



The UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
6401 Freedom Boulevard, Aptos, California 95003, (831) 684-0506
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Volume 2005, Number 9

October 2005

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday is Rev. Ann's day off. Appointments can be scheduled at other times and are always encouraged. Please call the Fellowship office or email annschranz@aol.com

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The UNICORN

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UNICORN Deadline

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



October Sunday Services

- Oct 2** **10:00am “Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are.”** October is “National Coming Out Month.” As part of our continuing journey toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation, Triangle Speakers of Santa Cruz County will grace us with a panel of speakers representing the diversity of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered community. Today's service will leave ample time for the panel's presentation and questions from the congregation.
Fran S. Gertler, Service Associate
- Oct 9** **10:00am “Who Else Are You?”** On the one hand, an obsession with questions of identity is tedious and can sidetrack us from engaging wholeheartedly with others. On the other hand, violence and suffering can often be traced to identities in conflict. Is there an alternative to ambivalence about the politics of identity? We will explore the merits of choosing to have many facets to our identities. The greater the number of facets, the greater the sparkle.
Rev. Ann Schranz
- Oct 16** **10:00am “Yom Kippur: The Face of Forgiveness”**
This week, Jews all over the world will begin the New Year with a day of fasting and prayer. Jewish tradition teaches that while the Day of Atonement has the power to restore our relationship with God, prayer and fasting alone will never repair our relationships with one another. For this, we must actually ask for and offer forgiveness. Today, we will dip into Jewish tradition for a look at the practice of forgiveness and its role in religious community.
Yael Lachman and Rev. Ann Schranz
- Oct 23** **10:00am “Lessons of Ramadan”** As one of the five pillars of Islam, Ramadan is integral to Muslim religious life. Fasting for a religious purpose is not unique to Islam, but going without food and water during daylight hours for a month is a greater sacrifice than many of us are prepared to make. Our inquiry into Ramadan may take us to a place where we are challenged to answer this question: What does Unitarian Universalism ask of us?
Iran Mohsenin and Rev. Ann Schranz
- Oct 30** **10:00am “Samhain”** Let us remember all that came before us and give reverence and thanks. In our annual ritual this morning, we will acknowledge our ancestors and our departed beloved. Please bring a photograph or an artifact of anyone you wish to honor for the community altar. Blessed Be.
Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate

A Message From Our Interim Minister, Rev. Ann

It was a treat to hear the memories shared during the Homecoming service last month. I could not have asked for a better way to start to get to know some of the people in this congregation. The sanctuary was filled. The building and grounds were especially attractive, thanks to those who helped with the “fall cleaning” the previous week. That annual event is called the “Labor of Love.”

Participation in the life of this congregation is a labor of love. At times, the emphasis may be on “labor,” I imagine. Other times, the emphasis may be on “love.” I am reminded of the poem by Rev. Mark Belletini, which is adapted below:

We arrive.

Weary or wary we arrive.

Wondering and wistful we arrive.

Ready and unready we arrive.

With our whole lives in tow we arrive.

Healing and helpful,

hurting and hearty we arrive.

And though our leaving is already

budding in our arrival,

we shall not be quite the same

when we leave.

May the blossom open in beauty.

Arrival and leaving are never far from the mind and heart of an interim minister. Our time together will be brief, as judged by the calendar. I expect that our time together will be rich and rewarding, for the calendar is not the source of meaning and value.

When you have a chance, please stop by, call, or drop me a line via email. I look forward to meeting you.

Rev. Ann

Summary Of What Your Board Has Been Doing

What the Board Did in July

- * The minutes from May were approved.
- * It was declared that the fellowship had met the requirements of the bylaws and that no further auditing be done excluding one relating to negotiations with Paul
- * It was decided that offsetting items 1360 and 2660 would be removed from the Balance Sheet.
- * It was resolved that Terra, Don and Bill were approved for actions in connection with Smith Barney.

What the Board Did in August

- * The minutes from July were approved.
- * It was unanimously decided the Fellowship offer Ann Schrantz the position of interim minister for the period September 1, 2005 - August 27, 2006.
- * It was decided to approve Ben Jumper to teach Sunday morning teen class this Fall.

What They Did in September

- * The minutes from August were approved.
- * The Board approved an amended budget to reflect reduced insurance expenses needed for our new interim minister. UUFSCC now has a budget surplus of \$1500.
- * Marsha Hudson, Lee Cavanaugh and Brent Haddad were approved for terms on the Nominating Committee.
- * It was decided that –if in fact the congregation decides to settle a minister- that the Fellowship would settle a minister in 2007 so that there would be time for a thorough search process.
- * It was decided that a special collection would be taken on September 25 to pro-

vide funds for the South East District for the benefit of survivors of hurricane Katrina. In view of the exceptional circumstances of the hurricane, it was decided that the Fellowship would suspend its policy on special collections in this instance and allow individuals to designate gifts specifically for the South East District and study the policy later.

* John Moran was approved for the position of RE pre-school teacher.

Rich Fallis, Secretary

Revised Budget has \$1,500 Surplus

At the 15 September Board meeting an adjusted budget for FY2006 (through June 2006) was approved. The previous budget was adopted by the Congregation at the May meeting before complete information was available about our needs for this year.

The most significant change is a reduction in the Minister's package of (\$3,760) because Rev Ann does not require dependent support benefits.

A depreciation allowance of \$1,000 was added to Facilities Expenses to account for needed future parking lot maintenance.

The line items for UUA and PCD Annual Program Funds were adjusted by a total of \$478 to meet the desired "fair share" amounts.

The final item discussed by the Board was the need for a realistic budget for publication of the directory. An increase of \$400 to a total of \$500 was approved.

We noted that the ByLaws permit the Board to increase the budget by up to 10% (\$15,000) without further Congregational action, and were all smiles when we realized that we had approved a net reduction in the budget for this year. Future reports will reference this adjusted budget – designated FY2006A.

Bill Sampson, Treasurer

President's Letter

No matter how much I think I know what I want, what Spirit provides when I give myself in service is always much more interesting than anything I could ever have conceived of. –Nicki Scully

As I wrote in the September *Unicorn* President's letter, one goal of mine for this coming year is to improve our overall fellowship communication. What I'd like to propose is a newsletter sent out weekly with an update on what is happening at the fellowship. It will list the events of various committees and groups, including general information that lets people know what is happening. I will work with Marianne, our new Office Assistant, to create and send out a proto type to the fellowship email list for you to preview. If you do not want to participate you may "opt out". Again, we are a very busy congregation; communication is very important and this is yet another way to be informed.

Another important announcement is that on November 6th, at our Congregational Meeting, we will hold an vote, by those members present at the meeting, to determine and assure our desire to be a congregation with a settled professional minister. We will also vote on three new members for the Nominating Committee [please see the Nom-Com article in this news letter] who will then nominate the Search Committee ("Dream Team"), who will then search for our potential new settled minister. I want to thank Helen Oxley and all members of the Nominating Committee, present and future, for working out the details of finding a Search Committee and Settled Minister.

Actually, many thanks are in order here and I want to take a moment to extend a note of appreciation to the Personnel Committee, being Lora Lee Chapman and Rich Fallis, for all the advertising and interviewing they did that brought us our new Office Assistant, Marianne Osborn. I also want to thank the RE Committee, Karen Holl, Devi Tong, Cindi Rogers, Diana Wilson, and the ever busy Rich Fallis. They held an informative parents meeting on Sept 18th, introducing the teachers and giving an overview of what the new year in RE will strive for. We are forward moving!!

I am looking forward to the coming year. We have a lot of good work in front of us as well. Let us lock arms in our commitment for a world of peace, justice and compassion.

In Service,
Terra



Hi UUFSCC members and friends:

I just joined C.O.M. and somehow the "newbee" agreed to write updates on C.O.M. happenings for the *Unicorn*. So I guess we can learn together what C.O.M. is all about. The first meeting I attended was the annual all day retreat so I got welcomed and indoctrinated in a hurry.

So what is C.O.M. all about? Well..... we're in the middle of re-writing our charter and once it's recognized by the Board I'll let you know. But the biggest thing I'd like to share/remind everyone of is something we've already decided -- ours is a "shared ministry" so C.O.M. is here for everyone, including you! Sure we're involved with professional ministers but we want everyone's input and involvement in making UUFSCC an exciting, healthy place we all want to come to and participate in. We also accept the role of conflict management so if something or someone is troubling you at UUFSCC and if you'll share that with us, we will try and help find a solution. Please feel free to contact any one of us personally, or we have a box that in theory goes out on the membership table every Sunday (but sometimes is around the sound equipment in the sanctuary) and we have a mail slot in the office as well.

In the last month I've reviewed the R.E.A.C.H. Covenant and seen a strategic plan, a priorities and goals list and glanced at the bylaws. We have a mission statement, a covenant and principals and so does PCD & UUA - so if you're confused don't worry, you're not alone.

More next month. Erica Crawford for the C.O.M. (Patt Taylor, Robert Kraft, Marley Smith-Merrill, Thomas Witz and myself)

Clarification, Corrections, and a Note

There may have been some confusion over the *Behavioral Covenant* in the last issue. That is for children in RE and their parents; all others are not being held to any behavioral standard.

The listing of the board on the front page has been corrected.

Dave ("Woody") Wood's name is left off the list of members of the Nominating Committee last month.

The article *..Phone Calls..* on page 7 of this issue was supposed to appear last month.

The publisher acknowledges that these last two issues have had a lot of fellowship business; the *Member of the Month* column will return next month. At least it's not as dense as that twelve page issue during the reign of Marsha Hudson.

Announcements, Announcements

The Sunday Services Committee has been reviewing input from the congregation regarding the Sunday morning announcement policy, and we are in the process of making changes. Meanwhile, we ask that you please observe the following guidelines:

1. Sunday morning announcements are for Fellowship activities and events only. Please use the bulletin boards for all other types of information.
2. If at all possible, please try to have your announcement printed in the Order of Service, either on the back page or inserted as a small flyer. This keeps spoken announcements to a minimum and allows people to take your announcement home with them.
3. If you wish to have the Service Associate read your announcement aloud, please submit it no later than 9:45 a.m. This allows the Service Associate to maintain focus and clarity while preparing to lead the service.

Please stay tuned for further developments. We are working toward an announcement policy that will balance the need for brevity on Sunday mornings with the need to openly and enthusiastically communicate about important activities.

Yours in Fellowship,

Yael Lachman and Erin Balabanian

Co-chairs, Sunday Services Committee

Greeters for October

Oct.2 Karen Aaker

Oct. 9 Fran Gertler

Oct. 16 Marsha Hudson

Oct. 23 Judy Anton

Oct. 30 Iran Mohsenin

Dinner Club for October

Dinner Club meets once a month, usually on the 2nd Sat. at different peoples' houses. The coordinator assigns 6 or 7 people per host/ess. The first name on the list is a host, providing appetizers and beverages. The second name is the person(s) who brings a main dish, the third on the list brings salad and bread, the fourth brings dessert. If there is a fifth name, that person brings a vegetable. Each month there is a new host and a different set of people.

Hosts, please call your guests to set up time and date, if the 2nd Sat. does not work. If a person on your list cannot come, see the substitutes at the end of all the lists.

Group I

- 1 Aaker/Fihe
- 2 Lamb
- 3 Wilson
- 4 Newman

Group 2

- 1 Ratcliffe
- 2 Collier-Young
- 3 Neher
- 4 Senko

Group 3

- 1 Oxley/Newfarmer
- 2 Hudson/Shackelford
- 3 Crawford/Newbold
4. Bailey, Gerry

Group 4

- 1 Anton
- 2 James/McCrow
- 3 Hoernschemeyer
- 4 Meyer

Group 5

- 1 Rogers
- 2 Smith-Merrill
- 3 Gertler
- 4 Wood,Dave

Group 6

- 1 Mohsenin
- 2 Morairty
- 3 Sprague
- 4 LeMaster
- 5 Yael Lachman and Tracye

Substitutes

Boone,Brooks,Keith-Spiegel,Racimora,Norton, Tong, Sandoval-Vigil/ Cavanaugh, Seamon

Sanctuary Art

We have an interesting exhibit this month: the First Annual Member's Show. Some of your fellow members who are artists have contributed wonderful works of art for our sanctuary. Sue Meyer, Rick Meyer, Eve Seamon, Erica Crawford, Mary Brooks, Judy Anton and Marylou Lamb will have their creative efforts in the Fellowship for approximately six weeks. Take a few minutes to really look at them. Enjoy, and do tell your friends to come and enjoy them also.

Fellowship Art Committee

Judy Anton, Mary Brooks, Lee Cavanaugh, Marylou Lamb

THE SIXTH SOURCE

Winter and the New Year

As the stores display their bags of trick-or-treat candy and Halloween themed novelties, Wiccans prepare for the most important of our holidays, or, as we call them, Sabbats. This one is known as Samhain, (pronounced sow?- (as in female pig) -wen.) Samhain is a Gaelic compound word meaning "summer's end."

Just as the life of a person begins in the darkness of the womb, the Celts believed that the day began at sundown, and that the new year began at harvest's end, when the days began to spiral into more and more hours of darkness. It was not at the darkest night of the year, when the new sun was born, but approximately six weeks earlier, when the last harvest marked the end of summer. It was the time when they moved from their outdoor encampments into their round houses with a central hearth. They called winter "the time of the little sun." Since, in their world view, the old world literally dissolved, the veil dividing the living from the dead became thin, and communication with those who had passed from this plane became easier.

There will be two events at the Fellowship to mark this important season. Each year, CUUPS presents an annual Samhain service, and this year it will be held on Sunday, October 30. There will also be a Pagan Revival Meeting on Saturday, November 12 at 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Sanctuary, co-sponsored by CUUPS and Greenheart Grove, a local coven and sabbat circle. We will welcome in the New Year with rousing songs, story-telling, and a visit from the Crone Goddess. She will gladly receive any unnecessary concerns that have inadvertently been carried over from the old year, and need to be released. (Why should the fundamentalists have all the fun?) We welcome everyone to celebrate the old, old time religion with us on both occasions. For more information about Samhain, call Terra Collier-Young at 462-4995. For the Pagan Revival Meeting, call Janus Blume at 427-9864.

New Members Proposed for Nominating Committee and Special Assignment of Assembling a Ministerial Search Committee

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate as additions to the 2005-2006 Nominating Committee:

Marsha Hudson

Lee Cavanaugh

Brent Haddad

The Board will submit this slate to the congregation for approval at the November 6 congregational meeting. If approved, these members will replace Helen Oxley, Thomas Witz, and Gerry Bailey, who are stepping down from the Nominating Committee. They will join Kathy Norton and Dave/Woody Wood, who will continue on the committee for the second year of their terms.*

Establishing a Ministerial Search Committee

An issue to be voted on at the November 6 congregational meeting is whether to establish a Ministerial Search Committee.** While the congregation has yet to reach a final decision about whether to call a settled minister, establishing a Ministerial Search Committee prior to that decision will avoid unnecessary delay if the congregation does decide to proceed.

At their September Board meeting, the Board decided that August 2007 would be the target date for a settled minister to begin.

* The nominating committee shall consist of five Fellowship members not serving on the board for the coming year. Its members shall be elected for a term of two years, their terms to be staggered. No member shall serve two consecutive terms on this committee.. (Article VIII, Section 2)

There shall be three congregational meetings a year, one each in April, June, and November. . . . In November: election of nominating committee of five members. (Article V, Sections 2 and 5)

** Selection and Compensation. A ministerial search committee shall be established when voted by the congregation. After consultation with the voting members of the Fellowship, the board shall select seven names from among those presented, to be voted on at a congregational meeting called for that purpose. No member of the staff and not more than one member of the board shall be on the slate of seven nominees. Written notice of the slate shall be made to the Fellowship four weeks preceding the vote. Additional names may be added to the slate by the petition of four members for each nomination. In that event, the seven members receiving the highest number of votes of the membership present at the meeting will compose the committee. The ministerial search committee shall recommend a ministerial candidate to the Fellowship. (UUFSCC Bylaws, Article IX, Section 1.a)

Finding Candidates for a “Dream Team”

If the congregation votes on November 6 to create a Search Committee, it will be the responsibility of the new Nominating Committee to create a slate of candidates. This is an unusual special task for the Nominating Committee, and it will be in addition to their usual task of nominating candidates to serve on next year’s Board of Directors.

A planned procedure to create a Search Committee was outlined in the September Unicorn. It 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. As noted in the article, the procedure is designed to create a Search Committee which the membership of our Fellowship regards as a “dream team.”

To obtain nominees, members of the Nominating Committee will phone each member of the congregation and ask for the names of seven proposed members for our “dream team.” These nominees are individuals who can be expected to adopt a broad perspective, moving beyond their particular preferences to consider the interests of the entire Fellowship. The only members of the Fellowship who are ineligible for consideration are members of the Nominating Committee. Members may include themselves on their lists of nominees if they wish. All nominations will be kept confidential by the Nominating Committee.

Service on the Search Committee is demanding. For information about the various tasks involved in the search process, go to the UUA webpage on the Internet and look for the *Settlement Handbook*. Laila Ibrahim advises that each committee member can expect to devote an average of five hours per week throughout the search process, and about twenty hours during the candidating process. Some members of UUFSCC who have served on the Search Committee in the

past characterize this estimate as conservative.

Many members of our congregation would not find it possible to make such a major time commitment. Yet in response to an inquiry from the Nominating Committee in the July *Unicorn*, several members of our congregation responded that, yes, they would be willing to serve if asked. Other members who have not yet answered this question will be asked again during the survey.

Service on the Search Committee is one of the most important contributions which members can ever expect to make to the Fellowship. Laila advises that in other congregations, some individuals who were initially unwilling to make this commitment reconsidered when they learned that they had been asked by a large number of their fellow members to serve. This may be the experience of our congregation as well.

2004-2005 Nominating Committee:

Helen A. Oxley, Chair
Thomas Witz
Gerry Bailey
Kathy Norton
Dave/Woody Wood

First Friday Book Group

In October the First Friday Book Group will meet at the regular time (7:30) on the 7th, at the regular place (Joan Roberts'), and we will be discussing *Turgenev's Fathers and Sons*.

In November it will be *Buddenbrooks* by Thomas Mann and in December we will turn to one of our favorite authors, Mark Salzman. In his book *True Notebooks* he writes of his experience teaching writing in a prison. This is a departure from his usual novels. January's choice is *The Leopard* by Giuseppe Lampedusa.

Answers to questions about directions to the meeting place or other details can be found at 688-7598.

Ministerial Search Committee: Phone Calls to Members of the Congregation

[**Pub. Note:** *this was supposed to appear in the September issue. I know that it repeats material found in the adjoining article. Forgive me.*]

As explained in a report from the Nominating Committee which is printed elsewhere in this newsletter, a procedure has been developed for appointing a Search Committee so that we can move promptly if our congregation decides to hire a settled minister.

A key part of this procedure is to phone each member of the congregation and obtain his or her input. During these phone calls, each member will be asked to answer the following questions:

1) What seven members of this congregation would you like to see on the Search Committee? Submit any seven names you believe would serve well to create a "Dream Team."

Your choices will be kept confidential by Nominating Committee.

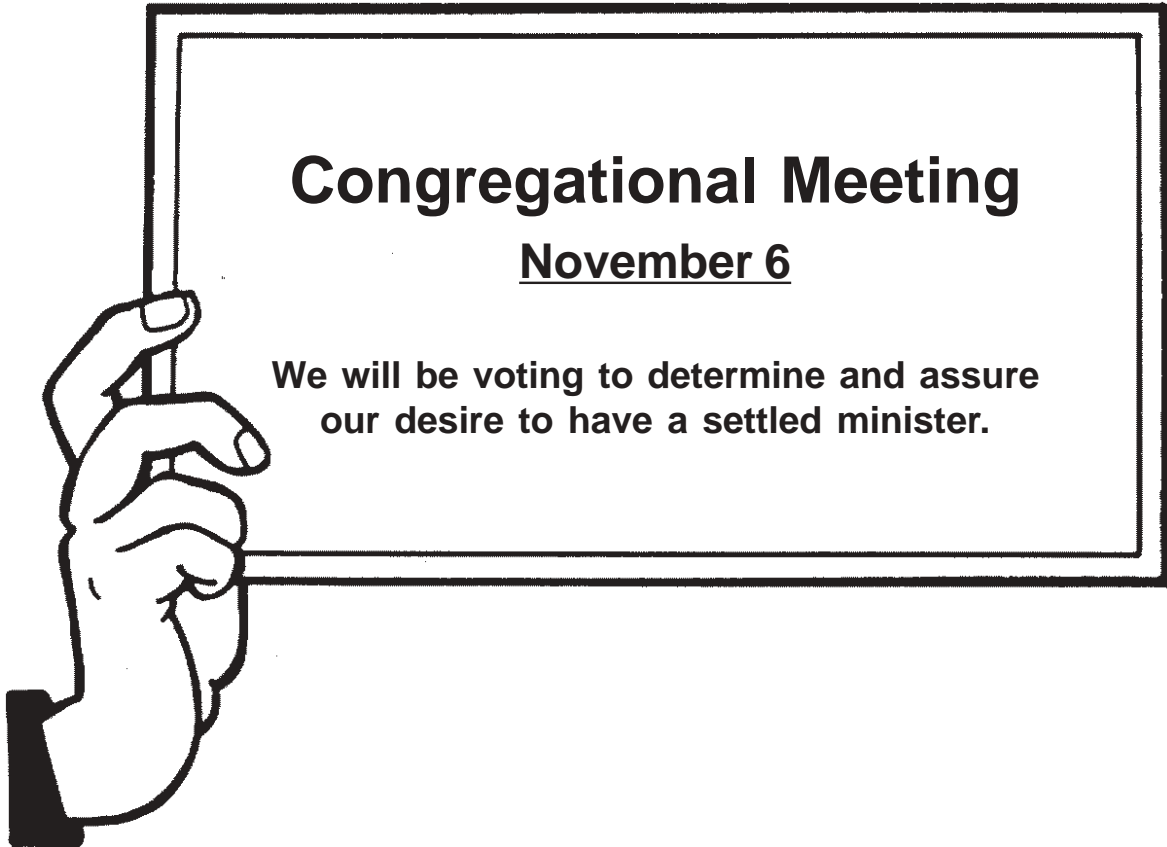
2) If asked to be a member of the Search Committee yourself, would you be available to serve?

Service on the Search Committee is demanding. Laila Ibrahim, our consultant from PCD, advises that each committee member can expect to devote an average of five hours per week throughout the search process, and about twenty hours during the candidating process. Information about the various tasks involved in the search process can be found on the Internet on the UUA webpage; look for the *Settlement Handbook*.

Many members of our congregation would not find it possible to make such a major time commitment. Yet service on the Search Committee is one of the most important contributions which members can ever expect to make to the Fellowship, and several members have already said yes to this question in response to an invitation from the Nominating Committee in the July *Unicorn*. Laila advises that in other congregations, some individuals who were initially unwilling to make such a time commitment reconsidered when they learned that they had been asked by a large number of their fellow members to serve. This may be the experience of our congregation as well.

3) If you become a member of the Search Committee, what dates would you be available to attend a Committee retreat?

A time frame will be proposed. A retreat is the first major time commitment for members of the Search Committee.

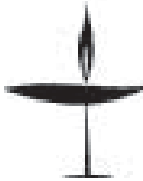


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