



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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Volume 2003, Number 3

March 2003

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The UNICORN

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March Sunday Services

- March 2 10:00AM The Whole Story** - Looking at our whole story without avoiding the tough parts rewards us with treasures: insight and personal healing. Good work in the world always begins inside us with a willingness to face our own failures. Our guest minister, Julia Older, will weave together stories of her personal quest for learning and her work as a prison chaplain.
- March 9 9:00AM Forum: What Part Does Fear Play in Your Life?**
10:00AM Social Activism is very important to many UU's, yet our daily lives are so full. This morning, the Rev. Sandra Pilon from the San Francisco Church will offer insights on how we can bring activism into the fold of our busy lives, giving what we can to both.
Sunday Service Associate: Karen Holl
Special Congregational Meeting after the service
- March 15 Annual Congregational Dinner**
- March 16 10:00AM Now More Than Ever!**- As we face the prospect of war, greater limitations to civil liberties, and the threat of recession, our faith cries out with a promise of hope. Who we are as liberal religious people matters. How we are as liberal religious people matters. Today kicks off our annual pledge drive.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- March 23 9:00AM Forum: Suicide.**
10:00AM All Those Years At The UUFSCC -This morning we will hear from Ed and Carol Newman, Rosalie Kraft, and Dorothy Shaw as they remember the life and times of their Fellowship experience.
Sunday Service Associate: Jim Weller
- March 30 10:00AM Spirituality, Commitment, and Action** - For many of us, our spirituality serves as a basis for social action. With issues of war and peace hanging in the balance, Brent Haddad will discuss how different spiritual paths embraced by UUism can lead to social action for peace.

Langston-Daley Thoughts

As spring approaches, we continue to wait and hope that V's condition will improve. The lymphoma is indeed improving. However, the paraneoplastic pemphigus continues to be a real threat. This is a condition that the doctors simply do not know how to treat. New medications seem to be helping, but the long term results are unknown at this time.



This month the Board has called a special congregational meeting to ask the congregation to consider revising my letter of agreement through June. After speaking with Ed Newman and Ann McCrow, we feel we have established a way for me to remain connected to the Fellowship and engaged in the life of the congregation without my feeling overwhelmed. Your generosity thus far has been truly wonderful and I continue to appreciate your level of support and caring.

I miss you all and look forward to coming back to be with you, even if it is in a limited fashion. With continued prayers, good thoughts, good medical care and a lot of luck, we should be able to get V's condition under control.

Blessings and gratitude to you all!

Shanti,

Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 6, after the service

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers and trustees for approval by the membership at the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 6. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The highest number of votes shall determine the choice of candidates.

Officers:

President – Kären Aaker

Vice President – Mark Rogers

Treasurer – Scott Young

Secretary – Ann McCrow

Trustees:

Don Hoernshemeyer

Ron Kane

Judy Anton

Special Congregational Meeting March 9th

There will be a special Congregational Meeting March 9, 2003 at 11:45 a.m. Following is the agenda for the meeting the Board's proposal for item d.

Order of Business

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll call of members
- c. Reading Minutes of previous meeting
- d. Proposal that the description of duties in the Minister's contract be revised
- e. Adjournment

Proposal for Compassionate leave for the Minister

In anticipation of the possible long-term disability of V and the demands this will place on Rev. Pam, the Board of Trustees recommends to the congregation a contingency plan for compassionate leave for the Minister. The goal of the plan is to provide support for Rev. Pam and her family during this crisis while at the same time assuring the continued wellbeing of the Fellowship and the maintenance of essential programs and services. This plan will be presented to the congregation for approval at a special congregational meeting on March 9.

Unless prevented by emergencies, Rev. Pam will:

1. Present one sermon per month and continue attending Sunday services as often as possible.
 - Continue seeking help through the UUMA, PDC and the UUA to provide visiting ministers and other support services.

2. Perform life cycle pastoral functions for members and friends of the Fellowship.
 - Critical concerns such as funerals, weddings, rites of passage, and personal, family or medical emergencies.
3. Provide consultation to ongoing activities:
 - Attend monthly meetings of the Board, the Sunday Services Committee, and the Committee on Ministry.
 - Continue to meet with the Building Committee and participate in the planning for the building expansion and remodel.
 - Check-in with the Fellowship administrator once per week to monitor activities, answer questions and give guidance.

In response, the Congregation, through its standing committees and the Board as well as individual contributions, will assure the continuing life and work of the Fellowship.

We propose that this extended leave be offered through the current Fellowship year until June 16, 2003. During this period, the Minister shall receive full pay and benefits. The situation will be re-assessed with the Minister by May 16 to plan and prepare for the new Fellowship year in September 2003.

The measure of the strength of your community will be the degree to which you gather behind Rev. Pam to successfully continue the life and work of your Fellowship.

—Katie Willis (12/08/02)

President's Message:

WELCOME YOUR CANVASSER

When Carol and I joined this Fellowship in 1971, there wasn't much in the way of fund-raising. We came from the Hayward Church which was about ten years ahead of Santa Cruz in development--that is, Hayward had been through the progression of meeting in people's living rooms, to rented space, to hiring a minister. Some of the founding mothers and fathers of our Fellowship were fugitives from organized religion and very much opposed to the routine arm-twisting for money that they had experienced. I well remember an early debate over the "collection," the part of the Sunday service that we now call the "Offertory." One view was that the "collection" (at the time passing of a basket--we did not have the deluxe three-handled devices we now use) was too much like those "other" churches, the thing we were trying to avoid. The other view was that just because "other" churches carried fund-raising to ridiculous excess was not enough reason to abandon it altogether. There was that plus the fact that the mortgage payment, P. G. & E., and other bills continued to roll in whether or not we raised the money to pay them. The compromise reached was that the basket would not be passed, but would be left exposed on a table near the door and members or visitors could contribute, or not, as they chose. When we arrived, we asked, "When do we pledge?" The answer was, "Pledge?? What's that?" How far we have come!!

Pledging itself has evolved. We have, I think, followed guidance supplied by the UUA and there is supposed to be an efficient way to do it. I am assuming, of course, that we are beyond the argument, "Why do we have to pledge?" I remember one year when the system was to have a house party with six or eight potential pledgors and then take them, one by one, into a separate room for the annual commitment. I was very uncomfortable with this system. It didn't help that the pledgor I drew had earlier told me how pleased she was with the leadership of Richard Nixon. Anyway, I got her into the room, not anxious for a long discussion for fear that I would insult her into the Lutherans, and said, "Well?" At least she didn't stiff us.

I like the present system better, I've been doing it for the past few years. Although it is always difficult to ask people for money, the canvas does provide a chance to talk to someone about what is important in life. Where should we be next year? Five or ten years from now? What are our needs now? What will they be in the future? What is the Fellowship doing to meet our needs? These are serious questions. I think we have a message worth spreading. We can do it together and have some fun doing it. It does take money. Welcome your canvasser. Do what you feel comfortable doing. Ours is no caravan of despair.

Keep the faith,

Ed



The Wise Old Ladies marched. That's a Unitarian-Universalist banner just behind it.



A collage of images from the Peace March on February 15th courtesy of David McArthur

Pre-GA Party Potluck

Have you ever wondered about “GA”? That is the fond nickname of the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Lora Lee Chapman and Coral Grayson are hosting a pre-GA potluck at their home on Saturday, March 8th at 6pm. Please join us as we discuss the upcoming event in June. The UUFSC may be sending a delegate to the event. The YRUU group also may have folks heading out to Boston. It's a lot of fun, community and thought provoking activities. Whether you think you might go to GA or not, this is going to be an evening you will enjoy. We will learn from past attendees, learn about the UUA, and deepen the bonds of community within the UUFSC. Please call Lora Lee at 438-8070 to RSVP or email her at loraleechapman@yahoo.com.

Meet Our New Member

Beverly Al-Rawi enjoys reading, walking, shopping on the internet, lunching with friends, and watching old films on TV. She considers herself quite a couch potato! She attends Elderhostel programs, and finds it a very good way to meet people and also further her education in the process. She belongs to the Sierra Club, ACLU, Amnesty International, AARP, LifeLong Learners at Cabrillo College, and the World Affairs Council at Monterey. Her reading tastes are varied, from mystery novels to books on religion and politics. She has a non-religious history and our Fellowship is the first religious organization she has actually joined although she attended numerous churches in the past. She got married in 1957 at Cal Berkeley and traveled with her Iraqi husband to Baghdad in 1958 and lived and worked in Iraq for 22 years. She returned to the US in 1980. Her life has been quite an adventure. Please add to your membership book. Beverly Al-Rawi, 2435 Felt Street #16, Santa Cruz 95062 tel: 476-3137; e mail bev243@msn.com

Annual Membership Dinner

March 15, 2003

6pm-10pm

Come to the annual membership dinner to kick off the Canvassing Campaign

The dinner will be prepared by Southern Exposure and will be held at our Fellowship.

Child-care will also be provided.

You will receive an invitation in the mail. Please send in your response and make checks payable to UUFSCC. Adults are \$14.00 and children 11 and under are \$8.00.

Please contact Bobbi Jo Palmer at 750-5571 or ptspalmer@prodigy.net for questions or volunteering.

There is also a volunteer sign-up posted in the chair storage room of the sanctuary near the kitchen. We need 10 people to help with set-up and 10 people to help with clean-up.

This dinner is open to members only. See you then!

An Important Message Concerning the Fact That There is No Sunday Potluck or Dinner Club This Month Due to The Membership Dinner

Since we are having our membership dinner this month, we will not have a first Sunday Potluck or Dinner Club.

The Kanes Donate TV

The Sunday Service Committee would like to extend our wholehearted thanks to Ron and Ann Kane. They recently upgraded some of their home entertainment components and in doing so passed on their old TV to the Fellowship. It will be used during future services and other events. I'm sure everyone will appreciate this vast improvement to our old funky unit. The youth group will share in the windfall as well, since part of the package was a receiver and CD player. Again, Ron and Ann, thanks for the generosity of your donation!

Hospitality Chairperson Needed

A Hospitality Chairperson is still needed. The duties include signing members up to provide snacks for coffee hour on Sundays and to keep the kitchen cabinet stocked with coffee hour related items. The Hospitality Committee has also been purchasing coffee to sell after service to members for our Free Trade Organic Coffee we drink after service on Sundays. Please contact Bobbi Jo Palmer if you would like to volunteer or maybe even share the position with her. We also need Coffee Host volunteers for the next few months.

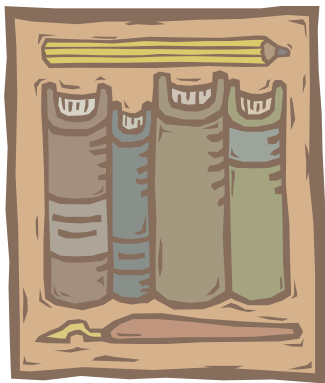
Official Delegates Needed for PCD and GA

GA: The annual General Assembly is being held this year June 26-30 in Boston. This year delegates will elect candidates to the Board of Trustees, the Board of Review, and other working groups of the UUA. In addition to Pam, who is automatically a delegate, we can select 3 delegates and up to 3 alternates. All must be voting members of the Fellowship and may include youth.

DA: The District Assembly for the Pacific Coast District (PCD) is being held April 25-27 in Sacramento and has similar qualifications for delegate status.

Please contact any member of our Board of Trustees to advise the Board of your intention to attend and to request GA or DA delegate or alternate status or to answer questions about delegate responsibilities.

Additional info can be found at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/delegate.html> or http://www.pcd-uua.org/da_2003.htm.



Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for April is March 16th. Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date. Please email computer text and photos. Thanks.



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! We will probably go to Pinto Lake in Watsonville in March, but that's subject to change by the weather and participants on the actual day.

The First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group has chosen books for March and April: March's selection is *City of Joy* by Lapierre, April's *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman. In addition we are asking each member to suggest two books that could be possible choices for the next few months. Remember, you have to have read the book before suggesting it. That way we hope we'll avoid some mistakes we've made in the past by relying on recommendations from critics. After all, what do they know about our tastes?

The group meets, logically, on the first Friday of each month at Joan Roberts's houses at 7:30. Please call 688-7598 for further information.

Committee on Ministry News

Congregational Member Survey Distributed.

If you were at the Sunday service on February 23rd, you hopefully picked up a copy of the congregational member survey and if you did not attend that day, a copy was mailed to you on Monday the 24th. If you have not done so already, please take the time to fill out the survey and return your survey to the fellowship office by Sunday, March 9th.

If you are a member or friend of the Fellowship and did not receive a copy of the survey, please drop by, or call the office, so that we can get you a copy.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey. It is important that we hear from everyone.

CUUPS: the 6th Source

Earth mother, star mother
You who are called by a thousand names
May all remember we are cells in your body and dance together.
You are the grain and the loaf that sustains us each day;
As you are patient with our struggles to learn
So shall we be patient with ourselves, and each other.
We are radiant light and sacred dark --the balance--
You are the embrace that heartens and the freedom beyond fear.
Within you we are born, we grow, live and die.
You bring us around the circle to rebirth;
Within us you dance, within you we dance
Forever ---Starhawk

THE CUUPS RITUAL AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, SPRING TO SUMMER 2003

MARCH 22ND VERNAL EQUINOX ~ OSTARA

Saturday afternoon 12:00-3:00 we will meet in the Gallery to share soup and bread, and learn how to draw Celtic knots. Jennifer Holm will teach us what she knows of this ancient art. Contact her at 662-9227 to sign up by Thurs the 20th so that there may be enough materials for all.

May 3rd we will prepare for Beltane by making floral head wreaths and decorating the sanctuary; 10:30-12:30. Many hands make light work! Bring greenery and flowers.

MAY 4TH WE CELEBRATE BELTANE with folk dancing and general merry making. Dress gaily and wear your dancing shoes, or come to watch. Great fun to be had by all!!

June 20th -23rd Fri-Sun: CUUPS and RE will join up again to have a SUMMER SOLSTICE CAMPING TRIP. Check this and the RE column for site and specifics.

JULY 13th Sunday 5:00: FULL MOON DRUMMING ON SEACLIFF ~ RIO DEL MAR BEACH: We will gather at the end of Seacliff beach to share a potluck dinner, then make a fire and drum to celebrate life and love. Bring firewood as you are able.

All of these events are open to all members and friends of the Fellowship. If you have any questions or ideas for future gatherings, feel free to contact Terra Collier-Young @462-4995.

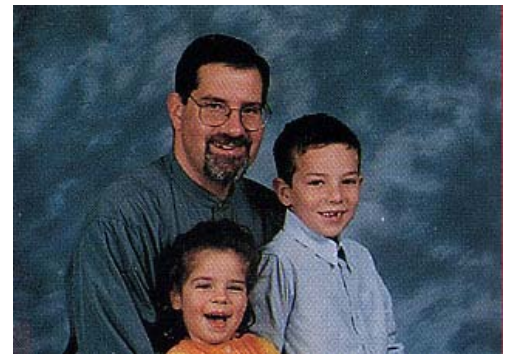
Be Blessed!!

Member of the Month: Brent Haddad

I grew up an Episcopalian but hit a spiritual wall in my mid-teens primarily due to doubts planted by Somerset Maugham novels and the failure of earnest prayer to grow me tall enough to play professional basketball. I made many attempts in my 20s and 30s to re-enter the Church, but was repeatedly held up by the Nicene Creed, a series of "we believe in" statements spoken every Sunday that I could not sincerely affirm. Still, I longed for a community that found spirituality to be a credible concept and was open to spiritual exploration bounded by principles of human dignity, not prior acceptance of a creed. The arrival of Bert and Cypress increased my interest in finding an ethically like-minded community.

I knew little about UUism when I asked my work colleague and friend Karen Holl about the Fellowship. She invited me to a service. I started coming with the kids and never stopped. I remember how I could immediately and unequivocally accept the words of the UUA Statement of Principles and even the brief songs we repeated each week. I must have sung the Gathering Hymn to myself non-stop for a month!

I'm now trying to revive the feeling of spirituality I remember from youth. I see my challenge as leaving out my cerebrum while connecting with my soul. I want to take on faith, but I don't have the ability (courage? desire?) to take on faith on faith! So instead I'm attempting to arrive at spirituality by slowly sorting out what I believe. It is going to take years, yet I suspect the journey and the arriving may be one and the same.



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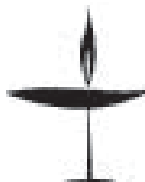


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