



# 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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## The UNICORN

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## January Sunday Services

- Jan 2**     **10 am: Noetic Science: The mind body connection-** How do mind and body connect? There have been spiritual leaders throughout time that claim our mind body connection can lead to health or to dis-ease. Can the mind control the body?  
 Rev.Paul Langston-Daley
- Jan 9**     **10 am: Galileo, Heresy and the Church-** Why was Galileo's discovery so dangerous and damaging to the the early church? Why is it that science threatens the church? If science answers the question How and religion answers the question Why- is there really a conflict?  
 Rev.Paul Langston-Daley
- Jan 16**     **10 am: The Value of Science-**Members of our Fellowship will share their experience as scientists and explain the place of spirituality and religion in their lives.  
 Service Associate: Andy Kreyche  
**Vision of the Future** follows the service
- Jan 23**     **10 am: What the Bleep is up with *What the Bleep?*-** The film *What the Bleep Do We Know* has been accused of having "fuzzy science." But is there anything of value in this film? Is the question of Matter as Consciousness a valid question? How might this concept change the way we view the world?  
 Rev.Paul Langston-Daley
- Jan 30**     **10 am: American Thinking About Violence in the Middle East.** Dr. Alan Richards is a Professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, an expert on Middle Eastern affairs, and a member of Everyday Dharma Zen Center. He will speak on how Americans think about conflict in the Middle East, and what steps we can take to start to reduce violence and suffering in this region. Service Associate: Karen Holl

## Langston-Daley Thoughts

Dear Friends,

As the new year begins, I am full of fire. There seems to be a renewed sense of calling in me. Perhaps it is sense of inner calm that comes with full acceptance? In any case I feel like I am hitting a new stride. I hope you can feel it too.



What follows is a letter that I have sent off to Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA. I am asking for his support, and also yours. If you are pro-choice, please join me and others at the clock tower on January 22 at 5pm for a candlelight vigil in honor of women's reproductive rights. (At this time I am still waiting to hear if we have a permit for that date and time- more information will follow!)

Dear President Sinkford,

I am writing to seek your support for an action that is being planned for January 22, 2005. That date is the anniversary of Roe v Wade. On that date, I am hoping to gain support for an action that will call attention to women's reproductive rights.

I am asking people to stay home from work that day. It is a Saturday, so it would impact service employees the most. For those who must work, or wouldn't normally work on that day, I am asking that they do not purchase anything on that day. The economic impact could be great if we could rally around this cause. It would send a clear message to the Bush administration that we are a powerful economic force and we are not afraid to use that power.

It is clear to me that many people feel this is not a pressing issue- we still have reproductive rights- Roe v Wade is still in place, why act now?

The reality is that President Bush would not answer the question about a woman's access to abortion during the debates- He has a proven track record of limiting and eliminating the right to choice. I am not willing to wait until such rights have been even more severely curtailed or completely eliminated in the US before acting. I hope that you will act with me in supporting this action.

I ask for your support by reaching out to congregations and en-

couraging them to participate in this action. I ask you to wear the enclosed armband that we have designed to symbolize women's reproductive rights. I ask that you speak with your colleagues in other denominations and ask for their support.

The right to choice is not a religious or moral question. It is a civil question. We cannot allow the conservative religious community in America to impose their religious values on women. That would be no different than the Taliban forcing women to wear a burka or preventing them from attending schools.

I have enclosed the Call to Action sheet that we are sending out to many national and local community leaders. I am hoping for your support.

Sincerely,

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley



### Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for **Feburary** is **January 16th**. Please place articles in the *Unicorn* office folder or email them to the editor by that date. *Please email computer text and photos.*

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## Coordinating Council Meeting January 20

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All committee chairs and/or contacts as well as leaders of affiliated groups are invited to participate in a Coordinating Council meeting on Thursday, January 20 at 7:15 PM with the Board of Trustees.

We will review calendars, discuss the budget process, and develop/review initiatives for our future stated goals.

It is hoped that this will lead to greater internal communication and that all groups will attend and give the Board input as we move into the new year.

Please call Kären with any questions you may have.

See you there.

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## Greeters for January

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Jan 2 Mohsenin  
Jan 9 Anton  
Jan. 16 Gertler  
Jan. 23 Boone  
Jan 30 need a volunteer



## President's Letter

### *Reflections on 2004 and the nature of time...*

The nature of time has always fascinated me. The close of 2004 reminds me there are curious questions that recur to me every year about now.

How does one "find" time for something that has not been scheduled? Or "lose" time because a task takes longer than expected or we have experienced interruptions? How can time be a thing that is spent? Is it a commodity to be rationed, a limited resource so that we can believe that one does not have enough of it for any number of purposes?

Physicists have proposed that as the speed of light is approached, time slows down. How is that possible? Can it slow to a stop? If it stops, does one no longer exist? Does it really speed up as we age? Or is it that as we grow older our perception of the passage of time is altered? Could it be that we exist outside of time?

Many questions, some with complex answers, some unanswerable. Webster devotes a large amount of space to defining time and appears unable to decide if it is merely an interval between events or a non-spatial continuum in which events occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future. It is also called the fourth dimension.

It seems that every New Year calls for new resolutions. Is that because we have used the year that is ending unwisely and the year that is beginning wipes away the old resolutions and we have a chance to recover or start anew? We are warned to make good use of our time.

All this anxiety about time! I believe our values are independent of time and whatever language we use to trace their development, it is on our values that we need to focus attention.

*Time is..  
Too Slow for those who Wait  
Too Swift for those who Fear  
Too Long for those who Grieve  
Too Short for those who Rejoice  
But for those who Love  
Time is not.*

— Henry Van Dyke

In faith,

Kären

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## First Friday Book Group

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Hopefully everyone had enough time to read at least some of our very long December choice, "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry. Even if you were able to read only some of it, please join us. There is so much rich material in the book I know you will like the discussion

February's selection, "Labyrinth" by Lawrence Durrell is no longer in print so we've had to come up with a substitute. Jan Larzelere suggested "Cold Comfort Farm" by Stella Gibbon so that is our February choice.



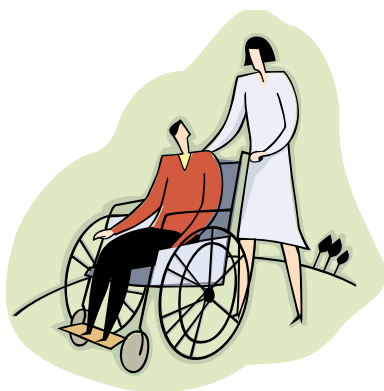
We meet the first Friday of each month at 7:30 at Joan Roberts' home. Call 688-7598 if you need questions answered.

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## Caring Connection

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Please note the shiny new easel for the Caring Connection board. Helen Oxley was the winning bidder at the last auction, and she has donated it to this oh-so-worthy cause. Be sure to check it out, and while there notice the requests and offers which are posted on it (and be sure to post your own!)



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## DRE Search Committee Solicits Congregational Input

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As most of you know, Sylvia Forsyth is ending her term as director of the children's religious education program (DRE) as of December 31, 2004. The UUFSCC Board has formed a DRE search committee comprised of Karen Holl, Cindi Rogers, Suse Shane, and Diana Wilson. The committee is charged with the following tasks:

1. Evaluate the overall children's RE program including input from parents, students, and the congregation at large.
2. Review and revise as needed the role and job description of the DRE.
3. Participate in the interviewing and hiring of a permanent DRE to start sometime after the end of our fiscal year (June 30).

During the month of January we will be soliciting input from UUFSCC members, both adults and children, about the religious education program. In addition, we will be looking for successful models of children's RE programs in other fellowships and churches. On Sunday, January 9 from 11:30-1 pm we will be holding a meeting for all adult UUFSCC members to provide their input. Childcare will be available during the meeting. We will break into small groups and discuss the following questions:

1. What is your vision of children's RE? In other words, what do you hope your child and/or children in general will gain from the RE program?
2. What excites your child/children about the Sunday morning experience at the UUFSCC?
3. What discourages your child/children about the Sunday morning experience at the UUFSCC?
4. What characteristics of a DRE are important and/or what type of support is most important for a DRE to provide for the success of the children's RE program?
5. Do you have any other input on how to structure the RE program?

If you cannot attend, we encourage you to submit your comments to us via e-mail ([kholl@ucsc.edu](mailto:kholl@ucsc.edu), [cirogers@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:cirogers@monterey.k12.ca.us), [jadeskye1952@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jadeskye1952@sbcglobal.net), [redoft@baymoon.com](mailto:redoft@baymoon.com)) by Jan. 16. We also welcome suggestions of other fellowships or churches we should contact that might provide examples for us as we evaluate our program. During the January 9 service we will be talking with the children in their classes about the RE program.

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## Our Vision of the Future

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Please join us on January 16th following the service to help continue to shape our desired future state. We have good solid goals, but now we have to figure out how to get there...



We need your thoughts, ideas, and energy to help us make these goals come true. So, we invite you to join the Dream Team on the 16th from 11:30-1:30. Childcare will be provided.

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### A Message from the Sunday Services Committee: We're Filling Up!

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The Sunday Service committee would like to ask you to take a moment on Sunday morning to see that attendance is up and we are close to having a full house!! This is a good problem to have, yet it is important that visitors feel like there is room for them and that they are welcome.

We would like to avoid the possibility of two services, and this is why we are asking members and friends to please fill in the seats on the right, in the front, to sit close to your neighbor, and if possible, car pool!! If we all make a small effort to create space, we'll be a cozy community and there will be room for all. We appreciate your cooperation and support!

Sunday Service Committee

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## The Welcoming Congregation

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As part of our endeavor to establish ourselves as a "Welcoming Congregation" according to UUA standards, the

Welcoming Congregation Committee of UUFSCC, sponsored by our Adult Education Committee, has scheduled

the following classes during the eight-week period starting Tuesday January 11, 2005. Each class starts promptly

at 7:00 pm and will end at approximately 9:30 pm (but hopefully earlier). Please attend one or more of these

classes, which will be not only be educational, but fun as well. Children are welcome. All classes are free.

Mission:

The Mission of The Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County is

"To affirm our values as accepting, loving human beings by authenticating our inclusivity (inclusiveness)

and by increasing our knowledge of queer issues as a means of fostering our spiritual growth and

promoting social justice."

Program:

The program will consist of presentations by the persons indicated on the following dates:

Jan 11 - Stereotypes - Lee Cavanaugh & Lorraine Sandoval-Virgil

Jan 18 - AIDS - Jenny Wood & Fred Seamon

Jan 25 - Lesbian & Gay - Jan Shirchild, Deanna Pernell & Fran Gertler

Feb 1 - Bisexual - Kathy & Scott Norton

Feb 8 - Transgender - Paul Langston-Daley & Fred Seamon

Feb 15 - Triangle Speakers (Jane Boone & Fran Gertler coordinating)

Feb 22 - Biblical Passages - Paul Langston-Daley & Patt Taylor

Feb 29 - Where Do We Go From Here? - Paul Langston-Daley, Karen Aaker, Fred Seamon

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## Dinner Club for January

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Dinner Club is open to all members of the Fellowship. Friends may join as a substitute 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 wishes to join the Dinner club, please email imohsenin@comcast.net or call 479-0105.

### Group 1

- 1 Rogers
- 2 Oxley/Farmer
- 3 Aaker/Fihe
- 4 Collier-Young

### Group 2

- 1 James/McCrow
- 2 Seamon
- 3 Dancing/Partlow
- 4 Milgate-Trusso

### Group 3

- 1 Meyer
- 2 Holden
- 3 Hudson/Shackelford
- 4 Lamb
- 5 Bailey

### Group 4

- 1 Keith-Spiegel/Racimora
- 2 Cavanaugh/Sandoval-Vigil
- 3 Mohsenin
- 4 Farhi-Humphrey

### Group 5

- 1 Wilson
- 2 Anton
- 3 Parker
- 4 Sprague
- 5 Crahen/Real

### Group 6

- 1 Wood
- 2 Gertler
- 3 Newman
- 4 Hoernschmeyer
- 5 Smith-Merrill

### Substitutes

Boone, Haddad, Pakulis,  
Franseth, Keth, Thiemann

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*Michael with his son Travis, and Evan at the Father's Day Picnic*



*Gene Partlow*

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## New Unitarian- Universalist Class

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Ever thought about becoming a member of the UU Fellowship? Well, here's your chance! We will be holding a two part informational class January 23 and 30. These two sessions will cover basic information about what it means to join our Fellowship, and will give those attending a chance to get to know each other a bit better.

So, if you are interested in joining or learning more about our Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist movement, please plan to join us following the service both days. **Please let Rev. Paul know if you would like us to arrange childcare.**



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## Member of the Month: Gene Partlow

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Among my first memories is: walking in Highland Park, a hilly suburb of L.A. with other kids on Halloween past a dark old house and we're giddy with spooky, wonderful feelings about the Great Mysterious... This runs deeper in me than my being born into a left-wing family, a 'red-diaper-baby' son of a self-important father and harried mother wedded to great causes, but clueless about kids' hearts. This was wounding, yet we also had richness: music of all sorts and my mother's love of fine paintings; and we played in the hills. Intellect and world-saving was stressed, yet later I felt happier with more artistic/spiritual souls, out of the mainstream, while I still regarded myself as a devout atheist.

When I finally shed the need to save-the-world-through-medicine, I found I truly loved the deep mysteries of physics and cosmology —where did we come from, where is it all going?

I met Star [Dancing] through the Church in Ocean Park at an intentional- communities group; a great way to begin to know and love her. We shared the same 'religion' in our love for animals and the spirit of the wildlands, like Zion and Joshua Tree. The UU? When the dust of eviction and retirement settled, we landed up here and hungered for 'our kind of community', and the UU beckoned, with its diverse progressive people and relaxed spiritual manner. I'm glad for this and more...for Star, friends, moments when I'm surprised to find myself more mellow and easier to be with...even easier to be me.

[A PS to any agency out in the Aether: If I ever get to reincarnate, I secretly choose to be a composer- performer —I love that magical giving-connection with an audience.]



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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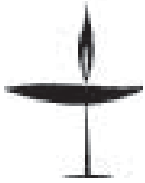
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