



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 2004, Number 9

October 2004

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Rev. Pamela Langston-Daley

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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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October Sunday Services

- Oct 3** **10:00am: Got Water?** UU's covenant with one another to protect and enhance our natural environment of which water is a key constituent. Americans take water for granted. We seem to have an endless supply of pure, cheap water. In reality, virtually all regions of the world are faced with severe water shortages. Fred Seamon will present basic data about water and discuss what needs to be done to provide the world with adequate supplies of drinking water.
- Oct 10** **9:00am: Forum: Are pets important in your life?**
10:00am: Out in Our Faith- Last spring our fellowship participated in a program with other religious institutions to talk about creating safe space for GLBT people. Today we will look at some of the issues that our denomination and our congregation face in exploring the GLBT issues.
Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
- Oct 17** **10:00am: Reaching for Purpose-** Our congregation recently met for a two day retreat to create a vision for the future. Today we will more deeply explore this vision and examine our mission and our proposed covenant of relationship.
Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
- Oct 24** **9:00am: Forum: Propositions on the November ballot.**
10:00am: Macho America- Masculine energy, the use of force, and tough talk dominate the political sphere. What happened to the feminist critique? What happened to the values of caring and nurturing? Where are the values of love and peace in our political process?
Rev. Pam Langston-Daley
- Oct 31** **10:00am: Samhain -** 'Tis the time, 'tis the season to honor those who came before us. Join us this autumn morning as we dress in costume to delight the spirits of beings past and present. CUUPS will lead us in our annual Samhain [pronounced saw-in] ritual. Remember this is the morning when we return to standard time: fall backwards.
Sunday service associate: Terra Collier-Young

Langston-Daley Thoughts

It is nice to be back in the swing of things! As I write this I am preparing for the all Fellowship retreat this coming weekend. I hope that much of what comes out of that retreat will help us plan and prioritize for the next few years.



I believe that it is important to recognize all those who have shared their gifts and talents so that this Fellowship can continue to thrive. Almost everyone has helped in some large or small way to create the vibrant community that we call home. I applaud you all for the contributions that not only support the Fellowship, but also support you in your own spiritual journey.

The ministry we share is a vital element in bringing the mission of our Fellowship: to foster the spiritual growth of our members and to promote social justice, to fruition. No one of us can bring this mission into being alone- it is our combined effort that gives us strength and unity of purpose.

How we develop our own spiritual path is an individual process, one that can be supported and encouraged in the context of this beloved community. Many of us find it difficult to get motivated to work-out, meditate, or participate in some form of spiritual practice without encouragement and support. The relationships developed at this Fellowship form the foundation for our continued practice, and, when we stumble or fall, there is always someone here to help us up and dust us off.

Our continued commitment to each other and to this institution is a gift that we share not just for the benefit of others, but for our own benefit as well. We learn and grow as we offer our gifts, learn about new talents we may have but have been afraid to explore, and practice the ministry we are each called to in this lifetime.

To each of you I say thank you. Without your energy, talent, skill, and commitment, it would not be possible to continue the work of this Fellowship. Work not just for improving ourselves, but for the betterment of the greater community and the world.

May all that we do in this beloved community continue to inspire us and teach us.

Shanti,

Committee Contacts

Endowment: Brent Haddad
Ministry: Marley Smith-Merrill
Nominating: Helen Oxley
Finance: Stephen Morairty
Sunday Services: Terra Collier-Young
Membership: Iran Mohsenin
Youth Faith Development: Diana Wilson
Facilities: Randy James
Communications: George Shackelford
Personnel: Jodi Holden
Social Concerns: Harriet Blue
Denominational Affairs: Andrea Webster
Hospitality: Iran Mohsenin
Music: Scott Norton
Building & Design: Marylou Lamb
Coordinating Council: Mark Rogers
Adult Faith Development: Marsha Hudson

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Budget: Brad Trusso
Canvass: Rosalie Kraft

AFFILIATED GROUPS

Book Club: Joan Roberts
Chavorot: Marsha Hudson
COPA: Mark Rogers
CUUPS: Patt Taylor
Forum/Meditation: Margaret Ogle
Caring Circle: Linda Neher
YRUU: Sylvia Forsyth
Women's Hiking: Erica Crawford
Buddhist: Jim Scott-Behrends
Dinner Club/TGIF: Iran Mohsenin

Please send any corrections/additions to
Kären Aaker, karen@aftonranch.net.

Congregational Meeting on November 6

Listed below is the agenda for the November 6 meeting following the service.

Everyone is encouraged to participate.

1. Call to order
2. Membership roll call
3. Minutes of the June meeting
4. Special Orders: Election of Nominating Committee
5. Unfinished business
6. New Business

Approval of the REACH covenant
Report on Fellowship retreat

Please advise the board of other business.



Registering to Vote via the Web

In CA you can register to vote online at <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html>. Presumably most UUFSCC members are registered, but just in case.

Unicorn Deadline

The deadline for **November** is **October 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.



President's Letter

This seems to be the season for retreats – We held the combo new and old trustee retreat July 31, then a Committee on Ministry retreat September 19, and his week, our Fellowship retreat at Mount Madonna. A planning retreat for the board of trustees is also being planned for October to build on the Mount Madonna experiences. This may seem like a lot of retreat-ing. Perhaps it is, but if I look to Webster, a retreat is defined as the following:

1. An act of withdrawing,
2. A quiet, private, or secure place,
3. A time of seclusion, retirement, or solitude
4. A time of group withdrawal for prayer, meditation, and study.
5. A withdrawal,,, from a dangerous situation.

I believe that all of these can apply in some way to our purposes for having retreats.

In all of them I find the value of communicating. Many of us have participated in the survey leading up to the September Fellowship retreat. I read in the survey results both a need and a desire for more and better communication at all levels. I was surprised that many members, especially those who haven't been around long, don't know that any member can attend a board meeting and can request in advance an agenda item.

I encourage you to do both. Who knows, you may develop a strong desire to be part of the board in the future.

By communicating and participating in the life of the Fellowship, we come to know each other on a deeper level and our contributions are acknowledged as we build a stronger community.

I am a living member of the great family of all souls... This is the bond of the Universal Church: no man can be excommunicated from it but by the death of goodness in his own breast.

William Ellery Channing

In Faith,

Kären

YARD SALE SUCCESS

Thanks to diligent efforts of 34 UUs, our September yard sale was a grand success! Net profit was \$2105.

Many thanks to the following workers: Jane Boone, John Thiemann, Mary Brooks, Linda Neher, Mark Rogers, Aaron Parker, Jan Shirchild, Rosalie Kraft, Edy Rhodes, Laura Stoker, Scott Young, Karen Aaker, Bruce Fihe, Devi Tong, Fran Gertler, Helen Oxley, Don Newfarmer, Gene Partlow, Starr Dancing, Sylvia Forsyth, Brad Trusso, Linda Milgate, Don Hoernshmeier, Pat McVeigh, Elga Pakulis, Rich Fallis, Jodi Holden, Marylou Lamb, Jo Sprague, Stephen Morairty, Pamela Hinz, Iran Mohsenin and Scott and Kathy Norton.

“Wamoola”

There's a program at Washington Mutual called "Wamoola" that will give money to schools, K-12 which have non-profit status. Our school has been designated to receive money from Washington Mutual. Go to www.wamoolaforschools.com or call 800-788-7000 to register our school as your designee, then use your Washington Mutual Visa ATM card. Every time you use your card, Washington Mutual will donate \$.05 to UUFSCC RE. We will receive a check once a year from Washington Mutual; the first arriving in early 2005.

Directory Corrections and Additions

Oops! No matter how hard we all tried there are some errors in the new Directory.

Fred & Eve Seamone 2211 Chanticleer Lane
Keavon Edwards (Chambers) 12/2/97
Rich Fallis email: Croutonj at yahoo.com

Also, Sylvia wants to thank Kären Aaker for helping get the directory to us.

Committee Members Needed

The following committees need members: Hospitality - we need a chair to coordinate Sunday coffee hours. Membership needs a few more members. We also need greeters on Sundays. Please e-mail Iran Mohsenin for hospitality and Judy Anton for greeters and membership committee judyandart@surfnetusa.com

Our Fellowship functions on volunteering to strengthen our faith!

First Friday Book Group

At our October 1st meeting the First Friday Book Group will share the adventures of Mma Ramotswe as she heads the "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" whose author is Alexander McCall Smith; November will be "Elizabeth Costello" by Coetzee. AND then we will close the year on a high note - the author of our selection "To Die Aged" will be with us! Greta Neelson, a Fellowship member, published her own novel and has agreed to put herself at our mercy as we talk about her creation.



You are welcome to join us. We meet at 7:30 the first Friday of each month at Joan Roberts' home (688-7598)



Women Walkers is a very loose group that tries to take a walk or hike the first Sunday of the month after the service or potluck. We usually decide that day depending on time, weather and who's participating. If you are interested you can talk to Erica Crawford, Linda Neher, Edy Rhodes or Judy Anton.

We will be kicking off the fall with our first walk in October.

Dinner Club is Back

Would you like to join our Dinner Club? All are welcome to join. We meet once a month, usually on the 2nd Sat. at a different host's home. Each month a new group is formed and you meet different people. We would like everyone to try being a host one or two times during the year, but if you can't, you can still join. You may be asked then to bring a main dish more than twice during the year. The first name on the list below is the host who provides appetizers and drinks. The second name provides the main dish, the third name provides salad and bread, the fourth name provides a dessert and if there is a 5th name, he/she provides a vegetable. It is the host's responsibility to contact each name on his/her list and plan time and date. If the 2nd Sat. is not suitable, find another evening with is mutually agreeable. Please get a copy of the directory where contact information for all members and friends are listed.

Group 1

1. Mohsenin
2. Hinz-Killeen
3. Gertler
4. Hudson/Shackelford

Group 2

1. Oxley/Newfarmer
2. Hoernschmeyer/McVeigh
3. Cavanaugh/Vigil
4. Wood

Group 3

1. Collier-Young
2. Newman
3. Wilson
4. Parker

Group 4

1. Anton
2. Milgate-Trusso
3. Meyer
4. Sprague

Group 5

1. Aaker-Fihe
2. Lamb
3. James/McCrow
4. Bailey
5. Keith-spiegel/Racimora

Group 6

1. Crahen-Real
2. Farhi-Humphrey
3. Seamon
4. Holden

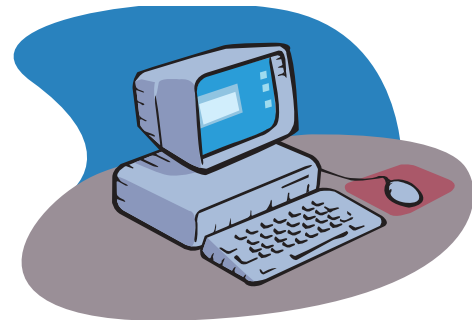
Substitutes

- Rost
Boone
Haddad
Pakulis
Franseth



The Unicorn Seeks a Co-Publisher

I've been preparing the *Unicorn* for a few years but lately the demands of graduate school are taking a toll. Requirements for school work have affected last month's publication and in the future I could find myself in England or elsewhere having to give a paper at the same time the *Unicorn* is due. I'd like to have someone to help publish the *Unicorn* for half the time, typically every other month.



Some computer skills are required. We are using Pagemaker 7.0 under Windows although it may be possible to run Pagemaker on a Macintosh as well. Layout experience is welcomed but not required (I sure didn't have any!). Average prep time is about eight hours a month.

- Your Publisher

George Shackelford

Committee on Ministry

The COM held a retreat Sunday Sept. 19th to become reacquainted, to set some goals for the new year, and to orient new committee members. What the COM is not: a) a totalitarian bureaucracy, b) a ministerial relations committee, c) a roving band of minstrels. The Committee on Ministry's mission is to monitor and support the overall health of our shared ministry (both clergy and laity). In addition, this committee serves the congregation as a forum for conflict management. The members of COM include:

Marley Smith-Merrill, Patt Taylor, Bob Kraft, Bruce Fihe, and Thomas Witz.

Last year the committee successfully facilitated the creation of the REACH covenant (Respect, Empathy, Acceptance, Compassion, and Honesty) in response to a desired need to begin to define the Fellowship's common purpose as the way we relate to one another. The REACH Covenant will be voted on at the Nov. 3rd Congregational mtg.

The COM is holding a town hall meeting after fellowship on Oct. 24th (in the spirit of Patriot Day) to ask the questions:

What makes me proud to be an American?,
What disappoints, worries, frightens, or angers me about this country as it is today?,
What am I going to do as a citizen to help make some of those things better?

CUUPS: the 6th Source* and the 7th Principle**

* Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

News from CUUPS: On Sept 19th we had a lovely Autumn Equinox~Mabon ritual here in the sanctuary; we were unexpectedly rained out of going to Wilder Ranch. Mabon is the pagan Thanksgiving and participants shared what they appreciate in each of our earthly elements: Air, Fire, Water, Earth. All of the Autumn season is an appropriate time for giving thanks; it's all about the harvest.

The Harvest Moon will be on October 28th and we will celebrate Samhain~All Hallows Eve~Halloween on Sunday October 31st with our annual Ritual of Calling Out Their Names. We invite you to come to Fellowship in costume to delight all spirits, past and present! The choir will again sing the moving songs of *Breaths* and the *Russian Lullaby*. If there is someone who has passed on to the other side that you would like to especially honor, please contact me by Sunday October 24th with their name and relationship.



Summertime has turned the star-wheel, Autumn is upon us.

In Good Thanks Giving's, Terra Collier-Young

[462-4995 or terracollieryoung@yahoo.com]



"Labor of Love" volunteers getting instructions on where to go and what to do.

Leadership Development Day Saturday, November 6, 2004 First UU Society of San Francisco

Dear Friends -

Great news - the Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris will be the Keynote Speaker at this year's Leadership Development Day! We are very excited to have her with us for this year's program.

Leadership Development Day is always a high energy day of learning and networking, especially for those interested in church leadership and GROWTH!

This year will be no different - so please save Saturday, November 6th for PCD LDD - and tell your friends!

The Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris is a Minister of Religious Education, serving as Director for Congregational Services at the UUA. Congregational Services includes resources, programs and consultation in Congregational Fundraising, New Congregation and Growth Resources, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, Lay Leadership Development, Congregational Justice Making, Ethics and Safety in Congregational Life, Services to Large Congregations. Tracey manages programs and works with staff to challenge and assist our congregations to live up to their potential as liberal religious communities.



Randy, with coffee cup

Member of the Month: Randy James



Here I am pictured with my Lima, Ohio Unitarian Fellowship Sunday School of 1957. My family started attending when I was seven years old and my early memories were of all the unusual venues where services were held. The fellowship started in a hotel basement, then moved to the Colored Peoples Community Association gym, the Robin Rogers School for Retarded Children and finally to a converted house the members bought and remodeled. The fellowship house had an old organ whose air supply came from a retrofitted vacuum cleaner. The Humanist wing of the denomination was in the ascendancy in the 50's, so the Sunday School curriculum was primarily science based (to a fault). In addition to lighting the chalice and its "flame of love" from our miniature pews, my main memory was being taught with little interest on my part about the theory of fission and fusion. This was the height of the Cold War.

I lost interest in Unitarianism when I left for college without knowing that in fact Antioch College was founded by the famous educator and Unitarian, Horace Mann. Antioch was exhilaratingly liberal for an 18 year old during the late 60's and a great adventure intellectually and spiritually. Through their work/study program I was able to travel and live all over the United States, including working on a ship in Alaska.

During my third year I attended the University of Leeds in England where at 20 I met my wonderful wife-to-be, Ann McCrow. After a long distance romance she joined me in San Francisco. Eventually we moved to Santa Cruz and joined this fellowship 19 years ago. Our two sons Nathan and Leo grew up in the fellowship and I cherish all those people who cared for them and the community they experienced as they grew into adulthood.

During my long membership I have been Board President, Vice President, trustee and Chair of Facilities a good part of the last 15 years. My extended family's Unitarian involvement includes my brother, who is the minister of the Northshore Unitarian Church in Chicago.

I am a partner in Pacific Holographics which produces anti-counterfeiting holograms for document security and product protection.

I believe that we as a liberal religious congregation, have a profound duty to be more than just a community, but to stand up and embody our principals and values. I am proud to support the fellowship with my time and money and try to live these values in my daily life.



Potluck Sunday, October 3

Please bring the following: A-F main dish; G-L salad; M-S; dessert; T-Z vegetable.

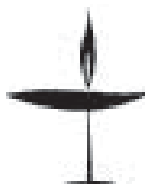
We need volunteers to continue these potlucks, We need two to set up and four to clean up. Please e-mail Iran Mohsenin at imohsenin@comcast.net if you can help in October.

If you see a red dot on your mailing label your UNICORN subscription expires with this issue. To renew, send \$12 to the Fellowship—or join us and receive it as a membership benefit.

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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