

CALENDAR

■ **Bob McGrath fills new Pension Board job**

When the UCC Pension Board created a new position, director of member education, they sought someone with experience in financial planning a n d church work who could improve how the Pension Board educates its 21,000 members, both ministers and church workers, about money.



Bob McGrath

NCNC's **Bob McGrath** was a natural choice, with parish experience and most recently, with his partner Bob Witcher, as founder of Admishare, a company providing financial services for small non-profits. On Oct. 10, McGrath's home congregation of **St. John's, San Francisco**, blessed him in his new ministry and sent him on his way to New York.

"Under the new leadership of Pension Board Executive Director **Mike Downs** there is a very positive spirit focused on providing services and value to our customers. I'm proud to bring a 'West Coast Perspective' to the national setting of the UCC."

One program McGrath will be working on is helping members do financial planning earlier in life, before the current pre-retirement seminars. "That's too late for many people. We should be helping seminarians think about their financial future."

He's also putting together a financial calculus on the Pension Board website for quick and easy calculations of age, retirement age, savings and needed return.

Contact him at (800) 642-6543 ext. 2722, <RMcGrath@pbucc.org> or <www.pbucc.org>.

■ **David and Sally Brown receive award**

The National Council on Al-

OUR FAMILY NEWS

coholism and Drug Dependence honored **David and Sally Brown** in September for their significant contribution to advancing the general understanding of alcoholism and addiction. The oldest voluntary alcoholism and addiction advocacy organization in the United States, the NCADD presented the Browns with a special award for their insightful biography, "Mrs. Marty Mann: The First Lady of Alcoholics Anonymous."

"Through the exemplary efforts of those honored here," said Stacia Murphy, president of NCADD, "our understanding of the disease of addiction has markedly improved over the past 60 years. With dedication, courage, and commitment, these individuals have provided a clear window to the past, a rich guide to the present, and a beacon of light for the future."

Sally is a retired Veterans Administration chaplain. She continues to work actively with alcoholics and addicts, especially women, in recovery. David has been a computer research pioneer and worked at SRI International in Menlo Park. The Browns have been married since 1944, have four grown children, and are active at **First, Palo Alto**, as well as in the Santa Clara Association, the Conference and nationally in UCC and Alcoholism organizations.

For more information or to purchase their book, contact them at <rev.sally@worldnet.att.net> or <drbrown@alum.mit.edu>.

■ **Sebastopol church honored for dedication to Camp Cazadero**

Community, Sebastopol, was honored at Community Camp on Labor Day weekend at Camp Cazadero for its many years of dedication to the camp. The church was presented with a plaque and had its name inscribed on the commemorative plaque which hangs in Gill Lodge. **Sara Gerboth** and **Gene Nelson** accepted the plaque



Above: David and Sally Brown were honored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. Left: Henry Hayden's paintings of Camp Cazadero are available as notecards.



on behalf of the church.

Members of Sebastopol Church were guests of the camp for the honors dinner and several individuals and families were singled out during the presentation for their volunteer efforts over the years, some stretching out over three generations. Those specifically noted were the **Elvy, Gerboth, Larssen, Hollands, Nelson, Lerum, Bell, Stillman** and **Anderson** families along with **Byron Eshelman** and **Rev. Liz Ann Bassham**. Members of Sebastopol Church have donated thousands of hours to Cazadero in maintenance and repair work, construction and camp leadership and they have been a strong supporter of the camping program as well.

The Cazadero Dedication and History Committee is seeking input from members regarding what group and/or individuals should be

considered for recognition next year. If you have a suggestion, please contact **Al DeBella** at 415-558-6379 or **Steve Warden** at 650-348-7997.

The committee also continues to sell note cards with watercolors of Cazadero by **Henry Hayden**. They make a great Christmas gift. Funds from the sale of the cards allow the committee to continue honoring deserving individuals and groups for their work at Cazadero. The cards (see above and Page C5 for card examples) come in a pack of 12 for \$10 (including postage) and feature Hayden's paintings of Vesper Point, Gill Lodge, and other familiar scenes. They are available from **Tom Kimura** at 650-593-6171.

Thanks to Steve Warden for this report, which was edited for space.

SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

Community, San Lorenzo voted Sept. 19 to become an Open and Affirming Congregation.

Community, Sebastopol celebrated its 115th anniversary Oct. 2

First, Santa Rosa voted Sept. 26 to declare itself a Jubilee USA church, following the 2004 NCNC Annual Meeting Jubilee Global Debt Reduction resolution.

First, Sonoma has hired Ken Barnes as interim pastor.

Marilyn Halstead married Clay Corvin Oct. 2 at Ladera, Portola Valley.

Patricia de Jong married Sam Keen Sept. 26.

David Kao was hired in July as interim minister at Chinese Congrega-

tional, San Francisco. **Parkside, Sacramento** celebrated its 50th anniversary Sept. 26. Lewis Knight, their first pastor, took part, as well as former pastor Ned Luther.

Brian Plaughter resigned from Community, Guerneville, as of Oct. 4.

John Randlett announced he will retire from First, Murphys, on Easter 2005.

Wilma Reichard was honored on the 25th anniversary of her ordination Oct. 31,

at Ladera, Portola Valley. **Sally Train** will be leaving First, Antioch, Jan. 1.

Taulau Tupua, new pastor at Via Dolorosa, Modesto, was ordained there by the CCCSA on Oct. 2.

Willem VandeKamp resigned as minister of parish life at First, Alameda, in order to complete his marriage and family therapy license

Nov. 3
Administration and Finance, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Conference office, David Bergman-Hill, 510-247-2028.

Nov. 4
Associate Conference Ministers Meeting, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Conference Office, Mary Susan Gast, <msgast@nncucc.org>

Nov 6
Board of Directors, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., First, Fresno, Mary Susan Gast, <msgast@nncucc.org>

Nov. 7
Pete Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries speaking on Environmental Justice, 3 – 5 p.m., Congregational, Campbell. Sponsored by NCNC Earth Stewards, contact convener Carol Manahan <cmarahan@value.net>

Nov. 13
God is Still Speaking Training, 9 a.m. – noon, First, San Jose, contact Tony Lewis, <tlewis@exelana.com>

Nov. 13
Golden Gate Assn. Fall meeting, "Spirituality and Sustainability," First, Sonoma, 11 a.m., Toni Dunbar <adunbar@nncucc.org>

Nov. 15
Committee on Ministry, Section D, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Conference office, Deborah Streeter, <dstreeter@nncucc.org>

Nov 19
Committee on Ministry, Sections A & B, Hillcrest Congregational UCC, Pleasant Hill, Section A: Penny Phillips, Chair; Mary Turner Gilliland, Scheduling. <mltg@aol.com>, Section B: Melinda McLain and Kevin Manz, chairs, Scheduling: Iris Moran, <ikmoran@pacbell.net>

Nov. 20
God is Still Speaking Training, 9 a.m. – noon, City of Refuge, San Francisco, see Nov. 13.

Nov. 25
Thanksgiving

Nov. 26
Conference office closed

Dec. 4
Overview Board for Justice & Witness 10 a.m. – noon at Arlington, Kensington, Drew Nettinga, 510-276-4808.

Coming up....

Dec. 1-5
National UCC Search and Call Gathering, Orlando.

2005
Jan. 25-27
Pacific School of Religion's Earl Lectures & Pastoral Conference, including Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, <www.psr.edu>, 510/849-8243.

April 23
2005 Golden Gate Assn. Spring Meeting—location TBA, Toni Dunbar, <adunbar@nncucc.org>

Note: Contact the Conference Office for more information on any of these events or meetings: 510-247-8990.