



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 11

December 2004

Board of Trustees

Kären Aaker President
 Mark Rogers Vice President
 Scott Young Treasurer
 Kamala Franseth Secretary
 Ed Newman Past President
 Judy Anton Trustee
 Jodi Holden Trustee
 Don Hoernschemeyer Trustee
 Rich Fallis Trustee
 Andrea Webster Trustee
 Jamus Blume Trustee

Minister,

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Study Phone (831) 251-0324
 Home Phone (831) 689-9660
 Email minister@uufsc.org
 My drop in hours are Tues. 10-2pm. 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.

Religious Education Director, Sylvia Forsyth

Office Phone (831) 684-0506 Ext 3
 Email forsyl@cruzers.com
 Hours are Mon. and Wed., 12 - 4 p.m.

Office Manager

Office Phone (831) 684-0506 Ext 1
 Fax (831) 685-6736
 Email administrator@uufsc.org
 Hours are Mon-Thurs 9am -12:45 pm.

The UNICORN

George Shackelford Publisher
 Marsha Hudson Proofreader
 Email unicorn@uufsc.org

December Sunday Services

- Dec 5 10:00am: The Historical Jesus-** Jesus is, according to some, the reason for the season. So, it seems appropriate to explore this man, his times and his teachings. He is elusive and contradictory at times and few have had such great impact on the world.
Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
- Dec 12 10:00am: Christmas Pageant-** Join us for the annual Christmas pageant. This year's pageant, "What We Learned on Christmas Eve," was written by one of our members (music and all). Join us this Sunday as our children and adults bring the story to life.
- Dec 19 10:00am: Dreaming the Dark-** The longest night of the year is coming. What can we learn from entering and embracing the dark times in our lives? Many wise men and women teach us that honoring the dark is essential for our growth and spiritual enlightenment. How can we begin to open ourselves to this wisdom?
Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
- Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**
6:30pm Family Service
8:00pm Candle Light Service
 Rev. Paul Langston-Daley leads both services
- Dec 26 10:00am: Let's lift our voices in joyous noise;** let's calm our minds in meditation. This morning we will gather in song and silence as we look towards the New Year.
Service Associate: Terra Collier-Young

Langston-Daley Thoughts:



December is a month that reminds me of abundance. With the holidays and the decorations, the lights and the music, I find myself looking towards a hopeful future. We come together each week, as members, friends and guests, bringing our joys and sorrows, our hopes and dreams. We come together and in our time together we find a wellspring of energy, and support.

The Dalai Lama offers this wisdom about our shared time together in worship: “When we pray together, I feel something, I do not know whether you would call it blessings or grace—but in any case there is a certain feeling that we can experience. If we utilize it properly, this feeling is very helpful for developing our inner strength.”

When we come together in worship, we experience that blessing, that grace. We have found that this shared blessing can empower us to develop our inner strength, not just as individuals, but as a community. Our Desired Future State Goals are the result of the blessings and grace of our community. They reflect the inner strength and outward desire of our community to do more and be more. This combined effort empowers each of us to grow as well. This dance of individual and community growth strengthens both and expands the vision of who we are and how we move in the world.

We honor each other and our community by participating in our common vision, and bringing our whole selves to this Fellowship.

I was humbled and honored by your overwhelmingly positive response to my announcement last month that I am changing my name from Pamela Langston-Daley to Paul James Langston-Daley and will now be going by masculine pronouns (he, him, etc.). As I said in the announcement, this is one step for me in a continuing process of personal transformation that I have been undergoing for many years. I am grateful to be able to bring my whole self to you.

While it may feel strange at first to try to adapt to this change (which will undoubtedly lead to some awkward, but hopefully good-humored, social interactions for all of us), I ask for and genuinely appreciate your support of this process.

If you would like to understand more about what it means to be

transgendered, a good place to start is at <http://tsfaq.info/>, or <http://jamisongreen.com/> or http://www.hrc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/HRC/Get_Informed/Issues/Transgender_Issues1/Transgender_101/Transgender_101.htm. If you do not have access to the internet, feel free to contact me and request that I send a printed copy of this information to you. Also highly recommended is Jamison Green’s book *Becoming a Visible Man*.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to having many of you participate in the Welcoming Congregation Program.

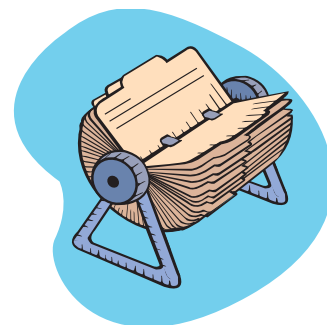
Shanti,
Paul

Please add our new members to your membership booklet

Suzanne Semmes
2450 LeComte Ave
Berkeley CA 94709
510-486-1877 cell 805-637-3108
e mail gibsongirl@ureach.com

Erin Balabanian
1975 42nd Ave
Capitola, CA 95010
831-915-3401
e mail erin.balabanian@yahoo.com

Mary Moreland
151 Stephen Road
Aptos, CA 95003
688-1473
mmoreland@sbcglobal.net



The Chalice Lighters

Dear Friends:

So many of us are working to grow and strengthen Unitarian Universalism here in the Pacific Central District. Can your congregation use some extra funds to help with that “special project” designed to spur growth in your community?

The Chalice Lighter program grants funds raised from Chalice Lighter calls. The Chalice Lighters issue “calls” three times a year and grants the proceeds from those calls to congregations who have been able to articulate their vision with specific, growth oriented projects. In order to compete for these funds, you must submit a Chalice Lighter application by the deadline date.

The next deadline is December 31, 2004. Attached to this email is the Chalice Lighter application [*This will be available at the Fellowship office - Publisher*]. If you have a project that you think would qualify for a grant, please fill out the application and return it to the PCD office with your supporting documentation.

One criteria that is considered in the grant making process is “Percentage of Congregation who are current Chalice Lighters.” To that end I have also attached the Chalice Lighter brochure, complete with sign-up instructions on becoming a Chalice Lighter. [*Ditto - Publisher*] These brochures are also available from the district office - please contact me if you would like hard copies of the brochure. I hope that everyone will encourage their congregants to participate in this valuable program.

The Chalice Lighters is one program that empowers our congregations to spread our “Good News” and strengthen and promote Unitarian Universalism here in the Pacific Central District - won’t you help us achieve our goals by joining us?

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the district office at your earliest convenience!

Onward and Upward,

Chuck

Charles B. Rosene, District Administrator

President’s Letter



As the holidays approach...

I’ve been thinking about what liberal religion means to me personally and to all thoughtful Unitarian Universalists. And we are SUCH a diverse group of thinkers. I think that religion isn’t about understanding the meaning of scriptures or the deeper meanings of some teachings or principles about how to be authentic in the world. Religion is about transformation, about living and being. It can’t be experienced or “found” by merely joining a church, meditation group, or movement.

Existentialist Søren Kierkegaard believed that we couldn’t deceive ourselves and that there was a price to pay for identifying only with denominations, political parties, or clubs and that there might come a time when everyone has to throw off his/her mask. I find that I agree with much of his reasoning. I am compelled to take life seriously and to seek my own vision of what our human condition is and how I exist within it. If I don’t do this, my life is diminished and risks being filled with discontinuities. The Hindus and Buddhists say you have to do this and will keep coming back until you get it right. Taoists and many nature religions speak of it as being out of touch with the essential balance of life and a dissipation of the life force.

The woman who heads the ministry program at the University of Chicago Divinity School has said that she thinks that people identify with religious denominations so they won’t have to think and won’t be expected to. My hope is that this is not the truth.

In his discussion of liberal religion, Davidson Loehr, senior minister at the First UU Church of Austin Texas, claims not to be a Unitarian Universalist. He does not want to be pigeonholed because he sees a religious life as not at all the same as a religious affiliation, which he identifies as a secondhand identity. He believes that history’s greatest religious thinkers achieved significance because, “They tried to serve—not principals or creeds, but the ancient and honorable tradition of an honest religion that takes life seriously... that we are blessed by the quality of our aspirations. If this is so, then I aspire to find my truth as informed by my own experience and observations and to grow in spirituality wherever I find it—including as a UU.

I accept that this is an ongoing task that I must continue.

In faith,

Kären

The Forum: Important!

The Forum folks are considering revamping the forum. Some options include changing to a once a month format, getting new leaders, or discontinuing the forum. If you have any thoughts on the forum, please let Bonnie Thomas or Margaret Ogle know.

Thank you.

Bonnie Thomas

From the Caring Connection

Hanna Gaylord has been in the hospital for over a month and may be there another month healing some bad "bed sores." She's in Room 132 at Dominican Rehab on Frederick. Visitors are welcome.



Dinner Club Takes a Holiday

Dinner club will not be held in December since it is a holiday month and difficult sometimes to schedule everyone for a dinner. The next dinner club will be held in January. If you are interested in joining, please e mail Iran Mohsenin at imohsenin@comcast.net. or call 479-0105.

Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for **January** is **December 19th**. Please place articles in the *Unicorn* office folder or email them to the editor by that date.

Please email computer text and photos.

ISSP Update

As many of you may know, our fellowship participates in The Inter Faith Satellite Shelter Program (ISSP). Each Sunday evening we feed and house fifteen homeless men right here in our sanctuary. Many of the men who participate in this program are older, some have disabilities, and most are unable to work. All are polite, respectful, and very appreciative of the warm meal that we serve and a chance to sleep inside a warm building. Unfortunately, this highly successful program, which has been operating in Santa Cruz County for about 20 years, is scheduled to be discontinued due to lack of funding. (Our Fellowship, by the way, has been participating, every Sunday night, 52 weeks a year, for over 13 years!)

A meeting was called of all of the churches who participate in the program. A steering committee has been formed to tackle the problem and try to come up with both short and long term solutions. The steering committee will be looking at other church /shelter programs (there is one in Monterey), exploring various modes of transportation (a big expense in the current ISSP program), fund raising, etc. Meanwhile, a generous donor has come forward and is willing to fund the program through January. He feels that the program has benefit both for the churches as well as the homeless participants. I agree.

I will keep you posted. We are, of course, continuing to prepare Sunday night meals for "our guys". The following people have signed up to help prepare the ISSP meals in December:

Dec. 5	open
Dec. 12	Tamara V., Richard and family
Dec. 19	The Norton Family
Dec. 26	open
Jan. 2	Mary Brooks and ???

Every Wednesday, I go to the Second Harvest Food Bank and I am almost always able to obtain fresh produce (including salad fixings and some sort of fresh fruit), bread, milk, juice, salad dressing and other canned goods to help supplement the meal prepared by members of our fellowship. Many products are free or sold to programs such as ISSP at very low cost. (I rarely spend more than \$5.00 each week.) Contact me if you would like to help prepare and serve the Sunday night meal: 426-6979, sally@the-intuitive-self.org. We need people in December and January.

Sally Real

ISSP Update (continued)

My mother was the Queen of Jello

[Don't think you can cook for ISSP? Read on - Publisher] A widow with six children to feed, my mother was a genius at stretching her small widow's pension to feed the family. She became a creative "Julia Childs" in the kitchen, mixing up a meal using whatever she could find in the cupboard. She could stretch a pound of ground beef to last a week, a small portion showing up each night: sometimes in spaghetti sauce, or mixed with a bit of rice and stuffed inside green peppers, or formed into a meatloaf mixed with whatever filler she could scrounge from the cupboard: oatmeal, a raw egg, a moldy onion found hidden the back of the broom closet!

But her creativity really found expression when she started with a package of Jello. According to my mother, anything could go into Jello to become a salad, main course, or dessert. A dab of cottage cheese, some shredded carrot and half a can of peaches went into Lime Jello to become one of our favorites. Chopped celery, a handful of walnuts and a piece of apple would be added to Raspberry Jello to become Waldorf Salad. Onions, tomato sauce, olives went into plain Jello to become tomato aspic. (Definitely not our favorite!)

The thing is, according to my mom, there was "always enough." If a neighbor was a bit short just before payday, my mom always found an extra can of tuna fish to pass on. If one of the kids brought a friend home for lunch, my mother simply sliced the bologna in half, or added more celery to the tuna salad, or tossed another potato into the stew pot.

When the holidays rolled around, there always seemed to be room at the table for one more person – usually someone who was even poorer than we were. I remember one Christmas my mother invited Frenchie, the local ice cream man, to join us. Frenchie, a scruffy little man, who always kept a pint of whiskey in his ice cream cart next to the Fudge-sicles, showed up at our table, wearing a clean, starched white shirt, freshly shaven and without his pint of whisky, all spiffed up and sober – at least for the day.

You see, to my mom, there was inherent dignity and worth in every human being. And valuable people should never go to bed hungry. With a little ingenuity, one could always create a meal from the hidden contents of the kitchen cupboard no matter how bare it seemed. It helped to have a package of Jello to start with, but what you really needed was an open heart, and a willingness to share. While I remember my mother's meals as delicious and filling, and I marvel today at how in the world she could ever have managed to feed all of us children as well as those less fortunate. I think what really filled our bellies was her attitude. Reach out. Respect. Share. There's always enough.

Sally Real

INVITATION FOR ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER UU'S

The Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus of Unitarian Universalists will be holding their 3rd Annual Meeting in Oakland, California. February 18, 19, and 20, 2005 is the date of this event. The core of this weekend gathering will be anti-racism training specifically designed for people of color. We will talk about our unique identities as A/PI, Americans, UU's, gay, straight, etc. We also invite your non-A/PI spouses and partners to attend. There will be separate programming for those white allies on the topic of multi-racial families. Together, we will participate in social activities and daily worship. Scholarships and travel grants are available. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website: www.apiuu.org.

HELP WANTED

-- Volunteers to be greeters on Sundays, does not take much time; Call or e mail Judy Anton 684-9608 judyandart@surfnetusa.com or Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 imohsenin@comcast.net

-- Someone to be in charge of 1st Sunday Potlucks beginning in Jan.2005

-- A hospitality chair to organize a committee to plan and present social events and be in charge of Sunday coffee hours.

Greeters for December

Dec. 5	Jane Boone
Dec. 12	Mark Rogers
Dec. 19	John Thiemann
Dec. 24	6:00 p.m. Sylvia Forsyth/ Fran Gertler 8:00 p.m. Fran Gertler
Dec. 26	need a volunteer!

Social Action News

The Public Policy Issue Survey conducted for the California UU Legislative Ministry was completed and the results forwarded to the Sacramento Office. There were thirty surveys returned. We were asked to identify the top four issues of concern. They were Health Care, Housing, Environment and the fourth place was tied between Gay Rights and Economic Justice. The number of responses listing Peace and the Social Safety Net as issues made those areas a close fifth issue of concern. We know that there were many surveys that were not returned, so we hope that the issues identified do represent the Fellowship. We believe that they did.

Update on ISSP: ISSP has been funded by an individual for November, December and January with the understanding that a permanent solution must be developed. A committee has been formed to work on this. The Homeless Community Resource Center can be reached at 458-6024. Please remember that Sally Real is always in need of Sunday night dinner providers for our ISSP group. Sign up with Sally.

Golden Torch is scheduled to begin construction in January. The eligible families will move to a facility near Watsonville while the construction is done. We will be looking for another tutor or two at that time. Qualities needed are patience and a little math.

Pathway Towards Home--Family Shelter Brick Campaign

December is a cold month and one that reminds us how lucky we are to have a roof over our heads, which we all hope won't leak!! Social Action asked the Board to approve the Fellowship donating to the Family Shelter Brick Campaign, which they did. There will be a brick pathway to the front entry of the new shelter. A donation of \$250 or more will purchase a brick with our name that will be placed in the pathway that leads to the new Family Shelter. This is a shelter that will assist parents and their children to transition from a homeless situation to one of health and self-reliance. Details will be announced in December at the service.

Golden Torch is scheduled to begin construction in January. The eligible families will move to a facility near Watsonville while the construction is done.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE FELLOWSHIP

Come All Ye to Christmas Dinner, December 25th, 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey and Ham and some fixins' provided. You bring a side dish or dessert to share and \$1.00 per person (same amount for adults and children).

Help is needed in the kitchen and for set up and clean up. Contact Fran Gertler if you need additional information and to let her know if you are planning to be here and also if you are planning to help.

CUUPS: the 6th Source and & 7th Principal

January starts the year with a plethora of fun, frolicsome festivities. The new year in particular is celebrated by at least 170 nations. The month gets its name from Jana, a moon goddess and Janus, her husband, the gatekeeper of heaven, who sees the past and future. This couple oversees the year's beginning by offering you a refreshed perspective and hope for a better tomorrow.

In terms of energy, January focuses on beginnings. It's a time for personal renewal, starting any beloved project, and sustaining those things already in progress. Health, protection, and prosperity are created by working for the greater good as well as for yourself. (Adapted from Patricia Telesco's book "365 Goddesses")

Calling all CUUPS members and friends: Ann Goldsmith has graciously given me the directions on how to make the wonderful, portable labyrinth that she set up for us at Samhain. I would like to get a group of us together to make one for ourselves. Please call me for details.

Many Blessings For This and Every New Year,

Terra Collier-Young

Art for our Fellowship!

The Art Committee had the pleasure of researching the paintings of the many talented artists in Santa Cruz County. Open Studios gave us the opportunity to do this in the most enjoyable way. We asked several artists, whose works we saw, to exhibit in our sanctuary and quite a few have agreed. The art works will be shown for approximately 6 weeks.

This Spring/Summer we are planning to show the works of the many talented artists who are members of the Fellowship.

I want to thank Ed Newman for reviewing the contract for the artists to sign, Sarah Savasky for producing the final contract and information sheets for the artist to receive. Thanks also to Sarah, Judy Anton and Pat McVeigh for their time & good judgment.

Lisa Hochstein, our first selection, has been based in Santa Cruz for the past 2 1/2 years. She explores color, light and structure that grows out of a very personal response to particular events and places. Her goal is to have you look at and experience the paintings and to bring your own meanings and associations to them. Lisa has recently begun to explore quilt making and currently has several pieces of her fabric work in a group show at the Michael Angelo Gallery, 111 River Street in Santa Cruz.

First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group's December selection is Greta Neelson's book, *To Die A Bed*; she'll be here to lead the discussion. Copies may be purchased from her; her phone number is in the UUF directory. Remember, December is our traditional holiday celebration. So don't bring any refreshments; they will be provided by the hostess and will include egg nog, toffee, fudge, nuts and other goodies. Apologies go out since there will be no fruitcake this year.

We'll start the new year with a fine book, *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mystery.

We meet the first Friday of each month at 7:30 at Joan Roberts' home. Call 688-7598 for more information.

Meet Our New Member: Suzanne Semmes

Suzanne's family includes her partner Marc Darrow, and her two children, Alexander and Isabel Dennis who are at college. Suzanne like to write books, hike, watch movies, listen to and play bluegrass music, travel, and keep in touch with distant friends and family. On her own, she practices yoga, meditates, writes, reads poetry, studies, bird watches, makes collage art, studies art history, and arranges flowers. She belongs to the Society for the Larger Ministry, UU Buddhist Fellowship, and Assoc. of Professional Chaplains. She was raised as an Episcopalian and became a UU in 1982 in Vermont. She practiced as a lay minister in the 1980's and 90's and was a DRE in 1986 and a college chaplain from 1998-2003. Currently she is a student at Starr King Seminary, training to become a hospital chaplain. Her current favorite authors are Jack Kornfield, Thich Nhat Hanh, Shirley Hazzard, Richard Foster, Wendell Berry, Dave Barry, and Roz Chast.

What she would be willing to share with the Fellowship is spiritual development, journal writing, dreamwork facilitation, bibliodrama, hospital and university chaplain experiences, singing, worship, planning, reading and preaching, decorating spaces, addressing envelopes, and handwriting letters (note to *Unicorn* collating and mailing newsletters, and to Sunday Services committee). When asked to give information to the membership about what makes her unique, she responded, "I truly try to live in awareness that we are all one in spirit, and shy away from expressions or affirmations that encourage individualism."

Our membership committee thanks Suzanne profusely for volunteering numerous times to be a greeter on Sundays!

Open Mic at UUF

On the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Sanctuary.

Coming up: Dec. 18th, 2004.

Sign ups at 7- begin at 7:20.

The lights are lowered, candles are lit and coffee and tea are served. The sound system is turned on and our microphones are open for anyone with any type of personal expression to share. All ages participate, from 6 year olds to teenagers all the way up to elders. All talents are welcome: singing, instrumentals, poetry, magic, spoken word, jokes, dance, drama....

The microphone is open to all: professionals to new performers.

Sliding scale donations accepted. No one turned away due to lack of funds. Some are spontaneously bringing snacks to share.

It's a fun, casual, friendly atmosphere for all to share.

Call Marijke at 440- 9060 if you have questions.



**Sunday Potluck
December 5 after the Fellowship**

A-F dessert, G-L vegetable

M-S main dish, T-Z salad

As usual, we need volunteers to set up and clean up. Please call Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or e mail imohsenin @ comcast.net

A MERRY CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE FELLOWSHIP

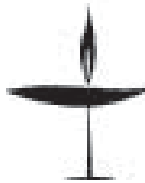
See inside for details!

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

*Time Value Material
Please Do Not Delay*

Non-Profit U.S. Postage Paid Aptos, CA Permit #11



Return Service Requested