stovel.

We found the Administrators were very interested in what we had learned over the past year, knew of us and PIA/PICO, and were eager to help us find ways to help.

We asked which specific school(s) in the district could most benefit from focused support in literacy. While we talked about Taft, Fair Oaks and Hoover, in all cases they are already receiving good support. Roosevelt (pre-K – 5 in the Key Market area), on the other hand, has great need, a good principal, is looking for help but has lacked community support.

At the district level they highlighted the need for help with local funding and an attendance-improvement program. Jan also shared that, beginning in the fall, the district will embark on a strategic planning process to articulate its mission and goals and develop an action plan for achieving these. The district wants community involvement in this process.

In an effort to make a concrete, positive impact in the community and play to the varied strengths of UUFRC and PIA we suggest the following actions:

- Focus a grass-roots effort at one school (Roosevelt if the fit is good) to help with literacy tutoring. We work with the school and district to get training and materials and we make a long-term commitment to make a difference for our tutees. This will be a volunteer-intensive project for members and friends of UUFRC.
- Position ourselves to help the school district with specific district-wide improvement initiatives including, but not limited to, strategy work starting in the fall, funding efforts, and the attendance-improvement initiative.
- Continue working with PIA and its parent organization PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) to make education funding a statewide issue.

Coming to this point where we have specific concrete work to do is exciting but also daunting. We need to know how the congregation feels about these initiatives and whether and how you are willing to climb on board to help make our church a RC community member that is effective at directly helping kids and making structural changes that improve the long-term prospects for all children of the Redwood City community.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye Bonney
Chair, Peninsula Interfaith Action



Pledge Drive

The theme of the 2007 Pledge Drive was “Imagine.” The congregation was asked to picture what they imagined as a future for UURC and to offer their financial support to make those dreams come true.

Unlike previous years which had a three-week pledge period, this year we had only two weeks. There were only two Sunday services in which to encourage a spirit of financial generosity. Speakers included Steve Jung (next year’s Pledge Chair) and John Anning. On one Sunday we passed out cards where people attending the worship service could write down what they like most about UUFRC today and what they imagine for the future. On the following Sunday, we presented the themes that emerged from those cards. A delicious celebration lunch was hosted by MOCA and the Wednesday Night C-Group.

This year, 24 Pledge Ambassadors contacted members and friends during the pledge drive. The large number of Ambassadors was aimed at contacting nearly everyone in the Fellowship, including past pledgers, past non-pledgers and newcomers who had arrived prior to February. Everyone was contacted first with a letter and then their Ambassador attempted to reach them by phone or in person. One finding this year was that many Ambassadors experienced great difficulty reaching people who did not return their phone calls. One limitation of the shorter pledge timeframe was that if a potential donor was out of town for a period of time, we were not able to reach them during the pledge campaign. A fair number of pledges did come in after the April 1st deadline, however.

A special thank-you tea was held at Reverend Julia’s house to honor first-time pledgers, those who “Stepped Up” a level, and Pledge Ambassadors.

The Pledge Drive exceeded the goal of \$175,000. For the past several years, we have observed a pattern of a large financial increase one year followed by a small increase in the following year, and this year’s result confirms the pattern (this being a leaner year). For next year, we recommend extending the pledge period to the traditional three-week pledge timeframe.

Thanks are due to the hardworking members and friends who participated in the pledge drive, including the Pledge Ambassadors, celebration lunch team, and Sunday service presenters. Specific thanks to Steve Jung for pre-pledge planning and creation of the pledge brochure, Ana Athanasiu who graciously catered the celebration tea, Geri Kennedy for tracking the pledges and donations, and Judy Cronin for her diligent (and invaluable) behind-the-scenes assistance.

The baton is gratefully passed to Steve Jung, chair for the 2008 pledge drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika Pretell
Chair, 2007 Pledge Campaign



Adult Religious Education Committee

Members:

Beth Harrison, Chair

Julia Older

Jeanne Durnford

Midge Dorn

Shirley De Martis

Susan Walker-O'Brien

Jack Stovel (resigned)

During the 2006-7 church year, the Adult RE Committee became official. Susan Walker-O'Brien drafted a charter, which was approved in February. Our committee planned and sponsored several successful classes and forums this year. During the past two years, we have tried to offer programs following the children's RE curriculum and themes from Julia's sermons. This year the theme was eastern religions.

Classes offered:

UU101—September and March. Evaluations of this course were uniformly positive. Some participants would have like more historical information included in the curriculum.

Women in Buddhism—October. Led by Geri Kennedy, this course also had enthusiastic participation.

Welcoming Congregation—February 6 – April 3 (8 sessions). Facilitated by Sarah Skovlund with co-facilitators Julia, Amy Zucker-Morgenstern (minister from the Palo Alto UU), Marianna Tubman, Jeanne Durnford, Bob Honea, Carolyn Chaney, and Bill Kennedy, this course was attended by about 18 participants. Susan Walker-O'Brien coordinated logistics with help bringing refreshments by Midge Dorn and Shirley De Martis. Evaluations complained about the extended length of the course (we already abbreviated the curriculum from 14 weeks to 8) and the use of charts and analysis. Participants felt that the discussions, sharing experiences, and the panel were most meaningful. We plan to evaluate part two of this curriculum before deciding how and when to offer it to the congregation.

Forums:

Voter Education—October 29. We discussed the issues on the November 7 ballot.

Buddhism—December 3. UU Buddhist Stephen Schwichow shared his experiences.

Islam—February 18. Imam Abdurrahman Anwar from Belmont came to talk about his training to become an imam and answered questions.

Hindu Mudras—March 11. Dancer Barbara Bye returned to demonstrate and teach gestures from Hindu worship. We improvised and learned mudras to go along with "Spirit of Life."

Considerations and requests for next year:

The thematic approach to our course offerings seems to work well. Participants still prefer shorter courses of 3-4 weeks in length rather than classes that last longer than a month (Welcoming Congregation). We'd like to coordinate more with other committees in hosting Sunday forums after service. Suggestions for new courses, forums, and programs are always welcome.

Space and scheduling have become difficult issues for us as we often compete with committee meetings and renters for evening use of the church. It seems a good idea not to rent out the church for any additional weekday nights.

Our committee meets only about three times a year. We can decide on roles and tasks as well as plan the next season's classes and forums. We could use one or two more members willing to help with publicity and coordinating and evaluating courses.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee, the Welcoming Congregation facilitators and volunteers, and especially, Julia Older and Jeanne Durnford, who have been a constant support.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Harrison
Chair, Adult Religious Education Committee



Children's Religious Education

This year, the Children's Religious Education (RE) program continued to grow, both in number of children and in programs offered.

For the second year in a row, we provided activities for the children during summer services, including working with clay, making masks, yoga, baking, drama, and games. I would like to acknowledge Sarah Skovlund for coordinating last summer's program, as well as the time and talents of the many volunteers who spent time with our children.

This year, we welcomed our first-ever Middle School Youth Advisor (MSYA), Emily Lehr-Anning. While covering many of the topics (UU values and Eastern Religions) being studied in other RE classes, Emily implemented youth-group-type programming for 5th through 8th graders, including monthly socials and social action activities. We appreciate the congregation's support for creating the MSYA position, which has freed our volunteers for other tasks and created a program upon which to build next year.

Our Kindergartners through 4th graders studied our UU Principles in the Fall session. For the 3rd and 4th graders, this took the form of a "catechism" class, culminating in a rite-of-passage ceremony at which the children read their credos. Special thanks go to Maeve Knoth for her work developing this class, another first for UUFRC. This was followed in the winter and spring with classes on Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. I want to thank Beth Harrison for assembling the curriculum for these latter classes. The RE Committee believes it is

important to provide our children knowledge of different spiritual teachings and beliefs, both to foster understanding of other people and to provide multiple spiritual perspectives and ideas as they build their own theology. We intend to continue this approach next year with a “UU Identity” session in the fall followed by the Old Testament and Native American traditions in the winter and spring.

Speaking of Sunday School, many thanks are due to this year’s teachers (Maeve Knoth, Denise Mostowfi, Leslie Vallerger, Peter Hartzell, Jennifer Davidson, Jorie Schultz, and Beth Harrison) and assistants (Jo Ann Cobb, Pat Dwyer, Laurie Donaldson, Charmaine McCrystal, Sarah Skovlund, Marianna Tubman, and Ana Athanasiu). I appreciate the commitment these folks have shown to our children and our program. Thanks are also due to other volunteers too numerous to mention, without whom we wouldn’t have fun programs like Intersessions (multi-aged activities in late November and December) and the Christmas Pageant.

This year, for the first time, we hired an assistant to help Michael Green, our primary child care provider, in the blockroom. In addition to freeing us from soliciting volunteers to fill this role, we were pleased with the continuity this addition provided for our youngest members. We intend to continue this position, and appreciate the congregation’s support of it. I would also like to thank the parents who volunteered to stay in the blockroom on occasion to assist our care providers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Director of Religious Education, Tracey Fecher. While helping develop new programs like the Middle School Youth Program and the UU Catechism, working with Reverend Julia to create intergenerational worship experiences, and performing other myriad tasks to keep the RE program running, she manages to keep looking down the road to see what our program needs for the future. We are lucky to have her.

Lastly, I would like to thank those who participated in the work of the RE Committee this year: Erika Pretell, Pat Dwyer, Jessica Reid, and Maeve Knoth. I look forward to continuing to work with this core group, while we expand the number of members and roles of the RE Committee to match the expansion of the RE program. Those interested in being a part of these exciting times should contact one of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Derby Davidson
Chair, Religious Education Committee



Social Action Committee

Our accomplishments May 2006 – April 2007 include the following:

- Marched in Redwood City July 4 parade.
- Began a program of quarterly service projects intended to involve the whole congregation, including families and children. Our fall project was cleaning up a section of Cordilleras Creek as part of Coastal Cleanup Day; in winter we helped Samaritan House with their Christmas activities; and in spring we worked with Redwood City on its Earth Day cleanup activities.
- Began (at Rev. Julia's suggestion) a program of donating our Sunday offering once a month to a different nonprofit organization. The organizations are selected by committee member vote, and the congregation is encouraged to submit names of organizations that they support as well. A group will be designated every month except July and August, when attendance is lower. Recipients and amounts to date are:
 - UU Legislative Ministry - \$416.25
 - Pastors for Peace - \$490
 - Samaritan House - \$861
 - St. Francis Center - \$853
 - Chiapas Peace House - \$375
 - Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse - \$761
 - Special Education PTA of Redwood City - \$686
 - Peninsula Open Space Trust - \$493
 - Partner Church Council - \$239
 - Balasz Scholarship Program - \$239
 - Acterra - \$328
 - Faithful Fools - \$747
- Sponsored "The Road to Clean Elections," narrated by Bill Moyers, and a discussion afterward led by Ira Fischer, with the Yes on Prop 89 Committee.
- Joined California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL), a faith-based group working to slow global warming.
- Sponsored "Clarence Darrow, A Search for Justice" performed by Gary Anderson, and netted the church approximately \$800. The ACLU cosponsored and provided a pre-performance reception that brought in additional income.
- Distributed 200+ free compact fluorescent bulbs donated by the congregation and others to low-income people through the Fair Oak Community Center.
- Sponsored speaker Ken Jenkins on the topic of the 9/11 Truth Movement.
- Sponsored "Climate Change: Science and Issues" by Lisa Detloff, presenter for Al Gore's climate change project.
- Continued collection of toiletries for Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA).
- Reinstated collection of styrofoam in even-numbered months for the congregation only.
- Donated \$50 to the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center; donated \$100 to the Redwood City Cool Cities Campaign; spent \$200 to send Carol Cross to GA as a committee representative.
- Supported several rallies against the war in Iraq, which members attended.
- Sent a letter of protest regarding raids by the Immigration Police (ICE) to Redwood City Mayor Barbara Pierce.

Upcoming events:

- Sponsor Eduardo Cohen’s presentation, “Through the Lens Darkly: News Media Complicity and the Selling of Never-Ending War”
- Co-sponsor a blood drive with the Insight Meditation Center.
- Sponsor a talk by Maya Harris, executive director of the ACLU-Northern California chapter.
- Continue designating groups for our once-a-month donation; future recipients will include My New Red Shoes, and Sojourn to the Past.

Committee Members:

John Anning

Marge Axley

Kaye Bonney

Carolyn Chaney

Carol Cross

Michael Hirohama

Sophia Hersch

Geri Kennedy

Susan McBain

Frank Montoro

Debbie Mytels

Julia Older

Jonelle Preisser

Marianna Tubman

Susan Walker-O’Brien

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McBain

Co-chair, Social Action Committee



Worship Committee

Co-chairs: Bob Honea and Susan Walker-O’Brien

Committee members: Steve Jung, Bill Kennedy, Joanne McMahon, Jen Myhre, Rev. Julia Older, Sarah Skovlund, Jack Stovel, and Roz Wagner.

We contribute to the spiritual life of the Fellowship by supporting Rev. Julia in constructing and organizing our Sunday morning services. About once a month Julia has a Sunday off, and for those days we engage an outside speaker — usually a minister but not always — or we construct a “collaborative” service of contributions from congregation members. Our committee is strong and diverse — we have members of various styles, interests and participation levels, who provide ideas, skill, diplomacy, positive energy, commitment, diligence and honesty.

We have certain rituals and special services that we do every year: the Water Communion to open the church year in September, Day of the Dead around Halloween, the Christmas Pageant, and the Flower Communion in June. We also experiment with special rituals occasionally – for example, this year we held a Buddha’s Birthday service and did a “bathing

the baby Buddha” ritual. During the year we have experimented with different layouts of the seating in the sanctuary – e.g. chairs in a circle or a horseshoe-shaped configuration. The congregation seems to like the occasional variety, but it’s a big task to schlep those chairs around!

Adding a second service

The big story in Worship this year has been the Quiet Service. Last spring we were directed by the Growth Task Force (a Board-appointed group) to create a second service for Sundays starting in September 2006. Initially we thought to simply duplicate “the regular service” – run it twice on a Sunday morning rather than once, perhaps with different musical elements for each, but otherwise the same. For various reasons, though, this idea didn’t fly.

Rev. Julia suggested we try something different – something similar to an Evensong session: We’d do a circle worship, starting with a theme word; include some chanting, meditation, music, shared reading of various quotes on the theme, and provide an opportunity for participants to share their thoughts related to the topic. Julia’s vision was for it to be a more contemplative, quieter and simpler service than “the regular one,” hopefully to provide a different kind of worship experience for congregation members who perhaps don’t feel served by our 10:30 format. There is a small group of semi-regulars who do seem to like it better. The overall attendance is not huge – average is about 8 people.

We tweaked and refined the Quiet Service format a bit over the first few months, and now it seems to be fairly solid. Rev. Julia leads this service when she will be in the pulpit for the 10:30 service that day; on non-Julia Sundays, a member of the Worship Committee leads it. So far it’s been just the two co-chairs taking on this task, but it probably will behoove us to involve more WC members, especially since we will be continuing it over the summer. Preparing, setting up and leading the Quiet Service is well-defined and is not difficult.

Summer Sundays

In the summer of 2005 we tried something new: Instead of our previous practice of lay-led services or a series of guest speakers for the summer, we brought in one person – Kate Kennedy, a Starr King student — to do a series of services. Last summer we did the same thing, this time with an already-established minister, the Rev. Kurt Kuhwald. Again this year, the congregation seems to like this level of consistency over the summer Sundays. We are continuing this practice again this summer with six services given by the Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers.

Budget

Last year we ended at about \$1000 over our allocated budget of \$3000. Our main expense is the fees we pay to outside speakers, and we went over because we increased the number of guest speakers and reduced the number of lay-led services. Since we planned to continue this pattern, for this year we asked for the extra \$1000 in our budget. We were told it would be granted, but somehow in the final budget our allocation was still at \$3000. Hence we are again exceeding our budget by about \$1000. (Hey, sorry, but we warned ya!)

Cooperation with Children’s and Adult RE

We want to have our church year be in sync with and reflective of the work that the RE groups are doing. As much as possible we coordinate our calendar with the plans laid out by the children’s DRE and committee and the Adult RE committee. We have intergenerational services once a month, which we design to have the children stay in the sanctuary instead of going out to RE classes. We make the service elements shorter and more varied, to engage

children who might have shorter attention spans and more squirminess than adults, without “dumbing down” the content. And the children participate actively by doing the opening welcome and the chalice lighting.

Areas to improve

Better organization for support of services from non-WC members – sound, ushering, chair layout. And just in general, better organization and training for the job of Worship Associate. Many of our newer committee members feel a bit “at sea” the first few times they serve as Worship Associate. We don’t yet have the job very well documented. It’s a lot of little details that can easily get lost in the shuffle. We recently created our own email group, UUFRC-Worship@yahoogroups.com, and are working on a “Worship Associate Packet” – a binder (and online posting) of info and instructions for committee members.

Challenge for next year – expecting more visitors

The Pacific Central District is planning to run an advertising campaign next fall that should raise awareness in this area of what Unitarian Universalism is about. The intent is that people who are either “unchurched” or are feeling dissatisfied with their current worship choices will come to visit our UU churches. We really don’t know how much of an increase to expect here, and UUFRC is already feeling a bit cramped in the space we have. This committee does, however, already have the second-service infrastructure in place with the Quiet Service at 9:15, so there is some room for more bodies in our worship offerings.

Challenge for next year – new committee leadership

Bob and I have been co-chairs of the Worship Committee for two years now – it is getting to be time for other committee members to step forward and take on the role that is named after furniture.

Excitement for next year – intern minister!

Next year the Fellowship will become a Teaching congregation – Rev. Julia will be supervising an intern minister, Nina Kalmoutis. This is a benefit to our committee in that she has agreed to do the once-a-month non-Julia Sunday services – we will no longer need to engage outside speakers for those Sundays.

We welcome new members to our committee as well as contributions to Sunday services from anyone in the congregation, whether WC members or not. There are many levels of participation, from setting up chairs all the way up to writing sermons.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Walker-O’Brien
Co-chair, Worship Committee



Changes and Milestones Among Our Membership

Since last year's Annual Meeting we have gained twenty-two new members and lost ten. Our numbers now stand at 150 members, 78 children registered in RE and 17 pledging friends.

New members (in order of joining)

Ginger Smith
Stephen Hill
Adam Hopkins
Heather Hopkins
Taru Bhatia
Christopher Edwards
Patricia Dwyer
Chris Mitchell
Caroline Mitchell
Terry Jacobs
Carol Sundermeyer
Ken Sundermeyer
Danielle Elias
Beverly Morgan
Amy French
Jan Benway
Page Benway
Elaine Welch
David Stoutamire
Charlotte Stoutamire
Roz Wagner
Neela Patel

Resigned

Bridget and Fritz Gramkowski, Kathleen Zaro, Tonya Booker and Mollie Galloway, Lorie Esposito, Christina Safholm, Shankha and Deirdre Mitra and Charmaine McCrystal

Deceased

Rudolph Bock, July 2006
Lou Jones, February 2007, longtime friend