



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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The UNICORN

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October Sunday Services

- Oct 6 10:00AM: Heretic Among Heretics: The Life and Work of Theodore Parker-** Although Theodore Parker was one of the most influential ministers of the 19th century, he was banned from preaching in many Unitarian Pulpits. What made him such a threat? How has his legacy shaped our history as Unitarian Universalists?
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Oct 13 9:00AM: Forum: Are Any Patriotic Symbols Important to You?**
10:00AM: Being Peace: The Purpose and Meaning of the Sabbath- As Americans, we often run through the week looking forward to our weekends. But what do we do with our time? Is the notion of Sabbath valid? If so, how do we honor such a day?
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Oct 20 10:00AM: Mind the Gap-** Unitarian Universalist Congregations all over the country are celebrating our youth and young adults this month. We will celebrate our success with YRUU and new Campus Ministry at UCSC. Youth and Young adult are our future!
The collection this Sunday will be shared between youth programming at our Fellowship and the UUA Capital Campaign for youth programming.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Oct 27 9:00AM: Forum: Parenthood: Myth vs. Reality?**
10:00AM: Samhain- Halloween is the time in our life cycle that we show reverence and appreciation for those who came before us. CUUPS will be leading the service this morning. Please bring a picture of your departed loved one to place on a community altar. Come in costume to delight the dead and the living; we will celebrate with a Harvest Carnival following the service.

Langston-Daley Thoughts

This month congregations all over the country will be holding services to celebrate our youth and young adults. Our service will be held on October 20th.

In the past, Unitarian Universalism has been considered an “adult” religion. One that appeals only to adults because of its intellectual leanings. However, in the more recent past our religion has grown to include a broader range of ages and a significant amount of energy has gone into improving our religious education programs for children.

Still, our halls are lacking the energetic vision of young adults. A few years ago I began meeting monthly with students at UCSC. These meetings were an important part of the lives of many of the students. The problem was that meeting only once a month did not create a strong enough community to keep the group going.

This year, one of our new members, Fran Gertler, has offered to take on the task of re-starting the *sUUgs* (Student Led UU Group) at the University. She plans to meet weekly with the students to help build a strong community of UU’s on campus. There was no funding for this project in the budget, so she and I have been actively seeking outside funding to make this campus group a reality. If this group is successful, we hope to find a member (or members) willing to start a similar group at Cabrillo.

Our YRUU program has been much more successful, meeting weekly to address the needs of our High School youth. In the past few years, V, Bruce and Erika presented Sr. High OWL (Our Whole Lives: sexuality curriculum), talked about the impact of 9-11, and addressed some of the personal problems facing our youth. This year the program has been expanded to include the participants in the Coming of Age program and the Jr. High class. This year the YRUU program has a core group of 10 kids with a potential of 16 or more. They hope to present the Jr. High OWL program this year.

Erika is no longer able to meet with YRUU on Wednesday nights and Thomas Witz has agreed to take her place. Erika Crawford will be one of four Sunday morning youth leaders along with Brent Haddad and Ted Merrill. We still need one more person to share their time and energy with our youth during that time.



Our outreach to youth has been well supported and well received by this congregation. We hope that on October 20th you will continue to show that support. The Unitarian Universalist Association is hoping to raise \$2 million to strengthen the network of youth and young adult ministry programs.

We want our youth to come back to this tradition. Better yet, we want them to stay connected to UU congregations as they leave us and go on to study, travel, or work. We can only do this if we “Mind-the-Gap” and work to keep them engaged in what Unitarian Universalism has to offer not just them, but the whole world.

The UUA web site (www.uua.org) has more information about the Mind-the-Gap campaign.

Shanti,

What The Board Has Been Doing

Approved Treasurer Bill Sampson to change long distance carrier to save money to help fund a new computer for the office, old computer obsolete. Also approved a Capital Equipment Policy which will spread the cost of equipment purchases over several years, while building a fund for the prompt replacement of failed or out-dated equipment.

Approval of Ad hoc Building Committee to contract with Eco Energies for the solar system to start soon as approved by the Congregation. Also approved plans of the courtyard and the hiring of a landscape architect, Tom Scherer, to prepare construction drawings for the courtyard. Paul Savasky will perform the construction and work with the landscape architect to insure work done within our budget.

Approved job description for Committee on Ministry.

Approved the moving of funds budgeted for the Communications Committee (not active) to the Membership Committee so that they may fund publicity and to cover the costs of their work. Approval of New Visitor Packet letter submitted by the Membership Committee.

Social Concerns requesting Fellowship to open the Sanctuary for one more night a week to the homeless until October 31, 2002, not to include food. It was agreed that Thursday would be the additional day to provide housing overnight to the ISSP group.

Authorized Sara Savasky to present an objection, in court, to the fees claimed by the trustee of the Abrams bequest, which is significantly higher than the local rule of 1%.

As proposed by the Finance Committee, the Board approved there be a policy that volunteers will not be paid a monetary award but that certain positions need to be paid positions.

Set Board retreat for September 7th where the Board will look at the role of the Board, the minister, communications, co-ministry and how it works for us.

Set November Congregational meeting for November 10, 2002 at 11:30 with lunch available.

Agenda for the Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on November 10 following the service to handle the following business:

- a. Call to order
- b. Roll call of members
- c. Reading minutes of the previous meeting
- d. Special orders
 1. Election of Nominating Committee of five (5) members
- e. Unfinished business
- f. New business
 1. Allocate remainder of Abrams request:
 - * \$18,000 additional for patio improvements
 - * Balance to Building Fund
 2. Approve Endowment Fund grants
 3. Approve addition of Dave Wood to Board of Trustees to replace Jim Weller who resigned
- g. Adjournment

President's Message

We had a Retreat for the Board of Trustees to discuss our goals, vision, working together, and that sort of thing. I have to tell you I am not much for "retreats." I tilt toward the school that says, "Charge!!" Anyway, I would have had a hard time ducking this one because it was at our house.

When it was my turn to talk about goals and vision, I talked about growth. Although some of us may have trouble admitting it and accepting it. We are part of organized religion. We belong to and pay money for the support of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. We may be a diverse collection of free spirits, but we all share the core values of Unitarian-Universalists everywhere. We know that if we move to another town and seek out the Unitarian-Universalists, we will find kindred spirits. We have a message that resonates with reasonable and thoughtful people. Our job is to find more of them, get them into the tent, and integrate them into our community. We are committed to grow. At our June Congregational Meeting, we voted to upgrade and expand our facilities and to spend a ton of money. We have a good start with funds allocated from the Abrams bequest. Improving our building will make our facility more spacious and inviting. Our energized Membership Committee is updating our web page and revising our visitor's packet. We have something to offer, and we will make it known. We don't offer salvation in the literal sense like some other organized religions, but we do offer a chance to be part of a warm and caring community.

We will need money. Our building project is in the \$750,000 range. We will know more after we hire an architect and get some estimates in a smaller ball park. We hope to hear soon from the Finance Committee about how we will launch our capital campaign. It promises to be challenging and exciting. Together we can change the world.

Keep the faith,

Ed

Are You Interested In Joining A UU Chavurah?

A Chavurah (pronounced HAV-ER-RA, plural Chavurot, pronounced HAV-ER-O) derives from the Hebrew, meaning “group of friends.” These groupings are based on a desire to get together on a regular basis (usually monthly) to develop extended families within a fellowship. They usually contain from 10-20 members and can be grouped by geography, family status and age, shared interests, or have no particular theme at all.

What do Chavurot do when they convene? Each group makes its own choices, but here are some examples: potluck lunches after the Sunday service, seeing films and theater together, picnics (here in our county we have choices ranging from the beach to redwoods), and “theme meals.” Examples of theme events have included: a “comfort food” (from one’s childhood) potluck dinner during which time each person described why their offering was meaningful to them as a child, reading of favorite poems, and viewing a special video provided by one of the members (e.g., a travel log or a film on a topic of special interest among group members). Some groups have “check-ins” whereby everyone (who feels like it that day) takes a couple of minutes to share what’s going on in their lives. Children are included.

Our Fellowship currently has four Chavurot. We are currently assessing the interest of the fellowship to identify those who are interested in becoming a member of a friendship group. If there are enough people, we will form a fifth group, or even a sixth. If you are interested, please call the office and let Maria know. Someone will be in contact with you as soon as we assess the degree of interest.

[PLS note: We have not been spelling the word correctly! Need to change on our web page and brochure next time these are updated.]

First Friday Book Group

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

The group will meet on October 7th to discuss J. M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*. For November the book for all you alienated ones is *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger.



Believe It or Not...

...it's almost time to start working on the 2003-2004 budget! Because the process we use to build our annual budget involves input from many sources and goes through several steps, the ad hoc committee which will put together a proposed budget for next year needs to be ready to roll in January.

If you are interested in working on next year's budget, contact Linda Neher (lindaneher@yahoo.com.)

Women Walkers

Join other women for a stroll or hike the first Sunday of the month after Fellowship Service or Potluck. This is a very casual group usually just going wherever the spirit moves us and time allows on that day. Sometimes we try and plan ahead but we have no fall schedule as yet. It only takes 2 women to go for a walk together so don't let the lack of organization stop you from enjoying a walk.

Labor of Love Day a Huge Success!

Many thanks to all who helped clean, sweep, wipe, mop, dust, pull weeds, push wheelbarrows, pick up trash, and fix window screens. The Fellowship Grounds and Facilities (and their Committee) thank you.

Michael Loik

Pizza Auction Party Ahead!

Nov. 16 is the date for the Fellowship's 2002 Annual Family Pizza Party Auction. Please consider what items and services you would like to contribute. Culinary skills are highly prized for this affair. Generous chefs are asked to call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660, to contribute a dinner for 8 (or more).

Members of the Month: Kee and Mary

Kee Davenport and Mary McKane first learned about the Unitarian Universalist church while working with the local National Organization for Women (NOW) group in Los Angeles.

We were active in clinic defense and the reproductive rights campaign in the early 1990s. Our NOW chapter lost its meeting place at a local neighborhood bank when we were picketed by several anti-choice organizations. The local UU minister, Rev. Don, contacted our group and offered to let us meet at his church. Because of his offer, we started to attend the Pacific Unitarian Church (PUC) in Palos Verdes and liked what we saw and heard. It was very different from the conservative churches that Mary grew up with in Michigan and Kee had attended in Los Angeles. We had both stopped attending church regularly by the time we were in college. At PUC we took the "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" and "Rise Up and Call Her Name" classes. This opened our lives to a whole new way of thinking and living.

In 1994 we were lucky enough to be able to move from Los Angeles to beautiful Santa Cruz. We were delighted to find a UU fellowship in Santa Cruz County with the same emphasis on diversity, peace and justice, respect for Mother Earth and friendly people.

Kee is happily retired after 37 years of teaching and counseling in high schools. Now she spends her time gardening and growing great roses, playing with her dog (a Wheaten Terrier), Maggie Blue, keeping the bird feeders full and bird watching, and visiting the beach and other beautiful areas. She volunteered with Women's Crisis Support, sang with the Lesbian and Gay Chorus for five years, is a member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), was on the board for two years and participates in many peaceful protests.

Mary works full time at UCSC, where she has been employed since moving to Santa Cruz. In her spare time she enjoys reading, (especially books on women's history), gatherings with friends, attending concerts, and traveling. She is also a member of WILPF and was on the board for two years.

Recently we celebrated 21 years together in a recommitment ceremony in our garden. We feel fortunate to have found our place in Santa Cruz and in the Unitarian Universalist community.



Directory Updates

Here are additions and corrections for your directory:

Wood, David and Jenny
David 332-4935
Jenny 458-0914

Neher, Linda 471-2109

Willats, Susan
145 Willow Dr.
Felton, CA 95018
(831) 335-5824
susan@willats.com

Morairty, Stephen 345-1715
650 Corcoran Ave. #32
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
email: stephen.morairty@sri.com

Our New Monthly TGIF

Since we all seem to like to eat, drink, and socialize, we are beginning our once a month TGIF on the third Friday of the month. We will meet every 3rd Friday through April before we begin our once a week meetings in May.

On Friday, Oct.18. TGIF will be held at Patricia Keith-Spiegel and Rich Racimora's home 1513 Calypso Drive, Seascape 662-3348.

TGIF is a purely drop-in social affair held at different host's homes between 5:30 and 7:00 pm. You do not need to call ahead but just show up and contribute a small sum for whatever you eat and drink, and enjoy meeting other people.

Unicorn Deadline



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

Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program

Thanks to those who have made the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program work at the Fellowship since March 24th, 2002:

John David Dupree and Jumane Makalani; Andy Kreche and April Golson and Graden (twice); Dave Woodie Wood (twice); Jaquie and Barbara Palmer; Patt Taylor and John Thiemann; Jennifer Fish and family; Stephen, Meichi, and Anastasia Morairty; Ashlee, Matt and Ted and Marley (Smith) Merrill, with Sylvia Forsyth; Manon Mesa and Mary Brooks; Brian Thomas; Sheila Wright; Sylvia Forsyth and friends (twice); Marylou Lamb; Ed Newman; Jessica Millican; Joan and Clayton Rost (twice); Laura Stoker; Janet Schwin and Mary Brooks (twice); John Thiemann; Jim Weller and Linda Neher; Margaret Seidler and Susie Leachman; Laura and Rick Stoker; Marsha Beyea and Dorothy Shaw; Corrin Wood and Roy Valdez.

The Interfaith Satellite Program is a cooperative effort among area churches to offer a meal and a safe place to sleep for the homeless one evening a week. Sunday evenings sixteen to twenty men are here at the Fellowship. Volunteers from the congregation prepare a meal with coffee, milk and juices. When the men arrive at 5:30-6:00, they will set up tables and chairs and do all the cleanup.

For those who are willing and able, but tightly budgeted, there are funds available from generous members of the congregation. For those who are less able, but with liquid assets, you will be matched with a working volunteer.

Piece 'o cake!

To schedule contact Mary Brooks at 462-6480, or email Astara@cruzio.com, or sign up on the schedule on the kitchen bulletin board. October 20th and 27th are available as of this writing, and all Sundays in November and December.

Activities of Ad Hoc Building Committee since August Board Meeting

1. USE PERMIT APPLICATION.

The County is still reviewing the application, and we are waiting for their response.

2. ARCHITECTURE SELECTION FOR BUILDING EXPANSION.

The Committee decided to interview only local architects and sent a request for proposal (RFP) to six local architects. The following responses were received:

- a. NAI Architects, William Mayfield AIA, Mt. Hermon, CA
- b. Jacquelyn Low, AIA, Santa Cruz, CA

The Committee interviewed both firms and has decided to recommend Jacquelyn Low for approval by the Board. The Committee felt that both firms are qualified and noted that NAI Architects has substantially more church experience but much of the firm's personnel and consultants are not local. The Committee felt that since we already have a master plan that has been approved by the congregation the church experience of NAI is less critical than it otherwise would be and the better local presence and a lower fee proposal of Jacquelyn Low is significant.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Board approve the selection of Jacquelyn Low at the September meeting and authorize the Committee to enter into contract negotiations with Ms. Low to be approved by the Board at the October meeting.

3. COURTYARD.

The Committee has received cost proposals from two construction firms which are over \$34,000.00. This number plus \$3,000.00 spent to date on landscape architect services totals approximately \$37,000.00 which is over the original budget.

In view of the fact that additional funding appears to be available from the Abrams fund the Committee recommends that we increase the budget for the Courtyard to approximately \$45,000.00 which would cover the additional costs plus provide for a shade structure which the Committee feels is essential.

4. SOLAR SYSTEM.

I have met previously with the engineer for the solar company and we have agreed on the location for conduit and equipment which has been approved by Pam and the Committee. As soon as the removal of pine trees is completed we will enter into the next phase and authorize the solar company to complete the installation.

5. RE PLAYGROUND - no report.

Ad Hoc Committee Members will be happy to answer any questions you have about this report.

Dave Boone, Mary Brooks, Randy James, Marylou Lamb, Joan Rost, Sarah Savasky, John Thieman

CUUPS: the 6th Source

Hail Autumn and welcome warm days, cool nights, colorful leaves and ripe pumpkins. Now is the time of harvest; time to reap what you have sown in the past year. It is also the time of preparation as the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer. Till the soil of your soul to plant things that do well to overwinter, using those months to grow strong, deep roots. Samhain night with its ancient lore was occasion for a new and merry custom; It was learned in the wilderness, in oak-woods, from spirits and fairies.

CUUPS will be leading a Samhain [Halloween] service on October 27th and we are looking for participants and ideas. Please call or e-mail Terra Collier-Young.

Blessed Be.

Do You Want To Join The UU Dinner Club?

Here is how it works. You meet once a month on the second Saturday evening with seven or more people and enjoy dinner and fellowship. Every month you are with a different group and each brings a part of the meal. The first person on the list is the host and provides appetizers and beverages. The second person(s) brings the main dish; the third person(s) brings a salad/bread; the fourth person(s) brings a dessert and if there is fifth person(s), they bring a vegetable.

Please call Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or e-mail nmohsan@earthlink.net if you would like to have more information and an application. If you feel that your schedule is such that you will be out of town but would still like to be a part of some of the dinner clubs, you can sign up to be an alternate, to be called on when a host may need another person(s). The following are groupings for October. Please, hosts call your members as soon as possible and arrange time and place.

Group 1

- 1 Thiemann
- 2 Kane
- 3 Anton
- 4 Morairty, Meichi
- 5 Rogers

Group 2

- 1 Mohsenin
- 2 Forsyth
- 3 Morairty, Stephen
- 4 Keith Spiegel/Racimora
- 5 Newman
- 6 Lester

Group 3

- 1 Collier-Young
- 2 Wilson, Walt and Diane
- 3 Meyer, Rick & Sue
- 4 Smith Merrill/Ted and Marly

Group 4

- 1 Dupree /Makalani
- 2 Hudson.Shackelford
- 3 James/McCrow
- 4 Wood ,Dave

Group 5

- 1 Aaker-Fihe
- 2 Lamb
- 3 Boone
- 4 Oxley
- 5 Bailey, Gerry

Alternates

Ratcliffe.
Ed and Missy Rost,
Clayton and Joan

Get To Know Our New Members

SUZUN BRACKBURY

Suzun says she is grateful to have a found our Fellowship as she is committed to social justice work in helping to create a world community and home that respects diversity and promotes peace . She likes to do water color painting, hiking, walking, clay work, reading and enjoys independent films, music, singing, playing guitar and drums. Her religious history includes pagan, shamanistic studies, Judaism, earth based spirituality, and humanism.

DON HOERNSCHEMEYER

Don has taken several EST trainings and Esalen workshops and has participated in work of Beyond War and coached Earth Save organizations. He enjoys camping, sports, movies, kayaking, hiking in the mountains, and doing nature photography. He had been a UU before for about 10 years and lives in Aptos with Patricia McVeigh.

ANDREA WEBSTER

Andrea attended a high school that was 95% African-American and was a plaintiff to a desegregation lawsuit that went all the way through the Supreme Court. She was raised at All Soul's Unitarian Church in Kansas City, Mo. and was a three time delegate to the General Assembly of the UUA. She likes to read, sing, dance and talk and listen to people. She attends folk music concerts and hosts them at her house . She also has taken courses in history with Sandy Lydon and lives in Felton with her husband, Jeff Emery

SUSAN WILLATS

Susan says she feels at home putting chairs away after a Sunday Service because she has a bachelor's degree in Technical Theater. She lives in Felton with her husband and daughter Zoe and does baking and craft projects with her. She likes to read, hike and sew and is a Girl Scout leader for Brownie Troup 1192. She was raised as a Presbyterian before she discovered UU.

First Sunday Potluck

October 6
after the service.

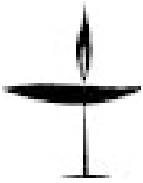
All are welcome to enjoy food and fellowship.
Please bring a favorite dish to share.
Volunteers needed so please contact Barbara Palmer
or Iran Mohsenin.

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