

# the BALLOON



## WORSHIP SERVICES

**FEBRUARY held 11a.m.**

at 1515 Pueblo in Napa (the Boys & Girls Club)



### FEBRUARY 2010

Inside this Issue	Pg
Board Buzz	3
Bulletin Board	7
Calendar & Details	8, 9
Minister's Message	2
REflections	4

### February 7<sup>th</sup>

#### "The Community of Truth"

Reverend Bonnie Dlott

Worship Associate: BJ Pheiffer  
 Parker Palmer believes that the hope of every wisdom tradition is to "recall us to wholeness in the midst of our torn world." In the service today we will explore Parker Palmer's ideas about wholeness, spirituality, and education, and consider how we want to teach and learn together as a faith community. There will be time after the service to meet with Rev. Bonnie to talk about the future of our Religious Education Program for those who are interested.

**Community Sunday (no RE classes)**

### February 14<sup>th</sup>

#### "What Is Marriage For?"

Reverend Bonnie Dlott

Worship Associate: Matt Metzler  
 Many of us have heard the charge that same-sex marriage will destroy "traditional" marriage, soon to be followed by the collapse of all civilization. But the "rules" of marriage have shifted constantly in the last few centuries, to fit new eras and new economies. In honor of Valentine's Day, we will consider the purpose of marriage, and the arguments for and against legalizing same-sex marriage.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM: TREASURE HUNTING**  
 With Maggie and Dave Ingalls

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH: INTERDEPENDENT WEB**  
 With Margo McCandless and Meg Smith



### February 21<sup>st</sup>

#### "The 'We' That Creates the 'I'?"

Reverend Ted Webb

Worship Associate: Suze Bobzien  
 Ted is a native of Maine; he has served UU churches in Maine, New York, Georgia, and California. He also formerly served as UU District Executive in Maine. He now enjoys retirement in Sacramento, near one of his four children.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM: TREASURE HUNTING**  
 With Bob and Sylvia Jones

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH: MORAL TALES**  
 With Tracy Ruhs and William Somerville

### February 28<sup>th</sup>

#### "A Stream of Light"

Reverend Bonnie Dlott

Worship Associate: Vicki Wolf  
 Our denomination was founded in 1961, when the Universalist Church of America merged with the much larger American Unitarian Association. At the time, many Universalists opposed the merger, predicting that they would be "submerged, not merged." Come today and find out if they were right, as we review the history and theology of our spiritual ancestors, the American Universalists.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM: TREASURE HUNTING**  
 With Mary Ellen Morgan

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH: UU IDENTITY**  
 Sue Medrano and Susan Okun

## *Message from the Minister*

Late last month Maggie Ingalls came to my house to help me prune my roses. Maggie has more experience than I do with pruning, and she explained to me that careful pruning was needed to keep the roses vigorous and healthy. She helped me to identify the healthy canes, and showed me where to cut the older ones. In some cases she hesitated over her decision about which canes to cut. She said, "If you cut too many, the plant may die. But if you don't cut enough, the plant may not send out the younger canes that are necessary for healthy growth."

There is wisdom to be found in plants, as every gardener knows. There are times in all of our lives when we need to think about pruning. We live in a constant state of flux as our interests, jobs, families, and bodies change. Whether the changes are eagerly anticipated or thrust upon us, we have to adjust to them. Sometimes that means changing direction, or shifting our focus, or making creative accommodations. It might mean taking a deep breath and pruning back, with the hope that new canes will sprout. We hope, but we can't know for sure how our cuts will ultimately affect the roses. That's what makes pruning difficult.

Making the decision to change the way we do religious education at UUFNB was difficult. When considering how to allocate our resources for next year, the board of trustees weighed a number of factors beyond our anticipated income, including the expressed needs of our members, our mission in the community, and our vision of how we might continue to grow in spirit and in numbers. This pruning was particularly painful for the many of us who have grown to love Mary Ellen, and for everyone who worked hard building the Fellowship up into an organization that could hire a professional Director of Religious Education. To me, it feels like a careful "one step back" after our enthusiastic "two steps forward."

Going forward, I have the hope of a gardener; hope that our careful pruning will ultimately produce creative solutions that lead to renewed growth. Like my roses, we may feel a bit bare for a month or two, but I can tell you that new shoots are already poking out of my rose canes, and likewise, we are already busy dreaming up creative ways to serve our children and families.

Gratefully,

*Rev. Bonnie Dlot*

minister @uunorthbay.org  
(925) 256-4334

# BOARD BUZZ

Your Board's new year is off to an auspicious start! We welcomed Bonnie's increased ministry with us as she began working 2/3 time in January. We "certified" our congregation with the UUA at 71 members (down a few from last year) and 9 children registered in R.E., also down from last year.

And speaking of children's R.E., the Board met in special session in January to discuss this program as it is a considerably significant and expensive one. As we have done the past 2 years, the Board used this opportunity to talk with parents and other "stakeholders" and look at feedback received from members over the past year as we considered what would best meet the needs of our congregation's demographics and revenue.

To recap what we discussed at our January 17 Conversation with the Board, we have recommended a change in the structure of the R.E. program. Beginning July 1 we will hire 2 teachers to replace our DRE position. One teacher and one volunteer will teach a class for multiple ages every Sunday. We will remain flexible to make adjustments should our numbers increase during the year. Maggie Ingalls has agreed to act as our R.E. Volunteer Coordinator; she will coordinate the teachers' and volunteers' schedules. Anyone interested in being part of the team that will develop procedures, job descriptions, etc. please see Bonnie or me.

As our Bylaws dictate, we have made our recommendations concerning the children's R.E. program to the Finance Committee for inclusion in its first 2010/11 budget draft. This draft will then be discussed by the Board, modified as necessary, and presented to the congregation in April for discussion.

After congregational input (and when we have a better idea of our members' financial commitment), the Finance Committee will revise their first draft. This again will be submitted to the Board for discussion and a vote. In May this "final" budget will be sent to the congregation, along with the proposed slate of new Board members. It will then be discussed and voted on at our Congregational Meeting in June.

To bring you up to date on a couple of other Board activity over the past month, we have (finally!) compiled the policies that the congregation voted to remove from our Bylaws in June 2008, into a stand-alone document. You will find it as a link on our website. I am also happy to send anyone who wishes an electronic or hard copy of it.

We hope to soon complete a similar stand-alone document of the procedures which were also removed from the Bylaws. These will not be posted on the website, but will serve as a resource for committee/task force chairs and committee members on how certain tasks are done, e.g. coffee hour duties, set-up procedures, etc.

We are also working on minor changes to the Bylaws which will be voted on at our June Congregational meeting.

And finally, a special "Thank you!" to Jeff Conklin for an outstanding update and maintenance of our website; to David Lindsay for his revitalizing leadership of the Social Justice committee; to Gayle Keane for bringing back – with such verve – our Balloon; and to Bob Nicholson for his leadership of such a dynamic Long Range Planning team.

See you in church!

*Iris Barrie*, President

Board of Trustees

# Reflections

The RE Committee met last month and started to lay out a plan for what the religious education program would look like next year. There is much to be done, and here is what is happening right now:

- Curriculum is being reviewed and chosen so that the teachers who are hired will be able to familiarize themselves with the philosophy and objectives and begin to layout their lesson plans.
- An RE Personnel Committee has been established, staffed by Bonnie Dlott, Margaret Kelso and Tracy Ruhs, who will write the job descriptions and will interview and hire the new teachers
- Maggie Ingalls has agreed to schedule the volunteers who will be needed to serve as teacher aides.
- The Social Justice Committee will continue to find and bring engaging, hands-on projects to the children in those months with five Sundays.

The RE Committee still needs to set the calendar and develop the teacher /volunteer trainings for the next year.

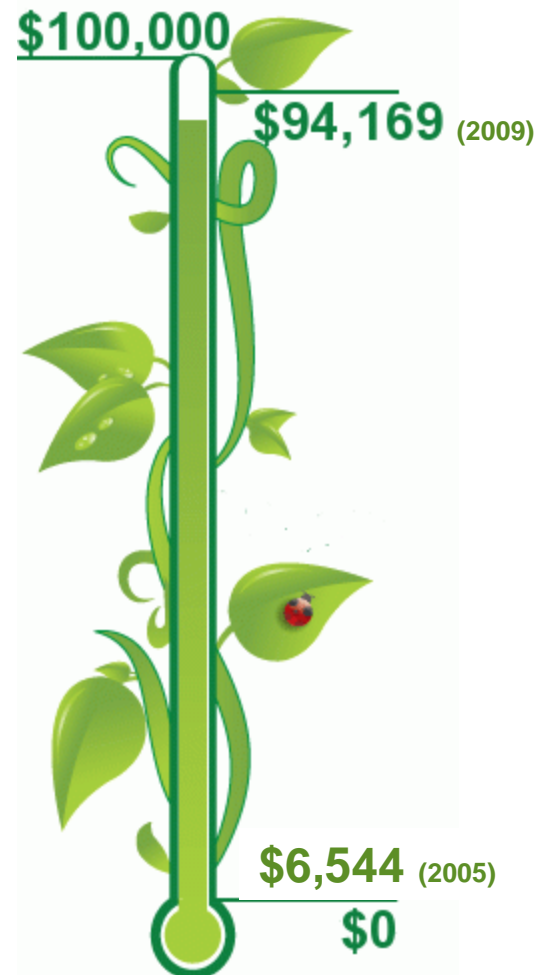
What can you do? There are many places where you can help, on a one-time or an on-going basis. Volunteers will be needed to serve as teachers aides, or help with the Christmas pageant. The summer program will not be staffed by paid teachers, so there will be opportunities to teach a curriculum that will be chosen by the RE Committee. A comprehensive program takes many dedicated people and this can be an exciting opportunity for the Fellowship!

In February, Bonnie and I will be teaching Our Whole Lives, the award-winning UU sexuality curriculum for the Kindergarten/First Graders at 9:30 am three Sundays a month, through April. I am proud that we can bring this important curriculum to our children, as it teaches them to respect themselves and others.

In faith,

*Mary Ellen Morgan*

Director of Religious Education



## UUFNB Building Fund

In less than 5 years our Building Fund seed of \$6544 has sprouted leaves and grown to \$94,169. The \$5,354 added this year brings us close to a major goal of \$100,000 !!

## Board Highlights January 2010

- A new model for RE was proposed to begin July 1. Contact Iris Barrie or Bonnie Dlott with feedback, questions or concerns.
- Tom Wilson and Dave Lindsay will co-chair the Budget Backers this year.
- Twelve people from UUFNB attended the New Century Summit on January 30-31.
- UUFNB currently has 71 members.

## Welcome to Your Long Range Planning Committee

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you to our Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) for UUFNB. The committee consists of Lenore Hirsch, Rainer Hoenicke, Gayle Keane, Al Lilleberg, Rick Marshall, Barbra McCandless, Susan Okun, BJ Pheiffer and myself. I am really pleased with the diverse mix of members and the incredible energy as well as commitment that they all bring to the table. I am looking forward to working with all of them and with each one of you, the members, friends and guests of UUFNB.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, a daylong retreat was held at which we got to know each other better, started the complex process towards finding out both exactly what our UUFNB congregants would like our fellowship to look like in the coming 3-5 years as well as how we are going to get there. We set an aggressive goal for ourselves to have a written Long Range Plan to the Board and subsequently the congregation by the end of November, 2010. In order to accomplish this, we will require the input of all the congregants. We are yet not sure exactly what methods will be employed (small group visioning, congregational visioning retreat, congregational survey or a combination of all three). It is our goal that all be heard and all suggestions be considered.

The LRPC went through a covenanting process that resulted in the following which we all committed to. We covenant (promise) to:

1. respect and care for each other, and assume good intentions
2. listen with an open and non-judgmental minds
3. honor the contributions and work of each other
4. communicate directly and truthfully
5. consider the needs of the congregation as a whole
6. recognize conflict as an opportunity for new understanding or new solutions
7. deal with differences face to face, or voice to voice
8. work towards consensus
9. allow enough time for discussion and deliberation
10. while respecting different processing styles, we conduct business in the most efficient way possible

Afterwards, goals were set for the LRPC as well as a list started of projected tasks to accomplish these goals.

Long Range Planning Goals are:

1. The Long Range Plan will set goals, document strategies and identify specific tasks to support UUFNB's vision and mission.
2. Plan reflects the wishes of the congregation.
3. Plan reflects all aspects of congregational life.
4. Plan process will build deeper relationships in the congregation.
5. We recommend that UUFNB revisit the UUFNB "vision" and "mission" statements through a congregational process.
6. The Long Range Plan is a living document. We will develop an annual review process to monitor progress, revise goals and tasks, and acknowledge accomplishments.
7. We will regularly update the congregation on what we are doing; we will be responsive to requests for information and to contributions from the congregation.

The more I work with the LRPC, the more confident I become in our dedication and our ability to reflect the needs and wants of our community and to synthesize a viable Long Range Plan that will help all of us chart the direction of our Fellowship for the next 3-5 years. I want to thank you in advance for your continued support of our work on the LRPC.



Chair of Long Range Planning Committee

## A Celebration of Life

for  
Mary Skouge

will happen  
at 11 am  
on Saturday February 13th  
at the  
Methodist Church  
on Randolph Street in Napa

Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>

Study topic:

### SLAVERY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Here is an opportunity to find out why the UUA is considering "Ending Slavery" as a Congregational

Join Lenore Hirsch at her home at 1pm for a short video, handouts and a discussion. Lenore will provide a light lunch, so come straight from church.

Feel free to bring friends or family, but **please RSVP by Feb. 6 to 320-0643.**

### Faithful Generosity Workshop

February 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00-4:00

UU Church in Livermore

Come spend the day with Laurel Amabile Director of the UUA's Annual Program Fund

The workshop will address the deepening of our faith and its transformational power

Registration before February 2 is \$30.  
Registration after February 2 is \$40 Registration includes breakfast snacks and lunch

For more information or to register go to <http://pcd-uua.org>

## Your Committee on Ministry

**“Committees on Ministry are designed to track the heartbeat of ministry within a congregation; how the members . . . take care of themselves and each other, how the lay ministerial leadership serves a congregation; and how the called minister serves the congregation. It seeks to understand, assess, support, and advocate for robust ministry throughout the context of congregational life.” Rev. Anne Heller**

If you have any suggestions on how our congregation can better achieve these goals or you are aware of any barriers that are impeding us from building the deepest relationships possible, please share them with a member of the COM. All the input we receive is held in the strictest confidence and shared only within the committee.

The committee members are:

**Rev. Bonnie Dlott:**

(925) 256-4334

[bdlott@comcast.net](mailto:bdlott@comcast.net)

**Paul Boisvert:**

226-1314

[pboisvert1@yahoo.com](mailto:pboisvert1@yahoo.com)

**Gerane Park:**

255-6938

[gwparklcsw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwparklcsw@sbcglobal.net)

**Susan Okun:**

643-2067

[Sartzokun@aol.com](mailto:Sartzokun@aol.com)

**Tom Wilson:**

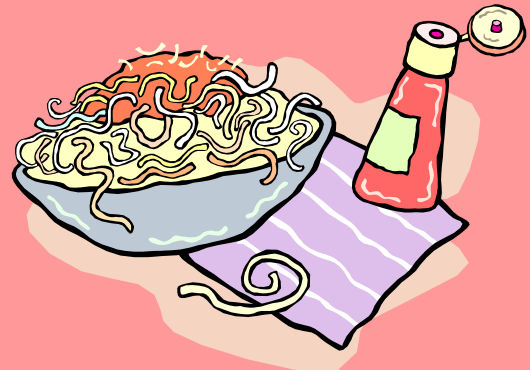
(707) 254-7443

[2wilsons1dog@comcast.net](mailto:2wilsons1dog@comcast.net)

How about a bunch of us go and learn ways to make Our annual budget drive more fun? I will if you will. I will sign up before Feb 2 if we have 4 counting me. If we have over four I will give each registrant a bottle of fairly good wine. We can drink it later!

~Bob Jones

**Spaghetti Dinner Bash**  
and  
**SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY!**



**Join us at the NV Boys N Girls Club**  
**on**  
**Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30-6:30pm**

Silent Auction, mingle,  
hors d'houevres and wine

**6:30-7:15pm**

Dinner

**7:15-???**

LIVE auction

WITH AUCTIONEER EXTRAORDINAIRE, BOB JONES  
*(in a tux! Match him and get  
all gussied up for the evening?!)*

plus

Musical Entertainment  
by William Somerville

Tickets are \$10/adults, \$5/ages 5-12  
FREE for children under 5

For reservations contact:  
Vicki Wolf at [v@denofwolfs.net](mailto:v@denofwolfs.net) or 253.1733  
or  
Anne Jungerman at [anniemj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anniemj@sbcglobal.net) or  
255.4896

**Attention**  
**Wild Women of Napa!**

The upcoming  
**Women & Religion Retreat**  
will be on March 5-7 in Napa.

Registration before February 2 is \$230,  
*but only \$125 for first-time attendees.*

Partial scholarships are also available.  
Contact Tracy Ruhs for more information.

The total received on January 24<sup>th</sup> for  
the "Share the Plate" designated  
for Haiti Earthquake Relief was \$772.  
This amount is being sent to the UUSC.

# February 2010

(See Pg 8 Calendar Event Details for more information)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7 – 9pm Spiritual Care Group	3 7 – 9pm CUUPS Meeting	4	5 <b>DIGEST DEADLINE</b>	6 5:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner & Shopping Opportunity (pg 7)
7 11am – 12pm WORSHIP SERVICE 1pm Slavery in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century (pg6)	8	9 5:30pm Personal Growth Group	10 7:15 – 8:45pm Choir Practice	11 7 pm Board Meeting	12 <b>DIGEST DEADLINE</b>	13 11am Mary Skouge's Celebration of Life (pg6)
14 10am Choir Practice 11am – 12pm WORSHIP SERVICE	15 11am Committee on Ministry	16 7 pm Carquinez Cluster	17 7 - 9pm Sonoma Chalice Circle	18 10a.m. No Name Book Group	19 <b>DIGEST DEADLINE</b>	20 9am – 4 pm Faithful Generosity Workshop (pg6)
21 9:45am – 10:45am Discussion w/Jim Craig 11am – 12pm WORSHIP SERVICE	22 <b>BALLOON DEADLINE</b>	23 Noon DVD Group	24 7:15 – 8:45pm Choir Practice	25	26 <b>DIGEST DEADLINE</b>	27
Notes:						
28 10am Choir Practice 11am – 12pm WORSHIP SERVICE 2 – 4pm “We Stand For Peace” Vigil						

## Calendar Event Details & Announcements

### BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.**  
All are welcome. Contact person Iris Barrie: 265-6926

### CARQUINEZ CLUSTER

Unitarian Universalists in Benicia/Vallejo gather every third Tuesday of the month at **7pm**. The topic for the **February 16<sup>th</sup>** gathering is "Being Alive." For more information: Jeff Shoji, 4217 Irene Drive, Vallejo  
jeffshoji@gmail.com, 225-287-6899

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

**7:15 pm to 8:45 pm**, Wednesdays,  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**  
at 1135 Olive Hill Lane in Napa.  
Kate MacPherson 255-5687

And **10 a.m.** on **Sunday**,  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>**  
at the Boys N Girls Club

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 11 a.m.**  
Contact person:  
Bonnie Dlott (925) 256-4334

### CUUPS MEETING

Wednesday, **February 3rd, 7-9 pm**  
3130 Jefferson St. #45 in Napa  
Reflections on Imbolc  
Call Bonnie Dlott (925)256-4334 for more information.

### DISCUSSIONS ON RELIGION

with Jim Craig  
**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:45 to 10:45**  
At the Boys N Girls Club in Napa  
Discussion will be based on the chapter entitled "**A Day in the Life of a Desert Rider**" (from The Source, by James Michener), and will focus on the early history of Islam and its phenomenal expansion (unlike anything else in world history). Or should all be permitted to do as they please?

### DVD GROUP

We will navigate the universe between the Universal and the personal with Brian Swimme on **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon** At Abbey Silva's home  
1177 El Centro 224-8716

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*February meeting cancelled.*  
Next meeting on **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:15a.m.** at the Boys N Girls Club. Contact person: Barbara Kummer, 226-1191

### NO NAME BOOK CLUB 9



Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month. Next meeting is **February 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** at the home of Else Ross  
695 Cabot Way in Napa – 224-6752

#### February selection:

***Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym**  
The main character, "Mildred Lathbury, is a clergyman's daughter and a spinster in the England of the 1950s, one of those 'excellent women' who tend to get involved in other people's lives—such as those of her new neighbor, Rockingham, and the vicar next door. *Excellent Women* is probably the most famous of Barbara Pym's novels. The acclaim a few years ago for this early comic novel, which was hailed by Lord David Cecil as one of 'the finest examples of high comedy to have appeared in England during the past seventy-five years,' helped launch the rediscovery of the author's entire work."

March selection: *Half Broken Horses* by Jeannette Walls  
April selection: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

### RE COMMITTEE MEETING

Contact Mary Ellen Morgan  
294-2759, 657 Montecito in Napa

### SONOMA CHALICE CIRCLE

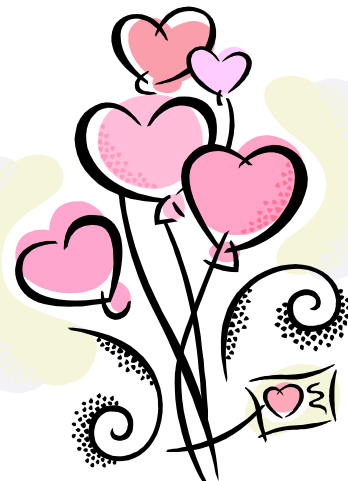
Meets on the **third Wednesday monthly** for food and Fellowship from **7 to 9** at various locations. Call Matt Metzler for more information: 935-7191.

### SPIRITUAL CARE GROUP

**Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm**  
Vicki Wolf's home, 1701 Meek Ave, (cross street is Clark). For more info call Vicki at 253.1733

### "WE STAND FOR PEACE" VIGIL

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, 2 – 4 pm**  
Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Soscal



**MARCH NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

is

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Your articles, notices & UU Family pictures are welcomed! Submit to [gaylekeane@msn.com](mailto:gaylekeane@msn.com)

# COMMUNITY & AREA Bulletin Board

DISCLAIMER: THE EVENTS IN THIS AREA ARE NOT UUFNB ENDORSED OR SPONSORED



## Songs that Matter

An evening with singer/songwriter

### Patricia Shih

Friday, February 19, 2010 6-9pm  
at the Lantern, 3106 Folsom Street,  
San Francisco

**JEREMY TAYLOR**

**DREAM**

### WORKSHOP

The Mendocino UU Fellowship is sponsoring a dream workshop by UU Minister Jeremy Taylor.

Jeremy, perhaps America's foremost dream expert, will cover all the basics of what dreams are - their symbolism, what their images are telling us, and how we can use them for deeper self-knowledge and spiritual growth.

March 5 (eve) and March 6  
\$80

held in Mendocino  
For further info/registration  
contact Rick Childs, 964-1722



**NAPA VALLEY CHORALE**

**Dine & Donate Fundraiser**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**



***Eat in or Take Out!***  
**Just present this flyer and  
enjoy lunch or dinner.**



**Mama & Papa Filippi**