



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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Website home page: Use <http://www.uufsc.org>

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December 2002

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The UNICORN

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December Sunday Services

- Dec 1 10:00am: Managing the Mayhem-** The winter holi-
days are a time of good cheer and celebration. For some,
they can also be a difficult time. Today we will explore
the sometimes difficult and delicate emotions that the
holiday's evoke.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Dec 8 9:00am: Forum: If There Was A Small, Well-kept
Homeless Camp In Your Area, What Would You Do?**
10:00am: Saving California's Soul- Thomas Starr King
is portrayed in one of the two statues representing Cali-
fornia in the National Statuary Hall. Katie's church was
named for him, as well as was our seminary in Berke-
ley. What other legacy has Starr King left in California?
How might volunteerism be connected with his name?
Rev Pam will be in Hayward this morning and Rev. Katie
Kandarian Willis will be the guest in our pulpit.
Service Associate: Morgan Van Dyke
The Choir is Singing this Sunday
- Dec 15 10:00am: Irene, the Peace Play-** Join us to day as the
children of our congregation present the Holiday Pag-
eant. The children have been rehearsing, and building
costumes and props since September for this special
event. Special thanks to all the children, parents and
volunteers who have made this years pageant possible!
- Dec 22 9:00am: Forum: Why are You You?**
10:00am: Singing For Our Lives- HYMN SING This
week we will take time to honor the Winter Solstice and
gather to raise our voices in song. Bring the title of your
favorite hymn (or holiday song) as we join in sharing
the spirit of music together.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve-** Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
6:30 pm Family Service
8:00 pm Candlelight Service
- Dec 29 10:00am: What Do You Want To Gain From Your
Spiritual Practice In The Coming Year?-** At our final
service of the year, we will discuss in small groups what
we want to give to and gain from our spiritual practice
at the individual and fellowship level. Come prepared
to engage in thought and conversation.
Service Associate: Karen Holl

Langston-Daley Thoughts

As the winter holidays approach, we celebrate the return of the light. Throughout the centuries humanity has looked to this as a time of hope, miracles, love, family, and community.



It is also a time for reflection on world events. As the events of September 11 continue to unfold, ipossible new attacks are ever present. Fear and distrust continue to fill the media and the minds and hearts of good and thoughtful people. The return of the light seems distant and, on some days, impossible.

The Bush administration is now seeking to restart a nuclear weapons program. It appears that the new congress will support this action in the name of security and safety. The bill on homeland security is padded with benefits to large corporations and by the time this is printed will have passed the senate.

I begin to wonder, will the light ever return? Will we, as citizens of the world, choose peace, justice and compassion? If we heed the words of Theodore Parker:

Here, (in religious institutions), [issues] are to be measured by Conscience and Reason, which look to permanent results and universal ends; to be looked at with reference to the Laws of God, the everlasting ideas on which alone is based the welfare of the world[,]

we just might succeed.

The light will return if the good and thoughtful people of the world continue to engage in the process. If we will choose to participate in affairs that effect us and engage in affairs that seem distant, we might bring the light of peace to a dark and cold world.

There is much we can do and much we will do in the coming year to bring our vision of a just and peaceful world to light. We continue to learn about local and world events, we continue to learn about ourselves, each other and our community. We continue to act, individually and as a community in concert with the Resource Center for Non Violence, the Central Coast Interfaith Sponsors (Jeremiah Campaign), the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program, and so many others. We continue to spread the message of Unitarian Universalism to our friends, neigh-

bors and colleagues. Hope is present where there is faith.

Let us maintain our faith in one another, our faith in the goodness of humanity, our faith in the promise of peaceful world. Let us act on that faith with the certainty that it can and will come to pass. With the coming of the sunlight, let us bring the light of hope to the world.

Happy Holidays!

Shanti,

Get on the Phone Tree!

The Caring Committee is setting up a phone tree so that emergency information can quickly be distributed to members and friends of the Fellowship. If you would like to be included but have not yet registered your interest with a member of the committee, please call Susie Leachman (476-4713) or Linda Neher (471-2109) and indicate whether you want to make calls to pass on messages or just receive messages.

Dwyer Moves to Berkeley

Long time member Rosalie Dwyer has moved to Berkeley. Her address is:

2644 Parker St.
Berkeley, CA 95708
Phone: (510) 540-9460



Resolution to Oppose a Preemptive Strike Against Iraq

Whereas the former USSR possessed menacing leaders and stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction hundreds of times larger than what we think Saddam might have hidden somewhere, and we held the USSR in balance—without a war—for over 40 years; and,

Whereas the available intelligence reveals that Al-Qaeda terrorists are supported primarily by countries *other than* Iraq, some of whom we call allies; and

Whereas subduing Saddam's armies would be a difficult task, likely to kill thousands of our young men and women and thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians; and

Whereas the estimated 100 plus billion dollars that could be taken from our tax dollars to execute an extended campaign would devastate our already deeply wounded economy; and

Whereas Americans would earn the resentment and loathing of many Muslims and peoples in other middle-eastern nations; and,

Whereas a war would likely place us at a heightened risk for terrorist attacks here at home; and

Whereas most members of the international community, including most of our close allies, oppose any aggression instigated by the United States; and,

Whereas by striking first we would never be able to prove that Saddam was an imminent threat and would never again be described as a "peace-loving nation"; and,

Whereas as much as we may agree that Saddam is a dangerous man, he could be replaced with an equally despicable despot; and,

Whereas our already stretched-thin troops would be stationed in Iraq for an extended period, possibly many years; and

Whereas we have already squandered much of the support and caring of the world community experienced after 9/11, and continuing on this path would further estrange us from our now tenuous friendships with many other countries; and,

Whereas evidence of *workable* Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq remains inconclusive; and,

Whereas using Saddam's violation of UN Resolutions as a reason to strike is hypocritical because U.N resolutions being violated by other countries, including allies, are substantial, and we are not threatening to attack them; and

Whereas, because the United States has workable weapons of mass destruction, we are morally obligated to use considerable restraint while exploring every other way of combatting terrorism,

We, the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County voted in October 17, 2002, to oppose any preemptive strike against Iraq.

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE!!!

President's Message--11/17/02

At the Congregational Meeting on November 10, 2002, we passed a Resolution opposing war with Iraq. The text, with one minor change, (the words ..."including most of our close allies," in paragraph 7 were deleted) was in last month's Unicorn. This is a big step for us. I have been in this Fellowship for 31 years and I do not remember any other expressions of congregational opinion on the moral or spiritual dimension to matters of U. S. foreign policy. It is entirely appropriate that we act. The newspapers tell us that the "enemy", whoever or whatever it is, claims to be motivated by religion. The Resolution carried with no dissenting votes. I know that there was concern and apprehension in some quarters that a "No On War With Iraq" resolution might offend some who favored war. If there was sentiment in favor of war, there was ample opportunity to express it, but no one chose to do so. It may be that anyone with such a minority opinion felt uncomfortable, or it may also be that the issue is so clear, at least among members of this congregation, that there was nothing reasonable to say in favor of war with Iraq.

Now that we have taken this step, where does it lead us? I have asked the Publicity Committee to send press releases to the local media. We should be known as a religious community that is willing to be out in front of the pack on issues of substance. Our Covenant and recently-passed Mission Statement tell people what we believe and who we are. When we pass a "No On War With Iraq" Resolution, we are telling people that we stand for something and we know what it is. I am proud to be a part of this Fellowship.

Keep the faith,

Ed

What The Board Has Been Doing—

Approved the change of long distance carriers to Working Assets in an attempt to save money .

Hired Attorney Sara Clarenbach on retainer to represent the Fellowship in the transaction with the Minister for use of the Ministerial Housing Fund from the Abrams bequest.

Approved the hiring of Jaquelyn Low, Architect for Phase One of the building expansion.

Also hired Paul Savasky, General Contractor, for the Construction Contract and to work alongside Jaquelyn Low through the design process.

Supported the Hospice Caring Project at the Planning Commission meeting in September for their building project on Freedom Boulevard near the Fellowship.

Approved the sale of Humanitees products by CUUPs to benefit CUUPs.

Approved the distribution of additional money from the Abrams bequest for approval at the November Congregational meeting. Increase of \$18,000 to Courtyard project for a shade structure and changes needed to comply with building expansion, and remainder to be added to the Building expansion fund.

Approved an Iraq War Resolution to be discussed at the Congregational meeting and, if approved, to be made public.

Approval of the filing of an application for funding by a Packard Grant for non-profit organizations for the replacement of the playground which does not meet state standards.

Adopted the Family Medical Leave Act as policy for staff for a 12 week unpaid leave in 12 months for specified family and medical reasons.

Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for January is December 15th. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date. Please email computer text and photos. Thanks.

The Sixth Source: Yule

For modern as well as ancient pagans, Yule is a major holiday. It is the winter solstice, the shortest day - and longest night - of the year. Once celebrated as Saturnalia by the Romans, Yule is celebrated with evergreens such as holly, ivy, and mistletoe. The Yule log, with its warmth and brightness, acts as a stalwart against the cold. Our Santa Claus comes from benevolent Scandinavian god Odin or Wooden, also known as "old Nic", from where we get St. Nicholas. And of course, the Yule tree with its lights to remind us that the darkness will end. It is at this time of the year that the sun, after appearing less and less each day, is reborn, and the promise of renewed light is fulfilled.

The Gospels did not give a day of the year for the birth of Jesus. In 273 C.E. the Church arbitrarily set the date to coincide with the winter solstice, so now we have the tradition of Christmas, with its images of Mary and Joseph around the baby Jesus in a manger.

Today we know that the dynamics of the solar system and our planet will always mean that the darkness and cold will end, that spring will come, and that life will be renewed. Still, that is cold consolation to us as we experience these darker days, and it helps to have images in our lives to comfort us. The universality of the images that are provided by the tree, the wreath, the log and the lights, their grounding in the real physical world around us, and the inspiration for renewal of life that they provide can have a stronger impact in our lives than the images of a robed couple in a desert manger with a newborn child. It would not be surprising to see the pagan symbols prevailing in the long run.

These images can mean a lot more to us than the images of a robed couple in a desert manger. And because they do, they are likely to endure for a long long time.

It is ironic for some of us pagans to see a fundamentalist president lighting a yule tree on the White House lawn while realizing that we do need a separation of "church" and state. Still I can understand that this symbol is easy to accept in our society.



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.

No Dinner Club In December

Because of everyone's holiday schedule, the next Dinner Club will be held in January 2003.

Dinner Club meets once a month usually the second Saturday at different host homes. It is a wonderful way to meet other people in the fellowship in a more intimate setting. If you would like to join the Dinner Club, please call Iran Mohsenin 475-0105 or e-mail nmohsan@earthlink.net.

UU Bed and Breakfasts

UU Bed and Breakfast Directory is now available in the office. You can stay at these bed and breakfast all over the country and even in Canada, England, Ireland, Denmark, Italy, Scotland, Wales, Mexico, and New Zealand.

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 December 6th to analyze Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*. You may want to get started on January's book, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. In February we will be examining *The Spirit Catches You and Then You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman.



Green Reindeer Party

The third annual Green Reindeer Christmas Party will be held December 14 from 3:00 to 6:00 at George Shackelford and Marsha Hudson's home at 114 Los Altos Court on the west side of Santa Cruz.

This is a jolly party that includes not only potluck refreshments but a wonderfully whacky gift exchange as well. Here's how it works:

For the Potluck: Based on your name's first initial, A to K will bring drinks, L to S will bring appetizers, T to Z will bring sweets.

For the Exchange: Marylou Lamb, the founder of this tradition, explains it this way:

All will bring a weird gift, something funny, inexpensive, or that strange what is it gift Aunt Henrietta gave you that you have no use for (otherwise known as a White Elephant except at Christmas). It will be wrapped and you will place it under George and Marsha's tree. Everyone will get a gift. We will eat, drink, and be merry! Sometime during the party we will open our gifts. Some will be happy and some will be sad to see what their gift is. But there is hope for if someone else wants our gift, we MUST exchange gifts until the Green Reindeer rings her bells. Ha! Then you are stuck with what you have in your hands.

For more information (and directions) call or email either Marylou Lamb (fauxlamb@frys.com) or Marsha Hudson (mnhudson@pacbell.net). From teens to 90s welcome.

TGIF in December

Friday Dec. 20 between 5:30 and 8:00 pm at Sarah and Paul Savasky, 534 Monterey Drive Aptos

All welcome to drop in for some drinks and snacks. There is no need to call ahead.

Committee on Ministry News

The Committee on Ministry brought the revised mission statement to the congregation for a vote on November 10th. The mission statement was approved and the Committee on Ministry would like to thank all who worked on the statement throughout the past year. The mission statement is as follows:

We the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County join together to foster our spiritual growth and to promote social justice. Honoring religious diversity and affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all people, we commit our combined actions and personal resources to these goals.

In other news, Marley Smith Merrill represented the Committee on Ministry in attending a regional leadership day focused on the role of the Committee on Ministry. The workshop stressed that the purpose of the Committee on Ministry is "to constantly monitor and lift up the whole ministry of the congregation and its mission" and that "Committees on Ministries are designed to track the heartbeat of the ministry within the congregation."

With the mission of "tracking the heartbeat" of the congregation, the Committee on Ministry recently got together for a short - three hour - retreat overlooking the San Lorenzo River (at Marley's house). We broke bread together (had lunch) and discussed how to best evaluate how we are doing, as a congregation, in realizing our mission. We will keep you posted on our progress.

- Bruce Fihe

Bruce Fihe: Member of the Month

Bruce Fihe was born a Unitarian-Universalist in Pasadena; he says he just didn't know it at the time. His parents had no religious affiliation, never went to church and never seemed to care about religious beliefs. When he was five, he and his parents, two bothers and a sister, moved to Northern California near San Jose.

Then when he was in his first year of high school, his mother was invited by some friends of hers to go with them to San Jose UU Fellowship. He went along with her and though she did not go back, he kept going and became involved with the Liberal Religious Youth (LRY). The year was 1960 and LRY was just starting a rather notorious period of its existence.

But this didn't last. He says, "Like most UU's, I wandered away, became inactive." He tried out a different religion, Buddhism, while enlisted in the Navy. In order to attend Buddhist functions, he became a Buddhist. Later he complicated his religious life by marrying a Catholic. Catholicism seemed a sham to him - he simply didn't believe in it - and he play-acted believing for his wife's and her family's sake. Finally he divorced his first wife and Catholicism.

He then met Kären, and it turned out that both of them were inactive Unitarian-Universalist. They were living in Sunnyvale at the time and did go to the San Jose fellowship a few times over the years. About fifteen years ago, they moved to Ben Lomond. While they knew of the Santa Cruz fellowship in Aptos, they found that it was either too far away or too inconvenient. Even after they moved to Aptos a year passed, while they drove by the fellowship each day and kept saying to each other that they really ought to stop in sometime. They eventually did and got sucked in hook, line, and sinker.

Now Bruce is involved in the YRUU ("LRY was disbanded because it got too rowdy") and he's really enjoying it. He is currently teaching OWL (Our Whole Life) for the YRUU, has been on the Personnel Committee, then Vice-President, trustee and he is currently on the Committee on Ministry. Bruce Fihe is definitely an integral part of our congregation.



Bruce is the one with the beard.

PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT - UUA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2003

APRIL 25 - 27, 2003

SACRAMENTO HILTON ARDEN WEST 2200 HARVARD
STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95815 916-922-4700

TO LOVE THE WORLD: EMBRACING OUR CALL

With passion, yearning, and confidence, we respond to our being called to love and serve. In the midst of a broken world, beauty, grace, and mystery abide, while justice and mercy demand our attention. Our program will feature worship that calls forth our great love, rousing music, workshops to deepen our resolve to save *and* savor the world, and a Saturday evening keynote address to underscore the hope and commitment of our faith.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP REV. MELORA CROOKER AND
KATIE TENERELLI Unitarian Universalist Community Church
REV. DOUGLAS KRAFT AND KATE THROOP Unitarian
Universalist Society of Sacramento

SATURDAY EVENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER REV. THOMAS G. ANASTASI Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church
Shoreline, WA

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP REVS. ELIZABETH
BANKS AND CHRISTINE FRY Unitarian Church of Davis

Join five hundred festive and feisty Unitarian Universalists of all ages for a weekend of learning, leadership, and lasting hope at our 2003 District Assembly!

DA2003 Planning Committee is currently accepting workshop proposals. For more information, please contact the PCD office.

The Sacramento Hilton Arden West is now accepting reservations. \$85.00 for a Double or a Classic King. Please make your reservation as soon as you are able! Tell them you are attending the "Unitarian Universalist District Assembly" Reservations: www.SacramentoArdenWest.Hilton.com or 1-800-HILTONS or 916-922-4700 The meeting code for on-line reservations is: "SUD"

Pacific Central District - UUA 6536 Telegraph Ave., C-102
Oakland, CA 94609 510-601-1437 pcd@pcd-uua.org

Come visit us at: www.pcd-uua.org!

New Members Welcomed

We welcomed several new members to our Fellowship in November. Their names and addresses are included here to put into your directory.

Several of the Coming of Age youth joined the Fellowship following the CoA program. They are listed under their parents' names in the directory. :

Jackie Palmer, Coral Grayson (LoraLee Chapman), Amanda Savasky, Robynne Blume, and Emily Landeck (Mischa Eovaldi)

Fran Gertler
- listed in directory

Don Hoernschemeyer
- listed in directory

Susie Leachman
- listed in directory

Kamala & Mitchell Franseth
- listed in directory

Leigh Hay-Selby & Larry Euchus
685-0714
750 Trout Gulch Rd
Aptos CA 95003

Dianne Alexander
768-0141
196A Brown Valley Rd
Corralitos CA 95076



**HOLIDAY POTLUCK
AFTER THE SERVICE
DEC 15**

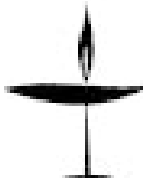
Please come and enjoy the RE production of a holiday play and then stay for food and fellowship.
Bring a favorite holiday dish to share.

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**

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