



# 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 7

July & August 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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## July & August Sunday Services

- July 6 10:00am: Visiting Mecca-** Several of us have recently returned from our annual General Assembly. This year the meeting was held in Boston where the headquarters of the UUA are located. Today we will bring the highlights and excitement of this event home to Santa Cruz. Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- July 13 10:00am: Favorite stories from children's literature - reprise.** Several of our members will present dramatic readings of instructive and entertaining short tales from award-winning picture-story books. This service debuted last summer, to the delight of those in attendance. Service Associate: Jim Weller.
- July 20 10:00am: Vision, Balance, and Service-- Reflections on 25 years of Foreign Surgical Trips.** What reasoning or religious philosophies lead people to leave their comfort zone to risk foreign medical service? John Holl (father of Karen, pediatric anesthesiologist, and long-time Unitarian Universalist) will present his reflections on his volunteer medical work on forty trips to thirteen countries. Service Associate: Karen Holl.
- July 27 10:00am: Mercy and Justice -** Guest Thom Longino will discuss his involvement with People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty (CPF), a state-wide organization helping to empower California's diverse faith communities to work toward ending capital punishment through various means. In a current coordinated campaign, CPF is working with other advocacy groups to create support for a moratorium on executions in California. Service Associate: Andy Kreyche

(August is on page two)

**Aug 3 10:00am: The Power of Now** - The process of living in the now, living in the moment every moment is to most a lifetime practice. Eckhart Tolle wrote his book *The Power of Now* which details the ease of this practice. Easy only for him? Morgan Van Dyke and Fran S. Gertler reveal Eckhart's not-so-revolutionary guide to spiritual enlightenment.  
Service Associate: Fran S. Gertler

**Aug 10 10:00am: Synchronicity: The Bridge between Mind and Matter** - For us rational and socially active Unitarian Universalists, synchronicities (meaningful coincidences) may challenge our logical minds. Additionally, if accepted, they can provide path to both heart and soul. Kathleen Sullivan is the author of *Recurring Dreams: A Journey to Wholeness* and *Recurring Dream Symbols: A Map to Healing your Past*. During her years as radio talk show host, counselor and professional dreamworker, she has been well guided by her own synchronicities and awed by those of others.

**Aug 17 10:00am: A Mighty Wind: Music, Love and Spirit** - As song and quiet move us to dance and move us to tears, the beauty of sound transforms time and space. We will gather to share the sound of silence and the joyful noise that inspires, inflames and soothes the soul.  
Rev. Michelle Favreault

**Aug 24 10:00am: Commitment: Care Into Change** - Hear the inspirational story of how one woman went from volunteering to help seniors fill out insurance forms to become a leading expert on long term care and insurance reform. Our guest speaker, Bonnie Burns, is Director of Consumer Education and Senior Policy Analyst for California Health Advocates, a non-profit organization that serves as a counseling and advocacy group to Medicare beneficiaries and the pre-retirement population.  
Service Associate: Andy Kreyche

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## Finance Notes

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Finance Committee members request that members and friends who contribute checks to the Fellowship please annotate the designated fund in the left hand corner of the check, i.e., pledge (year), birthday, building use, etc. This would clarify the deposits for them.

Devi Tong is a new member of the Finance Committee.

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## What the Board Has Been Doing

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\* Appointed Ed Newman, Lora Lee Chapman, and Sylvia Forsyth to be Delegates to the Boston GA the last week of June. Coral Grayson was appointed Alternate.

\* Approved a balanced budget of \$154,397 for 2003-2004.

\* Received a letter of thanks and a \$100 scholarship from Second Harvest Food Bank.

\* Authorized Pam to proceed with plans to purchase a house with a loan structured to be repaid without loss to the Fellowship.

\* Authorized the Executive Committee to appoint a committee to develop on a loan agreement for financing ministerial housing using the funding designated for ministerial housing from the Abrams bequest.

\* Authorized the Building Expansion Committee to manage the contingency fund for Phase I remodeling costs.

- KA

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## The Lesters' New Address

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Jan and Ted Lester have moved. Their new address is:

300 Plum St., Spc 75  
Capitool, CA 95010-2219  
Ph: 831 325-1672

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## Unicorn Deadline

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The deadline for September is August 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.

## **Congregational Self Assessment Results**

This is an abridged version of the report that was presented at the June 8th Congregational Meeting, the full report is available in the Fellowship office.

The survey was sent to approximately 200 members and friends of the Fellowship; 71 were returned.

Responses were tabulated and the number of responses for each statement and level of agreement (1, To no extent through 5, To a very great extent) were totaled and averaged. Averages were calculated based on the actual number of responses to a particular statement. Averages ranged from 2.15 to 3.78. This range was divided into 4 equal ranges for the purpose of assigning a letter grade to each statement as follows:

A We are doing a great job	3.78 - 3.40
B In good shape	3.39 - 2.99
C Needs some attention	2.98 - 2.57
D Needs serious help	2.56 - 2.15

The survey statements cover 6 major categories, with two or three subsections of three statements each. The Committee on Ministry used the letter grades to evaluate each major category and write a statement that they felt best summarized the average responses to the category.

The Committee on Ministry identified 5 areas that the survey indicated needed attention and submitted recommendations for action by the Congregation in three of these areas. Here are the results:

### **I. Attraction of new members**

- Levels of Newcomers
- Numerical Growth

We are doing a good job of attracting new participants and welcoming them; however, we are not growing in membership.

### **II. Community Building**

- Young Adult Ministry and Involvement
- Sense of Belonging in the Congregation

We feel that we have a strong and growing sense of belonging in our community; however, our ability to attract and retain young adults (18 - 35) is weak.

### **III. Outwardly Focused**

- Community Involvement
- Sharing Faith and Inviting Others

We feel that we are encouraged to be involved in community activities, but we are not systematic or focused. We feel comfortable talking about our UU faith, but do not feel that we are encouraged to in-

vite others to visit the congregation. We do not feel that we receive training or support to live out our faith in the community.

### **IV. Ongoing Exploration of Faith**

- Lifespan Religious Growth
- Worship

We feel that we do a great job at providing lifespan religious education. This is reported as our greatest strength. We also feel strongly that our worship style inspires and supports the spiritual growth of our Congregation.

### **V. Mission Focused Leadership**

- Sense of Direction
- Leadership Support and Training
- Clarity of Expectations and Assessment

We do not feel that we have a clear sense of mission and purpose, with a plan for the future. We do not feel that we are encouraged to use our gifts and skills. We also feel that the professional and leadership roles, fair compensation and transformational processes are not clear.

### **VI. Resources**

- Stewardship
- Facilities

We do not feel that we do a good job eliciting generosity with our time or money. We do not feel that our Congregation raises funds for outreach to good projects and causes that we support.

## **Recommendations**

Areas identified as needing serious help:

- Resources (time and money)
- Involvement and visibility in the community
- Clarity in direction and roles
- Attracting and retaining youth and young adults
- Facilities

Clearly, the Facilities are well on the way to being improved.

Retaining youth and young adults is a global problem, both for UUs and other denominations. The Committee felt that if we improve the first three items above, this will likely improve as well.

The Committee on Ministry strongly recommends that the Board of Trustees and the Fellowship, consider actions to address the remaining three issues. They also recognize that some efforts are under way in some of these areas, especially by the revitalized Membership committee and Iran Mohsenin's efforts to arrange radio advertising. These ongoing efforts should be encouraged and supported.

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## A Brief Errata On The Solar System Article

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Bill Sampson pointed out to me two mistakes in my May article regarding the solar electric system at the fellowship. First, the solar system does not work at all when the power goes out, regardless of whether the sun is out. If it sent electricity back to the grid there would be a risk of electrocuting a repairperson. Second, unlike home electricity bills, the fellowship bill is not tiered; in other words, all our electricity costs the same regardless of how much we use. I apologize for not double checking my assumptions. The good news is that the figure I gave you for how much we're producing (50% of our usage) was during the winter and now that the sun is out more we're producing a larger percentage of the power we use. Also, electricity is more expensive during the summer when we produce more.

Karen Holl

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## An Even Briefer Errata On Last Month's Member of the Month

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The Publisher Deeply Regrets that Andrea Webster was Incorrectly Identified as Angela Webster.

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## Adult Owl Class Instructors ???

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After hearing from a half a dozen people who are interested in teaching an Adult OWL ( Our Whole Lives) class next year, we have decided we had better ask for a written, one sheet, application stating why you feel that you would be best qualified to get the UUA training and teach such a course.

Because of budget constraints we will charge a small fee for taking the class and that will pay for the teacher training, which runs about \$150 each. The date has not been confirmed for the training but it will be sometime in the Fall. The Adult class, as well as the children's classes, will be held in the spring.

Applicants, please submit your letter to Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley or to Sylvia Forsyth, DRE by September 1, 2003.

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## September Yard Sale

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The Fellowship's Big Fall Yard Sale is set for Sept. 13 at the usual great location: Broadway at Cayuga in Santa Cruz.

We need a lot of good rummage, i.e., kitchen utensils, dishes, linens, lamps, toys, small furniture. We cannot manage large, heavy items. Jeans, sweaters, and other practical clothing is sellable; most old out-of-date clothing is not.

Please bring your rummage Aug. 24, 31, or Sept. 7 if possible. We can store it in the Bryans Room. If you need to bring it sooner, or need a pick up, please call John Thiemann at 728-9309 for information.

We need help (It's fun!) for 2 or 3-hour shifts on the 13th. We need people with trucks or vans to help with loading on Friday the 12th and for "take-away" on the 13th. Please call Rosalie Kraft at 475-5660 if you can assist.

Remember: This sale is an important part of our 2004 budget.



*Members enjoying the choir perform at the Congregational Dinner*

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## A Report on COPA (“Jeremiah Campaign”)

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Dear friends,

On Sunday June 8, 2003, some twenty-three UU’s from our congregation joined with more than 1,500 other people in Sherwood Hall in Salinas for the founding assembly of the regional, social, and political action organization that is the product of three years of organizing under the rubric of the Jeremiah Campaign, the work of the sponsoring congregations formerly known as CCIS (Central Coast Interfaith Sponsors) of which we have been a part.

The new name of the organization was unveiled: COPA – the initialization of “Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action.”

In my view, and I’m not alone, this was the most significant event in local politics ever witnessed hereabouts.

Mark Rogers and I were commissioned as delegates from our congregation to the COPA leadership committee for purposes of establishing an official organizational framework and constitution, as it were. Others among our fellowship will assume leadership roles in the future.

The following is a letter I wrote after the assembly to the editor of *The Californian*, the Salinas daily newspaper, which I think gives a good sense of the meaning of this:

Dear Editor:

We appreciated your editorial attention concerning the Sunday, June 8 founding assembly of COPA, the political action organization representing our community-based movement for social justice (Wednesday, June 11, “Lord Knows We Could Use More Church Activists.”)

We are comprised of 29 financially committed member congregations of many religious denominations, and 25 more in the process of becoming committed, along with two important non-religious social services organizations. All together, we already directly represent more than 50,000 citizens of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

We are no mere religious group. We are something never before seen in this region. We are a broadly based people's movement dedicated to progressive social and political change.

We are doing God's work, all right, but our objectives are not limited to the purview of the church; our mission is to work toward a democratic transformation of the body politic. In the motto of an earlier era, it is “power to the people” that we are all about.

You wrote in your editorial that “The Salinas-area social, political and economic agenda is set,” and that “We don't need another debate club.”

I'm not sure, to put it in the vernacular, where you're coming

from in saying that, but if you think the “social, political and economic agenda” around here is not about to change, you've got another think coming.

We served notice to that effect unmistakably to the 24 elected officials who were on the stage with us at Sherwood Hall June 8, including Congressman Sam Farr, Assemblyman Simon Salinas, and Mayors Anna Caballero, Emily Reilly, Jerry Smith, and Morrie Fisher.

Here are our words of advice for those who think they are in control of the established order: Stay tuned and pay attention because the political scene in this region is beginning to change. We are COPA, Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action, and “you ain't seen nothin' yet!”

¡Somos COPA! ¡Si, se puede!

Jim Weller

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## Ice Cream for Mary Brooks

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Mary Brooks  
100 N. Rodeo Gulch Road, #115  
Soquel, CA 95073

Dear Mary:

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I anoint Mary “If-it-needs-doing-I'll-do-it” Brooks U-U of the Month for May. There are plenty of us who are ready to give speeches about what ought to be done but you are the one who is always out there pulling weeds, scrubbing the kitchen or doing what needs to be done to keep our institution functioning. Your certificate good for one pint of Ben & Jerry's ice cream is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of  
Santa Cruz County

By

Edward F. Newman, President

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## TGIF

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Thank God/ess It's Friday is a purely social affair held at different host homes on Fridays Between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. No need to call ahead; just drop in and make a small donation for what you eat and drink. This is a good way to meet fellow members and friends.

**July 4**  
NO TGIF

**July 11**  
Woody and Jenny Wood  
at the Vineyard 1111 Jarvis (maps  
available)

**July 18**  
Jesse Lewis/Katrina Martin-Travis  
9012 Soquel Drive. #19  
just south of Aptos village  
Park across the street at Monterrey Food  
Group

**July 25**  
to be announced

**Aug. 1**  
Fred and Eva Seamon  
7171 Mesa Drive Aptos

**Aug. 8**  
Kären Aaker/Bruce Fihe  
441 Ranchitos Del Sol, Aptos

**Aug. 15**  
Jane and Dave Boone  
58 Arbolado, La Selva Beach

**Aug. 22**  
Tom Crahen/Jane Real  
111 Green St. Santa Cruz

**Aug. 29**  
Patricia Keith-Spiegel/Rich Racimora  
3386 Haas Drive, Aptos



Hi, women hikers..... Summer is here! The acacias & narcissus have bloomed, and we 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've had some great turn-outs! If you have a particular walk you'd like to take, please let me know. - Erica Crawford.



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## The First (and Sometimes Second) Friday Book Group

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In July the First Friday Book Group will become, temporarily, the Second Friday Book Group. On the 11th we will meet to talk about Harriet Doer's "Stones for Ibarra."

In August our regular schedule will resume when we discuss "Mrs. Dalloway" created by Virginia Woolf. September's choice is "So Long, See You Tomorrow" by William Maxwell.

The group meets, with rare exception, at 7:30 on the first Friday of each month at Joan Roberts's home. If you have questions please call 688-7598 where you can usually get answers. Everyone is welcome.



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## Member of the Month: Mark Rogers

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I come from a long line of Presbyterian ministers including both of my parents and I like to say that I was raised Unitarian by Presbyterian ministers. What do I mean by that? My parents taught me that what is most important is doing “God’s work – helping to build God’s kingdom on earth” and not just believing and waiting for salvation. Their Christianity is one of being active in the world and trying to live by “God’s grace” and the promise of Jesus, not the letter of the law, biblically speaking. One of my favorite sermons of my father compares fundamentalism’s view of the Bible with playing fetch with our old dog. After you throw the ball and the dog does not see it, you point to the ball hoping the dog will see what direction to go to find the ball. But the dog just sniffs your finger oblivious to what it is pointing at. I am a Unitarian Universalist because I believe that we strive to see what God, Jesus, Buddha, the Earth Mother and many others are pointing at.

My parents also gave me a sense of vocation, of listening for a calling to do “God’s work.” As a boy, I struggled for years to learn to read, eventually learning that I am dyslexic. That experience of struggling to learn to read and eventually succeeding “called me” to become a special education teacher and later a school district administrator.

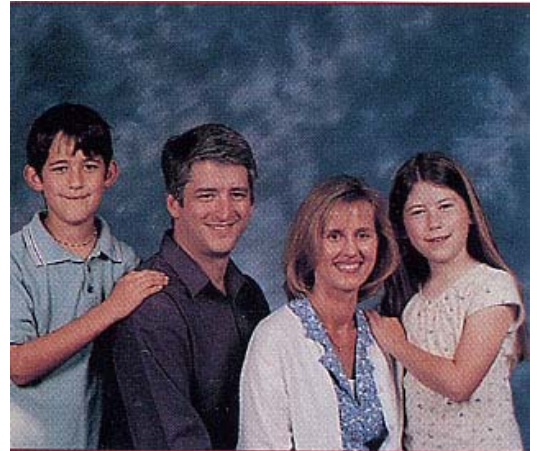
I joined our Fellowship in 1995 when my children Bryce and Hannah were five and three years old. They taught me (from RE) that we Unitarians “have open minds, loving hearts and helping hands,” you can’t beat that. I met my wife Cindy a couple of years later and found out that she had attended the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Monterey. It was a match made in Unitarian heaven – well specifically it was made in the fellowship sanctuary where we were married.

The Fellowship means a lot to our family. It was members of the Fellowship that helped fund our work in Brazil in the summer of 2000 when we went on a work study project in Northeast Brazil where we helped members of an Ecumenical seminary, mostly poor and mostly Afro-Brazilian, build a community center in a poor neighborhood. We returned in the summer of 2002 to continue the work and study (and playing and dancing). We appreciated the help of the Fellowship in that effort.

Through our involvement in our Fellowship we have had the great opportunity as well to be involved with COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action). COPA was known as CCIS and The Jeremiah Campaign while it was still being organized. Now it is a self-sustaining member organization of over 30 religious institutions, non-profits and unions. Our work with COPA gives us a chance to live out our Unitarian Universalist principles. The principles of “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all” and “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process” are

a central focus of COPA; it is communities organizing to work for social justice within our democracy. And the principles of “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” and “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations” are lived by working side-by-side with Anglos, Latinos, and African Americans, with doctors, teachers, farm workers and house cleaners, with Christians, Jews and non-religious people. We appreciate the members of our fellowship joining in this work and I look forward to what the new year will bring.

In the coming year I also look forward to serving the Fellowship as Vice-President and working with new board president, Kären Aaker. And I look forward to continuing to attend the bi-weekly meetings of the men’s group.



*Mark Rogers and family - Bryce, Mark, Cindy and Hannah.*

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## Baseball & Fireworks

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End the summer with a bang! Andy Kreyche is organizing a group to attend the Oakland A's game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Saturday, August 30th at 6pm. The game will be immediately followed by a fireworks show. Please call Andy as soon as possible if you are at all interested. A commitment to attend won't be required until mid-August.

Andy Kreyche: 429-1032

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## September Yard Sale

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The Fellowship's Big Fall Yard Sale is set for, Sept. 13, at the usual great location: Broadway at Cayuga in Santa Cruz.

See the details inside!

### ALL FELLOWSHIP BARBECUE Sunday July 6, after the service

Hospitality will provide hamburgers, garden burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and beverages. Please bring salads and desserts. We will need volunteers to help barbecue and barbecue burners.

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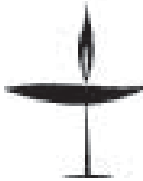
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**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Santa Cruz County  
6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos, CA 95003**

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