



THE UNICORN

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

Volume 2003, Number 1

January 2003

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Minister,

Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley

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My office hours are Mon, 9 am to 12 pm, Tues and Wed, 11am to 3 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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January Sunday Services

- Jan 5** **10:00am: Come What May: from Ambiguity to Clarity** - Eric Meter, minister at the UU Church in Livermore, is our guest this morning.
Service Associate: Andy Kreyche
Potluck follows the service
- Jan 12** **9:00am: Forum: Dreams - Gifts for Living.**
10:00am: Spiritual Aerobics: What will it take to strengthen our faith? As we begin the new year, come learn about new waves of enthusiasm sweeping through Unitarian Universalist communities. You will leave complete with an "exercise kit" including new words to bench press including: "transformational leaders" and "evangelical humanists." Nada Velimirovic, Lifespan Religious Education Consultant for the Pacific Central District is our guest this morning.
The Choir is Singing this Sunday
Service Associate: Terra Collier-Young
- Jan 19** **9:00am: Dr. Strangelove Reborn: The Pentagon's Nuclear War Plans and the Nuclear Abolition Movement.** Video and discussion led by Don Hoernschemeyer. (See article inside.)
10:00am: How Does Racism Affect Your Life? Racism has long been a major issue in our county and with Senator Lott's comments of last month, it is again in the news. Today, members of our Fellowship will speak on the impact of racism in their life.
Service Associate: TBA
- Jan 26** **9:00am: Forum: The role of ritual in our lives.**
10:00am: The Tao of Pooh- ALL AGES SERVICE- Taoism offers the timeless message of looking to nature for answers spiritual questions. We will hear a story from Winnie the Pooh to illustrate the power and beauty of this ancient spiritual practice.
Rev. Pam Langston-Daley

Langston-Daley Thoughts



Happy New Year!

I would like to thank everyone for your support and care in the past few months as we have faced V's serious health issues. Your love and concern has been palpably felt! As we enter the New Year, V has already begun her chemotherapy and will continue to receive treatment for the next 4-6 months.

I have asked the Board of Trustees for a leave of absence from December 25- January 22. I expect to return to my duties at the Fellowship on that date and return to the pulpit on January 26. We have lined up some guest ministers to speak in January and I believe that will you find these services enlightening. The Sunday Services Committee has been working hard to cover this time and I am grateful for their commitment and service to this community.

The past few months have been a trial for us as a family and I am aware that I have been distracted in my duties to the Fellowship. Taking some time off to focus on my family and care for them, and myself, is the best way I know how to care for all of you.

This congregation has the skills and determination to do the work that needs to be done in my absence. As Rev. Katie Willis said a few weeks ago in her sermon, the best way to help my family and me is to carry on and do what needs to be done at the Fellowship. I have no doubt that you will do this and do it well.

If you have a pastoral concern, please contact Susie Leachman or Linda Neher or sign up on the new Caring and Sharing Board on Sunday mornings. If you have a more immediate need, Beth Miller from the Monterey Church (624-7404) will be available to meet and talk with you.

Sylvia will be available in the office to answer questions or problems related to the Fellowship.

V, Parker and I know that you love and care about us. We are

more grateful than we can say for all of the prayers, thoughts, and support that you have given us and continue to give us as we face this difficult time. I look forward to returning at the end of January renewed and well rested.

Shanti,

V's Medical Expenses

The cost through November for deductibles and co-payments (beyond insurance) has exceeded \$3,000. These costs have been reimbursed from our General Fund budget as part of the Minister's compensation package. Because of the latest diagnosis of "treatable lymphoma", future expenses are uncertain.

As a temporary measure, the Board has allocated an additional \$3,000 to the "Minister's Benefits" budget line item. This amount will undoubtedly need to be increased in the near future. The Board anticipates making up the added costs through member donations above their original pledges for this fiscal year (through June, 2003). We have already received several checks from members who were alert to this need.

When writing checks to UUFSCC for this purpose, please indicate "V's Medical" in the "for" (notes) field.

Bill Sampson, Treasurer

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall - think of it, ALWAYS. -- Mahatma Gandhi

Committee on Ministry News

Congressional Member Survey Coming in February

A major responsibility of the Committee on Ministry is assessing and tracking the "heartbeat of the congregation" We have the task of evaluating how well the fellowship is living up to its mission. In order to do this the Committee on Ministry will be distributing, in February, a three-page survey to members and friends of the Fellowship.

Your input is very important. We need to know how well you think we, as a congregation, are living up to our mission.

While we get the survey ready for distribution, we ask you to look again at our mission statement, below, and ask yourself, where do I see this happening in our fellowship and where do I not?

**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.**

Mark Rogers

Golden Torch Gift Drive

Thank you to all who volunteered to purchase a gift for the children who are actively involved in the Golden Torch tutoring program. All 40 children received wonderful presents, thanks to the generous response of our Fellowship.

President's Message

Our "No Pre-Emptive War With Iraq" Resolution has, for the time being, muted the Bush administration's call for war. We have to keep up the pressure. It seems that the way this works is that the president keeps talking about war and "regime change" (read overthrowing an established government by force and violence) and soon people are thinking that war is a certainty and the only variable is "when". Back up a step. War should never be a certainty. We have to be sure that our leaders know that we do not accept that notion and that they should spend their time and energy, and our money, working toward peaceful resolution of conflict. To publicize our Resolution even more, I got us invited to appear on Harriet Blue's radio program on KUSP (88.9 FM). Tricia Keith-Spiegel, author of our Resolution, could not make it so I will appear. The date is December 26, 2002 from noon to 1:00 p.m. To add a little heft to the show, Harriet will also have Christopher Krohn, former Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz. He has been interviewed on CNN and network TV. Doing Harriet's show will certify that he has made it to the top.

For those of you wondering what all of that has to do with us, a few words about Stewardship Day. I showed up Nov. 2 (first Sat. of the month) and not many others did. "This can't be", I thought. The message is that we don't care about our buildings and grounds and I don't believe it. Maybe we just need more publicity. So I raised the question of Stewardship Day attendance (or lack thereof) at the Board of Trustees meeting. In the olden days, we called it a "Work Day" but that really chilled attendance. Changing the name to "Stewardship Day" apparently didn't fool anyone. I made an announcement in Dec. and turnout Dec. 7 was about double Nov., that is, 6 over 3. We're improving. It is really challenging to be "Holier than thou" around U-Us, most of whom pride themselves on not being holy at all. Next Stewardship Day is Jan. 4, 2003, 9-12. Let's see if we can get up to 12 .

A final word about the Children's Show, Dec. 15. It was spectacular. Kudos and encomiums to all who produced, directed, starred, costumed, propped, and did whatever it took to put it together.

Keep the faith,

Ed

ISSP

The Interfaith Satellite Shelter 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 men are here at the Fellowship. Volunteers from the congregation prepare a meal. When the men arrive between 5 and 6 PM they do all the set up and clean up.

In November and December Darrell Flanagan, Leigh Selby, Joan Rost (twice), Jan Shirchild, Dianne Alexander (twice), Ed and Carol Newman (twice), Gail and Paxine Wylde, Bobbie Jo and Jackie Palmer, Jim Weller and Linda Neher fed the homeless. Margaret Ogle made a donation for their dinner. Thanks to all who have shared with those less fortunate. With ties of service like the ISSP our Fellowship takes its place among the greater Santa Cruz community.

Why not start your new year with awareness of those in need? To schedule, call Mary Brooks at 462-6480. Joan Rost will take over scheduling for the ISSP in February.

TGIF (Thank God/dess It's Friday)

An informal gathering open to all members and friends is held on the third Friday of the month at a host home between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. There is no need to call ahead but just drop in for a drink and snack and make a small donation for what you eat and drink. January's TGIF will be held on January 17 at the home of Ed and Missy Ratcliffe, 538 San Lorenzo Ave. in Felton. Please car-pool as parking is limited.



Pacific Central District Mid-Winter Growth Conference February 8, 2003

Sharing Our Faith: Evangelism and Unitarian Universalism Today with the Rev. Peter Morales, District Services Director, UUA, Boston, MA and the Rev. Donald Southworth, Northwest UU Church, Atlanta, GA

February 8, 2003

9am to 4pm

Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
Walnut Creek, CA

(see: www.mduuc.org for directions)

People are searching, actively searching for us. Young families, people in mid-life, young adults, retired people - are looking for us...They long for real community not some lifestyle enclave...They want intimacy, compassion, depth and longevity in human relationships. People come hungry for spiritual friendship, hungry to bring their whole selves into community

~ the Rev. Peter Morales

Join us for a day of sensible talk about BEing Evangelists for Unitarian Universalism and SHARING OUR FAITH with those who hunger for our saving message.

We will consider how and why we need to speak about our religion, sing our good news and generously share our faith in words and deeds.

Sessions on publicity, public witness, music and generosity and much, much more! Contact our PCD Growth Consultant for more information or to volunteer:

Rev. Michelle Favreault
MFavreault@pcd-uuu.org

Registration is limited - Please reply by February 1

To register send your check for \$30 per person or \$100 for a team of 4 to:

Pacific Central District
6536 Telegraph Avenue, Suite C-102,
Oakland, CA, 94609
pcd@pcd-uuu.org

Include:

Names of Team Participants
Contact Person/email address for "pre-work"
Congregation
Dietary Restrictions (if any)

Childcare is available upon request. Please let us know as soon as possible. Walk-in childcare is NOT available. Thank you.

Dr. Strangelove Reborn: The Pentagon's Nuclear War Plans and the Nuclear Abolition Movement.

Special before-service program on Sunday morning, January 19th at 9 a.m. Discover that in spite of the Nonproliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban and the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty with the Soviet Union/Russia, there are still 34,000 nuclear weapons in the global arsenal and 5000 nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert poised for a presidential command or an accidental launch. We complacently live under an ominous nuclear cloud.

Join us for a viewing of the potent 80s video "The Last Epidemic," to hear of the administration's nuclear war plans...from leaked secret papers...and to discover how we can participate in efforts to prevent a human disaster of unprecedented magnitude. The discussion will be led by one of our members, Don Hoernschemeyer, who was active during the 80s in the Physicians for Social Responsibility and Beyond War organizations.

PCD Online!

THE PULSE, our Religious Education newsletter, and PCD CURRENTS, our new PCD newsletter, are now on-line!

Visit www.pcd-uua.org to see these publications. They look great (thanks to Rev. Nada Velimirovic) and contain many articles of information and interest.

Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for February is January 19th. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date. Please email computer text and photos. Thanks.



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.

Grace Herrschaft 1907--2002

Long-time active UUF member Grace Herrschaft died Dec. 2, at the age of 95. She had been under the care of Hospice for about six weeks.

A California native, Grace was graduated from San Jose State College and did advance study at Stanford and UCSC. She was a long-time employee of PG&E and co-founded IBEW, Local 1245. She had served as a mediator and arbitrator for the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office.

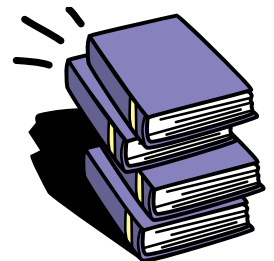
Grace joined our Fellowship in 1975 and was president in 1981. A long-time member of our Finance Committee, she liked to say members should give generously to the Fellowship of their "Time, Talent and Treasure." She was a member of our first Ministerial Search Committee and served as Parliamentarian for several years. Grace was an avid reader and regularly attended meetings of the Fellowship Book Club, up until two months before her death.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband Larry Castleman, a UUF member.

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 January 4th to discuss *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. For February, read Welty's *The Robber Baron's Bride*, followed by Lapierre's *City of Joy* (if available) in March. In April we will be examining *The Spirit Catches You and Then You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman.



The Shape of Social Justice

Members and friends of the Fellowship will have an opportunity to make a real difference in our community this year. The Central Coast Interfaith Sponsors, or CCIS, is an organization of organizations and parent entity to the Jeremiah Campaign. It has been in existence for a little over two years now with Rev. Pamela Langston as one of the founding clergy. The most recent activity by this group has been the establishment of working groups known as Mid-county Clusters. There are currently four clusters working on Health Care, Public Safety, Children and Education, and Housing. These groups are tackling issues that affect the lives of families and individuals in our very own neighborhoods.

More information will be available at a meeting on January 8th at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. This gathering will also include time for participants to share experiences and deepen relationships. Relationship building is a founding practice of community organizing by CCIS. If you would like further information about this meeting, Mid-county Clusters, or the Central Coast Interfaith Sponsors, contact Mark or Cindy Rogers at 464-2564.

PCD Women & Religion Meeting

PCD Women & Religion will be meeting on Saturday, January 11 at the San Francisco Church, beginning at 10:30am. Rev. Cathleen Cox McCarroll will be leading a discussion on The Wise Woman and her role in personal and world healing. A wonderful start to the new year.

The morning will be followed by a pot luck lunch and the W&R business meeting. Childcare will be provided, but please contact Geri Kennedy, Co-convenor no later than December 30 (gerilou@aol.com, 650-361-8146.)

Dinner Club for January

Dinner club is open to all members who meet once a month, usually on the 2nd Saturday, at different host homes. If that time is not convenient, the host can schedule another evening. The first person on the list is the host, 2 brings a main dish, 3 brings a salad, 4 brings a dessert, and 5 brings a vegetable. If you have not joined and would like to, please e-mail Iran Mohsenin at nmohsan@earthlink.net or call 479-0105 to be invited for the February dinner club.

Group 1

- 1 Oxley
- 2 Meyer
- 3 Bailey, G.
- 4 Boone
- 5 Anton

Group 2

- 1 Keith-Spiegel
- 2 Smith-Merrill
- 3 Rogers
- 4 Morairty, S.
- 5 Lamb

Group 3

- 1 Wood, D
- 2 Newman
- 3 Lester
- 4 Kane

Group 4

- 1 Forsyth
- 2 Collier-Young
- 3 Hudson/Shackelford
- 4 James/McCrow
- 5 Morairty, M.

Group 5

- 1 Wilson, W
- 2 Aaker-Fihe
- 3 Makalani/Dupree
- 4 Thiemann

Substitutes

Mohsenin, Ratcliffe, Rost

Auction Results

Our Annual Family Auction Gala and Pizza Party Nov. 16 attracted an enthusiastic crowd who added \$5895 to Fellowship coffers.

Many thanks to all donors and buyers and particularly to the following

27 party workers: Mary Brooks, Susan Willats, Laura Stoker, Rosalie Kraft, Jane Boone, Sylvia Forsyth, John Thiemann, Linda Neher, Lora Lee Chapman, Marley Smith-Merrill, Janus Blume, Marilyn Johnson, Devi Tong, John Barker, Michael Loik, Helen Oxley, Marylou Lamb, Mark and Cindy Rogers, George Shackelford, Marsha Hudson, Joan and Clayton Rost, Karen Holl, Stephen Morairty, Dorothy Shaw, Brent Haddad and Bobbie Jo Palmer..

The nine dinners, coffee and dessert party, wine and cheese tasting, brunch and family picnic will be enjoyed for several months ahead.

Conceptual Drawings in Progress for Building Expansion.

The Ad Hoc Building Committee is currently working with Jacquelyn Low, our Architect, on the design of the interior of the Fellowship Hall and overall design for the Phase II expansion. The County has requested a submittal of the design for our use permit application by January 24, 2003.

The Ad Hoc Committee is therefore scheduling a presentation to the Board at the January 16 Board Meeting and to interested members of the congregation following Sunday services on January 18, 2003. Please note that this review is for conceptual design only. Further details will follow later.

- Dave Boone, Ad Hoc Building Committee.

New Chavurot Groups Forming

If you would like to join a small "extended family" group where you can have fun and share intimate joys and sorrows, contact Sue Meyer 465-1600 or Judy Anton 684-9608. The groups usually meet monthly at members' homes, often with a meal, and sometimes with other activities. Existing groups are full and several Fellowship members have already expressed interest in new groups. Forms are available at Fellowship office or guest table.

UU People

Alice Hansen, a long time member of the Fellowship, has moved to live with her daughter near Placerville. Her address is 2912 Blair, Potlick Pines CA 95726.

She and her late husband, Michael, had been active and dedicated members of our Fellowship.

Member of the Month Patricia Keith-Spiegel

If I had known about Unitarian Universalism as a younger person, I would have joined right up. I was raised in various Protestant denominations, but yet I was curious about other major faiths coupled with a dislike for rigid orthodoxy. In my 18th year, I gave up going to church for Lent (which tells you a lot about my commitment to formalized conventions). I held my spiritual beliefs inside but did not join any formal religious institution — and that was UUism— until I moved from Los Angeles to Indiana in 1991.

We moved back to California a year and 5 months ago. I left my position as the Reed Voran Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Ball State University to accept a research position at Harvard Medical School that allows me to do most of the work here.

Even before we purchased our home here I headed off to a service at the UUFSCC. I liked the feel of the place and the warmth of the people. When we moved to Seascapes, I was glad that the Fellowship was fewer than 10 minutes away. We have found so many good friends (love the dinner Groups and our Chavurah family!) and are constantly amazed with the incredible talents and skills, level of generosity and community service, and commitment in both word and deed to making the world a better place represented in our Fellowship members.



It is my great pleasure to serve as a Trustee and on the Membership Committee. I am having fun developing our new web page (with Scott Young). I enjoyed researching and creating the resolution against a preemptive strike against Iraq (and was thrilled that it passed so handily) and engaging in other UU activities that have special meaning to me. Here I can do what I enjoy and help others at the same time. Does it get any better than that? I value more than words can say that I have been welcomed into this amazing UU Fellowship.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK

will be held after the service on
Sunday January 5.

A-H please bring a main dish;
I-P bring a salad, and
Q-Z bring a dessert.

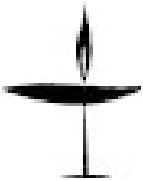
As usual, we need volunteers to help set up
and clean up so please call Iran Mohsenin or
Bobbie Jo Palmer to volunteer.

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
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6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos, CA 95003**

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