

DEAN'S REPORT

Stebbins at Asilomar, a UU Summer Conference

July 26 – 31, 2009

Stebbins 2009 was a great conference. It was the final Stebbins as we know it. The Executive Committee that works together all year to administrate the conference agreed that it should be a celebration, not a wake. Our theme title was "Let's Celebrate". We also agreed that we would spend our scholarship funds to augment our staff. And we agreed to spend most of our reserve fund to enable us to have the programs we wanted with adequate meeting rooms and a rented van to transport some attendees who could not attend any other way. We also used the van for two local Monterey area excursions; Whale watching, and an Elkhorn Slough Safari coordinated by Jenni McLean.

There were 62 participants. We had 5 teens which was the most we have had since the 1980s. We had several people come from the Monterey Bay area including two staff members and our party entertainers. Other conferees came from Southern California to Humboldt County. There was one person from New York and another from Virginia. Many people returned for one last time and 16 came for the first time. We also had several multi generational family groups.

Our program staff was amazing. Chaplain Sierra Lynn White was returning after many years away. She added a warm, spiritual, inclusive mood to our morning Ingatherings, Memorial service and Opening and Closing ceremonies. Bill Wentz brought his musical expertise to Ingatherings, daily Fivish sing-a-longs and Evening programs. Chris Clark coordinated Evening Programs that included Jenni McLean leading interactive games, Lili Laksberger leading International Free Dance, Sierra Lynn & Bill leading Sufi Dancing, Syl Scherzer and Valarie Millar coordinating the best ever Talent Show, Bill Minor and Friends with Musical entertainment to sing & dance to, and a Silent Auction of Stebbins equipment and other donated items. Dick LeBlanc hosted a great drop in Chat and Game Room that included a Memorabilia Table with 30 years of photos, Newsletters, and other items. Ruth Lorain edited a wonderful Seabreeze (newsletter) daily for schedules and announcements, as well as Newcomer bios and pictures, and a laugh or two. The heart of Stebbins has always been its workshops and this year we had an amazing line up. "The meaning of Life" with Murray Bullis, "My favorite Universe" with John Stroud, Improvisational Games with Valarie Millar, Excursions with Jenni McLean, Writing with Patrice Vecchione, "Haiku" with Neal Whitman, "Poetry" with Erllys Jedlicka, "Asilomar History" and "Coast and Beach" walks with a California State Parks Ranger, "Watercolors" with Sylvia Wedderburn, "Beading" with Nicki Clark, "Dreams" with Syl Scherzer, and very appropriately "When one door closes" a personal look at transitions with Ann Williams. Our young furniture movers, Nicki, Ellie, and Sylvia did a fantastic job of keeping our large meeting room tidy and setup for the next program event. Rachael Star was a great interviewer and support person, as was Gee Gee Lenhart.

The Executive Committee; Judy LeBlanc- Dean, Dick LeBlanc – Asst. Dean, Eileen Plunkett– Registrar, Erlys Jedlicka – Webmaster and data manager, Kathi and Murray Bullis – Business Managers, Jenni McLean – Secretary, Ruth Lorain – Publicity Layout, and Chris Clark – Evening Program had very few crises to deal with during the conference. We had one 90 year old who had to take a trip to the hospital and leave the conference early, and one person who was unhappy with the wine choices. A few people had minor complaints about their rooms and a few more complained about the food. But all in all the conference went very smoothly. It was appreciated by all attendees and proved a good celebratory send off to approximately 75 years of wonderful Stebbins Conferences.

We will be sending a check to NCUUCC for approximately \$1,400.00 earmarked for the Scholarship Fund. This will close out our bank account and dissolve the Stebbins organization. Erlys Jedlicka and Eileen Plunkett will continue for one year to update our website www.serve.com/stebbins with pictures and other memorabilia. Drop by and see the wonderful faces. Erlys Jedlicka will also keep the Emailing list available for Stebbins attendee related news.

Thanks to all who made this last Conference a success.

Respectfully,

Judy LeBlanc, Dean