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## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN DECEMBER

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### Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, December 3, 2023

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Invite your friends to join us for our annual holiday get-together, an all-generation event!

There will be a potluck dinner, and a cookie walk, where homemade cookies can be purchased in Haver Hall.

We will be decorating the Christmas tree and singing Christmas carols in the Parlor.



We ask that only vaccinated people come.

The Cookie Walk and the Pot Luck begin at 5:30 PM. Tree decorating and Christmas Carol singing begins at 7:00pm.

We hope to see you and yours at this traditional Northbrae event!



## We need Cookie Bakers!



Please bring your cookies to the kitchen on Sunday morning or to the stage in Haver Hall when you come for the event. If you have questions, contact Karen Queen: (510) 654-8923

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## Holiday Gift Bags For Options Recovery

Toiletries, warm caps, socks, pajamas, slippers, and tee shirts are on the list for this, our sixth season of providing Christmas gifts for clients of Options Recovery Services. Gift Bags will be available in the parlor. Return your bags on or by Sunday, Dec 17, under our tree. This is Northbrae's way of wishing a Merry Christmas to those folks who are working hard to find a new positive life path. You might even include a little chocolate treat!





## Christmas Eve Service

Join us on  
Christmas Eve  
(12/24) for two  
services  
Morning service  
10:30 AM  
and  
Evening Service  
10:00 PM



## Past Events

**The return of the Bazaar** in early November brought us together in community to sell our gently used items in the hopes of benefiting Northbrae. It was a great success! Not only did we raise over \$1600 but we welcomed a wide array of folks from the greater community!

Big Thanks to Diane McNenny for all of her hard work and to all the volunteers who helped her!

### **We came together to assist an Afghan refugee family**

Together we collected food and gift cards for a family of three which included a little girl who is very fond of Teddy Bears!

We hope to continue our support as needed. Thank you to all who donated!

## Sisters in Spirit Christmas Party

All the ladies of the church are invited to an evening of good food, good conversation and fun as we gather to celebrate the Christmas season. This is a pot luck dinner where we exchange gifts, play a game and enjoy each other's company.

We strongly advise an at home Covid test on Thursday or Friday for those attending.

**When: Friday, December 15, 6:00 PM**

**Where: Kathy Oldham's home**

40 Alta Rd,  
Berkeley, CA, 94708  
(510) 697 - 1634

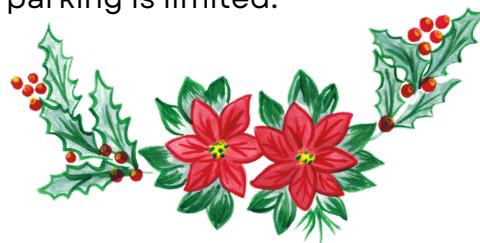
### **What to bring:**

- A finger food dish for the pot luck dinner: meat balls, crackers and cheese, sushi, frittata, etc. Something simple to serve and eat
- Dessert will be provided
- A gift to exchange: Perhaps something new that you were given and never used

And yes there will be a game to play this year – with prizes

Many thanks to Kathy Oldham for hosting this year's party.

Please try to carpool if you can as parking is limited.





## Slim Down Your Yarn Stash!

As you know, Suzanne Stroh has been designing and knitting caps for the less fortunate for many years. She donates them to Northbrae and we distribute them. Do you have leftover yarn you would like to contribute to help keep the hats coming? Suzanne can only use medium weight yarns, no baby yarn or super bulky. Please bring yarn that fits the bill to the office.



## Nothbrae's Own Diane De Pisa Shares Her Latest Works on 12/10 during coffee hour

*Love of Finished Years* published in December 2021, and *Rebirth on Xarbo* published in October 2023 are two of Diane's recent works.

"Now that I have written a grief-and-relief memoir featuring the man I married at Northbrae, plus a piece of fiction speculating about afterlife adventures, I wish I could share them with my old friends."

Fondly, always,  
Diane De Pisa



### Diane De Pisa

*Love of Finished Years* speaks from the heart of grief and relief and, uniquely, it

- addresses the deceased person directly.
- probes universal issues in the context of a cross-cultural marriage.
- combines journal entries with poetry.
- encompasses the agony of loss and intimations of afterlife.

The posthumous love story unfolds in six chapters. The first three explore the bewilderment of loss: "Vertigo," "Where Are You?" and "Balancing Acts." The last three confide spiritual and paranormal experiences: "Signs," "Dreams," and "Ceremonies." These true confessions to the lost beloved speak to all who struggle with relationships, bereavement, and faith in higher powers.

978-1-6667-3035-7 / \$16 / 132 pp. / paper

"*Love of Finished Years* is a beautifully written narrative and series of poems of a journey of grief for a beloved husband. From page 1, we are led through a profound encounter with mystery and meaning. Here we learn of coincidences, dreams, and signs that speak to the intricacies, contradictions, and beauty of a long marriage and a relationship after death. *Love of Finished Years* offers a beacon of hope for the journey of grief."

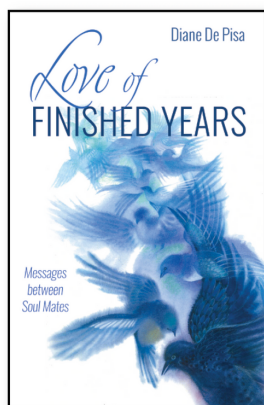
—SHARON ROSE WALLER, Clinical Chaplain and Bereavement Counselor

"This beautifully written book is the story of Diane's transformational life journey due to the death of her beloved husband: from one of denial, grasping, and pain to acceptance and equanimity. This book of prose and poetry will be of great value and solace to those who have suffered such loss or are anticipating it. De Pisa's vivid description of the journey's stages and trials is a needed guide based on personal experience for what one will face upon such a loss."

—ALEXANDER PAPPAS, author of *Heaven and Nirvana: Duality and Non-duality in the World Religions*

"There is something special about a love bond that transcends time, a bond that brings joy but cannot escape grief, a bond that ends in time but time can never end, a bond that is primarily expressed in poetry. Diane De Pisa's book *Love of Finished Years* gives expression to just such a relationship. It is an honor for me to endorse her book."

—RON SEBRING, Diane's former pastor



Diane De Pisa married her husband, Elio, a native of Rome, in 1960. After Elio died in 2002, Diane addressed over three hundred poems and countless journal messages to him, some alluding to apparent signs and dream visits from him. Here she shares these communications, trusting that her experiences with grief and hints of an afterlife may prove insightful and inspiring to others.

## REBIRTH ON XARBO

DIANE DE PISA



*A genre-bending science fiction tale that takes place on several planets and through two lifetimes, rife with psychic magic as well as insights from psychology and physics.*

Yearning to reunite in the afterlife, a couple's search runs afoul of both the materialistic Technists on Earth and the intransigent laws of Commensuration on their adoptive planet Xarbo, where rewards and retributions fly fast.

Their quest for destiny leads to far-flung planets — one occupied by the disembodied brains of human astronauts, another by soulless clones — as the reincarnated pair find themselves on separate planets and following divergent paths.

Hints of *Star Trek* and of Ram Das combine oddly with eroticism and mysticism in this epic tale of personal evolution.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diane De Pisa's early publications include three articles on Black Elk Speaks, the topic of her doctoral dissertation directed by Scott Momaday at UC Berkeley, and twenty poems in several journals. In 2014-2021, the *Berkeley Times* carried two serialized and condensed works sequentially: a satirical novel titled *As Sour Grapes Ripen* and her text for photos of Berkeley in the sixties by her late husband titled "Telegraph and Beyond".

De Pisa's account of grief and recovery, *Love of Finished Years*, was published by Wipf and Stock in 2021. Her "Bird Tracks: A Pantoum" won a Poetry Society of America award for a surreal poem, and a short story, "Visions Etched in Ice," earned the grand prize at a Canadian festival.

Diane lives in Albany, California. You can find out more about Diane's works and world at her website, [dianedepisa.com](http://dianedepisa.com).

**Title:** *Rebirth on Xarbo*

**Author:** Diane De Pisa

**Publisher:** Water Dragon Publishing

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Paperback: \$14.99 (ISBN: 978-1-959804-15-4)

Paperback: \$14.99 (ISBN: 978-1-959804-14-7)

Kindle: \$4.99 (ASIN: B0CJ3DZZQ)

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**Publication Date:** October 2023

**Pages:** 238 pages

**Trim Size:** 9" x 6"



Website: [waterdragonpublishing.com/rebirth-on-xarbo](http://waterdragonpublishing.com/rebirth-on-xarbo)  
Contact: [sales@waterdragonpublishing.com](mailto:sales@waterdragonpublishing.com)







## A Note From Christy

During the season of Advent as we prepare for Christmas, we will hear and sing the words:

Peace on Earth, Good Will to All God's People.

We will sing of peace even as war rages in Israel/Gaza and drags on in Ukraine. In the midst of the reality of war, we claim the vision of peace.

As I write this on the eve of Thanksgiving, negotiators are hopeful that an agreement will be reached between Israel and Hamas that will result in the release of 50 hostages in exchange for a four or five-day pause in the fighting. By the time you read this, we will know whether or not this actually happened. My prayer is that 50 people who were held hostage are now safely reunited with their families. And that for a number of days, the fighting has stopped.

If it did not happen, may an agreement be reached soon.

May we continue to believe in the promise of peace.

May we continue to celebrate the promise in the midst of the struggle.

"In the midst of hunger and war,  
we celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.

In the midst of oppression and tyranny,  
we celebrate the promise of service and freedom.

In the midst of doubt and despair,  
we celebrate the promise of faith and hope.

In the midst of fear and betrayal,  
we celebrate the promise of love and life."

Iona Book of Worship

Blessings,

Christy



## New Member Meeting

Are you curious about Northbrae's community and history?

Would you like to become a member of Northbrae?

In January, there will be a gathering of folks interested in exploring what it means to become a member of the Northbrae community.

Please call or email the church office and let Juliana know that you are interested and we will set a date after the first of the year. Please include times and dates that work for you so that we can coordinate a meeting time that works for everyone.



# YEAR END GIVING



The form below is to donate poinsettias for the altar, either as a year-end gift to the church, or in memory of a loved one:

•Enclosed is my Year End Christmas Gift Offering of \$\_\_\_\_\_

•Enclosed is a Christmas Memorial Gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in loving memory of:\_\_\_\_\_

From (Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip\_\_\_\_\_

For a printable form use the QR code on the right:



Please return this form along with your donation  
either to the office or to the offering plate during Sunday service.

If you cannot print this form, you can  
email the information requested to [northbrae3@gmail.com](mailto:northbrae3@gmail.com),  
or mail to

Northbrae Community Church  
941 The Alameda,  
Berkeley, CA, 94707

