



# 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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## Unicorn Deadline



The deadline for **October** is **September 18th**. Please place articles in the *Unicorn* office folder or email them to the editor by that date. *Please email computer text and photos.*

## September Sunday Services

**Sept 4 10:00am: Labor of Love** - Labor of Love is when we give of ourselves for the greater good. Today is our annual gift to our beloved community and the fellowship grounds. Come in your grubbies with gardening tools and gusto! Pizza lunch follows. Contact Scott Young [Facilities Chairperson] for further information.

**Sept 11 10:00am: Gathering the Waters**  
*Come, come whoever you are. Wanderer, worshiper,  
lover of leaving;  
Ours in no caravan of despair. Come, yet again come.*  
—Rumi

Today we celebrate our annual homecoming as we collect the water of our travels into communion. This morning we will also welcome our new Interim Minister and introduce the new Board of Trustees.

*So come, yet again, come.*

Terra Collier-Young and Rev. Ann Schranz, Service Associates

**Sept 18 10:00am: Engaging Our Religious Diversity** - What will it take for religious liberals to strengthen our religious voice? Religious liberals do not share a common theological or philosophical perspective. Engaging our theological and philosophical diversity is a treasure hunt, not a game of dodge ball. We are all on the treasure hunting team.

Rev. Ann Schranz

**Sept 25 10:00am: The Space Between** - Life is the interim between birth and death. We face many “in between” times over the years. The old is ending, with a bang or with a whimper. What is to come has not yet made a sound. Ministry is what we do together as we bring out the best in each other. We will explore the special challenges and opportunities of ministry in the interim.

Rev. Ann Schranz

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## Ministerial Search Committee: Procedure for Appointment Proposed

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A procedure to create the Ministerial Search Committee has been proposed by the Nominating Committee, as directed by the Board, and most of the procedure has been reviewed and approved by the Board. The purpose is to move our search process forward without obligating us while we as a congregation decide whether we want to hire a settled minister. Our procedure was developed in consultation with Laila Ibrahim, who is the Ministerial Search Representative for the Pacific Coast District of UUA and who works with congregations as a resource to assist them with their search process.

### A Dream Team

The goal of the process is to create a search committee which our membership regards as a “dream team.” Accordingly, each member of the congregation will receive a phone call from a member of the Nominating Committee and will be asked to propose seven nominees for this committee. Members will be encouraged to nominate individuals who can be expected to adopt a broad perspective, moving beyond their particular preferences to consider the interests of the entire Fellowship.

Phoning each member of the congregation for nominations will be a labor intensive process, especially for the Nominating Committee.\* Laila Ibrahim reports, however, that phone calls have proven valuable in other congregations because they have helped to ensure that all members experience that they have been heard and are fully enfranchised in the selection of their new minister.

The Nominating Committee will collect the lists of dream team nominees from individual members, identify those names which appear repeatedly, and prepare recommendations to the Board. Recommendations will be based primarily on the numerical results of the survey but will not be entirely mechanical. For example, the composition of the committee should reflect some diversity of age and other demographics, and under our bylaws a maximum of one board member may serve on the Search Committee. The Nominating Committee will also propose a few alternates in case of attrition during a lengthy search process. . . .

Finally, the Board will review the Nominating Committee’s recommendations and submit a slate in writing to the membership four weeks before a congregational meeting when members will be asked to vote on the slate. Under our bylaws, additional nominees may be

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\*It has been suggested that some members may wish to skip the phone calls and submit written answers to the Nominating Committee’s questions. This may offer an efficient alternative method to collect information from these members. Whether or not we provide this option, the important point is that all other members will receive a phone call from the committee which is assembling the slate of candidates.

added to the slate by petition of four members for each nomination. If there are additional nominees, the seven members receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting will compose the Search Committee.

### 2006 vs. 2007 Options for our Target Date

The settlement of new ministers tends to run on a cycle ending in August of each year, and Laila has advised us that most congregations with a target date of August 2006 began their search process several months ago. She will help us if we want to pursue a 2006 target date, and she sees no obstacle in working with us prior to our decision about whether to hire a settled minister; but she advises that we will find a 2006 date challenging. We may also have a somewhat smaller pool of candidates to choose from if we press for a 2006 target date than if we choose a target date of August 2007. The Board will address the target date for our search process shortly.

Members who would like more information about the timetable for the settlement process may consult the URL: <http://www.uua.org/programs/ministry/settlement/2004handbook.html#transition>

Whatever our target date, Laila will be available as a resource during our process. Among the services she offers are two meetings at our Fellowship to be funded by PCD, the first meeting early in our process with either the Board alone or the entire congregation, whichever we prefer, and a second meeting with our Search Committee after it has been formed.

In the meantime, all members may wish to begin to familiarize themselves with the search process by consulting the Settlement Handbook on the UUA website on the Internet and by watching for further announcements. Stay tuned.

2004-2005 Nominating Committee  
Helen A. Oxley, Chair  
Thomas Witz  
Gerry Bailey  
Kathy Norton

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## President's Letter

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*Come into this circle of love and justice.  
Come into the community of mercy, holiness, and  
health.  
Come and you shall know peace and joy.  
- Adapted from Israel Zangwill*

Welcome home from your summer travels, be they a walk along the beach or in the mountains, along the roadways of a different state or country, or even a stroll through the environs of your own garden and neighborhood. We come home from summer and into September as if it were the beginning of a new year, and in many ways it is. We bring water collected during our travels and share the essence of this precious element with each other in our annual Gathering of the Waters ceremony [Sunday, Sept 11th]. September brings us the autumn equinox and that balanced time of light and dark. School starts and schedules change, taking on a more serious attitude. It's time to arrive, to show up, to be present, and to bring our summer refreshed selves to the fold.

Along with September comes our new Interim Minister. It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome the Rev. Ann Schranz to our humble fellowship. The Interim Search Committee recommended her to the special board meeting held on Aug 4, and the vote in favor of her was unanimous. As an Interim Minister, Rev. Ann will be holding a mirror up to this congregation. What are the stories we tell about ourselves? How do we relate to each other? How do we relate to the wider world? In the next year, we will have a chance to reflect on our reflection, so to speak.

Rev. Ann was an active lay leader in Florida before entering seminary. She grew up in Wisconsin and considers California her adoptive home.

In the coming year we will also prioritize and implement our Desired Future State Goals, or "the Goals" for short! The results of our Mt. Madonna retreat and town hall meetings last year have given us a document with which to set ourselves on the path toward our future; and it is a very bright future indeed. One of the first things we will do is hold quarterly coordinating council meetings; the next one is Sept 15th after the board meeting. (The Coordinating Council is where all chairpersons from all committees come together and, among other things, work out the fellowship calendar thereby increasing communication and productivity.)

One thing I would like to work on in my presidency is our overall

fellowship communication. We have so many ways of communicating with each other: the *Unicorn* with both the text and the calendar, the Caring Connection, the message board against the Rose Blossom school wall and the one that rolls out and sits next to the membership table, the back of the Order of Service, and the special spoken announcements made during the Sunday morning service. We are a very busy congregation and we like to be involved; yet too often people complain "I did not know that...". I am interested in suggestions on how to make Fellowship communication better.

This summer has been one of great learning for me. I have attended the Pacific Central District's [PCD] District Assembly held in San Ramon, CA., the UUA's General Assembly held in Fort Worth, Texas, and finally, PCD Leadership School held in Alamo, CA. What an amazing experience, all of them. I feel better prepared to be the President of the Board with all kinds of leadership skills and resources available to me. Our state and national associations offer a broad base of materials and knowledge, techniques and programs, magazines and instructional CD's, conversations and life experiences to help lay leaders in our Unitarian Universalist congregations. I will call on these resources as I work with Rev Ann, the Board, our committees, membership and friends to continue the fellowship's good community work and spiritual growth, as outlined so well in our Mission Statement and Reach Covenant.

So come into the circle of love and community. We offer a welcome table where hearty portions of social justice, nourishing emails of caring and compassion, helping upon helping of inspiration, stewardship and fellowship bring us closer to our optimum health and best potential, that you may know peace and joy!

Namaste, Terra Collier-Young

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## First Friday Book Group

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With our discussion of *The Strangeness of Beauty* by Lynda Minatoya on September 5th the First Friday Book Group, along with the rest of the northern hemisphere will be heading officially into Fall. We've chosen books through December and include, for October, *Fathers and Sons* by Turgenev and Mann's *Buddenbrooks* for November. Our December choice will probably be *True Notebooks* by Mark Salzman but don't rush out to buy it just yet. Plans can change.

We meet at 7:30 on the first Friday of each month at Joan Roberts' home. Questions? Call 688-7598.



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## Workshop On Dreams September 10

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As a fundraiser for the Fellowship, Marsha Hudson, Ph.D., past president of the Board and a professional dreamworker, will facilitate a workshop on dreams and their meaning on September 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. After a brief introduction to the foundational principles of group dream work, the group will collaboratively respond to a dream volunteered by a participant, keeping in mind that dreams come in the service of our health and wholeness, and only the dreamer knows for sure what the dream means. The fee is \$20 and the workshop is open to the public as well as to members and friends of the Fellowship.

Marsha has a dream work practice in Santa Cruz and facilitates dream groups and workshops, is a consultant to peer dream groups, therapists, and individuals. She has studied dream work with Jeremy Taylor and Robert Bosnak and is a member of the International Association for the Study of Dreams. She has a doctorate in comparative literature and has served on the faculties of several two and four year colleges including Cabrillo College and UCSC.

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## Religious Education Update

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Dear Fellowship Members,

We, as members of the Religious Education Committee, are excited about the youth religious education program we have planned for this fall which will begin on September 18th. As most of you know, we are trying a new teaching model with paid teachers. We are excited to introduce our enthusiastic and highly-qualified teachers, Liesa Lietzke, who will be teaching the 1-3rd grade class, and Ben Jumper, who will be leading the Sunday morning teen class (see "Introducing our new RE teachers"). Unfortunately, the teacher we selected for the 4-6 grade class recently resigned due to health problems. We are currently in the process of interviewing teachers for the preschool and 4-6 grade classes on Sunday mornings, as well as for YRUU.

We hope many UUFSCC members will volunteer to help with RE this year. We all know how important intergenerational interaction in our fellowship is, both to the adults and the children. Although we are hiring teachers, we need volunteer assistants in each class to support our teachers and provide a safe, educational environment for our children. By hiring teachers to plan the lessons, we hope that many of you will feel comfortable participating in classes by serving as an assistant and helping with RE in other ways. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know our children and learn from them.

This fall we will be asking all children and parents to sign new behavioral covenants before enrolling in RE classes. We hope this covenant will help our children to learn to live UU values and also to make them feel comfortable in their RE classes.

**Finally, our beginning of the year all fellowship RE meeting will be after the service (11:30-1 pm) on September 18.** This will also be the first day of RE classes so it is important that all children attend RE on this day. This meeting will give us an opportunity to introduce the teachers, and let you know about the curriculum and schedule for the year. We strongly urge all fellowship members to attend; your participation is necessary for a successful RE program. Any parent unable to attend must read and complete all RE paperwork before his/her child can be enrolled in RE. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Holl, Committee Chair.

We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Cordially,

Karen Holl, Committee Chair

Rich Fallis      Cindy Rogers

Devi Tong      Diana Wilson

Thomas Witz

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## Introducing our Youth Religious Education Teachers

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### Liesa Lietzke

Liesa Lietzke will be teaching the 1-3rd grade class. Liesa has a B.A. in Creative Arts from San Jose State and is an artist. She teaches children's art classes through the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County and Capitola Recreation. She also teaches art, theater, and math at Empire Academy. Her mother was a Unitarian Universalist and she has an interest in both eastern and western philosophies, including Buddhism and Paganism. Her current art work consists of drawing comic books with Buddhist themes. She practices a very hands-on approach to teaching.

### Ben Jumper

Ben Jumper will be leading the Sunday morning teen class. Ben received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Hawaii, Hilo with extensive coursework in religious studies and philosophy. He is currently enrolled in the graduate program in Mythological Studies at the Pacifica Graduate Institute. He was involved in a Unitarian Universalist group in college and is interested in possibly pursuing a career as a UU minister. He is excited to be working with UU teens, and had actually been looking for such a position before he even saw our advertisement. He has experience serving as a tutor for students from a range of demographic and ethnic backgrounds.

### Important RE Dates

**September 11** – Water Ceremony – All Ages Services

**September 18** – First day of RE classes, All fellowship RE meeting 11:30-1:00!!

## Behavioral Covenant for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County based on our seven UU principles

### 1. We believe that each and every person is important.

*We treat everyone with respect and kindness. We help keep ourselves and others safe.*

### 2. We believe that all people should be treated fairly.

*We listen, and respect others by taking turns and not interrupting.*

### 3. We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

*We include everyone in activities and discussions. We make everyone feel welcome.*

### 4. We believe that each person is free to search for what they believe to be true and right.

*We share our ideas and respect the ideas of others.*

### 5. We believe that all persons should have the right to speak out and have a say about what concerns them.

*We express our opinions in helpful and positive ways.*

### 6. We will work for a world of peace, freedom and fairness for all.

*We do our best to get along with others and be helpful. We talk about our problems and ask for help when we need it.*

### 7. We believe in caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things.

*We are gentle with all plants and animals. We take good care of our fellowship by using only what we need and being careful with what we use.*

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## We Want to Hear Your Voice

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Would you like to be more involved in Sunday Services? The Sunday Service Committee invites you to participate in Sunday Services in any way that calls to you. If you are interested in becoming a service associate, or in occasionally offering a reading, song, chalice lighting, children's story, credo, pulpit editorial, or sermon (or by sharing some other talent!) please contact Yael ([ylachman@redshift.com](mailto:ylachman@redshift.com)) or Erin ([a\\_bittergirl@yahoo.com](mailto:a_bittergirl@yahoo.com)). We look forward to hearing from you!

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## CARING CONNECTION

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The Caring Connection Committee would like to remind you of its mission and role in the community. Don't forget that we are here to communicate your urgent needs to our members.

The Caring Connection is a conduit for transmitting personal requests and needs to the fellowship community. It is up to the members to respond to any request. We transmit emergency needs by email or phone tree; other needs and/or offers may be posted on the Caring Connection bulletin board.

We try to keep in touch with members who are ill or incapacitated to assure that they continue to remain in touch with the rest of the membership.

### *THE CARING CONNECTION BOARD*

The purpose of this bulletin board is to provide a way for members of the fellowship community to assist one another by offering, requesting, or exchanging (bartering) their possessions, knowledge and/or abilities. Actual arrangements for requests, offers or exchanges of goods or services are to be decided and agreed upon solely by the individual parties involved as long as there is no monetary exchange.

Sample postings:

- You need a ride or want to offer one.
- You want to offer or request assistance with having something typed, perhaps in exchange for some other service.
- You are computer challenged and would like assistance from a computer wizard in exchange for .....
- You can offer your ability to do plumbing or electrical work in exchange for help with gardening or a home-cooked meal.
- You have something you no longer need and you would like to give it away or
- You can offer to barter it for something you do need!

The Committee: Eve Seamone, Helen Oxley, Liz Stewart, Missy Ratcliffe, Jane Boone

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## Request for Art!

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The Art Committee welcomes you to submit your art work for a show in the Fellowship hall in October. This all members exhibit is scheduled for viewing from September 15 till October 30. All works exhibited must be picked up by artists on Sunday, October 30 after the service.

The goal of this committee is to have an integrated presentation of art works reflecting the talents of Fellowship artists. Works will be selected with visual cohesiveness of the total in mind. Because of space limitations size will also be a consideration.

### **Criteria for Judging:**

1--- Each member 18 and over is invited to submit 3 pieces of artworks for exhibition.

2--- Entries must be original, appropriate for the setting, of high quality and ready to hang. No raw glass edges will be accepted. Mounted pieces must be on white mats. Identification, with title of the work, your name and phone number, must be placed on the back of all art works submitted.

3--- Submissions can be brought to the home of Marylou Lamb at 1305 Chanticleer Ave. Santa Cruz on Friday & Saturday, September 9th & 10th between 11 AM & 1 PM. Please call 465-9973 for further information if needed.

4--- Works not included in the showing at this time will have to be picked up the following week-end.

5--- While normal precautions will be in effect at the Fellowship we do not provide insurance for art works. You are responsible for insuring your art works

6--- If you would like to submit a bio and analysis of your work, we will display it appropriately.

In the future we plan to have solo exhibits of members' works. The selection of the solo art works will be done by a non-member qualified Juror.

Art Committee: Judy Anton, Mary Brooks, Lee Cavanaugh, Pat McViegh, Marylou Lamb

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## A Special TGIF!!

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TGIF on Fri. Sept. 23 from 6:00 to 8:00P.M.  
at the Fellowship

Come to a preview of the Yard Sale and  
join in an informal get together at TGIF.

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## Membership Table

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Sept. 11 Judy Anton

Sept. 18 TBA

Sept. 25 Iran Mohsenin

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## Dinner Club...

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...will begin in October. If you are interested  
in being part of a dinner club or would like  
to know more about it, pick up a flyer on the  
greeters table or see Iran Mohsenin. This is  
open to all Fellowship members.

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## From the Hospitality Committee...

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The Hospitality Committee wants to extend  
a big welcome home to all of you and best  
wishes for the Fall season. As you probably  
know, our committee is responsible for co-  
ordinating and facilitating refreshments after  
the Sunday morning service. We like to think  
we help create a friendly space where new-  
comers, visitors, and members feel welcome  
and a part of our community. The Coffee  
Hour is really special to most of us. Unitar-  
ians love to eat, and talk, and eat some more.

To serve behind the scenes, in other words  
bring the goodies, is rewarding and can be  
fun. It's a great way for newcomers to meet  
oldtimers and vice versa too. Some people  
like to share special harvests or recipies with  
us. Others simply go to Costco. Because  
the cost of supplies has escalated, we are  
providing a donation kitty on the food tables  
to help cover expenses, so that volunteers  
can be reimbursed if needed. Remember, we  
need each of you to sign up so that we can  
continue our special coffee hour. The sign  
up sheet is on the coffee table or see Mary  
Brooks on Sunday morning.

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## Welcome to Rev. Ann Schranz, Our Interim Minister

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The Interim Search Committee is pleased to welcome Ann. She  
comes to us with the highest recommendations from colleagues, fac-  
ulty, and congregational leaders.

Ann was ordained this spring following the completion of her formal  
preparation for ministry at Starr King School where she received  
her master of divinity degree. Her ordination was held at the Or-  
ange coast UU Church in Costa Mesa where she served an intern-  
ship.

Prior to her decision to become a minister, she was an active lay  
leader serving as a board president, Sunday services committee  
chair, and delegate to General Assembly. She identifies as a reli-  
gious humanist.

Ann also holds a BA in journalism and an MBA, and she has a wide  
variety of life and business experiences. Her work in Nicaragua  
was a turning point in shifting her focus to a wider world. Her part-  
ner, Von New, is currently working on the east coast.

Ann is enthusiastic about beginning her ministry with us and looks  
forward to meeting everyone.

Welcome, Ann!

Committee members Kären, Don, Iran, Terra, Bob

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## Yard Sale in September

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The Fellowship's annual yard sale will be held on Saturday, Sept.  
24, at the Fellowship. For information contact John Thiemann, 728-  
9309, or Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660.

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## Join A Chavarah!!

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If you have been curious about the chavarot and have wondered  
about joining one, now is the time to make your interest known!!  
Because the Fellowship currently has three ongoing chavarot which  
are nearing capacity, we will be forming new chavarot this fall.

**A chavarah is an intergenerational group like a family which  
meets regularly, usually monthly, to provide an opportunity  
for participants to get to know each other better and to sup-  
port each other.** Each chavarah develops its own byways. Some  
chavarot gather just for a potluck and socializing while others like a  
more structured format or a planned activity.

Each new chavarah needs a minimum of eight people to start  
up. If you are interested, call Marsha Hudson, the chavarot coordi-  
nator, at 425-8167 or email her at [mnudson@pacbell.net](mailto:mnudson@pacbell.net). (Note:  
chavarOT is the plural form and chavarAH is the singular).

*Annual Yard Sale!*  
*Saturday, September 24*

*Water Ceremony*  
*September 11*

*All Fellowship RE Meeting*  
*after the service, September 18*

**Welcome, Rev. Ann Schranz!**

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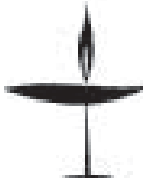
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