



# 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>

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## Minister,

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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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## November Sunday Services

- Nov 7 10:00am: Where do we go from here?**- By now we all know who won the election. Today we will discuss the next steps as we face a future with our next President.  
Rev Pamela Langston-Daley
- Nov 14 9:00am: Forum: Second Thoughts on the 2004 Election**  
**10:00am: Shinto**- One of our commitments is to learning about world religions. Shinto is a religion of Japan that is little known here in the United States. Today we learn the basic principles of Shinto.  
Rev Pamela Langston-Daley
- Nov 21 10:00am: TBA**
- Nov 28 10:00am: Fear and Abundance**- Thanksgiving has just passed and now we head into the Christmas season. How can we rethink our fears in this season and experience the abundance that is all around us?  
Rev Pamela Langston-Daley

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## Langston-Daley Thoughts

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The cleansing rains have arrived. Time to slow down and be more introspective, to curl up by the fire and bring our attention to what comes next for us, as a congregation. It seems appropriate at this time of year that we are focusing on our goals and vision of the future. I am enlivened by the process that is being used to include all of our voices as we look and move toward the future with resolve.



The desired future stated goals are vibrant and alive, they call to me and all of us to bring our faith to the world. We are proud of this movement and that for which it stands. Our Mission is clear and concise and our covenants (both the congregational covenant and the REACH covenant) define what our priorities are, what our purpose is, and how we will manifest these together.

We are bringing the Welcoming Congregation program to our membership and continue to deepen our own spiritual paths, not just as individuals, but as a cohesive and vibrant institution! We have had a rousing response to this program and the planning meeting on November 14th should prove to be very productive. I continue to be inspired by your commitment and calling to bring justice to the world.

As we use this time to reflect on what we want the future to be, I am aware that these goals as currently stated present an outward looking congregation. These statements are included in this issue of the *Unicorn*. Please take some time to read them and give us some feedback on how we can best bring them to fruition. House meeting will be held in November and on November 21st we will hold another congregational workshop to allow for feedback, so please plan to attend the house meeting in your area or stay after Fellowship on the 21st.

Shanti,

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## YRUU NEWS!!!

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We are still in need of a Leader for YRUU. The RE Committee talked about possibilities around changing the day of the meeting and/or only having 2 meetings a month. Could you work with the youth on Sunday evenings? Maybe there is a better day?

We have a good core group and we hate to lose them. Call Diana Wilson (462-3932) or Sylvia Forsyth (684-0506) with your ideas and suggestions.

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## What the Board's Been Doing...

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### August Board Meeting

- Discussed board members placement as liaisons for committees. It was decided that we should put committee lists in the Unicorn and we need to have schedules of when they meet. Liaisons should be responsible for getting schedule changes from committees.
- The Office Manager finished her part of the rental agreement. Has implemented someone staying with all the groups except for with the Sufi dancers.
- Approved a request from the Finance Committee for \$1000 for audit expenses
- Approved making 10% of bequests going to the endowment fund and the rest going to the building fund.
- A discussion was had about the fact that we will have to file 1099 forms for the person who supervises renters and a unanimous decision was made to differentiate \$17/hour pay from the \$20 charge to cover withholding charges.

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## Congregational Meeting on November 6

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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.

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## Welcoming Congregation Committee

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We have permission from the Board of Trustees to form a Welcoming Congregation Committee.

Homophobia and heterosexism are alive and well, in and out of our Fellowship.

We can now educate ourselves and create an institutional community with the follow-through of classes and on-going conversations to help eradicate sexual-orientation prejudice and discrimination.

Ultimately, the committee would like to involve as many people as possible in the decision-making process of the Welcoming Congregation Committee. Therefore, for the first meeting, the following is asked:

1. As many people as possible from the Fellowship attend;
2. At least one person from each Committee attend to learn how your committee will be affected, what is required of your committee and to give input.

Learn more by coming to the first Welcoming Congregation meeting November 14th at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Fran Gertler

Reverend Pam

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## GOOD CHRISTMAS CARDS

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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee cards will be available at the Fellowship in late November. If you plan to send cards, why not buy some to "spread joy, peace and justice throughout the universe?" See Rosalie Kraft for details.

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## Unicorn Deadline

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The deadline for **December** is **November 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.



## President's Letter

As I write this, our nation's presidential election is looming, and because it is likely the outcome will be known as you receive this *Unicorn*, I cannot with confidence offer consolation or hope. And so, I write

about a related subject — justice. At our Fellowship retreat in late September, we began exploring where we as a Fellowship want to be in the next year or two. We developed statements to describe this future state, and as a starting point, we considered our mission statement, which, in summary, says that we seek spiritual growth and are committed to social justice. This confirms our dedication to equality, and is exemplified in our second principle, "We... covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations", and also in our first principle, "...the inherent worth and dignity ...of every person" As we refine our goals and determine what initiatives we will adopt to achieve them", I'd like to suggest that the "social justice" part of our mission become primary in our planning

In examining what is meant by equality and justice, here's what I find three earlier thinkers have said. In *The Social Contract*, Jean Jacques Rousseau expressed the belief that if the concept of the greatest good for all is examined, it consists of two things — liberty and equality. He writes further, "By equality, we should understand, not that the degree of power and riches are to be absolutely identical for everybody, but that power shall never be so strong as to be capable of violence and shall always be exercised by virtue of rank and law, and that, in respect to riches, no citizen shall ever be wealthy enough to buy another, and none shall be poor enough to be forced to sell himself." A good beginning definition.

The utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham founded his beliefs on an even more explicit assumption of human equality by stating, "the greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation. In his "hedonistic calculus", each person counts for one and no more than one in determining the greatest good. An improved definition, and appears to me a lot like our fifth principle promoting the use of the democratic process.

Another view proposed by Vilfredo Pareto, a 19<sup>th</sup> century sociologist and economist, maintained that, "an act could be deemed in accordance with the principle of social justice only if at least one person was better off and no one worse off". This may further refine the definition. But, how can we determine in a non-interpersonal comparison whether Donald Trump or a homeless person is made better off by the act in question?

My answer is that we must do more than try. We must make choices in determining the justice and equity of our actions, whether they are personal or in concert with others, as when we select how we will meet our Fellowship goals. We can take courage in the words of a favorite hymn:

"Come build a land ...where justice shall roll down like waters, and peace like an ever flowing stream."

In Faith,

Kären

# UUFSCC 2004 Vision and Strategy Process

## Ways You Can Participate

1. Volunteer for small group planning meetings to be announced.
2. Participate in surveys and 'idea sets' as they are announced. We want to hear from everyone with their suggestions for ways to achieve our desired future state. While we will only adopt a few achievable initiatives to work on over the next 18 months, the more ideas we have to choose the initiatives from, the more likely it is that we will choose and synthesize good initiatives.
3. The first idea set that we will be posting is to gather everyone's input about the following:
  - a. Please review our desired future state goals (see following) and the criteria for initiatives and actions that will help us to achieve these goals. You can see this information on the wall charts at the fellowship or you can go to the link in the UUFSCC GroupMind site and click on the links for the different elements of our process.
  - b. Please tell us what initiatives you believe we should implement to achieve our desired future state. You can enter your ideas in each category in the desired future state of the Vision and Strategy Map, which can be found at the UUF planning website or write out your ideas on the enclosed form and give it to Ann McCrow or Fran Gertler in the UUF office (deadline November 21). Please name the category you are listing an idea for.

To access the UUFSCC planning website, please see the reverse.

When you reach the page at this link you can do any of the following:

1. Click on any of the resource documents listed as links.
2. Click on the link to the Vision and Strategy Process and then click on any of the Vision Buckets on the right side of the map. Here you will find the latest version of the Desired Future state Goals.
3. Click on the Alignment Actions box in the middle of the map where you will find an Idea Set that you can enter your ideas for initiatives. You can see what others are thinking by clicking on the GroupMind link at the top right corner of the IdeaSet page.

# UUFSCC 2004 Vision and Strategy Process

## Access Information

You can access the UUFSCC Vision and Strategy website as follows:

1. Direct access – you can enter this link (which we will also send to you in an e-mail) and enter the site without having to enter a user name and password. This type of access will allow you to view all of the information about our process and enter your comments.

**[http://gme.groupmindexpress.com/uuf?da=UUFSCC\\_Planning](http://gme.groupmindexpress.com/uuf?da=UUFSCC_Planning)**

2. Entry by User Name and Password – There are several advantages for entering the site using your user name and password.

When we start doing prioritization of initiatives you will be able to see how you set your priorities on the “Contribute Page” and how the congregation as a whole voted on the GroupMind Page. If you use the Direct link as outlined above in option 1 you will not be able to see how you submitted your votes, but you can see the combined results (the GroupMind).

You do not need to remember the direct link URL listed above, allowing you to use a computer from another location by only remembering the GroupMind Express URL (which is easier to remember).

You can get to the UUFSCC Planning site by going to:

1. [www.groupmindexpress.com](http://www.groupmindexpress.com)
2. On the Home Page displayed, enter “UUF” in the company code field on the left.
3. At the challenge page enter your User Name and Password

Your User Name is your first and last name - all in lower case, for example Ken Ketch is - kenketch

Your Password is your last name – all in lower case, for example Ken Ketch is – ketch (if your last name is hyphenated, please omit the hyphen and type both names together, i.e. langstondaley).

Another advantage to using a User Name and Password is that you can then subscribe to any page in our UUF site and receive an e-mail alerting you to changes that others have made to the page. This is a great way to stay connected to our process.

## **UU Fellowship Desired Future State Goals**

*Developed in small group sessions at the UUF retreat on Sept. 23 and further refined at the planning meeting after the Oct. 10 service.*

### **Community Involvement**

1. I say I am a Unitarian Universalist and people know what I am talking about.
2. We are actively involved in social justice work in our community in cooperation with other like-minded groups.
3. We are a diverse and inclusive center and safe haven for social justice and spiritual growth.

### **Participation/Appreciation**

1. We create and maintain a relationship with each person who comes to our Fellowship including offering visitors' packets/gifts, and a buddy system.
2. We know the needs of the Fellowship and we know what ways all members can and would like to contribute.
3. We have defined growth goals for membership, finance and facilities.
4. We have a support and an appreciation structure set up for all volunteers/members.

### **Information ! ! " " Connection**

1. The Fellowship is a place where all seekers will know how to fit in (find what they are looking for and be able to contribute.)
2. Santa Cruz Co. knows where we are and what we're about.
3. We are proud and eager to share our personal stories about why being part of the Fellowship is important to us and take every opportunity to welcome others to join us.

### **Spiritual Growth**

1. Adults and youth are actively participating together in the spiritual education within the life of the Fellowship.
2. We articulate and embody the UU Principles and deepen our spiritual understanding through imaginative ritual, tradition and aesthetic expression.
3. People's participation in the Fellowship community leads them to be emotionally moved and truly transformed in their inner lives (and its outer expression).

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## FROM THE CARING CONNECTION

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Don't forget to check the Caring Connection bulletin board in the entry courtyard as you go in to Sunday Service. If you have a personal need (transportation, emergency meals, etc.) you may list it there. If you can supply someone's need (transportation, emergency meals, etc) let them know via the Connection! We would like to stress that this is only for *personal* needs - we cannot take requests that involve any monetary value. If you have something to give away, you may post it - who knows, it may be just the thing someone needs! Please date your announcement/request to help us keep the Board fresh and up-to-date.

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## First Friday Book Group

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Rather than add a new selection for January, 2005 the First Friday Book Group has decided to end 2004 in a blaze of glory: We'll be doing UUF member Greta Neelson's "To Die Abed." Copies can be ordered from Greta. Her phone number is in the directory.

In November the book selection is J.M. Coetzee's "Elizabeth Costello."

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

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## HEAR YE HEAR YE

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San Jose Unitarian Church is having its annual Art and Craft Boutique on Sunday, November 7 from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Please come and start your holiday shopping. A wide range of hand crafted items, including chalice art, candles, jewelry, wearable art, beaded crafts, ornaments, photography, knitted and quilted items and much more.

We are located at 160 North Third St in down town San Jose

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

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## Dinner Club for November

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Dinner club is open to all members of the Fellowship. Friends may join as substitutes if they wish. Hosts, please call your group asap to set up time. If you need a substitute, use the list at the end of the column. Remember 1 is host, 2 brings main dish, 3 brings salad and bread, 4 brings dessert and if there is a 5, he/she brings a vegetable. If anyone would like to join Dec. dinner club, please mail Iran Mohsenin imohsenin@comcast.net or call 479-0105.

### Group 1

- 1 Seamon
- 2 Mohsenin
- 3 Keith-Spiegel/Racimora
- 4 Wood

### Group 2

- 1 Newman
- 2 Aaker/Fihe
- 3 Lamb
- 4 Oxley/Newfarmer
- 5 Gertler

### Group 3

- 1 Hinz/Killeen
- 2 Parker
- 3 Crahen/Real
- 4 Smith-Merrill
- 5 Milgate/Trusso

### Group 4

- 1 Hudson
- 2 James/McCrow
- 3 Farhi-Humphrey
- 4 Anton

### Group 5

- 1. Collier-Young
- 2. Sprague
- 3. Hoernschemeyer
- 4 Wilson
- 5 Bailey

### Group 6

- 1 Cavanaugh/Sandoval-Vigil
- 2 Rogers
- 3 Holden
- 4 Meyer

Substitutes: Boone, Haddad, Pakulis, Rost, Franseth, Dennis Holt -423-6470;



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.



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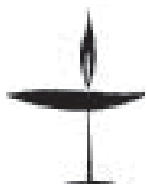
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