



THE UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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March 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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March Sunday Services

- Feb 29 10:00am: Gender Balance in the International Criminal Court.** This morning Doris Earnshaw, retired UC Davis professor and publisher of the Alta Vista Press, will be with us to discuss the U.N.criminal court, with a focus on the powerful women appointed and how this will shape the future.
Service Associate: Marsha Hudson
- March 7 10:00am: Separate But Equal?-** San Francisco recently performed several hundred same sex marriages. How will this impact heterosexual marriage? What's the difference between civil unions and marriage? With the issue heating up, we'll talk today about the impact of the San Francisco decision and the recent Massachusetts state law.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
Potluck follows the service
- March 14 9:00am: Forum: Pop culture - who cares?**
10:00am: Taking the One Seat- Buddhist meditation is a common practice for many and Jack Kornfield, author of *A Path With Heart*, offers simple suggestions for getting started. Today we will explore basic techniques and benefits of Taking the One Seat.
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley
- March 21 10:00am: It's a Just War – Oxymoron or Moral Criterion?** Commemorating the first anniversary of the U.S. Wehrmacht's invasion of Iraq, Jim Weller will present a critical analysis for our times. Expect a demanding assertion of objective morality toward a "just peace" theory, the Cheney-Bush junta's mockeries of justice notwithstanding.
- March 28 9:00am: Forum: All you ever wanted to say about love.**
10:00am: Fear and Loathing in America- The current national administration has effectively used fear as a tool for keeping Americans in line. With terrorism looming in the background, how dangerous are things really? Is the culture fear one that we can accept? Is Michael Moore, of *Bowling for Columbine* fame, right?
Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley

Langston-Daley Thoughts

As the saying goes, may you live in interesting times. Something big is happening in America. With the ruling in Massachusetts that equal protection under the law means that gay couples can marry, and the recent action in San Francisco, gay couples have been given hope.



It remains to be seen if Americans are willing to support civil rights of all people. This month I will be offering a sermon on the issue of gay marriage and its implications. I hope that many of you will be willing to engage in this conversation and its impact on the coming national election.

Mayor Newsom's actions have raised the bar and forced the conversation to a higher pitch. I suspect that many of our assumptions will be challenged, as well as our definitions and ideas of marriage. As V and I work out our transition, it is clear to us the discrepancies and difficulties of not having the same rights as heterosexual couples. (I'll say more about this at the March 7th service.)

Religious institutions have an investment in this issue and ours is one that needs to be voiced. Equity and justice is central to the civil rights and equal protection of all people. On April 2-4 in Oakland, the Pacific Central District will be holding its annual District Assembly with the theme of Turn the World Around: Committing ourselves to Change, Challenge and Growth. This event will provide workshops, lectures and worship, as well as just plain fun. Each year we gather to talk, share our stories and network with people from other congregations in our district in order to galvanize our voice as a movement.

With the elections coming and the issue of gay marriage in the forefront, this year's event will prove to be an important gathering place for us as we discern for ourselves, our district and our denomination what we stand for and how we will articulate that stance. I hope that many of you will attend District Assembly this year and add your voice to the chorus that sings for justice, equity and compassion in the world.

Flyers and registration forms are available in the office for those interested in attending.

Shanti,

Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 4, after the service

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and trustees for approval by the membership at the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 4. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The highest number of votes shall determine the choice of candidates.

The slate should be available in an upcoming Sunday bulletin.

Input for Changes to the Bylaws

Members will have an opportunity to discuss proposed changes to the UUFSCC Bylaws after the Sunday service on March 21. The Ad Hoc Committee on By Laws will incorporate recommendations from this discussion into the By Laws for approval at the congregational meeting April 4.

Input for the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee would appreciate any suggestions for officers and trustees. Please contact Jenny Wood at JJChoate@aol.com.

No "What the Board has been Doing" This Month...

Since the Board meets after the Unicorn deadline, we'll be reporting on the Board activities in next month's issue

**The Spring Conference of the
Unitarian Universalist
Community Ministry Center**

**Friday, March 5 to Sunday, March 7,
2004**

**First Unitarian Universalist Society of
San Francisco**

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA

The conference "Healing from Oppression: Interpersonal, Identity-based and Political" will bring together community ministers, parish ministers, divinity students and lay people of conscience to explore the many different kinds of oppression - their similarities and differences - and how we can work to help victims heal from the trauma of oppression. Conference participants will address the root causes of various forms of oppression and share and build strategies for social change. On Friday we will focus on interpersonal oppression; on Saturday, identity-based oppression; and on Sunday, political oppression and social change.

Conference moderator is Dr. Selena Sermeño originally from El Salvador, a licensed clinical psychologist and renowned human rights activist with expertise in all forms of oppression. Featured presenter is Dr. Charlie Clements, President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and celebrated international human rights activist. Seven talented Community Ministers will present workshops on various kinds of oppression. As a gathered community we will explore how we can help bring about social change so we may move towards a world of peace.

The conference is cosponsored by the Society for the Larger Ministry (SLM), UUMA Community Minister focus group, and the UU Service Committee (UUSC).

For further information on the conference and registration please contact Margi McCue at mccue@pdx.edu or 503-381-1170.

You can also find the registration form and conference information, including a list of workshops, at: www.pcd-uua.org!



President's Letter

What a perfect day! Our dedication, or our re-dedication if you like, of our building was a joy for me and I believe for everyone who participated, and that's everyone who was there. There are many who deserve thanks for their help and contributions in making this a truly memorable celebration - too many to enumerate here. The honoring of our Building Committee and our benefactor, Dee Abrams, were reminders that our members are at the heart of the Fellowship.

Enclosed in this Unicorn is a composite photo of the Dedication. I enjoyed putting it together even though, due to space constraints, there were many photos that weren't included. Bruce's eagerness to get shots of everything was great. I will have prints of all available for the bulletin board later as well as posting them on Ofoto.com. Let me know if you want to get connected to their website. Do any of you other shutterbugs out there have additional photos to share with us?

Look for some superb art to grace the Sanctuary walls in the near future. The pieces will be changed at regular intervals. Our new Art Committee is hard at work to make it happen. Along with new chairs, the Sanctuary will be a welcoming place.

We have a less happy task confronting us now. Our income is seriously under-budget and the Board will be dealing with finding ways to remedy a projected shortfall of significant proportions. It is important that we maintain our pledges and perhaps look for more sources. Your input to the Finance Committee and Board is welcomed.

In addition to the upcoming member canvass and budgeting cycle for 2004-05, we have a lot ahead of us: new congregational goals to refine, a Bylaws revision, General Assembly in Long Beach, and a new covenant to develop. I invite everyone to take an active part in addressing these tasks and growing our fellowship together.

In faith,

Kären

BALLROOM DANCING

The Waltz

Singles Group of UUFSCC

Who: Current UUFSC single members AND any friends you have who are single. Please invite them to join us.

What: The monthly Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County Singles group. Enjoy the elegance of the Palomar Ballroom, while brushing up on your waltz, instructor led beginners class at 7:30 PM Intermediate class at 8:15 P.M. The waltz ballroom dance party at 9:00 P.M. until 10 P.M.

Cost: It is \$10.00 for the entire evening. This includes all classes and dance party.

Where:
Palomar Inn
1344 Pacific Avenue
For directions please call 426-1221
Or visit www.palomarballroom.com

When: Saturday, February 28, 2004
7:30 PM until 10:00 PM

Why: For lots of fun with great people.

Questions? Call Jodi Holden at 831.722.9700



Loaves and Fishes

There is a new coordinator of the ISSP Program- Sally Real 426-6979- who will take over starting in April. Congratulations and gratitude to Gene Stevens who did such a fabulous job of signing people up to feed the homeless. He has all slots filled through early June except for 30 May (anyone interested?).

March 7 Stephen & Annastasi Morairty

March 14 Jan Shirchild and Deanne Pernell

March 21 Molly Matthews

March 28 Eve and Fred Seamon

Any questions or desire to sign up, please contact Susie Shane (423-9725).



All Ages Community Service Event - Dune Restoration At Sunset Beach

Join us Sunday March 14th to help remove non-native dune beach grass at Sunset State Beach to help restore native flora and fauna. We'll head over after service and share a picnic lunch. We'll work from 12:30-1:30. For more information or to sign up contact Karen Holl - kholl@ucsc.edu, 336-5224

Unicorn Deadline

The deadline for April is March 21st.



Please place articles in the Unicorn office folder or email them to the editor by that date.

Please email computer text and photos. Thanks.

First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group will be getting serious in March when we will tackle Sowell's "Ethnic America." Then on to Margaret Craven's "I Heard the Owl Call My Name" in April. For May it will be "The Story of My Father" which was written by Sue Miller.

The First Friday Book Group meets on the first Friday of each month. When else? We meet at Joan Roberts's home at 7:30. Our lively discussions are followed by coffee, wine and other refreshments. All are welcome. If you need more information please call 688-7598.



Spring is coming!! Join women walkers after the service on March 7th, April 4th and May 2nd for some exercise, good company and flower sightings. We leave after the potluck if there is one, otherwise bring snacks, meet in the parking lot and we'll decide on a good place to walk that day.

Caring Committee at Work



Notice the bricks in this photo? This is proof that the Caring Connection Board works! Thanks to Judy Anton's OFFER of an unsightly pile of bricks, Dianne Alexander gratefully accepted them to create a nice retaining wall for her garden.



“EVENSONG” in April and May

The Adult Faith Development Course surveys are in and “Evensong” received the most votes. Thank you all for responding to our request. Beginning in April, we will offer EVENSONG. This is a series of gatherings that will concentrate on helping the participants grow closer through personal sharing and deep listening. Materials include orders of service, songs and readings for eight celebrations on different topics. The eight class sessions will begin Sunday, April 4 and end on Sunday, May 23. The class will meet at the UU Fellowship in the gallery from 1 to 3 PM. The cost for the eight sessions is \$25. Interested individuals should register by calling the office and sending their checks to the Fellowship with Evensong on the bottom of the check. The deadline to register is March 31st. Any questions, call Marsha Hudson at 425-8167.



DINNER CLUB FOR MARCH

Dinner Club is usually held the second Saturday of the month but if this is not convenient, the host and guests can choose another more convenient time. Remember, first on the list is host, second brings main dish, third brings salad and vegetable, and fourth brings dessert. If there is a fifth, that guest can bring a vegetable or host's choice.

Group 1

- 1 Keith-Spiegel/Racimora
- 2 Crahen-Real
- 3 Holden
- 4 Hinz/Killeen
- 5 Witz

Group 2

- 1 Boone
- 2 Aaker/Fihe
- 3 Farhi/Humphrey
- 4 Smith/Merrill

Group 3

- 1 Hoernschemeyer/McVeigh
- 2 Lamb
- 3 Thiemann
- 4 Anton

Group 4

- 1 Dupree/Makalani
- 2 Milgate/Trusso
- 3 James/McCrow
- 4 Alexander/Bailey

Group 5

- 1 Hudson/Shackelford
- 2 Kane
- 3 Seamon
4. Newman

Group 6

- 1 Wilson
- 2 Wood
- 3 Rogers
- 4 Oxley/Newfarmer

Group 7

- 1 Ratcliffe
- 2 Frosyth
- 3 Collier-Young
- 4 Mohsenin

Substitutes Haddad, Franseth, Rost
Crawford

Annual UU Summer Gathering at Stebbins Coming This July

The Stebbins Summer Gathering will meet at Asilomar, CA from July 1-6, 2004. This year our program is especially rich. Stebbins is a workshop-based gathering; we will have a few new workshops and a few old favorites. In addition, Jeremy Taylor will serve as chaplain and will lead a pair of two-hour dream workshops daily. We are also excited that Gary Schaub will present a series of Monterey area tours..

Stebbins follows General Assembly (in Long Beach, CA) by a couple of days. The Stebbins Executive Committee is working to encourage GA attendees to extend their California visit to include Stebbins.

The brochure describing our program in detail and the registration form are now available. If you haven't yet received one or they aren't readily available at your congregation, you can get one by reaching registrar Judy LeBlanc by phone (510-234-3524) or e-mail (DJLeBlanc212@aol.com). You can download the registration form, but not yet the brochure, from our website (www.serve.com/stebbins/). You can also talk to UUFSCC member Helen Oxley at 477-0998. Helen loves going to Stebbins every summer and will be there again this year!

Please come. The site is breathtaking, the people are warm and welcoming and the program is rich.

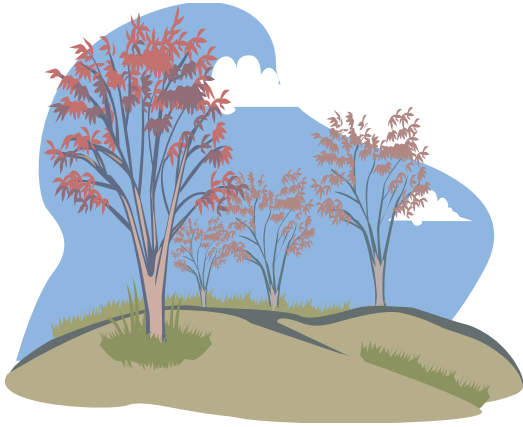
It is possible with our exciting program and our hoped-for GA connection that registration will close early.

For the Stebbins Executive Committee,
Dick LeBlanc, dean
(510) 234-3524
(DJLeBlanc212@aol.com)



CUUPS: the 6th Source and 7th Principle

March gives us proof that spring has really arrived. The themes this month include observation and sensitivity to subtle messages, spring cleaning and restoring, tribal and individual consciousness, constancy and change, power and its abuses, public service, creative fire. (From "The Celtic Spirit")



Greetings all! The time has come for CUUPS to hold a planning meeting and the date will be Sat. March 13th at 12:30 in the afternoon. Please RSVP at terracollieryoung@yahoo.com or 462-4995. We have many fun, and sacred, events to work on so let's get together and make it happen!

Peace and Blessings,
Terra Collier-Young



Laura Helgren

Laura Helgren - Friend of the Month

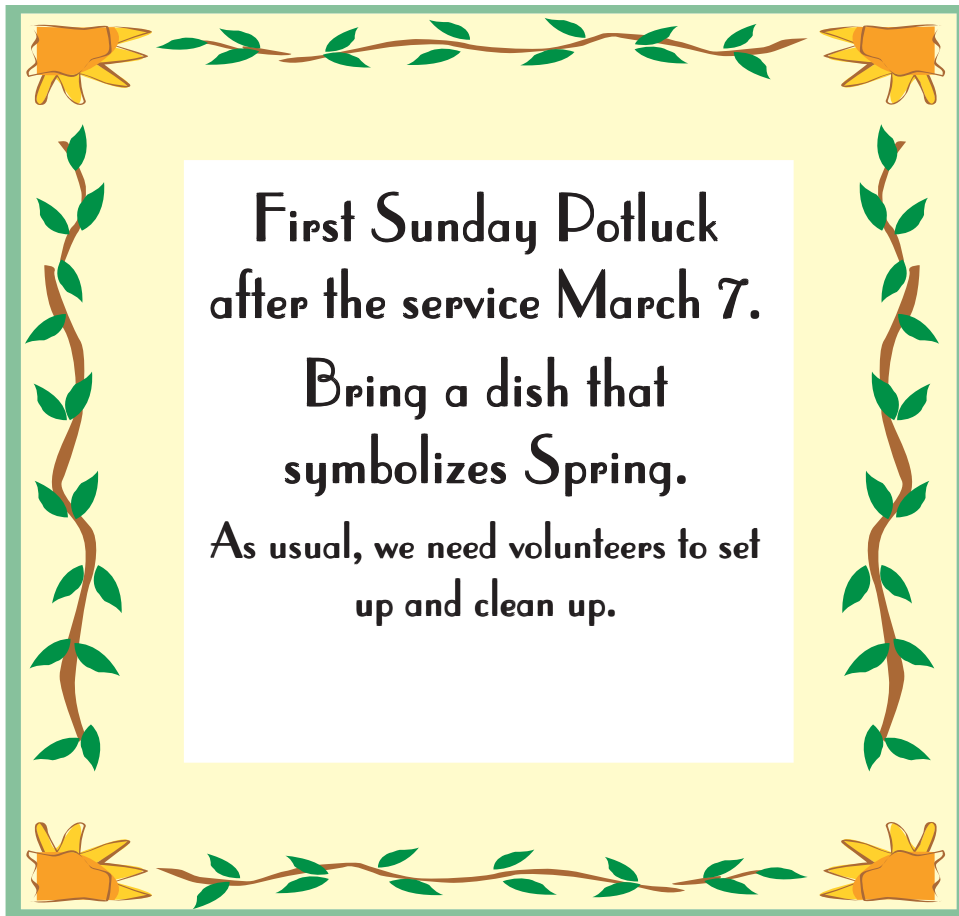
"How did you get here?" Well, good question. My background would never suggest that I would ever end up at UUFSCC, but I did. I was born on a Sunday and forever after every Sunday morning was spent in Christian Sunday school and church services. My parents were (and still are) devoted to each other and to raising their four children with the values and integrity of the Christian faith. We grew up in a lovely suburb of Chicago, where my parents still reside. There was never any question but that we would all go to college and I chose to follow in the tradition of my parents and my grandmother and attend North Park College in Chicago. A liberal arts major in Psychology and Music were supposed to lead to a MRS. Degree. The only degrees they were handing out for my studies were B.A.'s, so I got one of those.

Still trying to find my way in a true vocation a year after graduation, I enrolled in the Masters program for Christian Education. Two years later I graduated and moved forward in serving the Evangelical Covenant church as a Minister of Youth, Education and Music. As you well know, the length of your job title is in direct proportion to your status and your duty roster. Therefore, I always had plenty to do. After serving two churches in the mid-west I was called to join the staff of the local Scotts Valley congregation for the denomination. I have been in Santa Cruz county ever since.

I served on the staff for six years and during that time was moved to face my true identity. I fell in love. Because I fell in love with a woman, I could no longer serve the faith I grew up in and found that I didn't want to keep my identity from my immediate family. I left the service of that church and sought a spiritual path that would allow expression of my true self and still fulfill my longing to remain in a faith community. My experiences with the Gay and Lesbian Chorus of Santa Cruz led me to the UUFSCC Fellowship for Pastor Pam's Installation, and I have been attending ever since.

You may not have seen me lately because my travel job took me to Manila, Philippines for over seven months during 2003. When I returned in November, I was relieved of my position as an agent trainer and have been looking for new work, not travel related, ever since. Because my family, my friends and my faith are very important to me, having a place to combine them has been something wonderful that I thought might never be possible.

Finding the joy and inspiration of a loving, caring and spiritual community has made my seventeen years in Santa Cruz some of the most fulfilling and enriching of my life. I thank you for the opportunity to meet new and exciting people and to share in the love and joyfulness that is UUFSCC!

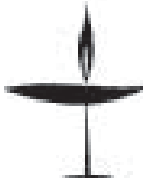


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