



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
6401 Freedom Boulevard, Aptos, California 95003, (831) 684-0506
Website home page: Use <http://www.uufsc.org>

Volume 2002, Number 2

February 2002

Board of Trustees

Marsha Hudson President
Office hours: Tues, 11 to 1 pm
Ann McCrow Vice President
Bill Sampson Treasurer
Helen Oxley Secretary
Gerry Bailey Trustee
Robert Blumë Trustee
Bruce Fihe Trustee
Linda Neher Trustee
Sarah Savasky Trustee

Minister, Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley

Study Phone (831) 684-0324
Home Phone (831) 689-9660
Email minister@uufsc.org
My office hours are Mon & Wed, 10 am to 4 pm, Tues, 12 to 4 pm or by appointment. Friday is my day off. I ask that you do not call on Friday or after 9 pm., unless it is a building or pastoral emergency.

Religious Education Director, Sylvia Forsyth

Office Phone (831) 684-0506 Ext 3
Email forsyl@cruzers.com
Hours are Mon. and Wed., 12 - 4 p.m.

Office Manager, Maria Espinoza

Office Phone (831) 684-0506 Ext 1
Fax (831) 685-6736
Email administrator@uufsc.org
Hours are Mon-Thurs 9am -12:45 pm.

The UNICORN

George Shackelford Publisher
Marsha Hudson Proofreader
Email unicorn@uufsc.org

February Sunday Services

- Feb. 3 10:00 AM: Ministry, Mission and Sharing our Paths-** Our Fellowship is a place to gather to deepen and explore our own spiritual paths. We covenant with one another to support our individual searches. How can we support one another in our searches? What kinds of programs would you like to participate in? How can we support one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning?
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Feb. 10 9:00 AM Forum: How Did You Teach Your Children About Science?** - Led by Gene Stevens
10:00 AM: Chalice Lighters - A Commitment to Congregational Growth -Are you tired of hearing that Unitarian Universalism is “the best kept secret in town?” Then don’t miss this service from the district extension committee, which looks at how a culture of generosity nurtures both spiritual maturity and growth in numbers, thus spreading the light of Unitarian Universalism. Speakers Pam Allen-Thompson and Bonnie Sachs will also explain how you can become part of this exciting initiative called Chalice Lighters, and how your congregation can qualify for a grant to support growth.
Service Associate: Karen Holl
- Feb. 17 10:00 AM: Living into Death-** It is said that all religion is a response to our inevitable death. What do the world’s religions teach us about dying with dignity? What does dying teach us about living to our fullest potential? To live with grace and die with dignity is to offer a great gift to those we know and love.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Feb. 24 9:00 AM Forum: Do You Do More Multi-Tasking Than You Did 20 Years Ago?** If so, is this a good thing?
10:00 AM: The Wisdom of Jesus- Join us for an exploration of the wisdom of this great prophet as told in the Biblical text. We will focus on the message of love, a message that Jesus taught as being more important than the letter of the Law.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley

Langston-Daley Thoughts

As the President of the Pacific Central District, I had the pleasure of attending a two day meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees in Boston, Massachusetts as the representative of the District Presidents Association.

As I walked to the UUA building, I noticed that a gentle snowfall the night before had blanketed the Boston Commons with a stunning white coverlet. The bells of Kings Chapel rang in the morning hours and I stopped to embrace the wonder and beauty of the moment. When I arrived at 25 Beacon Street (the headquarters of the UUA) I was treated to a joyful and thoughtful worship service by members of the UUA Board. Singing and praying together, we recognized and affirmed our united purpose, our common goals, and our shared commitment to this great faith.

The meeting was a very enlightening experience for me. To watch, listen and worship with these 20 or so very committed people was an honor and a gift. I am pleased to report that the UUA appears to be in excellent hands. The atmosphere of the meeting was generous and congenial and the work was done with care and attention to the health of the Association as a whole.

Discussed at the meeting were several important issues that I would like to share with you. There were proposed bylaw changes pertaining to the split of the Canadian Unitarians from the UUA, concerns about proper election procedures and guidelines, issues of fiscal responsibility and social responsible investing, a commitment to increased public witness, and information about major organizational changes in the staffing structure of the UUA.

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) will be leaving the UUA soon to form their own national headquarters and Association. The UUA and the CUC negotiated the split last year and the Board addressed some of the implications of the transition. I was pleased to hear an overwhelming approval of a motion supporting "the authorization of the CUC to adapt and adopt the UUA principles and purposes for use in Canada." There is genuine good will on the part of the Board in this transition and it is hoped that both organizations will become stronger through this historic change.

As many of you know, this past year at our General Assembly (GA), we elected a new President and Moderator to lead our Association for the next 4 years. (Historically these positions have been "renewed" through election to serve a second 4 years). The issue at hand for the Board to wrestle with was how to recommend a bylaw change to the congregations that would make the process more fair and more affordable, as well as how to deal with endorsements by the outgoing Moderator and President. This proved to be a lengthy discussion. While it was clear that better procedures must be sought, the Board



approved a change in the bylaws to be brought to GA in Quebec that would remove the Moderator from duties pertaining to the election. The new bylaw, if approved, would shift those responsibilities to the Board Secretary.

The UUA is working hard to support socially conscious investing and is in the process of developing new standards, not just negative standards, but positive standards as well, to aid in the selection of UUA investments. The commitment to this essential social action was evident among the members of the UUA Board. (Our own congregation, like many others, has its endowment invested in these funds.) I was pleased to hear that our collective actions have made an impact. Home Depot recently adopted a personnel policy that does not allow the company to discriminate based on sexual orientation. The UUA had a major role in encouraging the company to support such a policy.

Perhaps the most exciting discussion of the two days was about the restructuring of the staff of the UUA. Among the greatest changes are a commitment to professional support for Directors of Religious Education; an integration of anti-racism/ anti-oppression work into many arenas of the structure; and a commitment to more effectively support those who are Black and Latina/o who are currently in our congregations. The new administration is working diligently to re-frame the structure of the Association to become more cooperative, more interactive and more integrated. The Board believes that this will allow the UUA to better fulfill its mission in the world.

Like each of us, these are people who have a desire to improve our world. The gift of their time and energy allows each of us to call this denomination home. We are a small Association of Congregations, but we are made great by the individuals who are committed to the greater vision of our collected power and love. Our Association has done good work, and I am pleased to say that I know we will continue this good work in the years to come.

Shanti,

What the Board Has Been Doing

—Designated Trustee Bruce Fihe as the point person to create a committee to review the proposals which members have submitted for the Abrams Bequest. The proposals will be reviewed in the context of the congregation's Integrated Growth Plan *Gather the Spirit, Harvest the Power* and then presented to the Board, and finally to the congregation.

—Appointed Brent Haddad to replace John Thiemann on the Endowment Committee as John retires from his three-year term. Joan Rost will replace Rosalie Kraft as Chair of that Committee.

—Is working to strengthen the Fellowship's committees. A few important committees are dormant or nearly dormant, and their functions sometimes are channeled by default to the minister and officers or are not addressed at all. A task force will be assigned to examine each committee, and their model will be the work by a very productive task force which recently reviewed the Facilities Committee. Priority will be based on urgency, which means that the Membership Committee will be addressed first, followed by Personnel, and then Hospitality and Communications.

—Considered ways to develop a broad base of leadership within the congregation. One possibility is to invite UUA Pacific Coast District (PCD) staff to come to our congregation to help with training. Another is to cover the cost of sending prospective chairs of committees to District Assembly meetings.

—Accepted with regret the resignation of Trustee Ed Ratcliffe. The Board will appoint a replacement for the remainder of his term and submit it for approval at the April congregational meeting.

Plan Approved to Pay off Debt

At the January 20 congregational meeting, members voted to pay off roughly \$24,000 in outstanding loans as of February 1 by borrowing the money from Abrams bequest funds. The money is owed to fifteen members, and paying it off will benefit the Fellowship financially because the loans were earning 6.5% interest, while the money to repay the loans will be borrowed at only 3%. Moreover, the 3% interest which will be paid back to the Abrams bequest is greater than that fund would be able to earn at the current money market rate of 1.5%.

The net benefit to the congregation will be savings in the General Fund Budget of \$860 per year, or total savings of \$4,300 through FY2007. The net benefit to the Abrams fund will be more than \$1,100 in additional interest over the five-year repayment period.

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members:

As I write this I have just learned of Jean Thiemann's death. I had spoken with her on Sunday, the day before she died. She greeted me at the Fellowship doors, as she had so many Sundays over the years, with a jaunty scarf around her neck and a gentle smile. She said, "You are looking well, Marsha." and I replied, "As are you, Jean." The warmth of her welcome stayed with me as I found a seat in the sanctuary.

We have experienced much loss in the Fellowship this last year: Betty Morales, Dolores Abrams, Beth Coats, Barney Brookman, and now Jean Thiemann. Each one of these people was integral to the vitality of our little community and their passings leave us incomplete, like a fine tapestry with threads broken, or like a poem with words missing.

Right now my thoughts are with John Thiemann and the family Jean leaves behind. And my thoughts are with you, fellow members, as we continue to nurture our community. We are forever changing, and shaping our community through the joys and sorrows we share with each other. We are weavers and poets. The threads may become frayed, or break, and our words may be halting, or may cease, but we will continue to weave the threads of our vision, and speak the poetry of our dreams into a common creation: our faith community.

Blessed Be,

Marsha

Major Three Year Growth Plan Presented to Congregation

A major growth plan *Gather the Spirit, Harvest the Power* was presented to the congregation at a special congregational meeting on January 20 by Janus Blume, member of the Task Force on Integrated Growth, and Ann McCrow, Vice President of the Board. Janus reviewed the history of the plan, and Ann outlined its major provisions. Ann explained in various ways that it is an organic document and will undergo continued development. Members of the congregation received copies of the plan, and they said they will need an opportunity to review it before endorsing it. They approved unanimously a vote of confidence in the Task Force and said they look forward to its ongoing process and ongoing status reports.

Additional Proposals Arrive for Abrams Bequest

Four new proposals have been submitted for the Abrams Bequest as the deadline approaches. Members may continue to submit them through February 4. They must be in writing and may be submitted as a hard copy to Helen Oxley, c/o the Fellowship, or via email to her at hao3@aol.com.

The newest proposals appear below. Those submitted previously have been printed in prior issues of the Unicorn. The entire list may be viewed in the Fellowship office or on the bulletin board outside the RE building, and email copies are also available from Helen at the above email address.

Proposal #17: Use her gift to help children. Leftovers will comfort adults.

Submitted by: Gene Stevens

Proposal #18: A half million dollars is a lot of money. A mere 5% return yields \$25,000 a year, a substantial amount to add to our budget or for special projects. I am concerned with the many proposals that suggest spending most of this windfall. I am for doing the courtyard, especially if plans already exist and it can be done for \$15,000 or less. I am also for expanding the facilities, especially the sanctuary and RE classrooms but I think it should be done as already in the works, through the "growth & vision" committees, with the help of a hired consultant and a capital campaign to raise funds. I think this windfall should be used to increase our capital (owning a minister's home or building one would count as an investment) for dreams and emergencies. I agree with Ed Newman's proposal that we should work and raise capital for the expansion we need to complete to grow and the Boone's that we need to get that going since we are overflowing (and thus turning people away) many Sundays.

Submitted by: Erica Crawford

Proposal #19: I feel strongly that most of this money should be used for the improvement and expansion of the Fellowship's building and facilities. A bequest of this size is likely to be unique in the history of our congregation and should not be expended in a piecemeal fashion, on non-capital objectives.

The building and facilities are the concrete manifestation of the communal will of the Fellowship, and investment

in their expansion and improvement will create a permanent and continuing benefit to the congregation, and also will best honor the memory of Dee Abrams.

A capital investment in Fellowship-owned housing for a minister is an idea I can support in principle, but the cost of a house would consume practically all of the Dee Abrams bequest, and I don't think that should be our first priority for the application of this gift. A gift or loan of money to help a minister purchase real property is not a good idea, in my view. I don't feel that it is appropriate to confer such a special privilege upon one whose work is devoted to the common good, when most people in the community cannot hope to ever own real estate here. Though many of our members do enjoy the privilege of home ownership, I don't think that we, as a principled community, should identify ourselves with the expectations of the privileged minority in our society.

Submitted by: Jim Weller

Proposal #20: In recent months the Fellowship was given a Gulbransen baby grand piano from Betty Morales' estate for use in the sanctuary. A committee of five was formed and was comprised of our piano technician, Tom Cole, our accompanist, Carol Thorson, and three members of the choir and music committee, Gerry Bailey, John David Dupree, and Laura Helgren. This group spent a great deal of time evaluating that piano and also compared it to the Starck, a cabinet-style upright we have had for a number of years in the sanctuary. Input was also sought from our general membership who were invited to compare them as they were played during Sunday services.

Based on the committee's recommendation, it was decided to keep the Starck and sell the Gulbransen for the appraised value of \$2000. We are now in the process of finding a buyer for the baby grand and hope to use the proceeds to replace the Kimball spinet piano in the Gallery. This rehearsal piano is considered beyond repair and not of any value.

The Starck is nearly a century old and will not last many years longer. If we expect our music program to continue to grow and attract members we need to have a suitable piano for our services. The Starck is not intended for a large fellowship hall and it is difficult for an accompanist to see the congregation, minister, and choir director.

The music committee met to discuss our proposal and have agreed that we propose a minimum of \$15,000 for the purpose of replacing the Starck. While a new grand or baby grand can cost from \$30,000 up to \$60,000, a used one in good condition and promising many years of use-

ful service can be found for approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000, depending on the market availability. This is the amount we request and is our primary proposal.

Secondarily, we want to be assured that the new R.E. building plans include a separate room with piano space dedicated to choir rehearsals. This assumes it would also be used as a classroom.

Thirdly, we want to be involved in the planning of a new or renovated sanctuary so that adequate consideration is given to the space needed for a choir. This might include risers and/or stage area.

“Music expresses feelings words cannot.”

Submitted by: Music Committee: Kären Aaker, chair, Jan Lester, Edy Rhodes, Bill Bosworth, Gerry Bailey, Dave Woods, Ron Kane

In Memoriam: Jean Thiemann

It is with great sadness that we inform the congregation that Jean Thiemann died of a stroke on January 15th. Jean was a very active member of our Fellowship for many years and served with John as a greeter on Sunday mornings. John is welcoming cards and asks that people call before visiting. (Please avoid calling during his daily nap time 1-2 PM). A memorial service for Jean will be held at the Fellowship March 2 at 3:00 PM. Jean's presence will be sorely missed. We send our thoughts and prayers to John and the rest of the Thiemann family.

Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley

Marge Says Thanks

Marge Brookman says thank you for all the cards, phone calls, visits and lunches following Barney's death Nov. 13th in Watsonville.

Barney joined our Fellowship in 1972 and was an active participant in many capacities until poor health curtailed his participation.

Forum Changes

We're excited about the changes that have come to the Forum. Our members are choosing the topic and leading the discussion once a month. The first meeting under the new set-up found Bonnie Thomas and Margaret Ogle leading a lively discussion on "What Does Courage Mean To You?"

In February, Gene Stevens' topic is "How Did You Teach Your Children About Science?" Marvin and Joan will oversee, more or less, the second session.

July 2002 Budget

Planning for the July 2002 Budget has begun. Co-chairs of the committee this year are Linda Neher and Walt Weintz. Budget worksheets were handed out to committee chairs at the Congregational meeting of January 20 to kick off the serious work required to develop a realistic budget. On March 3rd, the congregation will engage in a congregation-wide setting of goals for the next fiscal year which will provide guidance to the Budget Committee.

All Fellowship committees are being asked to hand in their estimates by March 20. The Budget committee will then combine the individual committee estimates with pledge and other income expectations to develop the actual budget. Key milestones in this project include the annual pledge drive, Board approval of the developed budget and general membership approval of the final budget at a June 9th Congregational meeting.

The Community Quilt

Some of you may have wondered about the quilt that hangs on the wall in back of the speaker's podium. If you are new to the Fellowship, you probably don't know the history of the project. For those interested let me explain....

In the fall of 1999 a few of us met at the Fellowship to take a course in Simplicity sponsored by the Northwest Earth Institute. One of the books mentioned was about the Amish and their quilts. The Fellowship needed something colorful to decorate the space behind the podium. We were planning a Fellowship retreat based on the theme of Community. I thought we could work on the quilt at camp, but the larger Fellowship needed to be involved too.

I made announcements during the Sunday Service about the project and provided kits for the participants. There was an overwhelming response; I had trouble keeping up with the demand! Some people offered to make two or three. It was wonderful.

Gradually, the finished squares came back. There were some differences in size, but generally, they worked. The next phase was to sew them together. A group of us met to decide how this would be done. Four of us took the sections home and sewed them together and then met again for the final assembly. The quilt was getting very large by this time. It was obvious that one person would have to finish the last details for the top piecing. I cut and sewed for about two weeks and then it was done! It had taken a whole year to get to this point. Now all we had to do was quilt...

(continue on page 8)

UU Dinner Club

Below is the listing for February. Remember - 1 is host; 2 brings main dish; 3 brings salad; 4 brings dessert, 5 brings vegetable or any mutually agreed upon dish. Hosts, please call the members of your group as soon as possible to set time and place. You may change to a mutually agreed upon date if the second Saturday does not work. If someone in your group cannot come at all then feel free to call anyone else as a substitute.

Group 1

1 Hudson/Shackelford
2 McCrow
3 Lester
4 Mohsenin

Group 2

1 Dwyer
2 Lamb
3 Oxley
4 Wood
5 Flanagan
6 Weller

Group 3

1 Forsyth
2 Newman
3 Meyer
4 Wilson,W.
5 Cavanaugh/Sandovil-Vigil

Group 4

1 Boone
2 Aaker/Fihe
3 Rogers
4 Bailey,G
5 Shaw

Group 5

1 Anton
2 Ratcliffe
3 Palmer
4 Collier-Young

Group 6

1 Brooks
2 Morairty
3 Makalani/Dupree
4 VanDyke
5 Wilson,M

Hymnal Donations

The response from last month's request has been great, but more would be appreciated. Therefore, the Music and Sunday Services committees are continuing to solicit members to sign up to donate hymnals to honor special people or as a memorial. The dedication will be printed in the front of the hymnal. The cost is \$28.00 for the regular edition and \$45.00 for the large print edition. Help us to meet our goal. Please contact Kären Aaker or anyone else on these committees.

Congregation-wide Goal Setting

On March 3 after the Service all members are urged to attend the annual goal setting meeting. We will gather together to consider our goals for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. We will ask ourselves, what do we wish to accomplish in the next year in terms of programs, in terms of membership growth, in terms of our own personal and spiritual growth? What are the resources, especially financial, that we need to accomplish these goals? Our consideration of these questions will be in the context of the outcomes of the All Fellowship Retreat on February 2, 2002 and in the context of the Three Year Growth Plan, "Gather the Spirit, Harvest the Power." The results of this meeting will provide guidance to committees and to the Budget Committee in planning for the coming year. Lunch will be available.

Women Walkers

Join us the first Sunday of the Month after Fellowship and the Potluck for a walk or hike someplace not too far away. On Feb. 3 we will go to nearby Seacliff State Park and join a docent led walk and find out about the millions of years old fossils in the cliffs above the beach we walk by without noticing all the time. On Mar. 3 we will hike at Elkhorn Slough and, mother nature willing, we will be blessed with seeing the egrets and herons roosting (bring your binoculars), as well as some early wildflowers and great views.

Baby Grand For Sale

The music committee is accepting offers for the baby grand piano that was gifted the fellowship from Betty Morales. It is valued at \$2000 and we hope to sell it for at least that much. Some interest has already been shown, so let someone on the music committee know of your interest right away.

Kären Aaker, Jan Lester, Gerry Bailey, Edy Rhodes, Bill Bosworth, Ron Kane, Dave Woods

First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group has selections for February and March only; then we must choose books for the next several months. Do you have suggestions? If so, please bring your ideas to our meeting on February 1st when we'll be discussing Camus' *The Plague*.

In keeping with our tradition, the next night we'll watch the movie version of Camus' book which stars William Hurt, Robert Duval, and Raul Julio. This will be at Joan's house also.

The book for March is only part of a book; two chapters from *The Brothers Karmazov*. The chapters are "The Rebellion" and "The Grand Inquisitor."

Unicorn Deadline



The Unicorn deadline for March is Feb. 17th. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date.

Thanks.

Pacific Coast District Awards Nomination Invitation

District Assembly April 27, 2002 – Nomination Invitation

You are cordially invited to nominate an individual or a congregation that you feel would be a worthy recipient of a PCD Award at this year's Awards Ceremony at District Assembly.

The list of such awards is included below. Also included is a Nomination Form.

The DEADLINE for these nominations is February 15, 2002.

Please send your nomination to the PCD office at 6536 Telegraph Ave, Suite C-102, Oakland, CA 94609 or fax it to 510-601-1439, or email to pcd@pcd-uaa.org.

Awards for Individuals:

1) DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

For a Unitarian Universalist in the Pacific Central District who has provided distinguished leadership to our religious movement.

2) LIVING OUR UU VALUES AWARD

For a Unitarian Universalist in the Pacific Central District whose life has consistently exemplified our Unitarian Universalist values.

3) NORMA CORDELL PROPHETIC VOICE AWARD

For a Unitarian Universalist in the Pacific Central District who has consistently practiced the art of telling the truth in love, demonstrating a commitment to addressing difficult issues within our congregations or district structure with sensitivity, wisdom and courage.

4) JUNELLA HANSON MENTORING AWARD

For a Unitarian Universalist in the Pacific Central District who has been devoted to nurturing and mentoring new professional religious leadership.

5) UNSUNG HERO AWARD

For a Unitarian Universalist who exemplifies personal commitment to the Pacific Central District that strengthens Unitarian Universalism.

6) SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

For a Unitarian Universalist in the Pacific Central District who demonstrates exemplary service in the work of social justice in the district.

Awards for congregations:

1) THE SMALL CONGREGATION AWARD FOR COMMUNITY PRESENCE

For a Pacific Central District congregation under 150 members that has made a difference in their community.

2) THE YOUNG ADULT AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation that is a model of young adult participation in the life of the congrega-

tion.

3) THE YOUTH PROGRAMMING AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation with an exceptionally strong youth program.

4) THE CHILDREN'S ENROLLMENT AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation with significant growth in the enrollment in children's religious education during the previous year.

5) THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to social justice work.

6) THE CULTURE OF FINANCIAL GENEROSITY AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation that has shown special creativity and innovation in building a culture of financial generosity.

7) THE EXTENSION AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation with the greatest percentage growth (new members with less attrition) in the current church year.

8) THE CHALICE LIGHTERS AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation that has the greatest percentage of its membership enrolled in the Chalice Lighters Program.

9) THE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

For a Pacific Central District congregation that has paid its Fair Share to the District for the most years in a row.

Nomination Form – DA 2002 – Pacific Central District

I would like to nominate:

(either an individual or a congregation) for the _____ Award because:

My name:

home congregation:

phone:

email:

Charles B. Rosene

District Administrator

Pacific Central District - Unitarian Universalist Association

6536 Telegraph Ave., C-102

Oakland, CA 94609

(510) 601-1437

Job Opportunities at Starr King

Starr King School for the Ministry is a progressive theological school in Berkeley, California and is seeking two full-time positions.

Executive Assistant to the President:

Job duties include; scheduling & travel planning, correspondence, maintaining files, and greeting and hospitality. Proficiency in MS Office and Corel Suites as well as a high degree of organizational skills are required. Previous experience in setting up a small office is a must. Other duties as required.

Receptionist/Assistant to the Vice President:

Job duties include; answering telephone, greeting visitors, mail processing, supply maintenance, editing online newsletter, facilities scheduling and general day to day oversight. Proficiency in MS Office & Corel Suites are required. Other duties as required.

Please submit resume to: Thomas W. Smith, Starr King School for the Ministry, 2441 Le Conte AVE, Berkeley, CA 94709; or Email starrking1@aol.com; FAX (510) 845-6273. For more information about the school, visit our Web site www.sksm.edu. These jobs will remain open until filled. No telephone calls please. SKSM is an Equal opportunity employer.

Community Quilt (cont)

I found to my amazement that people no longer did hand quilting. After talking to people at the Fellowship's sewing group, I was convinced that we would need to pay someone to machine quilt our masterpiece. Although Amish quilts are traditionally all handmade, ours would be different. I knew I would have to give way to progress (and the machine). The sewers even gave me money (in lieu of quilting?). We went to the Board at this point and they generously contributed the rest out of their own pockets. The quilting was finished in about a week. I'm afraid it wasn't done as well as I would have liked, but it was done, finished, complete.

All that remained was the hanging. I sewed a pocket for a rod. Rick, my husband, purchased and cut the rod and we took it to the Fellowship. He climbed the ladder and I advised about placement. The left side needed stretching so we used pushpins along the bottom edge (these mysteriously later disappeared). The quilt filled the space well and the colors blended harmoniously with the surroundings. It was finally up and ready for the Sunday Easter Service 2001.

I hope now as you look toward the speaker's podium you will glance up to the quilt and see it as a symbol of the cohesiveness of our Fellowship community. Maybe you'll see the colors glowing and the patterns moving. Maybe you'll find the exact square you made. Maybe you'll think of the many people who worked in community to make this for you. I know I do and am eternally grateful for all the help I received.

CUUPS to Meet!

The Covenant of UU Pagans and anyone interested in what it is that we do will meet on February 9th at 10 AM at the house of Terra Collier-Young who lives at 4440 Prescott Rd.(off Main St.) in Soquel. Please feel free to call her (462-4995) or email her at terracollieryoung@yahoo.com for any additional information.

At this very important meeting of CUUPS, we will plan the rest of the year and decide which rituals and social activities we wish to share. We sure hope that all of those who have expressed an interest in the group will attend - it's a great way to be a part of a lively pagan group! If you cannot attend but would like to know of upcoming events, please email Terra who graciously takes on the leadership role of CUUPS. She will add you to the CUUPS email list.

Imbolc Ritual - February 1st

There will be an Imbolc ritual sponsored by CUUPS and lead by V Langston-Kingsley at the Fellowship on Friday, February 1 at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend! Please bring a dessert or drink to share after the ritual. See the Sixth Source for more details.

Call For Ideas And Participants For Summer Services

In March the Sunday Services Committee will begin planning for our summer services, when Pam is on break. So, we are soliciting ideas for services, as well as people who would like to lead services. If you have ideas for topics or speakers for services please talk to anybody on the Sunday Services Committee (Gerry Bailey, Terra Collier-Young, Karen Holl, Jim Weller). You don't have to lead the service. We are particularly interested in ideas for All Ages services. If you are interested in being a service associate (a.k.a. the person who leads the opening portions of the service) please contact Karen Holl (336-5224, kholl@cats.ucsc.edu). If you haven't been one before we ask that you participate in a one-time training which will be scheduled in May.

Sixth Source

A warm blessing on you all! The Covenant of UU Pagans uses this space to speak about different things concerning our group. I, like many people, am drawn to the ritual of our holidays. I thought, perhaps, that folks might want to see what I like to do for Imbolc. Below is a ritual that I designed. I hope you get a glimpse into this holiday that I love so much!

Welcome to our Imbolc celebration. This is the time of year when the triple goddess, Bride (pronounced Breed), is honored in her three aspects of Maiden, Mother and Crone. It is this time of year when the Crone is transformed into a Maiden and the earth is quickened with new life. It is the time of creativity and poetry and initiation which seems perfect for the growing CUUPS group at our beloved fellowship.

Call in the Directions.

North: Spirits of the empty fields, waiting and mixing with winter mud, join us in greeting our Lady Bright!

East: Spirits of the warming winds, blowing stronger with signs of spring, join us in greeting our Lady Bright!

South: Spirits of the shining flame, burning in the infant Sun, join us in greeting our Lady Bright!

West: Spirits of the forest streams, flowing free from winter rains, join us in greeting our Lady Bright!

A circle is cast. Friends may enter it late and friends may leave it early but our intention is that the circle will hold all who enter it safe from harm.

Let's raise a cone of power by sharing the words you were given upon your arrival. We'll go around in a circle, slowly the first time around, then a little faster each time. The intention is to visualize, maybe with your eyes closed eventually, a cone of energy, circling around our circle again and again until it rises up in a cone. When the time is right, we will send the energy up to the universe.

I am the saturated earth

I am the stirring bulb

I am the seed shivering to life

I am the high surf I am the rich mud

I am the fertile soil

I am the winter rains

I am the sun staying longer

I am the chill in the air

I am coming out of darkness x 3

Song

Bride of shining fire,
Lady of flickering flame,
Grant our heart's desire,
Be here, we call your name!

Honoring the Triple Goddess

Behold! Bride the Maiden is here!*

Behold! The Mother Goddess is here!*

Behold! The Ancient crone is here!*

Self-Initiation

Bride is the triple goddess of creativity, poetry and metal smithing. This aspect of the goddess brings us inspiration. In this time of initiation and inspiration, I invite all those inspired to do so to join me in a formal self- initiation (or re-commitment) into this CUUPS group, this circle of seekers and friends. I invite you to anoint yourselves with this sacred water and say the following:

Bless me, Mother of Life, for I am your child.

Blessed be my eyes that I may see a path of goodness.

Blessed be my nose that I may smell the essence of life.

Blessed be my mouth that I may speak the truth with kindness.

Blessed be my heart that I may be faithful in my work upon this earth.

Blessed be my loins that I may create and birth ideas and deeds that leave the world a more beautiful place than I have found it.

Blessed be my feet that I may walk the walk of my values every single day.

Silence

Candles

There will be a time after to put all of your old Yule decorations and other unwanted things into a fire, but for now let's turn ourselves to the fire of inspiration. If you would like, please take a red candle and light it, telling us what or who sparks your inspiration.

Song

1. We all come from the Maiden	2. We all come from the Mother
And to her we shall return	And to her we shall return
Like the budding flowers	Like the life filled fruit
Blooming in the Spring time.	Falling from the apple tree.

3. We all come from the Wise One	4. We all come from the Goddess
And to her we shall return	And to her we shall return
Like the waning moon	Like a drop of rain
Shining on the winter ground.	Flowing to the ocean

Open the Circle

West: Rejoice, O spirits of the stream: Bride is come! You now flow free!

South: Spirits of the infant sun: Rejoice! Your Lady Bride is come!

East: Spirits who ride the warming Air: Rejoice! Your Lady Bride is here!

North: Rejoice O Spirits of the Earth: Bride is here! You soon give birth!

FEBRUARY POTLUCK SCHEDULED FOR
SECOND SUNDAY FEB 10TH..

...so that secret pals can meet and eat lunch together. Potluck will be held after the service. Please bring a dish that you remember from your childhood, either a main dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert. All welcome. We need volunteers to help set up and clean up . Call Barbara Palmer 724-8636 or call or e-mail Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or nmohsan@earthlink.net.

Saturday, February 2

A one-day retreat to affirm the mission of
the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Santa Cruz County

Sunday, March 3

Congregation-wide Goal Setting

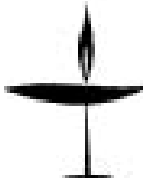
A half-day gathering after the service
to set goals for next year

If you see a red dot on your mailing label your UNICORN subscription expires with this issue.
To renew, send \$12 to the Fellowship—or join us and receive it as a membership benefit.

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Santa Cruz County
6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos, CA 95003**

*Time Value Material
Please Do Not Delay*

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Aptos, CA
Permit #11



Return Service Requested