



The UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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The UNICORN

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December Services

All Sunday Morning Services Begin At 10:00a.m.

- Dec 4** **“Living in Balance: Wisdom from the Amazon”**
Former Cabrillo College instructor Judy Reynolds has recently returned from the Peruvian Amazon, where her connections with shamans and Shipibo Indian communities deeply influenced her understanding of what it means to live in harmony with the earth. This morning, Judy will share some of her astounding experiences as we explore possibilities for balance and harmony in our own lives.
Judy Anton, Service Associate
- Dec 11** **“Who Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”**
Lifespan faith development is sometimes misunderstood as being only for children and youth. Fortunately, being a grown-up does not mean that the fun is over. The development of maturity, in its many forms, brings rich rewards for ourselves, our loved ones, and our community.
Rev. Ann Schranz and Marsha Hudson
- Dec 18** **“Winter Solstice ~ Yule” All Ages Service**
The dark sacred night rules the day and we are going to celebrate it with song, story, and tree decorating. Come young, and come young at heart, for this seasonal celebration. Potluck to follow service.
Terra Collier-Young Service Associate
- Dec 24** **Saturday evening, 5:00p.m. “Christmas Eve in Song”**
Come let us sing together. We will sing songs in minor keys, songs in major keys, secular songs, and religious songs. We may even hear a euphonium. There will be one service on Christmas Eve.
Rev. Ann Schranz and Erin Balabanian, Carol Thorson, and the Fellowship Choir
- Dec 25** **“Born in a Manger: A Gentle Look at Class”**
Born with a silver spoon in our mouth or born in a manger, we are shaped by the circumstances of our early life. In this service, small group discussion will take center stage.
Rev. Ann Schranz

A Message from Rev. Ann



We are heading into a particularly busy time of year. There are expectations on all sides. Family and friends may expect to see us. We may expect to give and receive presents. Retailers certainly expect us to give and receive presents. This time of year, it can be challenging to maintain a sense of inner calm, centeredness, and lightheartedness.

Yet the gift of inner calm, centeredness, and lightheartedness may be the best gift we have to offer to others. Unitarian Universalism encourages each of us to responsibly search for truth and meaning, in the company of others. That search takes time and energy. For many of us, the search feels better (and is also more productive) when it is grounded in a sense of inner calm. That inner equilibrium also makes us more effective workers for social justice because we are less likely to become discouraged or irritated.

Speaking personally, I find meaning in the process of institutionalizing kindness. Both kindness and institutions are important. Kindness keeps us connected to human warmth and decency. Institutions coordinate and leverage individual kindness into a force able to engage with institutionalized oppression.

Years ago, I read about an interesting research study. In the study, there was a stranger in need. The test subjects would encounter the stranger. Some people would stop and try to help. Others hurried on without stopping. Why the difference in the two groups? The people who hurried on without stopping had previously been given an important task to complete by the designers of the study. The people who stopped and tried to help had not been given an important task by the designers of the study. We might say that those "on a mission" had forgotten the "mission" of a common humanity.

In this busy season, make time to responsibly search for truth and meaning. Make time to become grounded in a sense of inner calm, centeredness, and lightheartedness. Make time to institutionalize kindness.

Rev. Ann



First Friday Book Group:

If you liked last month's reading schedule we predict that you'll like this month's. We'll be talking about Mark Salzman's "True Notebooks: A Writers Year at Juvenile Hall" on Friday, December 1st. Bob Jett has promised fruit cake for this, our final meeting of 2005, and Joan Roberts said something about egg nog with a wee touch of brandy in it.

Also mentioned was toffee and I'm sure there will be other things to try to lure you to our meetings. We'll face 2006 and whatever it brings by meeting January 1, (at least that is what is scheduled at this printing) by reading "The Leopard" by Giuseppe Di Lampedusa. We've been lucky enough to locate a copy of the movie and will be watching it on Saturday, January 2nd. "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain is for February and we are open for suggestions for other books for the upcoming months.

If you have question please call 688-7598.

Greeters



Greeters for December are:

Dec. 4 Jane Boone

Dec. 11 Iran Mohsenin

Dec. 18 Judy Anton

Dec. 24 evening 5:00 p.m. Need Greeter

Dec. 25 morning service Need Greeter

To sign up please contact Iran Mohsenin or Judy Anton

Dinner Club will not be held in December but will begin again in January.

President's Letter

"I honor the place in you where Spirit lives. I honor the place in you which is of Love, of Truth, of Light, of Peace. When you are in that place in you, and I am in that place in me, then we are One."

This morning our wonderful interim minister, Rev. Ann Schranz, delivered a sermon that gave me just the context I was looking for to approach my letter to you this month: personality types, the wide variety of them here at the UUFSCC, and what we can do to enhance the quality of our relationships.

For instance, the intriguing psychological tool of the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (M.B.T.I.) tells me that I am an ENFP (extroverted, intuitive, feeling, perceiver). I "want and need involvement with people, and [I] value harmony in those relationships"; [I] "tend to think globally and metaphorically, [and I] love looking for new perspectives on facts, events, and people." These are but a few qualities written in the book *Looking At Type: The Fundamentals* for the MBTI. Imagine an interaction between an ENFP and the complete opposite, an ISTJ [introverted, sensing, thinking, judger] who "lives in an abiding sense of responsibility for doing what needs to be done in the here-and-now... one whose realism, organizing abilities, logical pragmatism, and command of the facts" makes them "take their work seriously and believe others should do so as well." It would be very interesting if these two types were to work together on – say – the budget! At the same time, I would like to suggest that if we intentionally set out to work for the most amicable path, and hold the notion of *namaste* in our hearts, we could probably do that task *and* publish the *Unicorn* with great success.

A large part of Unitarian Universalist history, including our own, is about how we struggle and agitate against issues we find in opposition to our worldview, like social injustice and environmental degradation. Yet I wonder if that agitation has also found itself rubbing against people we are actually in concert with and with whom we are working for a common goal. It is understandable that how we relate to each other in our fellowship life in general, and committee life in particular, has a lot to do with how we feel about our time spent volunteering. As Art Anton suggested this morning, though we are hard-

wired to see the world around us through our own unique lens, *with a strong desire to be right*, we are encouraged to consciously choose to suspend our view of reality, to be open to possibilities, in order to see how the perspectives of others may well complement and enrich our own. Also, when we communicate with compassion and a true desire for the best possible outcome, we inspire others to do so as well.

I think that the most profound expression of the inherent worth and dignity of all people lies in this ancient Sanskrit word: *namaste*. When we practice *namaste*, we override the hard-wiring of self-righteousness and differences of personality types. It is from this high place that we work for the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. When we seek and speak to the divine in other people, we are able to develop the trust that we are all working with our best intentions and integrity toward a common goal. *Namaste* is the middle ground from where all potential exists which brings grace to our relationships. It is my prayer that we bring the respect of *namaste* into our community to further our ability to practice the first principle.

Blessed Be! Terra Collier-Young



I recognize and speak to your higher self by recognizing and speaking through my higher self.

PCD News

Dear Friends,

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to Saturday's Leadership Development Day being so successful. We were filled to just past capacity, with UUs from all over our District, including Reno, Fresno, Visalia, and Honolulu. It was wonderful to spend time together, learning from one another. And I'm happy to report that we sold all of the new hymnal supplements, and nearly all of our Mardi Gras beads on behalf of the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund, and we signed up lots of new Chalice Lighters. What an amazing community we are!

Special thanks the UU Church of Palo Alto for hosting this event. The food you provided was really yummy, and the hospitality was warm and welcoming. And please join me in a loud round of applause for our District Administrator, Chuck Rosene, who somehow manages to do all the heavy lifting for these events and keep a smile on his face the whole time.

We are so excited to be presenting both the Reverend William Sinkford and the Reverend Dr. Rebecca Parker as our featured speakers at DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2006. We're looking forward to record-breaking attendance as we continue to build our relationships with one another across congregational boundaries.

The task before us now is to put together the strongest program we've ever had. We are currently accepting proposals for two-hour workshops that will respond to the broad needs of our diverse community. We hope you'll help us with this effort by submitting your own proposal, encouraging others whom you know to be strong presenters to do so, or letting us know what kind of programming you most want to see.

Stay in Touch, Cilla

Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society

Study/Action Issue 2005-2007 The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations voted to adopt the issue of Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society as the current Study/Action Issue (SAI) at General Assembly 2005.

An SAI is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it and take action - each in their own way. A SAI is NOT a statement -- it is a question. Resources to use in exploring this question are now available online from the UU A Commission on Social Witness.

Congregations and districts are encouraged to begin programs of education and reflection, service, community organizing, advocacy, and public witness immediately following General Assembly. These may include: conducting study sessions, publishing newsletter articles, holding services on the issue, and undertaking action projects. We are encouraged to reflect on our study and action and give comments to the CSW by March 1, 2006. Feedback forms are available at www.uua.org/csw. These comments will help the CSW prepare for the GA workshop. Possible discussion questions include:

- * Is it appropriate for Unitarian Universalist congregations to collectively speak out, as a faith community, on moral and ethical issues?
- * How are dissenting voices within the congregation honored while allowing the majority to speak out?
- * How can we as Unitarian Universalists contribute most effectively to the public dialogue on the role of shared moral values in our changing, global, pluralistic society?
- * On what basis do we evaluate our social witness efforts?

Take note that the 2004-2006 SAI, the Threat of Global Warming, also has valuable information online at <http://www.uua.org/csw/threatofgw.html>

Read on... -

Starr King On-line Courses

Our Theological House Starr King School for the Ministry Offers On-line Courses (www.sksm.edu) occasionally offers some online courses that are open to the laity. This spring they will offer an introduction to theology for Unitarian Universalists, originally developed by Rebecca Parker, "Our Theological House."

Traversing the classical topics of systematic theology (the nature of God, humanity, Christ, Spirit, sin and salvation, and the purpose of the church), this course will introduce the distinctive theological perspectives that give our theological house its shape and character. The aim is to deepen Unitarian Universalist theological competency and creativity in our emerging post-modern context.

The course will be taught by the Rev. Roy Phillips has served for 38 years as U.U. minister in congregations in Arizona, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Florida. He has a degree in philosophy from Boston University and in theology from Meadville/Lombard Theological School at the University of Chicago. Now in retirement from full time Parish Ministry, he lives in Tucson, Arizona and is currently a member of the SKSM. Board of Trustees.

On-line courses begin work the week of January 30, 2006 and the semester ends on May 19. The deadline for registering is January 15, 2006.

For more information contact Cathleen Young... - <mailto:cyoung@sksm.edu>

RE Spirit Play

Spirit Play is a Montessori-based approach to children's religious education. It is said to encourage independent thinking through wondering questions, creating a community of children in a classroom of mixed ages, while developing an underlying sense of the spiritual and the mystery of life.

Participants in this special workshop, presented by Spirit Play co-developer Nita Penfold, will experience a Spirit Play model classroom, hear Spirit Play stories, be introduced to the underlying educational philosophies, and learn how to start a Spirit Play program in their own congregations.

The \$150 registration fee will cover lunch and all materials.

Spirit Play Training - January 25, 2006

Mt Diablo UU Church, Walnut Creek, 9:00a.m - 5:00p.m.

The registration deadline is January 10, and participation will be limited to the first 15 people to sign up.

For more information or a registration form, contact PCD's Director of Faith Development, Yvonne Rochon (<mailto:yvonne@pcd-uaa.org>).

Learn more about Spirit Play [ww.spiritplay.net](http://www.spiritplay.net)

More UUA Information

Two new web sites have recently been set up for those in our young adult and campus ministry communities. Of special interest to Regional Organizing Consultants, ConCentric Representatives, and District Young Adult Campus Ministry (YACM) Committees, is <http://rocs.uuyan.org>. And a great site for Bridging Youth, Students, Campus Leaders, and Religious Professionals is [http://uucm.uuyan.org / uucm.uuyan.org%2F](http://uucm.uuyan.org/uucm.uuyan.org%2F)). Check them out and pass them on! Those interested in contributing to these sites are encouraged to contact Joseph Santos- Lyons (<mailto:jsantoslyons@uaa.org>), the UUA Director of Campus Ministry and Field Organizing.



News From Hospitality

HOLIDAY POTLUCK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18,
AFTER THE SERVICE

The congregation is invited to share an afternoon potluck. Please bring food to the kitchen before the 10a.m. service begins:

A-H - main dish

I-P - salad/bread

Q-Z -dessert

The newly reformed Hospitality Committee would like to thank Mary Brooks for her past continuing help in the kitchen. We also want to acknowledge all the contributors who have supported coffee hour with setting up food and drink, clean up, and making Sunday social hour successful. Thank you very much!

Currently, there are five members on the Hospitality Committee who have planned a new process. Beginning in December we will be calling for volunteers to prepare and serve only coffee and tea, for a trial run. We are looking also for a "green" supplier for paper cups. The donation basket will be suspended during this time.

We are asking for homemade Christmas cookies for our 5p.m. Christmas Eve service social hour. You can bring cookies to the Fellowship early. Please wrap them for freshness and label them with your name. For more information call Sue Meyer.



Art in the Sanctuary



All of the beautiful art hanging in our sanctuary has been coordinated by the Design Committee. The artist to be displayed in December is Eve Seamone; the following is a brief biography.

I did not start painting until 1999 when I took a class in acrylic painting at Cabrillo College and was very pleased to find out I could. Moreover, I discovered I really enjoyed painting. I was surprised that, after each painting session, the colors of every day objects surrounding me looked sharper and brighter and I became much more aware of the nuances of light and shadow everywhere.

I much prefer painting people, and especially children. My grandchildren and their friends have thus been excellent models for a lot of my work. I love the bright expressions of joy and anticipation in their faces.

In 1999, I was introduced to pastels in another class at Cabrillo. I enjoy working in pastel because after the colors are laid down on the surface I am working on, I work with my finger tips to get the smooth texture of the finished painting.

I was selected to participate in Open Studios eight times. However, in the house we have now, I have no room to continue to participate. I do still work on commissions, however. I also sculpt and make jewelry.

I hope you enjoy my exhibit in the UU Sanctuary.

Eve Toni Seamone

ENDOWMENT GRANTS

The Endowment Committee is inviting individuals and committees to make mini-grant proposals for 2006. Projects to be considered must fulfill the following criteria:

- 1) Support community outreach and social justice programs of the Fellowship
- 2) Support the educational function of the Fellowship
- 3) Benefit the Fellowship as a whole

If you have a proposal for such a project, please request an application from the office and return by January 1. To learn more speak with Lora Lee Chapman, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, or Randy James. Completed applications may be placed in the Endowment Committee folder in the office or emailed to loraleechapman@hotmail.com.

Stewardship day

Saturday December 3rd from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

This is one way we can contribute to the well being of our Fellowship. I hope many of you can help out. This month we will finish painting the office and start fixing up the bathrooms. There is also a need to clean chairs, carpet, and prepare the gardens for winter. There are many more outstanding tasks at <http://www.uufsc.org/facilities.xls>

Please send me more suggestions. Also, if anyone wants to take charge of some tasks, just let me know so we can coordinate supplies, tools, helpers, etc.

-Scott Young



OPEN MIKE

Open mike provides a comfortable venue for musicians, poets, magicians, and other artists to perform before a live audience. Refreshments are provided. Donations accepted.

Date: Saturday November 3rd
(the first Saturday of the month).

Time: Sign-up: 7:30, Start time: 7:45 p.m.

Place: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County 6401 Freedom Blvd, Aptos. One mile from Hwy 1 on the right

(Metro bus #71)

Information Phone: 831-477-7588



ATTENTION ALL ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

Volunteers needed for filming a mock wedding in January 2006. Watch for more details to follow. See Carol Thorson

**Winter Holiday Celebration Potluck,
Ornament Making and Tree Decorating
December 18th After the Service**

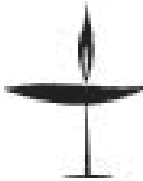
**ATTENTION:
THE DUE DATE FOR THE JANUARY UNICORN IS
DECEMBER 11TH BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**

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