



# 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>

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July/August 2002

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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.

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## The UNICORN

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## July/August Sunday Services

- July 7 10:00AM: A Report From General Assembly 2002** - Jim Weller (service associate), Jenny Wood and Ali Michaelis will share their experiences of participation as your delegates to the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in Quebec City, June 20-24, 2002.
- July 14 10:00AM: A Moral Response to Terrorism** - This morning's service will express the curriculum and discussion of an 8 week long study-group that met at the Resource Center for Non Violence. Dave "Woody" Wood and Terra Collier-Young (service associate) will offer their witness to the peace process. Join us as we further a peaceful path for human relations.
- July 21 10:00AM: Favorite Stories From Children's Literature** - ALL AGES SERVICE. Jim Weller (who is a credentialed early childhood educator) and his mystery guests will present dramatic readings of some of Jim's favorites among current literature for children. There are lessons learned in kindergarten worth renewing at any age. And they're still fun.
- July 28 10:00AM: When Fundamentalists Turn Violent: How Should a Liberal Religious Community Respond?** - Religious fundamentalists with weapons pose special dilemmas for liberal religious communities. Fellowship member Brent Haddad will give opening comments and then lead a discussion of how the UUA Principles can guide our response to threats posed by Al-Queda and similar organizations.

(August services are listed on page 6)  
The Forum will resume in the Fall

## Langston's Daley Thoughts

Summer is here and I know that many of you will be traveling, camping or simply enjoying the wonders of Santa Cruz County. It is my hope that your summer is filled with many opportunities to share your love of Unitarian Universalism.

I was recently given a book by Margaret Wheatley called *Turning To One Another* about the power of conversation. Conversation is an art as old as humanity and, is historically, the building block for social change. Sometimes, stereotypes and biases that many of us hold keep us from getting to know each other and sharing our own stories with others. The way someone dresses, the length of their hair, the way they speak or the car they drive may lead us to make assumptions about others that are not always accurate.

These judgements about others are often driven by our fear of differences. Just as we have worked hard to find the similarities which lead to tolerance and acceptance in our religious differences, so too we must work to find the similarities in all aspects of our humanity. Wheatley believes, and her experience has proven, that when we move beyond our immediate first impression of others we come to find that our shared humanity offers enlightenment, a greater capacity for compassion and deeper connection to a shared vision of the world.

It is only by moving through the fear of our differences that we begin to find our common bond as human beings. As so many of us know, our culture has all but eliminated the opportunities for real conversation. We run from one appointment to the next, from one meeting to the next, from one place to the next, never taking the time to converse with those around us. This lack of meaningful conversation has, in Wheatley's opinion, greatly reduced our capacity to create change in our world.

"Some friends and I started talking..." In her book, Wheatley gives many examples of how simple conversations helped people to feel empowered and in doing so, made substantial changes in their neighborhoods, in their communities, and in other countries. The power of real conversation cannot be underestimated. It may be slow, and in a culture that expects immediate results and quick fixes, it calls us to relearn patience.

The ground rules offered by Wheatley as we engage in conversations with others include: "acknowledging one and other as equals, trying to stay curious about each other, recognizing that we need each others help to become better listeners, slowing down so we have time to think and reflect, remembering that conversation is the natural way humans think together, and expecting it to be messy at times." By holding these principles of conversation in mind, we open ourselves to the creative power



of being human collectively.

None of us can change the world alone. None of us can change ourselves alone. By engaging in meaningful conversation, we can learn more, be more and empower ourselves and each other to bring about that world we so desperately seek.

Take some time this summer to talk to your neighbors, strangers, visitors, and anyone who might cross your path. You might be surprised about what you discover!

Shanti,

## What the Board Has Been Doing--

--Appointed an Ad Hoc Building Committee and asked it to proceed immediately with one of its first tasks, which is to select a design for the courtyard in accordance with the congregation's decision at the June 9 meeting. Members include Dave Boone, Randy James, John Thiemann, Joan Rost, Mary Brooks, and Marylou Lamb.

--Appointed Walter Wilson and Rich Way as two members of an internal audit committee. They will be asked to find a third member. The Board decided earlier this year to rely on an internal audit rather than an external one because the external audits which we have been receiving in recent years have been so cursory as to be worthless, and we cannot afford the high price of a thorough external audit. Our internal audit will review the Fellowship's procedures as well as accounts. The audit should also leave the Fellowship better prepared for the capital campaign which will be needed for the building expansion under the Master Plan.

--Decided to place interest from the

Abrams Bequest in Savings. Disposition of this interest was not addressed under procedures adopted last year to decide what to do with principal from the bequest.

--Decided that the Board in the future will review as a policy issue the question of budgeting monetary awards for volunteers. This should reduce the need for painful and arbitrary decisions because it will establish criteria and provide a basis for consistency in awards to the Fellowship's many volunteers.

--Learned from Treasurer Bill Sampson that the congregation is short \$7,000 in payments on pledges and \$9,000 on total projected income for 2001-02. Decided to draw on savings as needed to meet obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, paying salaries first, then external obligations, then internal obligations. Committees were requested not to spend budgeted funds which have not yet been spent.

--Appointed four new members to the Committee on Ministry, in accordance with need to fill two vacancies and congregation's earlier decision to increase the size of this committee from three to five. The new members are Bruce Fihe, Janus Blume, Mark Rogers, and Marley Smith-Merrill. Patt Taylor remains the one continuing member.

--Appointed Teddy Wood and Jim Weller as delegates to General Assembly.

--Authorized the Hospitality Committee to purchase Fair Trade coffee in bulk to be served to the congregation and also to sell some of the coffee to members at a markup. The proceeds from these sales are designed to cover the extra cost of this coffee. This decision is in accordance with the Fellowship's policy to permit committees to conduct fundraisers if they obtain prior Board approval.

## President's Message

6/15/02

I am not quite president, but since the Unicorn hibernates over Summer, I will respond to the admonition of Hillel, or maybe Maimonides, "If not now, when?", and share some thoughts with you.

It is a shame that our domination does not go in for honorific titles. We could make a case for elevating Marsha Hudson to something like Pope in view of her commitment and leadership over the past 30 months. She has set a high standard, and I can only hope that I do not fall too far short.

This Fellowship involves so many wonderful, dedicated, hard-working people that we can work miracles. In the months ahead, we will have the chance. Our responsibility is in two general areas. One is to maintain our institution. We have to take care of the spiritual health and growth of our membership, and we have to look after our building and grounds. Our Congregational Meeting on June 9th approved a budget with a small deficit as well as many capital outlay projects funded from the generous bequest of Delores Abrams. We will be examining alternatives and making the decisions required in a building project. That is sure to consume time and energy.

We are still a part of the interdependent web. We must spread our message. We have a world view that is worth promoting. If India and Pakistan, Israel and Palestine, the United States and everyone else thought more in terms of the Unitarian-Universalist Seven Principles and less in terms of their own self-interest, the world would be much improved. Our challenge is to get out that message. It is clear that responding to violence with more violence is not solving whatever underlying problems caused the violence. How can we persuade our leaders?

When I was invited to become a candidate for president, I told Woody that it was not a good sign that I was asked. I thought that our Fellowship should be developing younger leadership. On the other hand, when I was asked some years ago, I declined because there was so much going on in my life that I didn't think I could spare the time. So now, in my sunset years, I am eager to start unhorsing sacred cows. If not now, when? Together we can change the world. We'll have some fun doing it. Ours is no caravan of despair.

Keep the faith,

Ed

*[By the time you get this, Ed Newman will be president of the Fellowship - Editor]*

## Women Hikers

Well Summer has arrived. July 7th we will go for a hike someplace close to the Fellowship since it sounds like the potluck will be a BBQ lasting longer than usual. August 4th we will go all the way to Felton to explore the Fall Creek Unit of Henry Cowell Redwoods SP. Here the trails will be shady and cool under second growth Redwoods and Douglas Fir. In September we will hike on the 8th rather than the 1st. If it's not too hot we will go back to a little known area out near Thiemann's where the Santa Cruz Land Trust has some land, but the trails are steep and somewhat exposed so if we are having an Indian Summer we may save this for Oct. or Nov. If you join us on this we guarantee a reward for the uphill hike, a coyote or eagle sighting!

## Summer Workday Schedule

Please come help spruce up the fellowship. Jobs for all ages and abilities. Sat. July 6 - regular workday 9-12 am. Sat. August 4 - no workday Sun. Sept. 1 - 3rd Annual All-Fellowship Labor of Love Sunday. 10-12 am.

## Yard Sale

The Fellowship's annual fall yard sale will be held Saturday, Sept. 14. Members and friends should be looking for items they no longer need and would like to donate.

Please keep them until September, if possible. There is a small amount of storage space in the shed. Household goods are especially needed, but not large heavy items. Call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660, or John Thiemann, 728-9309, for additional information.

## UU People

Recently on a long week-end jaunt, Dave and Jane Boone stopped in San Rafael and had a pleasant visit with David Dodd, a former member with his wife, Diana Spaulding, of our Fellowship. David is on the staff of the Marin County Public Library whose main branch is in the Marin County building which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. David told them about their UU activities which are very exciting. If you ever wondered what happens to the money contributed to the Chalice Lighters Program, here is a place to see it in action. David and Diana have been actively working to establish a new UU congregation in Petaluma where they live. A lively group of several families have been meeting regularly on Sundays in their homes but now with a funding request from the PCD Chalice Lighters Program, they may have the resources to rent a larger and more appropriate space. The PCD has sent out a request for contributions to this fund which will help the Petaluma new congregation.

Leo James graduated from Mount Madonna School and will be a freshman at Sonoma State University in the Fall.

Ted Wood graduated from Harbor High School and will be going to Guatemala in the summer and will probably attend Cabrillo College in the Fall. Tim Wood graduated from Branciforte Junior High and will be attending Harbor High School.

Beth Carman is recuperating from knee surgery and is convalescing at home.

Jackie Palmer was an exchange student for one week in Japan. She was elected for this honor based on an essay she wrote to an organization called Korro-no-gakko. She stayed with a host family for 4 days and attend Kawakami Junior High School for 3 days.

Please send any news you would like to share with the congregation- events, trips, illness, life passages, ceremonies, new babies, etc. to the People column c.o Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or e mail nmohsan@earthlink.net

## 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. Call the host if you need directions.

July 5: Mary Brooks  
100 N. Rodeo Gulch Rd. #115  
464-6480

July 12: Ed and Missy Ratcliffe  
538 San Lorenzo Ave., Felton  
335-2445  
Please carpool - parking is limited

July 19: Bob and Rosalie Kraft  
830 Pine Tree Lane, Aptos, 475-5660

July 26: Marijke Meijer  
41A Cathy Lane, Scotts Valley  
440-9060

Aug. 2 Clayton and Joan Rost  
519 Seacliff, Aptos, 661-0623

Aug. 9: Marylou Lamb  
190 Barnes Rd., Aptos, 662-9488

Aug. 16: Darrell and Karol Flanagan  
421 Palm Ave., Watsonville, 728-1312

Aug. 23: Lora Lee and Bill Chapman  
293 Civic Center Dr, Scotts Valley  
438-8070

Aug. 30: Karen Holl/Michael Loik  
613 Marion, Ben Lomond, 336-5224

## Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for September is August 18th. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date.

Thanks.

## RISE UP & CALL HER NAME

*A Woman Honoring Journey into  
Global Earth-based Spiritualities  
September 15 – December 8, 2002  
6:30 – 9:30pm*

*Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Santa Cruz County  
6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos, CA  
Fee \$30.00, includes 3-ring text*

*This CURRICULUM offers:*

*Thirteen structured sessions  
Goddess images – ancient and modern  
Historical and Cultural context  
Experiential exploration  
Contemporary voices and art  
Discussion and personal sharing  
Participatory rituals*

*Rise up grew out of the need for a curriculum that would not only explore the multicultural roots of feminist theology, but also educate about and honor the diversity of our spiritual roots. Curriculum trained facilitators, Patt Taylor (724-2778) and Susie Leachman (476-4713), are available to answer questions about the cost, material, and instructional program. The class has limited space. The deadline for registration is August 25. Please make out your check to Rise Up Class, UUF and get it in the mail soon to the address above.*

## UU Men's Retreat

October 18-20, 2002,

Westminster Retreat House

10 miles south of Walnut Creek off I-680

Sign up now. Space is limited to the first 45 registrants.

For five years, UU men have gathered for a weekend in October at the Westminster Retreat Center. We've played, explored, meditated, sung, made new friends, and learned from one another.

An early Registration Fee of \$175 (\$200 following Oct 1st) covers meals, lodging and workshop materials. Scholarships may be available.

For more information, go to [www.pcd-uuu.org](http://www.pcd-uuu.org), click on "Men's Pages", then go down the list and click on "Men's Retreat 2002."

**July/August Sunday Services  
(cont)**

**Fellowship Reaches Major Decisions at June 9  
Congregational Meeting**

**Aug 4 10:00AM: Jesus the Sacred Bridegroom** - Most UUs believe that Jesus was human. Was he also a husband and father? Janus Blume will present compelling evidence from history, medieval art and legend.  
Service Associate: Marsha Hudson

**Aug 11 10:00AM: Reverend Michelle Favreault** will favor us with her buoyant sensibilities in a sermon for the summer season. Rev. Favreault is a religious educator well known in the Pacific Central District.  
Service Associate: Jim Weller.

**Aug 18 10:00AM: Songs of Justice, Equality, and Peace** - Musician/singer/songwriter Judith Kate Friedman returns to the UUFSCC to share her musical talents.  
Service Associate: Judy Anton

**Aug 25 10:00AM: Healing American Healthcare.** Healthcare in America is sick and getting sicker. What is wrong? What can be done about it? Is this a religious issue? Dr. Thomas B. Newman, Professor of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Pediatrics at UCSF (and son of Ed and Carol) will share his thoughts on this topic, after which congregants will be encouraged to share theirs.  
Service Associate: Ed Newman

Members reached decisions on a number of important questions at a congregational meeting June 9.

The first was to adopt a budget for 2002-03 which had been recommended by the Board. This was a painful decision because there will be a shortfall between the budget which the congregation voted to adopt and the anticipated revenue based on pledges. Budget Committee co-chairs Linda Neher and Walt Weintz outlined the budget and explained the background. Members of the congregation hoped to avoid adopting a deficit budget because this would have meant adoption of a deficit budget for the second year in a row. They voted, instead, to send a letter to each member requesting that they each increase their pledge by 6%. Letters to individual members will be mailed out shortly.

Other questions concerned review of the Master Plan adopted in 1992-93 for expansion of the facility, which was outlined during the meeting by Committee Chair Dave Boone, and disposition of funds from the Abrams Bequest, based upon proposals presented by Bruce Fihe, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Abrams Bequest. Some of the Abrams Bequest funds will be spent immediately, and others over a longer time span. The congregation decided to landscape and pave the Patio immediately, using an estimated \$27,000 from the Abrams Bequest, with the design to be selected by the appropriate committee as designated by the Board. Other decisions for immediate action were to spend \$5,000 to remove dead and dying trees and another \$5,000 to provide seed money for playground equipment to comply with State safety requirements. The congregation decided after some discussion to separate the task of expanding the sanctuary from finishing the sanctuary interior. These tasks will be implemented in two stages. The sanctuary will be finished first at an estimated cost of \$80,000 from the Abrams Bequest. It will be expanded later, combining funds from the Abrams Bequest with a capital campaign. Funds were also set aside for a solar electric system.

Abrams Bequest Recommendations as Approved by the Congregation:

Principal (\$500,000.00)	
Member Loan Refinance	\$25,000.00
Patio	\$27,000.00
Dead/Dangerous Tree Removal	\$5,000.00
Playground Equipment	\$5,000.00

Expand Sanctuary/RE Wing	\$157,000.00
Finish Sanctuary Interior	\$80,000.00
Solar Electrical System	\$26,000.00*
Grand Piano	\$15,000.00
Ministerial Housing	\$100,000.00
Endowment	\$60,000.00
 Total	 \$500,000.00

\* after State rebate; total cost before rebate is approx. \$42,000.00

The congregation approved the appointment of Jim Weller as Trustee to complete the unexpired term of Bruce Fihe.

The meeting was chaired by Board Secretary Helen Oxley in the absence of President Marsha Hudson and Vice President Ann McCrow.

## Apply for a \$1200 Grant

One page applications for grants are available in the office or through the Endowment Committee.

The applications for up to \$1200 can be submitted by any Fellowship committee or group of 10 members. Guidelines favor community, social justice and/or education program enhancements. Retreats, conference, field trip, equipment purchase or special social justice projects are among those which can be considered. Salary or any other ongoing expense which would be an future obligation to the Fellowship is not viable. The application deadline is September 9, 2002 so get started early before your committee or group goes on vacation. The congregation will vote on the recommendation of the UU Board at the November meeting. The project as approved can begin or occur in December, January, Spring or Summer.

This is the first distribution from the Endowment Fund. It is expected to be an annual event. As the Endowment Fund grows the fund income will grow and the money available will increase. With the \$60,000 gift from the Abrams Bequest allocated to the Endowment Fund by the Congregation, the fund will have a lot more income next year to distribute.

For more information or an application contact Joan Rost , E-mail cnjrost@cruzio.com; Jane Boone, Brent Haddad, or Rosalie Kraft. Any of us will be happy to help you with your application. Your project must be received by September 9 at 5PM to be considered.

## Dealing with the Deficit

At the June 9th congregational meeting, members passed a deficit budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The motion to approve this budget included a provision instructing the Canvass Committee to ask those who pledged to increase their pledge by at least 6% (6% by everyone would produce a balanced budget.) This month all who pledged will receive a letter explaining the need and showing what 6% would be for them.

We can do it, UUsers!

Walt Weintz and Linda Neher

Co-chairs, Budget Committee

## June 3, 2002 Half Time Minister Position Available!

The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (UUCM), located in Grass Valley, CA, is presently looking for a half time consulting minister. The ten month position begins in September 2002. The salary including benefits for the ten month period is \$25,000. We can be flexible about scheduling and there is the possibility of continuing our relationship in future years through a consulting or called ministry. This is the first ministerial position offered at the UUCM and promises to be rewarding and challenging. We are a vibrant community with a focus on shared ministry. Our community is looking for a minister who can teach us how to become an even stronger congregation.

If you are looking for a wonderful place to live and work, consider joining us on our shared spiritual path at the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains! Please contact the hiring committee by June 23rd if you are interested. Please call for a packet of information if you are curious.

Sincerely, Judy van der Veen

President of Board of Directors and member of the Hiring Committee (530-265-2955)

**July 7**

**Potluck after the service.**

**This will be an old fashioned barbeque. Hospitality will provide hamburgers, garden burgers, condiments and buns. You provide all the side dishes and charcoal grills.**

**August 4**

**Potluck after the service.**

**A-F-salads; G-L-vegetables; M-R-desserts; S-Z-main dishes.**

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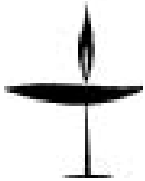
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