



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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June 2002

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The UNICORN

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June Sunday Services

(Note: No Forums June-August)

- June 2 10:00AM: The Evolution of Religious Education**
What do Charles Darwin and tortoises have to do with our Religious Education program? Come find out!! We will be recognizing our youth and the adults who served in the RE program this year.
Sylvia Prescott Forsyth & Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
- June 9 10:00AM: Coming of Age Ceremony** Our 7th & 8th graders have been working with mentors since January to deepen their own understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Join us as we celebrate their Coming of Age and welcome them into the Fellowship as adult participants.
Coming of Age Participants, Mentors and Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
Potluck and Congregational Meeting following the service
- June 16 10:00AM: Got Faith?** Is faith based on the commitment to practicing spiritual laws, or is it based on trust in the laws of nature and scientific evidence? Or perhaps it is a bit of both? Fran S. Gertler (service associate) and Diana Wilson will address these questions.
- June 23 10:00AM: Who is Happy? And Why?** Everyone wants to be happy. So why is finding lasting happiness so elusive? Do too many of us look for it in all the wrong places? Social scientists have discovered many sources of enduring life satisfaction, and some of their answers might surprise you.
Service Associate: Patricia Keith-Spiegel
- June 30 10:00AM: Sai Baba's Life Message** Sai Baba is considered to be an avatar (incarnation of Hindu god). He is famous worldwide for his spiritual powers and unparalleled social work. Bill Bosworth will share reflections on his month in India with Sai Baba.
Service associate: Morgan Van Dyke

Langston-Daley Thoughts

I preached last month on Channing's understanding of salvation by character. A person with strong character responds to difficult situations with a calm grounded center. A center which is fed by regular spiritual practice which helps to deeply seat values of honesty, integrity and authenticity in everyday life.



Hmmm-- I have found myself in the last few months not operating from a grounded center. I believe that part of this lack of character on my part comes from skipping my regular practice of reflection and have recommitted myself to practicing what I preach. I know it is difficult to find the time to do this, but I also know that when I do, things generally run more smoothly and I am more capable of being fully present to myself and others.

I remember when I was in fourth grade my teacher, Mrs. Woolmaker, used to say all the time- "Actions speak louder than words." I hated that saying, but have come to believe that it is more true than even she could express to bunch of overactive and difficult 9 year olds.

Our actions speak volumes, far louder than our words. There are many in this congregation who speak clearly about their commitment and love of this Fellowship by their actions and I am proud to be connected with such loving community.

Our actions help us to continually refine and develop our character. It seems to me that such development is a process, a spiritual practice. One that cannot be taken lightly, or ignored. Salvation is not simply a gift as the Universalists interpreted it, but it is also a responsibility to lift up our own lives and the lives of others; to live our lives fully.

My favorite poem by Mary Oliver asks the question "What will you do with your wild and precious life?"

I will recommit to a daily spiritual practice as many times as necessary to live my life more fully. (Hopefully, it will stick this time!) I will continue to serve others; continue to invest in the inherent worth and dignity of all persons; continue to work for justice and equity in the world.

Each of us makes mistakes, and slips every once in a while. I am certainly no exception. I appreciate those who have called me to my actions, who have spoken the truth in love and made me ever more conscious of my need to recenter.

As a loving community we can provide that reflection for one another. We can be a safe place for loving truth to be spoken. We can honor our differences, and still hold one another accountable as we work to become people of strong character.

SUMMER SCHEDULE: As many of you know, I will be available during my regular office hours for the month of June and available by appointment in July. I hope to get some books checked off my reading list in July and may be attending a training the week of July 9-18th. You can always call me at home or reach me by cell phone. I will be leaving for vacation July 28th and returning August 28th. I will be in the deep woods of Michigan during my vacation, and will let you know in next month's newsletter who will be on call during my absence for emergencies.

Santi, 

What the Board Has Been Doing

---Adopted two alternate proposals for the 2002-03 Budget that are modified versions of those recommended by the Budget Committee. Proposal "A," \$153,376 with a deficit of \$5,886, funds all line items in the budget at the lowest level which the Board determined that it could in good conscience recommend. Proposal "B" is balanced, but it includes percentage cuts on many line items below the level which the Budget Committee determined that it could in good conscience recommend. The biggest change by the Board from the Budget Committee's recommendation was to increase the Minister's compensation package in accordance with recommendations by the Committee on Ministry. The congregation will vote to adopt a budget at the June 9 congregational meeting following the Sunday service. If the congregation adopts Proposal "A," members will need to decide how to address the deficit, such as seeking additional funds to close the gap.

--Decided to appoint a Use Permit Task Force, with a life of six weeks, to assist in making a recommendation to the congregation at the June 9 congregational meeting, when members will be asked to re-approve their 1992 adoption of the Master Plan. The scope of work for the

task force was to be the following:

- (a) Confirm RE and Fellowship Hall expansion to be recommended to the Board and Congregation.
- (b) Review revised master plan and landscape plan.
- (c) Establish procedures for design and construction of the courtyard.
- (d) Assist the Abrams committee on building expansion options, comparative costs, etc.
- (e) Report recommendations to Board at May meeting.

--Appointed Jim Weller to replace Bruce Fihe as a Trustee on the Board.

--Reviewed at length a report by member Suse Shane regarding membership trends in the Fellowship.

--Learned that the Fellowship's RE program has been doing well for the last year and has grown in depth as well as numbers. We have been successful in engaging non-parents to teach and hope this will continue.

--Approved the display of the Fellowship banner at Vandenburg Air Force Base, Gay Pride, and Solstice Parade, in response to a request by the Social Concerns Council. The new CUUPS banner is expected to be displayed at the Solstice Parade.

Congregational Meeting - June 9

All members are urged to attend the Congregational Business Meeting on June 9 after the Service. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Standing Orders: Approve 2002-3 Budget
5. New Business
 - a) Approve Jim Weller as replacement Trustee
 - b) Approve Mission Statement
 - c) Abrams Bequest Ad Hoc Committee: recommendations
 - d) Master Plan Building Expansion: recommendations
6. Adjournment

Coordinating Council to meet on June 6

To all committee chairs and trustee liaisons: The Coordinating Council will meet on Thursday, June 6 from 7 - 8:30 PM in the Gallery at the Fellowship. The primary agenda will be to plan the main events and activities for the 2002-03 calendar. Annual committee reports are also due. For more information, please call Ann McCrow at 458-4213.

President's Letter

My Dear Friends:

This is my last letter to you and I am feeling some sadness at saying goodbye since this is essentially a goodbye letter. I have been President of the Board for two and a half years, and I am admittedly tired and more than ready to give the gavel to Ed Newman, our new Board President.

These years have been hectic, exciting, frustrating, joyful, trying, humorous, and overall, rewarding for me personally. I feel I have done a good job as your President. I hope I have been receptive and responsive to your concerns and have made sure those concerns came to the Board's attention as appropriate. I am especially proud of the Three Year Growth Plan which the Ad Hoc Committee on Integrated Growth presented to you in January and pleased that this year we launched for the first time an annual strategic plan with congregation-wide goal setting for 2002-2003. Next year will see us implementing those goals. It is fulfilling to look backward at all we have done together as much as to look forward in anticipation of what we will achieve.

But, as I say, I am also happy to turn my duties over to Ed and to next year's Board. I will still attend Board meetings as the Past President but I will now be more of a statesperson than anything else. And I will be happy to turn my attention to "tending my own garden," such as finishing the anthology I have been working on, further developing my gestalt practice, continuing as a lecturer at UCSC and Cabrillo and, yes, literally tending my garden at home. I yearn for a more leisurely pace with time enough for reflection, longer walks with my dog, and quiet companionship with my husband, George.

I have tried to do the right thing, and to always honor our traditions and our value for the democratic process in all our relations. I believe that you have had compassion for me when I have made mistakes. I believe in your loving kindness.

Thank you for letting me serve our community. It has been an honor

--Blessed Be,

Marsha

Annual Camping Trip

Come by ones, twos or threes, or however many people you can fit in your car. This year R.E. and CUUPS are sponsoring this water-filled weekend of camping at Lake San Antonio.

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss this event. We have reserved a group camping spot on the lake for the weekend of Friday July 19 through Sunday July 21. A sign up sheet can be found on the "Fun For All Board". The deadline for signing up is June 16. Here are just a few reasons to come: you're making your Fellowship community stronger, it's great fun, it's a chance to meet someone you don't know, there are no household chores to do, you'll be in nature for three days...who can beat that?

If you have any questions, please contact Terra Collier Young or Manon Mesa.

Women Walkers

For June we will meet on June 2nd to explore some of the trails at the nearby "land of medicine buddha." Hope you have been out enjoying the wonderful spring wild flowers -- they'll be gone all too soon.

Forum Takes a Summer Break

The Forum will not meet in June, July, or August but will be back on schedule meeting on the second and forth Sundays of each month beginning in September. Hope you have a nice summer!

Unicorn Deadline



The Unicorn will be combining the July and August issues. The deadline for July and August is June 23rd. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor

by that date. Thanks.

First Friday Book Group

If you are planning to join the book group on Friday, June 7th and haven't started reading the selection yet, I suggest that you disconnect your phone, turn off you e-mail and computer, and not answer your doorbell should it ring. We're discussing Dostoyevski's *Crime and Punishment* and it's 600 pages long. However it is fascinating, and you may find it hard to put down once you've started it.

For July we will be doing Kafka's *The Trial* and for August it will be Wendell Berry's *Life is a Miracle*.

The book group meets the first Friday of each month at 7:30 at Joan Robert's home. Please call her at 688-7598 if you have any questions.

UU People

Update on newly-reconfigured Dupree/Makalani/Bangura family:

Lamin is taking 6 classes at Aptos High and after his first 10 weeks, he received nearly a 3.0 grade-point average at mid-term, which is quite remarkable, given how little formal schooling he ever had in Sierra Leone or Senegal. He has become an active member of the YRUU Wednesday night group and is interviewing for a part time after-school job at the Boardwalk. During the summer, he will be earning 10 credits for completing a year-long course on World Civilizations in only five weeks (five hours per day). Marco will also be in summer school at Watsonville High. During spring break, John David and Jumaane took the boys to Denver, Colorado, to visit John David's son, daughter, son-in-law and adorable seven-week-old granddaughter, Miss Emerson Joy Dupree-Henry, better known as "Emmy". Both Marco and Lamin seemed to enjoy their new niece, although Marco's initial response to news of Andrea's pregnancy and his impending unclehood was, "They didn't ask ME if I wanted to be an uncle!" Andrea and Mike apologized profusely, of course, for not having consulted him first! The boys enjoyed snowboarding in the Rockies (Lamin's first time to see the white stuff)! And finally, the boys are taking capoeira classes together through the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department. The rigorous Afro-Brazilian martial arts form, which combines self-defense, music, dance and rhythm, is helping the boys to discover muscles and joints they never knew they had!

John Thiemann wrote the following about his brother Bob who had attended Jean Thiemann's memorial service in March. "Bob and I were both born into the UU church in Peoria, Illinois. He remained a loyal member of the church for 80 years..He died of a heart attack on May 3, 2002. He lived in Peoria all of his life." Our deepest condolences go out to John.

UU People (cont)

Egon Winter is now recuperating at home after spending some time in the hospital and in a convalescent home. Visitors are very welcome but please call before you come.

-- Iran Mohsenin



At the workday, Michael, Randy James, Pam and Nick (the caretaker) installed new speakers in the fellowship hall and installed speakers in the kitchen so people working there could hear the services.

Above: Michael driving Parker, Evan Young, and Parker's babysitter on the lift truck after they were done.

Shown are two pictures from District Assembly in Santa Rosa '02. Above: (left to right) Sylvia Forsyth, V Langston, Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley, Linda Neher, Patt Taylor, Jim Weller, and Parker Langston (not shown) all attended.

Right: Jim Weller carried our banner in the parade.





Music Notes

A GREAT SEASON

Our choir has increased in numbers and in frequency of performances this last winter and spring. Two highlights were “The Road Less Traveled,” the Robert Frost poem with music by Randall Thomas and Vivaldi’s “Gloria.” For the size of our fellowship, we have done very well to perform these as well as a diversity of other songs and hymns. Thanks to all the very experienced (and some inexperienced) musicians who rehearsed and worked hard on these well-received performances. Choir members pictured below are: (Back) Jim Weller, John David Dupree, Jumaane Makalani, Bill Bosworth, Marijke Mijer, Ron Kane, Dave Wood, John Isherwood, (Front) Terra Collier-Young, Carol Thorson (accompanist), Jan Lester, Laura Helgren, Helen Oxley, Walter Wilson, George Shackelford, Kären Aaker (director).

Not pictured: Mathew Embry, Edy Rhodes, Janus Blume, Mary Bailey, Rosalie Dwyer, Margie MacArthur.



SUMMER SERVICES

The choir will be singing only occasionally this summer. During this time, we invite anyone to provide some special music - instrumental and vocal solos or groups. Just call Kären or the Sunday Services leader to volunteer.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

We would like to add one or two new members to the music committee this year - professional experience and/or training is not necessary, just a love a music. Contact any current member and come to our next meeting. The music committee includes Jan Lester, Bill Bosworth, Ron Kane, Gerry Bailey, Dave Wood and Kären Aaker.

“Music expresses feelings words cannot.”

Hymnal Donors

Many thanks to the following fellowship members and friends who donated 24 regular, 6 large print, and 1 Braille hymnals:

Jenny Choat Wood, Susan Williams, Jumaane Makalani, John David Dupree, Jan Lester, Abigail Joseph, Cathryn Gorges-Wood, Helen Oxley, John Thiemann, Tricia Keith-Spiegel, Rosalie Kraft, Linda Neher, Terra Collier-Young, Bill & Betty Sampson, Brent Haddad, V Langstson-Kingsley, Judy Anton, Hanna Gaylord, Andy & April Kreyche, Ed & Patt Taylor, Lora Lee Chapman, Karen Asherah, Jennifer Poodry Fish, Anonymous.

-----The Music and Sunday Service Committees

Member of the Month - Bill Bosworth

As I headed off to Oberlin College in January 1942, I had visions of becoming a Congregational minister. But the brutality I subsequently experienced in World War II as an artilleryman and the way Christians on both sides were attacking one another discouraged me from pursuing a career as a Christian minister. Unitarianism was unknown to me at that time.

For a few years after the war I was suffering from what I now perceive as post traumatic stress syndrome. I felt listless and discouraged. I got a B.A. from Oberlin College, but I felt little enthusiasm for anything.

Like Buddha I began to seriously search for a source of meaning for my life and now believe I have found it via a pursuit of the wisdom and practices of the spiritual leaders of the East.

Eric Fromm once wrote that we in the West have tried to capture the world through thought which has led to a relatively high standard of living but also to the atomic bomb and bacteriological weapons. People in the East, on the other hand, have tried to capture the world through feeling and meditation. This has led to a relatively low standard of living but also to the development of some great spiritual leaders. He added that if we would humble ourselves enough to look into the wisdom of these leaders we would find great inspiration and serenity.

I took his advice and have made four trips to India. I kid about having chased gurus for forty years and being gurusome ever since. Last November I took my most recent trip to India to spend time with Sai Baba at his ashram in south central India. He advises people to put God first, others second and oneself third. Jesus, Martin Luther King and Ghandi did just that. This orientation I find brings an increased feeling of unity with all that is and a decreased sense of separation. Feelings of separation as I see it are the basic source of anxiety and loneliness.

TGIF: Thank God It's Friday

TGIF is a purely social affair held at different hosts' homes on Fridays between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. It is open to all members and friends and there is no need to call ahead. All you have to do is drop by and enjoy conversation and fellowship and make a small contribution for the drinks and snacks.

June 7 Trisha Keith-Spigel/Rich Racimora
1513 Calypso Drive, Seascape Aptos

June 14 Bruce Fihe/Karen Aaker
441 Ranchitos del Sol, Aptos

June 21 Barbara Palmer
153 Sans Road, Watsonville

June 28 John Thiemann
195 Raptor Road, Watsonville

There are two openings in July for hosts on July 5 and July 26. Please call Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 if you could volunteer to be a host.

Budget Process

All members are encouraged to participate in the process of adopting the 2002-2003 Fellowship budget. The Budget Committee gathered estimates of income and expenditures from a variety of sources, including all committees. Two alternative proposals were developed and, after modification by the Board, are now ready for consideration by the membership. Copies of the proposals are available on Sunday morning by the name tags and in the office throughout the week. After the service on June 2, members of the Budget Committee will be available in the Gallery to answer questions about the budget. On June 9 members will vote to adopt a final budget at the congregational meeting following the service.

Endowment Distribution to Fund Fellowship Project

A grant of up to \$1200 will be available this coming winter or spring for a project proposed by a committee or by a group of 10 members. Our guidelines would include such ideas as a retreat, conference, field trip, equipment purchase or social justice project.

This will be the first distribution use from our Endowment and is expected to be an annual event.

Additional information will be available in July from Endowment Committee members Joan Rost, Jane Boone, Rosalie Kraft and Brent Haddad.

**POTLUCK
&
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JUNE 9TH
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

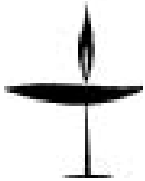
Our monthly potluck will be held on the second Sunday of June, June 9, after the service and before the Congregational Meeting. This will be a finger foods potluck so please bring items which do not need utensils. Let's use our imagination. If you can help set up and clean up, please see Barbara Palmer or Iran Mohsenin.

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