



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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February 2003

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The UNICORN

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February Sunday Services

- Feb 2 10:00AM Why Martin Luther King, Jr. Wasn't A UU.-** The essay of the same title in the Nov/Dec issue of the UUWorld has sparked some energetic discussion. Join Rev. Pam Allen-Thompson as we continue the conversation.
Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate
- Feb 9 9:00AM Forum: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**
10:00AM Topic To Be Announced. The Rev. Beth Miller of Monterey will be with us this morning. Check Feb. 2nd's order of service for sermon topic.
Andy Kreyche, Service Associate
- Feb 16 10:00AM Wholy Family: How This Fellowship Community Supports Our Families.** Presented by Friends of the RE Committee.
Sylvia Forsyth, Service Associate.
Followed by our annual "Secret Pal" ~ Valentine Potluck Party; organized by Susie Shane and Cindy Rogers.
- Feb 23 9:00AM Forum: The Pets in Your Life.**
10:00AM Jeremiah Campaign or If I Ran the Zoo. This morning service will delve into our involvement in the C.C.I.S. (Central Coast Interfaith Sponsor).
Janus Blume and Mark Rogers, Service Associate.

The Sunday Services Committee is asking UUF members and friends for topic ideas for future services. Please contact Terra Collier-Young @ 462-4994 or terracollieryoung@yahoo.com with suggestions.

Langston-Daley Thoughts

Dear Friends,

As things have unfolded, it seems that I was a bit too optimistic in planning to come back to work at the end of January.

V is having difficulty with the chemo and has recently had a very bad reaction to one of the medications they have been giving her. We expect to have a CAT scan in early February and that should provide us with much more information.

I am working to transition into more homecare issues, keeping in mind coming back to work and trying to set up some support to allow me to do that comfortably. I have not yet established a schedule that I am comfortable with in that respect.

As a result, the Board of Trustees has granted me a few more weeks of leave time. Because I know that many of you would not contact the ministers down in Monterey for pastoral concerns, I am changing my schedule to be available for pastoral questions and concerns during February.

I hope to return to my full duties on February 24 (with the possibility of participating in the February 23 service).

Your support has meant a great deal to us. We continue to appreciate your patience, thoughts and prayers as our family faces these difficult times.

Shanti,



BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Our hardworking Building Committee (Dave Boone, Mary Brooks, Randy James, Marylou Lamb, Joan Rost, Sarah Savasky, and John Thiemann) has been meeting regularly with our architect, Jacquelyn Low, who has completed the first phase of the design for our building expansion. Drawings were presented to the Board and interested members of the congregation during the past week and will be posted in the Fellowship for members to review.

Our proposed expansion, which was approved by the congregation last year, consists of the following:

1. Solar system. Our solar system is complete and is now producing electric power. We will provide you with specific details after it has been in operation long enough for us to determine the probable impact on our utility bills.
2. New courtyard adjacent to kitchen. Construction is scheduled for this summer. We are also awaiting final cost estimates

from our contractor.

3. RE playground. Schedule, final design, and cost are under review by the Building Committee.

4. Existing Fellowship Hall improvements (Phase I). Preliminary design is complete. Final design and construction drawings are in progress. Construction is scheduled for this summer after budget approval by the congregation. We estimate that there are sufficient funds in the Abrams bequest to cover the cost for this and the courtyard.

5. Fellowship Hall expansion and new Re wing. (Phase II). This schedule is dependent on our pending use permit application and on financing. Existing funds will not be sufficient for all of this work.

What the Board Has Been Doing

- Approved disseminating Tricia Keith-Spiegel's anti-war statement (see the text in November's and December's Unicorns) to the media and to other UU congregations as well as by email to Fellowship members. Approval was given to pay \$25 toward the ad sponsored by the Center for Non-Violence that appeared in the *Sentinel*.
- Appointed Kären Aaker Board Secretary replacing Bobby Jo Palmer who resigned in October. Confirmation will be required at the next congregational meeting.
- Approved hiring Keri Adams, a student majoring in early childhood education at Cabrillo College, as a day care worker.
- Approved creating a subcommittee of the Ad hoc Building Committee composed of Dave Boone, Rev. Pam, and Joan Rost, to meet with neighbors to discuss our expansion plans and address any concerns they might have.
- The Fellowship members now number 127 and include 5 coming-of-age young people. This number was 126 last year. It was reported that a recent member survey found that being a prior UU member and/or being acquainted though family or friends with a UU were the primary motivating factors in joining the Fellowship. The Board encouraged the creation of a mentorship program proposed by the Membership Committee.

It was recommended that that we review the definition of Fellowship membership in our By-Laws. Non-members currently cost us \$80 per year. The Board recommended that a member of the committee contact persons who are being dropped from the books to explain membership criteria.

- Approved Brent Haddad as chair of the Endowment Committee and the addition of Scott Young to the committee.
- Approved a leave of absence with full pay and benefits to Rev. Pam from December 25, 2002 to February 24, 2003.
- Approved hiring Sylvia Forsyth to replace our Office Manager Maria Espinosa during her maternity leave-of-absence until January 23, and hiring Lee Stanley from January 24 to February 24.
- Approved formation of a social action-clearing house to be comprised of Tricia Keith-Spiegel, Dave "Woody" Wood, Pam, and any other interested parties. This group would receive and give timely approval to any outside suggestions for social action projects.
- Approved the creation of a new committee to review issues and to make policy recommendations for the possible extended absence of the minister. The committee includes the Board Executive Committee, the Committee on Ministry, and the Sunday Services Committee.
- The Committee on Ministry is sponsoring a one day workshop in February on training conflict resolution trainers and invited Board members to attend.
- Approved the Chalice Lighters Grant Application. This grant is not a cost to the Fellowship and supports the student campus ministry at UCSC.
- Approved the removal of high-risk playground equipment. The basis of this decision was a new State law, effective January 1, 2003, regarding new safety standards for day care centers.
- Approved the designation of the Central Coast Interfaith Project (CCIS), AKA the Jeremiah Project, as a recognized group in our Fellowship. Mark Rogers will make a presentation on the CCIS to the Fellowship on Sunday, February 23, as the focus of the service.

- KA

President's Letter

I read somewhere, *The New Yorker* I think, that Pres. Bush sent out over a million Christmas cards. I didn't get one. We're not that close. I can only guess at the text but if the message was anything like the Christmas cards we received, it was something about Peace on Earth. Even though Pres. Bush talks about war with Iraq much of the time, it would be very surprising if his Christmas message was "Bomb Iraq."

To prepare for my appearance on Harriet Blue's radio program last month, I looked into the question: what are other churches and fellowships doing about war with Iraq? There is a wealth of material. For example, Jim Wallis, Executive Director and Editor of Globe Newspaper Company wrote an article December 9, 2002 entitled "Is Bush Deaf to Church Doubts on Iraq War?" Wallis says:

The tradition of Christian non-violence and pacifism, of course, rules out all war as a way to resolve conflicts. Most remarkable, however, in this instance, is that the majority of American church leaders who have spoken against prospective military action are not pacifists. They are opposing war because they believe it does not meet the standards of 'just war.'

Church leaders have used the traditional just war criteria dating back to St. Augustine in the 4th century. These criteria start with a presumption against war, then apply a series of judgments to determine whether that presumption can be overridden. And most church leaders have concluded that in the current circumstances, it cannot--a war against Iraq would not be just.

The United Methodists statement of August 30, 2002 says:

United Methodists have a particular duty to speak out against an unprovoked attack. President Bush and Vice-President Cheney are members of our denomination. Our silence now could be interpreted as tacit approval of war. Christ came to break old cycles of revenge and violence. Too often, we have said we worship and follow Jesus but have failed to change our ways. Jesus proved on the cross the failure of state-sponsored revenge. It is inconceivable that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and the Prince of Peace, would support this proposed attack.

There are powerful statements from the Lutherans, Episcopalians, Quakers, Mennonites, United Church of Christ, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and others. As they and the thousands who marched January 18 all over the world proved, we are by no means alone.

On the home front, the caretaker quit and we have lined up a replacement. Sylvia has help in the office. Pam was granted another four weeks leave to deal with serious medical issues. Our Sunday morning showing of the updated "The Last Epidemic" moved us to explore ways to get greater exposure to the threat of nuclear proliferation. We might do a Resolution for congregational consideration. If you have any thoughts, make them known. There is so much vitality in this community.

Keep the faith,

Ed

Endowment Committee

The Board has appointed Brent Haddad as the new Endowment Committee Chair for 2002. Each year the Board appoints one new member to the committee and one member completes his/her term to maintain a Committee of four members. Scott Young will begin his term in 2003. Rosalie Kraft, the last of the original committee members, completes her term at our February meeting. Committee members are experienced, involved members of our congregation. The Committee is responsible for promoting contributions to the Endowment Fund, investing the money responsibly, arranging with the Board recommendation and congregation approval for distribution of income from the fund in mini grants or for other emergency uses and for adding the names on the plaque of anyone contributing more than \$1000 to the fund. Anyone with interest in serving on the Committee is encouraged to become involved with the Committee and apply to the Board for membership for 2004. Regular meetings are held quarterly with additional meetings scheduled as needed. The first quarterly meeting of 2003 will be on February 3rd at 7:30 PM at the home of Joan Rost. Of course, any member of the congregation is welcome. Please contact Joan Rost, Brent Haddad, Jane Boone, Rosalie Kraft or Scott Young for more information.

Joan Rost

Mentors

You Fellowship Board has approved a mentoring program for new members..The plan is to have a mentor for new members so they will have a contact person to orient them with the workings of our Fellowship....I may ask you to help carry out this task or call me if you wish to help....John Thiemann 728-9309....

Dinner Club for February

Dinner club is open to all persons interested in meeting 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 host, 2nd brings main dish, 3rd brings salad, 4th brings dessert, and 5th brings a vegetable. If you know that you cannot attend a dinner that you are assigned, please call the host immediately so that he/she can make other plans. Dinner club is open so if you have not joined and would like to, please call Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or e-mail nmohsan@earthlink.net.

Group 1

- 1 Lamb
- 2 Hudson/Shackelford
- 3 Seamon
- 4 Collier-Young
- 5 Morairty,S.

Group 2

1. Smith-Merrill
- 2 James McCrow
- 3 Forsyth
- 4 Aaker-Fihe

Group 3

- 1 Newman
- 2 Keith-Spiegel/Racimora
- 3 Anton
- 4 Mohsenin

Group 4

- 1 Lester
- 2 Dupree/Makalani
- 3 Meyer
- 4 Oxley
- 5 Thiemann

Group 5

- 1 Rogers
- 2 Boone
- 3 Kane
- 4 Wood

Group6

- 1 Morairty,M
- 2 Bailey/Alexander
- 3 Hinz/Killeen
- 4 Wilson,W.

Committee on Ministry News: Congressional Member Survey Coming in February 23rd

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 at the February 23rd Sunday service a three page survey to members and friends of the fellowship.

If you are not able to attend service on the February 23rd we will mail you the survey on Monday the 24th.

Please return your survey to the fellowship office my Sunday, March 9th. Your input is very important. So, we are asking you to please take the 15 minutes or so needed to fill out the survey and return it to the fellowship, so that we may "know your mind."

Calling Our U.U.F. Elders

The Sunday Services Committee would like to put together a service that honor the members who have been with the UUF for 20 years or more. We would like to hear what you have seen throughout the years, what you have gained, what you would like to see in the future. Call [462-4995] or E-mail [terracollieryoung@yahoo.com] Terra Collier-Young if you are interested in participating.

V's Medical Expenses

A hospital session on 3 January required commitment of the \$1,500 initial deductible for V's insurance. That was followed by an analysis of probable costs to determine that significant additional money will be needed this calendar year.

Accordingly, the Board has allocated an added \$2,000 to the "Minister's Benefits" budget line item. This amount is in addition to the \$3,000 provided in December.

Donations above original pledges have covered much of this total need. However, several more member (and friends) contributions are still needed.

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

Bill Sampson, Treasurer

TGIF (Thank God/dess it's Friday)

Friday, Feb. 21 at the home of Helen Oxley 100 N.Rodeo Gulch Road Space 126, Soquel 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

This is an informal gathering open to all members and friends and is held on the third Friday of the month at a host home between 5:30 and 7 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. It is a great way to meet people in an informal setting.



Hi, for Women hikers..... It sure seems like Spring is coming, acacias & narcissus are blooming, hope you are getting out for exercise and fresh air. Join us for that and some good company the first Sunday of each month after service/potluck (bring a snack lunch if potluck is not that day). We had a great turn-out in January and were shown a local beach lots of us had never been to before and we had fun dodging the high surf and kidding a few who didn't take their shoes off and ended up with wet feet anyway! In Feb and March we expect to explore Pinto Lake in Watsonville and a new trail at Wilder Ranch, but that's subject to change by the weather and participants on the actual day.

MUSIC COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Us Sell the Baby Grand



The Gulbertson piano bequeathed to us by Betty Morales needs to be sold ASAP for \$1000 or best offer. Please call Gerry Bailey at 336-5647 for details.

Song Leaders Workshop



The Music Committee is sponsoring a song leader's workshop for any who are interested in learning about the art and technique of congregational singing. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 15 from 9AM to noon.

We are looking for people who are musically inclined, enthusiastic, and willing to lead the singing at the Sunday morning services. We are striving to develop a group of song leaders that will enrich our singing experience. You don't have to have a "soloist's" voice, just a great attitude!

Contact Laura Helgren or Edy Rhodes to register.

"Music touches feelings words cannot."

Meet Our New Members

Diane Alexander is a surviving widow of 7 plus years and was a hospice direct caregiver. She also was a reentry college student and earned a bachelor's degree in 2000 and hopes to go on for a master's degree to get a teaching credential. Her interest is in older adults/lifelong learning and possibly special education/ESL. She has many interests including walking, bicycle riding, beach combing, movies, textile crafts, letter writing, listening to music, gardening, and waiting to curl up with a good book. She had joined the Congregational church while in high school but did not attend and also studied Judaism. She finds the coastal environment nourishing for body, mind and soul although it is not close to her family who live near Sacramento.

Mitchell Franseth was brought up in an UU church in Charlotte, NC and his sister-in-law in Lexington, KY is in seminary to be a UU minister. He is busy remodeling his house in Boulder Creek, something he has done before in New Mexico. He enjoys travel, antique shopping and performing arts. One of the skills that he would be willing to share with the Fellowship is building and restoration. Things he enjoys doing on his own is reading, writing, listening to music, hiking, camping, playing soccer and tennis.

Kamala Franseth grew up in a home where her father was Jewish and her mother was a Seventh Day Adventist but both turned to eastern/alternative religious teachings and brought her brother and her up with nature as their religion. She, along with her husband Mitchell, likes to travel and remodel old houses besides antique hunting and the performing arts. She paints, sculpts, does photography and enjoys creative cooking. Some of the skills that she would be willing to share with the Fellowship are art and working with the children.

CUUPS

Bi-Annual CUUPS meeting will be held Feb. 8th at 10:30 am at Terra's home (4440 Prescott Rd., Soquel, 462-4995) Anyone interested in planning the next 6 months worth of CUUPS activities, or participating or just checking it out is welcome to attend (RSVP's appreciated).

Carnaval Or Carnival??

I went to an art exhibit recently in Watsonville entitled "CARNAVAL." When I noticed the spelling, I thought I was on to something since it is spelled and pronounced differently than carnival. This exhibit and spelling referred to the wild celebrations in Rio, Venice and New Orleans as opposed to the ferris wheels and greasy food I associate with a carnival. Later checks of three dictionaries proved the spelling interchangeable as well as the meanings. OH well.

What is interesting is the history of CARNAVAL. Yet again a modern day celebration has its roots in the cycle of the seasons. CARNAVAL is one of many celebrations that has roots in the coming of spring. This explanation from the exhibit brochure puts it as well as I could:

One of the first recorded annual spring festivals is the festival of Osiris in Egypt; it commemorated the renewal of life brought about by the annual flooding of the Nile. It remained in its original form until the reign of the Roman Empire when CARNAVAL reached an unparalleled level of civil disorder. In Europe, the tradition of CARNAVAL persisted well into Christian times and reached its peak during the 15th century. Because CARNAVAL was so deeply rooted in folklore and people's lives, the Roman Catholic Church had to finally accept it as a part of church activity. In doing so they incorporated it into the coming of Lent. In many regions of the world CARNAVAL's festival of gaiety and indulgence still heralds the coming of Lent. But for the most part, CARNAVAL is celebrated for the sake of celebrating. It speaks to a human need to break out of our ordinary everyday routines and experiment with masks and disguises, to travel, if only for a little while, in another's shoes, defying convention, breaking rules, honoring our instincts and testing our limits.

Maybe next year we can have a UU CARNAVAL!

namaste erica

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 February 1st to deal with Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom*, 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.



What Is The Caring Connection And Who Can Use It?

The Caring Connection is a pad of paper on an easel in the courtyard and it's for EVERYONE! It's a hands-on, low-tech way for us to help each other and form deeper bonds in our UU Fellowship community by letting each other know about what we have to offer and what we need. Please CHECK THE BOARD REGULARLY and USE IT OFTEN. Don't make the mistake of thinking your offer or need is frivolous or "too heavy" because it is NOT. Pass the word that this board is here and encourage people to use it.

The CARING CONNECTIONS board is divided into two sections. There are "OFFERS" and "NEEDS."

EXAMPLES OF "OFFERS"

"I can offer meals to someone who is ill (or just had a baby.)"

"I'd like to arrange a carpool to the fellowship."

"I can offer my 'shoulder to cry on.'"

"I have tools to share."

"I can tutor you in math (Spanish, etc.)"

EXAMPLES OF "NEEDS"

"I need to borrow a weed-eater."

"I need a ride to the fellowship on Sundays and Wednesday nights."

"Can anyone help me figure out my computer?"

"I'm new, please show me around the town."

"Does anyone have advice for new parents? Shall we form a support group?"

"Does anyone have a recipe for rhubarb?"

Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for March is February 17th. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date. Please email computer text and photos. Thanks.

Member of the Month: Jim Weller

Usually these things have been written in a third-person voice, but I'm not so inclined. It is better, I think, to address you all here in *propria persona*.

The local mountains and beaches have always been pretty near home in my own sense of place, since I spent most of my childhood in the western part of the Santa Clara Valley. I've never lived much more than a hundred miles from there.

I showed up at UUFSCC in the fall of 2000, though I've resided in and near Santa Cruz for most of the time since 1987. My two daughters, Anna and Maggie, were born here in 1989 and 1991. They've lived in Capitola, and lately in Soquel, with their mom, my former wife Charlotte, since our divorce in 1993.

I've sung in the choir here for the past two and a half years. Before last September, I participated as a Sunday Services Committee member, served as a member of the Board of Trustees, and from time to time took part in and led Sunday services.

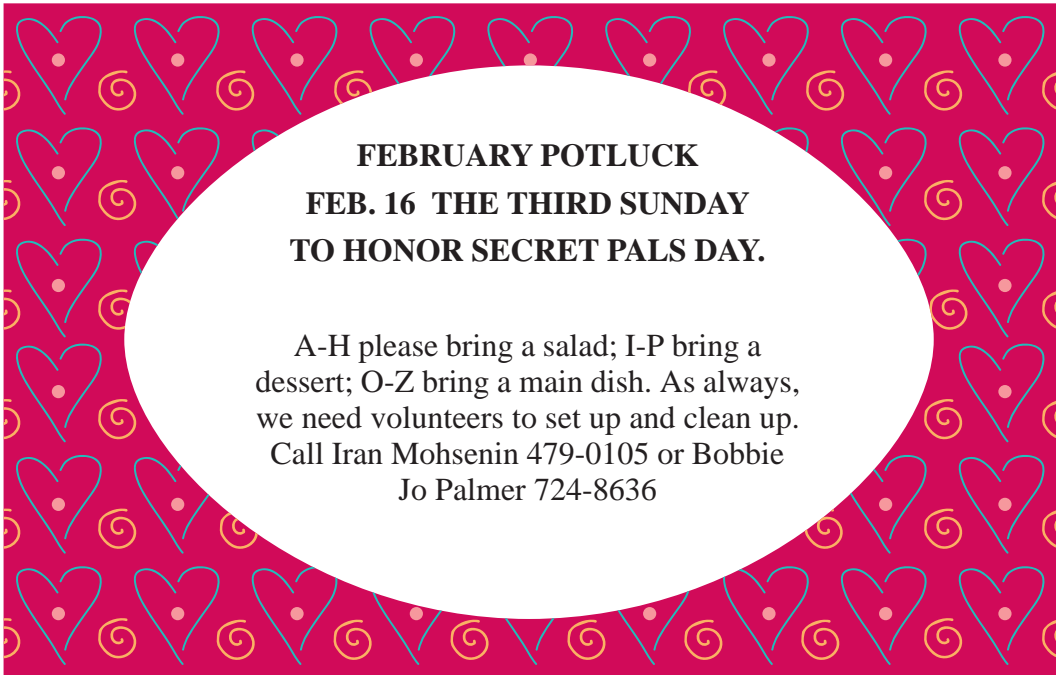
Though my religious affiliation was for a long time attenuated, I've been nominally Unitarian Universalist since I was a teenager, when I joined the UU Fellowship of Redwood City. The man who was minister there in the late 1960's and early 1970's became an important role model for me.

I'm a man multifariously transfigured in mid-life, benefited in no small part by the acceptance in beloved community that I've known in this fellowship. Conjoined now in love with another of our members, Linda Neher, our belonging together among this congregation has, for both of us, the deepest significance.

I'm a student majoring in Religious Studies and Philosophy at Holy Names College, a Catholic liberal arts school in Oakland, and I've begun a class this semester at Starr King School for the Ministry, the UU seminary in Berkeley, where I hope to continue my study in preparation for professional religious ministry.

I have an undergraduate certificate in Child Development and Early Childhood Education, and I used to work as a preschool teacher at Stanford University and Palo Alto City children's centers. I presently have a professional consulting practice as a land title expert, doing business as *landtitleguru.com*.





FEBRUARY POTLUCK
FEB. 16 THE THIRD SUNDAY
TO HONOR SECRET PALS DAY.

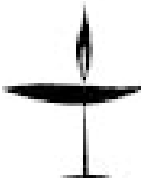
A-H please bring a salad; I-P bring a dessert; O-Z bring a main dish. As always, we need volunteers to set up and clean up. Call Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or Bobbie Jo Palmer 724-8636

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