



THE UNICORN

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

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February 2004

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My drop in hours are Wed. 12-4pm. Please call me to make an appointment if these hours are not convenient for you. Friday is my day off. I ask that you do not call on Friday or after 9pm unless you have a building or pastoral emergency.

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The UNICORN

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February Sunday Services

- Feb 1** **10:00am: Beyond our Reckoning** - Rev. Gary James, minister at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Illinois (and brother of Randy), will speak. "This sacred time is not about convenience or inconvenience; it isn't about meeting deadlines. It isn't about you (or anyone else) being in control. This sacred time is about learning to trust the eddies and shoals of the River. It is about mystery."-Balfour Mount
Potluck follows the service
Congregational Workshop follows the potluck
- Feb 8** **9:00am: Forum: Election 2004 - Where do you stand? Part 1**
10:00am: The Living Tradition- As a denomination with no creed, it is the Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism that unite us in our diversity. We invite our members to bring a friend to the service as we explore these values and how they can shape our religious lives.
Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
- Feb 15** **10:00am: How We Met-** Join us as members of our Fellowship tell their stories of meeting one another in friendship and love.
Service Associate: Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
- Feb 22** **9:00am: Forum: Election 2004 - Part 2**
10:00am: To Speak the Truth in Love- The last in our series of sermons on Covenant of Right Relation will focus on the power of such a covenant to change how we move and have our being in the world. The Committee on Ministry will host small group meetings following the service so everyone can have input into the creation of a covenant.
Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
Discussion on Covenant of Right Relations follows the service
- Feb 29** **10:00am: To Be Announced**

Langston-Daley Thoughts

First off I'd like to thank Art Anton for correcting me on an error I made during my sermon of January 11 on Rev. Thomas Starr King. In that sermon I stated that California had seceded from the Union along with the 6 southern states. After rereading the material, I discovered that although California was close to secession, they never actually made such a declaration. Thanks Art! I apologize for the error.



Also, I would like to extend a special thank you to the Committee on Ministry for hosting the congregational conversation on *The Health of Our Spiritual Leadership*. The conversation centered on my separation with V and provided those who attended an opportunity to share their feelings and thoughts about how the Fellowship has been and is currently being affected.

I appreciated the thoughtful comments and reflections that members offered in this discussion. I have always understood that this decision might cause a number of people great discomfort. Both V and I have been working hard to make this transition work well for us, for Parker and for all of you. There are few models for what we attempting to do, and our love for each other based on 13 years of marriage is still very strong. We remain supportive of each other and committed to raising Parker together.

I am happy to talk with anyone who has questions or concerns regarding this transition.

We are both looking forward to moving into the new house, which again has been delayed. I believe that the best way for us to respond to concerns, voiced and unvoiced, is to continue to show through our actions that our caring for one another has changed but has not diminished.

This Fellowship is a home to many families, including my own, and we plan to remain active here for years to come. The love and caring of so many has meant a great deal to us in the past 6 years. This love was expressed to us by the Board of Trustees and the members of the congregation when extending Compassionate Leave to V and me last year. We are both convinced that without your generosity, V would not have survived. Those two months leave (plus 3 months part-time) came at a crucial time in V's illness.

This Fellowship has endured difficult situations in the past, and I know that in the past 6 years you have all worked hard to bring health and stability to the life of this congregation. That work was evident at our conversation on the 11th. You are a strong congregation, full of compassion, and love. Your vision is evident in the way you have embraced us and one another.

V's health continues to improve, and we are hopeful that a full remission is in the future.

We both recognize and appreciate the support that you have shown us in this time of transition.

Shanti,

Board Notes

These are the items the Board voted on at the 12/18/03 meeting:

- Approved hiring Fran Gertler as Office Manager.
- Approved the new charter of the Adult Faith Development Committee.
- Accepted the schedule for new non-member facility rental fees proposed by the Finance Committee with the recommendation that the issue of providing a security presence during events be addressed ASAP.
- Requested the Finance Committee put together a new policy with guidelines for rentals.

These are the items the Board voted on at the 1/15/04 meeting:

- Approved creation of an Art Committee to select, acquire and hang artwork in the Sanctuary and the Gallery.
- Adopted the authorization resolution authorizing Karen Aaker, President, and Scott Young, Treasurer, to sign escrow instructions and relevant documents on behalf of the Fellowship for the loan of \$100,000 to the Minister to assist in purchasing a home.
- Approved the use of up to \$10,000 from Elsie Hermann's bequest to the Fellowship to purchase new chairs.

PCD is on the Web!

Come visit us at: www.pcd-uaa.org for all of the latest information on District Assembly!

This year's District Assembly is being hosted by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland and will be held at the Oakland Marriott City Center on April 2-4, 2004.

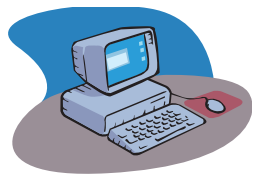
District Assembly features the Friday Banner Parade and Opening Worship with the Rev. Lindi Ramsden (Director, CA UU Legislative Ministry), Saturday Keynote Speech by the Rev. Robert M. Hardies from All-Souls Church in Washington, D.C. and Sunday's Service of Our Living Tradition with the Revs. Kathy Huff and Cinnamon Daniel (First Unitarian Church of Oakland).

District Assembly also features a chance to join with 400 Festive and Feisty UUs from northern California, Hawai'i and northern Nevada at the Awards Breakfast, 20 different workshops (morning and afternoon), the PCD Annual Meeting, the PCD Banquet, dancing, networking, laughing and more!

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! We will have programs for Nursery / Preschool (6 mos. to 5 years), Childcare Friday and Saturday evenings (6-12 yrs), Chalice Camp on Saturday (6-12 yrs), teen activities, YRUU and programs for Young Adults.

The Publicity / Registration Packet will be mailed out to individuals and congregations **THIS WEEK!** Please look for **YOUR** packet then! If you do not receive a registration packet at home, please inquire with your congregation's office.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Chuck Rosene at the PCD office: (510) 601-1437 or pcd@pcd-uaa.org.



President's Letter



By the time this Unicorn is distributed we will have had the dedication of our refurbished Sanctuary. Soon we will be selecting new chairs, and we have a new art committee to oversee the art that will be displayed. The dedicated people who have worked to accomplish all of this are appreciated and deserve the recognition we give them.

But, we are not done. We now have to pull together to move forward with programs to nourish our minds and spirits, to bring the message of UUism to our wider community, and to fulfill our covenant, "to promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." This seems to me to require that we renew our commitment to support our Fellowship – both financially and by participating in our activities and committees as part of our shared ministry.

It also means staying connected. We stay connected primarily by listening and taking seriously what people say. Steven Covey, author of "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" writes, "Seek first to understand, then to be understood.... Too often we begin by talking instead of listening. Our cultural training is such that even when we do listen it tends to be limited to searching for the information needed to shape our next response." We can take a lesson from the COPA telling of our stories example.

I see the community building sessions held by the Committee on Ministry as exemplifying healthy listening and open responses. As Gil Rendle of the Alban Institute writes in "The Illusion of Congregational Happiness",

In a seeming paradox, efforts to "fix" congregations actually bring an end to complaints less often than they create opportunities for additional and competing complaints... many leaders of Congregations are (now) more appropriately trying to manage differences and make decisions based on defined goals.

Let's all resolve to continue to build our Fellowship community this year. Hint: There is need for people on a number of committees right now!

See you all at the Pizza Party on the 24th, and don't forget to ask your neighbors and friends to join us!

In Faith,

Kären

In Memoriam: Elsie Herman

Elsie Herman, who joined our Fellowship in 1972, died December 11 at her residence in Sunshine Villa in Santa Cruz, where she had lived for many years. She was 86 years old.

Elsie was born in Germany. She and her brother were orphaned at an early age. Their father, an American, had married a German woman. During her teen years, Elsie attended high school in Ohio, while living with a cousin's family. Later she lived in Chicago and earned a university degree.

Elsie moved to Santa Cruz in the early 1970s with her husband, Dr. Robert Herman, a noted professor of mathematics. They were divorced a few years later. Elsie taught for several years, including ESL at Cabrillo College. She traveled extensively.

Elsie is survived by her cousin, Richard Bechtolt, who lives in Arizona. As executor of her estate, he has informed us that Elsie had bequeathed the Fellowship sizable funds, in addition to a number of personal possessions.

No Dinner Club in February

There will be no dinner club in February. All are urged to attend the pizza party and auction on February 21st at the Fellowship.

Unicorn Deadline

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



ANNUAL PIZZA AUCTION TIME IS HERE!

Eight delicious dinners have been donated so far to our Feb. 21 Annual Family Auction and Pizza Party. They are French, Hawaiian Barbecue, Japanese, Southern "Peel and Eat Shrimp," Persian, Scott's Famous Ribs, and two to-be-announced Aaker-Fihe and Boone-Forsyth dinners.

Attendees may sign up for seats at only one dinner before 7 p.m. After that, additional signups are ok.

Auctioneers John Barker and Tricia Keith-Spiegel will have many special items to offer in the live auction, including two new ones: a time-share weekend in a S.F. studio apartment and a bed and breakfast weekend in San Diego (including tickets to the San Diego Zoo and a guided tour of San Diego, if desired).

Doors open at 6:00p.m. for the affair. Silent Auction and Pizza Dinner continue until 7:30 when the Live Auction begins. Donations of items and services are still welcome and help for the evening is still needed. Call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660, for information.



Women Walkers meets the first Sunday of every month after the service and a group of 2-? women go for a walk or hike somewhere in the vicinity. If there is a potluck we usually stay for that and if not we bring snacks and sandwiches for our own picnic before the exercise.

Women Walkers for February: since there is a Member's meeting following the service on the 1st Sunday Women Walkers will go on a short walk if there is time after the meeting.



A finished wall...

Meet Our New Members

Brad Trusso

He likes movies, plays, and walking on the beach. He also likes to read, do strategy games, and play the piano. Both of his parents had a close relative who was a minister or a priest which caused them to resent religious pressure. He developed his own beliefs, blending a little Quaker, Buddhist and nature based ideas. He learned about UUs on the internet about nine years ago and joined our Fellowship along with his wife, Linda Milgate. After 24 years as a programmer, he had his fill of Silicon Valley and moved to Santa Cruz. Now he does tutoring as a volunteer and can share that skill, tutoring in math, for the Fellowship. He is also handy with a paint brush. He enjoys reading science fiction, history, philosophy and authors such as Harry Turtledove, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, and the Dalai Lama.

Linda Milgate

She has wonderful family members living at her home: along with husband, Brad, there are two cats and one old dog who is fourteen years old! She also likes to walk along the beach, go to movies, and attend plays. She belongs to the Sierra Club and the Democratic Women's Club. She enjoys reading the poetry of Mary Oliver and also works by the Sufi poet, Hafez. For pure escape she reads mystery novels of Ann Perry, Alexander McCall Smith and George Simenon (although he is not P.C.) She was raised as a Methodist, but branched out to Eastern religions and believes in the "Force" from Star Wars. She also believes there are many paths to the eternal. She plans to tutor at Golden Torch and has worked and volunteered with at-risk groups as a job counselor and reading tutor. She enjoys putting their newsletter together. She met her husband Brad at the San Jose UU Church 9 years ago, and they have been married for seven years.

February Congregational Workshop

There will be a Congregational gathering on Sunday, February 1, 2004 after the service to set the goals for 2004-5. Please contact any Board member with your suggestions. We're looking for input from all the committees on this as well.

This workshop will be led by our PCD growth consultant, Michelle Favrault. We encourage anyone to suggest goals to the Board or bring them to the gathering. We expect this to last about an hour and a half, and child care will be provided.

First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group faces 2004 quite well organized, at least through April (when we will be worrying about taxes instead of books). February's selection is "A Lesson Before Dying" by Gaines; March it's "Ethnic America" by Sowell; and in April we'll be reading "I Heard the Owl Call my Name" whose author is Margaret Craven.

Won't you join us? We meet the first Friday of each month at 7:30 at Joan Roberts's home. Call 688-7598 for more information.

Loaves and Fishes

Volunteers are needed to feed the homeless on Sunday early evenings. Please contact Gene Stevens at 475-4674, 600 Park Ave, Apt 11A, Capitola, CA.

We need "backups" (substitutes).

Feb 1 Paxine Wylde
& Gail

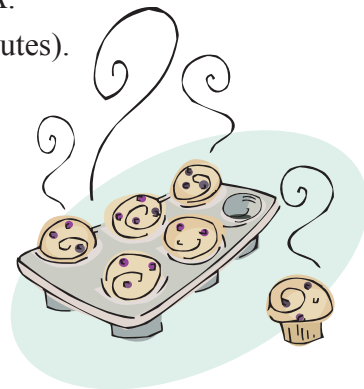
Feb 8 Sylvia Forsyth

Feb 15 Tom Chahen

Feb 22 Rogers Family

Feb 29 Kären Aaker

Bruce Fihe



New Office Manager

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has hired Fran Gertler as our new office manager. She says she is "looking forward to serving the Fellowship." Fran comes to us with a great deal of experience and a strong commitment to our Fellowship. Fran will continue the office hours previously established: Monday through Thursday 9:00AM- 12:45 PM. You are welcome to call and leave a message at other times. I ask that you please respect Fran's personal time and make administrative requests only during office hours.

- Rev. Pam

Developing "Right Relations" In Our Community

The Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry, in consultation with our pastor, have been exploring a question basic to our Fellowship. What can we do to expand, bolster, root, and deepen our experience of community? A number of UU congregations have chosen to create a Covenant of Right Relations to support this quest for fellowship. In that spirit, we have decided to explore the possibility of developing such a Covenant here.

Time and time again, when we ask our members what they want most from attending the UUFSCC, the answer is "community." This in turn gives rise to the next obvious question. What is to distinguish our community? There are any number of clubs, organizations, committees, coalitions, and other kinds of groups to join. What is special about our congregation? Yes, we are a religious community, one that is based not on a creed, but on our founding principles. While it is easy to look in the front of the hymnal and read those inspiring principles, it is not always easy to know how to put them into practice as we interact with one another.

Adopting a set of agreements to support the shared enterprise of building a strong and healthy kinship is nothing less than an opportunity to craft the language that will guide our interactions. Now is the time to imagine the spiritual family for which we long. How would we speak to one another? How would we deal with disagreement and conflict? How would we bring into being an organizational culture whose very existence would be a springboard for personal and social transformation?

We will have a service on Feb 22 dedicated to these very questions. There will be time to gather in small groups for discussion and for beginning to wordsmith our covenant. As part of the process, we will make available sample covenants that have been developed by other congregations. The members of the Committee on Ministry look forward to engaging in this process with you. We may or may not choose to name ours a "Covenant of Right Relations." We may or may not include statements that other congregations have chosen. Whatever language we come up with, it will take time and practice to live up to a new set of agreements. In the end, may we find ourselves held fast by the roots of our shared values and set free by the wings of love put into practice.



*...a
carpeted
floor...*

ADULT ED. SURVEY DUE FEBRUARY 1st!!

The Adult Faith Development Committee (AFD), formerly called Adult Religious Education, has mailed to members and friends a survey of possible courses to be offered in the near future. The committee needs to know which offerings are of greatest interest to you and which ones you would want to participate in so that they can be sure to present an offering in the spring, fall (of 04), and winter (of 05) which meets your needs. Please be sure to return your completed survey to the Fellowship office by February 1 (but we will certainly accept late surveys as well!!) We will announce the results in March.

The ADF committee members are Dianne Alexander, Marsha Hudson, Iran Mohsenin, Patt Taylor, and Andrea Webster. Please contact any one of them with comments or questions.

Fellowship Dreamwork Group

Come to a meeting of the Fellowship dreamwork group and find out how your dreams can help solve problems, contribute to personal growth, deepen spiritual growth, and strengthen community. The dreamwork group that meets on the first and third Wednesday nights at 7:30 at the Fellowship has been ongoing since October and has space for more participants. Following a process developed by Jeremy Taylor, a UU Minister and well-known dreamworker, someone tells a dream and other group members respond to its images and levels of meaning from their own unique experience and knowledge, resulting in a rich tapestry of insights. If you have difficulty recalling your own dreams, the group has tips on how to increase recall. Call the facilitator, Marsha Hudson, for more information.

CUUPS: The 6th source and the 7th Principal [Covenant of Unitarian Universalist PaganS]

February sees the harkening of spring and the festival of Imbolc. The seeds are stirring in the dark cold ground and we are offered promise, potential and new beginnings. The goddess Brighid [Brigit] is the matron of poetry, healing, and smith craft and the mother of memory, who reminds us of the original, divine, protective motherhood that promotes the individuality of our power and fans its flame to quickening life.

Adapted from Celtic Spirit, Caitlin Matthews

CUUPS would like to proudly announce the result of our Human-I-Tee's fundraiser: \$165 goes into the general fund. [Not bad considering minimal participation.] Perhaps in a few years we'll give it a go again and make even more money for the Fellowship.

At this time I would like to call a meeting for CUUPS members and friends to discuss the next few months of activities. Please contact me at terracollieryoung@yahoo.com or 462-4995 if you are interested.

Many Blessings and Great Hope for 2004, Terra



...and a "real" ceiling?

Member of the Month: Fran S. Gertler

Born in Brooklyn, NY 55 years ago to parents who should not have had children, I, the youngest of three, was routinely beaten by my mother, emotionally abused and deprived of affection by both parents while growing angry and rebellious through adolescence and into my 30s.

Change arrived when I visited the Grand Canyon in my early 30s. Until then, I would not believe in God, thinking God was cruel, thereby ignoring the existence of this horrible entity. Upon seeing the magnificence of the Canyon, I literally fell to my knees and proclaimed, "There is a God, because man could not create something as beautiful and awesome as this."

From that moment on, I began a journey of discovery into spirituality. I read as much as I could while practicing bringing light into the darkness of my soul.

Drugs, sex and disco were replaced by meditation, yoga and self exploration workshops.

Through the years, my greatest learning experience was that of compassion and forgiveness. I began with my parents. Then the biggest challenge arrived -- that of having compassion and forgiveness for myself. Today, I still have many opportunities to continue this practice and I suspect this will be a lifetime discipline.

Learning to love myself unconditionally and love others as I love myself, led me to believe we are all one: one with everything, one with the universe.

It is my greatest joy today to be able to teach what I've learned about compassion and forgiveness by not only living the practice, but also offering workshops for others to learn this process and integrate it into their lives.

I find some religions intolerant of differences. I find other religions demanding in their practices. In the UU community, I believe tolerance and growth are not only parts of our creed, but are also earnestly practiced by the majority of our Fellowship.

UU is the forum I choose to continue to grow within. I am happy to be a member as well as a volunteer member on our Sunday Service Committee. I am also happy to be in service to the Fellowship as our office manager.



**FIRST
SUNDAY POTLUCK**
after the Service on Feb. 1.

Bring a dish that you would prepare for someone you LOVE! As always, we need volunteers to set up and clean up so if you haven't volunteered before, now is your chance.

SAVE the DATES:

Saturday, **Feb. 21**, 6 p.m. is the time for our **Annual GALA Family Pizza Party and Auction.**

and

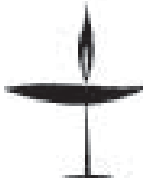
Sunday, **Feb. 22**, after service for discussion on **Convenant of Right Relations**

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To renew, send \$12 to the Fellowship—or join us and receive it as a membership benefit.

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