



# 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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Appointments can be scheduled at other  
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Please call office or email  
[minister@uufsc.org](mailto:minister@uufsc.org)

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## The UNICORN

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## January Sunday Services

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

Jan 1

### *"In the Beginning was the Chant"*

Start the new year on a contemplative note. While often associated with the journey of devotion, chanting and meditation also offer rewards for those drawn to the journeys of knowledge, harmony, and works. The chants are melodic, easy to learn, and come from different traditions.  
Rev. Ann Schranz and Linda Neher

Jan 8

### *"Worthy of Worship"*

What is our motivation for gathering together on Sunday in the way we do? Join several members of our congregation as they share personal views and experiences on the subject. This range of testimonials will examine individual ideals and UU principles found by these UU partners to be most essential, both in day-to-day life and in the focused experience we all share on Sunday mornings.  
Andy Kreyche, Service Associate

Jan 15

### *"The Visual Arts in Unitarian Universalism"*

It is not uncommon for Unitarian Universalist congregations to meet in visually austere spaces. The visual art in this Fellowship is the exception, not the rule. Must we take our Puritan legacy so deeply to heart? Against the backdrop of a movement where the spoken word has primacy, we will explore the place of image and the visual arts.  
Rev. Ann Schranz

The January 22 and 29 service discription's are on page 2

*January 22*

*“Love Takes All Sides:*

*Uncovering the Inner Fundamentalist”*

Overt and oppressive forms of religious and political fundamentalism are strikingly prominent in the U.S. and abroad. Join guest speakers Alan Strachan and Janet Coster as they emphasize and attune to “the inner fundamentalist” – the tendency in each of us to reduce the world to black and white, “us” vs. “them” – no matter how “progressive” we might consider ourselves to be. Together we will explore a deeper embodied truth that transcends our fear and sense of separation from the “enemy” who is our brother, our sister, our self.

Andy Kreyche, Service Associate

*January 29*

*“Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society”*

Unitarian Universalists have often resisted codifying a set of so-called moral values for yourselves and for others. We have often resisted having such a set of principles imposed upon us or upon others. So then how do we ensure that our moral values are heard in the square of public opinion and in the halls of government? This will be an initial look at the issue, which has been selected for study by the Commission on Social Witness.

Rev. Ann

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## **A Message from Rev. Ann Shranz**

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Happy New Year! As you reflect upon your hopes for the new year, I encourage you to hope to be a mentor and to hope to benefit from mentoring. Though we often think of a mentor as one individual who guides another individual, mentoring is much more. Mentoring is a means to adult faith development, and mentoring is an end of adult faith development. For those who, like me, are turned off by the word “faith,” allow me to say it this way; Mentoring is making meaning in ever more comprehensive ways.

Adult growth and development take place in mentoring communities. We “learn the ropes” by observation, asking questions, and trial and error. In the new year, we will experiment with a new process for mentoring in a series of monthly sessions. Karen Aaker and I will collaboratively facilitate the sessions.

This “mentoring ministry” will be a form of leadership development nestled inside small group ministry. One purpose of the mentoring ministry is to help equip those who wish to take an active role in the future of the Fellowship. Another purpose is to create a forum for people who have insights to share.

Each month, the focus will be on different aspects of the Fellowship. I expect the sessions to be structured around chapters in the book entitled “Churchworks: A Well-Body Book for Congregations” by Anne Odin Heller. It is available for \$20 from the UUA's bookstore ([www.uua.org/bookstore](http://www.uua.org/bookstore)). It is an accessible, intelligent, and enjoyable handbook that uses the human body as a model for a church community. Can you guess what the circulatory system is? How about the lungs? The book is recommended, not mandatory.

Each session will be a mixture of leadership development, pastoral care, organizational development, and perhaps “spiritual direction”- all taking place in a group setting. For those who were not able to attend the service on December 11, you might want to visit the Fellowship's website ([www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org)) and read the sermon entitled “Who do you want to be when you grow up?” It is reached by clicking on the “Sundays” link. In that sermon, I share some of my dreams about the mentoring ministry sessions.

The date of the first session will be announced from the pulpit and in the Order of Service. This will be a grand experiment, and I hope you will be part of it! Feel free to contact me if you have questions. My email address is [annschranz@aol.com](mailto:annschranz@aol.com). You are also welcome to call me at the Fellowship or at home, 786-0161.

On an unrelated note, in late February there will be a service about mental health and the family. I will be collaborating on the service with Rev. Barbara Meyers, a Unitarian Universalist community minister who specializes in mental health issues. If you want to begin learning about mental health issues, you may wish to attend a play called “Side by Side” in Santa Cruz the last weekend in January. Living with depression is a theme in the play.

I am happy to be serving as your interim minister in this new year filled with promise!

Rev. Ann



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## Presidents Letter

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As Unitarian Universalists we affirm and promote many high ideals and lofty goals and the principle of “Justice, Equity, and Compassion in human relations” is one I think we at the UUF practice very well.

These key words are the strong underpinnings of all our social action work be it offering half of the undesignated cash from the a Sunday morning collection plate as well as designated checks to the UUA sponsored Gulf Coast Relief Fund in October, being a part of bringing Senator Sheila Kuehl to Santa Cruz for a speaking engagement on Universal Health Care in November, collecting holiday gifts and food for the Western Service Workers Association in December, or supporting “Side By Side,” a play about mental health, on January 27th and 28th (see the flyer on the “Community Activities Board” in the courtyard for details) to name a few actions taken in recent months. The Fellowship has participated in the ISSP (Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program) since its beginning ~20 years ago, we bought a “brick” to help build the Santa Cruz Family Shelter downtown, and we have a constant collection box for clothing, food, and other useful items that is regularly donated to the Familia Center in Beach Flats. Honestly, I think we are walking our talk. Let’s keep it up!!

The words *justice*, *equity*, and *compassion* are quite potent and being one who loves words, I would like to explore them in this letter to you. The way I see it, alone they say a lot but together they are an example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

*Justice* is pretty straightforward. Webster’s Ninth Collegiate Dictionary says that justice is “the maintenance or administration of what is just [reasonable] esp. by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishment” and the “establishment or determination of rights according to the rules of law or equity”. Interesting that the word *equity* should be in the definition of *justice* and *vice versa*.

*Equity* is defined as “justice according to natural law or right, specif. freedom from bias or favoritism.” There are several wonderful words that have the *equi* prefix like *equality*, *equilibrium*, and my personal favorite *equalitarian* or *egalitarianism*, meaning a “belief in human equality esp.

with respect to social, political, and economic rights and privileges” and as a “social philosophy advocating the removal of inequalities among people.”

*Compassion* is when we are “sympathetic” and show “consciousness of others’ distress, together with a desire to alleviate it.” It is common for most Buddhist traditions to end their prayerful meditations with the phrase “for the benefit of all sentient beings.” Now there’s a word: *sentient* which means being “responsive to or conscious of sense impressions,” of being “aware” and “finely sensitive in perception or feelings.” I think of sentience as being self-aware and all the implications thereby.

When we work with these words and meanings in our hearts and minds, we participate in a paradigm that generates true fairness and balance, allowing for sympathy without being overly emotional, working for justice without being judgmental, and striving to keep what is best for all involved as a desired outcome.

It’s like the yin and yang and the dynamic tension between them, with a bit of one in the other, offering the opportunity for all shades of gray to play their important parts. As Unitarian Universalists we have an opportunity to manifest a new paradigm of justice, equality and compassion by recognizing these qualities as we engage in our important social action work.

If you are interested in being a part of the Social Action Committee you may contact Harriet Blue or Sylvia Forsyth.

For the benefit of all sentient beings,  
Terra Collier-Young



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## UUA NEWS

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(December 12, 2005 - Washington, DC) The Unitarian Universalist Association today announced its opposition to the confirmation of Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. The UUA's opposition is based on concerns over civil liberties, including religious liberty, the right to privacy, and due process.

The UUA has never before opposed the confirmation of a nominee to the Supreme Court. In a statement issued to over 1000 congregations that make up the Association, the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy Director Rob Keithan said:

"The decision to take a position on a judicial nominee is not one the UUA takes up lightly. The nomination of Judge Samuel Alito Jr. is significantly different from that of Chief Justice John Roberts or Harriet Miers, in that he has an extensive judicial record that clearly reveals his judicial philosophy on a wide range of issues. After extensive research, Unitarian Universalist Association staff agreed that Judge Alito's rulings revealed a pattern of views that were outside the mainstream and hostile to established precedent favoring civil liberties." (For a copy of Mr. Keithan's statement, see [http://www.uua.org/news/2005/051212\\_alito/memo.html](http://www.uua.org/news/2005/051212_alito/memo.html))

The Unitarian Universalist Association believes that the nation's judiciary should protect the rights of all people, regardless of gender, religion, class, sexual orientation, immigration status, or other factors. The Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA said, "Unitarian Universalists have always honored our commitment to uphold civil liberties. Protecting the freedoms that are at the heart of our democracy is for us a religious, as well as a civic, duty."

The UUA joins other religious and civil rights groups including the Union for Reform Judaism in opposing the nomination of Judge Alito. In a previous statement, Mr. Keithan said, "The Unitarian Universalist Association and our allies will continue to challenge conservative religious fundamentalists and others who claim to speak for all people of faith. There is no single religious perspective on this or any other issue.

We hope that all parties involved in the nominations process, including advocacy groups and elected officials, will refrain from using religion as a political weapon. There should be no religious litmus test for judicial nominees, nor tactics that mislabel appropriate questions and

concerns as 'attacking' a nominee's faith."

For full information on this story, please visit [http://www.uua.org/news/2005/051212\\_alito/index.html](http://www.uua.org/news/2005/051212_alito/index.html)

Deborah J. Weiner Director of Electronic Communication  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
25 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108

617-948-6104 617-742-7025 (FAX)

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## wUUrld's 2006 WhaleCoast Alaska

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Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite other UUs to our eco-cultural programs in June, July and August 2006. See the REAL Alaska! Alaskan UU's provide B & B accommodations in their homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka, lead tours and hikes and host parties. Visit with Tlingit, Inupiat and other Native Alaskans. See whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, puffins, eagles and other birds in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south, and visit Denali and other national parks.

Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Visit website [www.wuurld.org](http://www.wuurld.org), e-mail [dick@wuurld.org](mailto:dick@wuurld.org), or phone toll-free 1-888- 998-8753 for a brochure. Taking reservations now.

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## Leadership School Class Reunion

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March 18, 2006 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
The annual Leadership School Reunion will be held on Saturday, March 18, at our Starr King congregation in Hayward, from 10:00a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

This year's theme is "Finding Our Spirit as a Lay Leader." Faculty member, the Reverend Cathleen Cox Burneo, will lead a workshop on the topic of bridging the gap between Leadership School and the real world. Graduates are asked to please help us keep our network up-to-date by sending your current contact information to Barb Zoellin-Malm at [bzm@pacbell.net](mailto:bzm@pacbell.net).

All congregations are encouraged to make use of Leadership School as an approach to strengthening our UU identity, by sending at least one member to Leadership School each summer. This summer's dates are July 22-28, at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo, CA.

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## Committee On Ministry Reports

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Hi UUFSCC members and friends.

Well, it took more than a month to get back to you about C.O.M. happenings but here I am again with an update.

We met in October, November & December and I am learning more. I am happy to report that our charter was presented to and accepted by the board, so we now have an official charter! If you are interested in reading it, we hope to have it available by the first of the year at our web site ([www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org)) or you can ask for a copy from the office. The C.O.M. was pleased to sponsor the "Water Resources" program on Sunday, November 12, which featured Brent Haddad and Michael Loik, who spoke about global warming, covering the topic from world view and local perspectives. I thought they did a great job and I know from coffee hour afterwards that they stimulated many conversations about that limited resource, H<sub>2</sub>O. We are also sponsoring Rev. Ann's Jan. 29th sermon which will stem from the 2005 UUA General Assembly 2005-2007 Study/Action Issue "Moral Values in a Pluralistic Society" (for a brief understandable introduction to this issue see last month's *Unicorn*). We will be working with Rev. Ann and other interested groups/committees in a study of this topic hopefully leading to actions in our broader community that express our moral and ethical beliefs.

More in the future. Erica Crawford for the C.O.M. (myself, Patt Taylor, Robert Kraft, Marley Smith-Merrill and Thomas Witz) Erica Crawford [ericacrawford@mac.com](mailto:ericacrawford@mac.com)

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## Chant Night

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Members and friends are invited to our first UU Chant Night at the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 on the last Wednesday of January, the 25th. We'll gather by candlelight for an hour of singing, poetry, and quiet group meditation. Come and experience the joy.

Linda Neher

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## UUF FYI's

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Check out the revised UUF website at [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org). There are many new additions like the minister's sermons.

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## UU Publicity

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In 2004 the Membership Committee received a grant from the Endowment Fund to provide publicity via radio announcements. Some of the money was used at that time for some announcements on public radio but the publicity effort was delayed until this year. The committee still had \$1500 to spend on this project which has now begun. Since KUSP, the local public radio does not take any church or religious announcements, the committee has selected KAZU again. Forty announcements have begun on Wed. and Fri. beginning Dec. 14 until Feb. 18; Thirty announcements are broadcast on Air American AM 1340, beginning Dec. 14 and ending Feb. 18. Announcements made on KPIG are free. There will be three print ads beginning in Jan. Feb. and March in the free newspaper for families, *Growing Up in Santa Cruz*. The total cost for this publicity amounted to \$1497.

Each radio station was sent a series of announcements that the UUA publicity committee had developed. A representative few are as follows.

\*\*\*"The essence of Unitarian Universalism is the constant struggle for freedom, reason, and tolerance. Explore with us at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 6401 Freedom Blvd, Aptos, 684-0506, [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org).

\*\*\*"Are you seeking a place where your children can explore their heritage and have the freedom to determine their own religious identity? Unitarian Universalists—a religion hundreds of years old with ideas and values for today."

Iran Mohsenin, co-chair, Membership

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## E-scrip E-scrip E-scrip

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Attention all members and friends. Our Fellowship participates in the E-scrip program. It is an excellent way to painlessly support the financial health of the Fellowship. Just sign up and then every time you shop at one of the many participating merchants, a small percentage gets sent to the Fellowship. It does not cost you anything and does not change any of the programs you may have with your credit cards (i.e. you will still get the same miles on a mileage card).

To sign up then please speak with Stephen Morairty or go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and follow the simple instructions to set up an account. Be sure to register your Safeway card as well as a credit card!

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## NEWS FROM HOSPITALITY

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"CHILI COOK" Potluck Sunday

11:30 to 1:P.M. January 15th, 2006

Fellowship Hall After Service

The Hospitality Committee has decided that the third Sunday of the month will be "Potluck Sunday." We would like to remind you that the true concept of the potluck is to encourage the value of sharing in which everybody is invited to participate. Hospitality will not be providing any additional food.

A-H please bring DRINKS/DESSERTS

I-P please bring CHILI DISHES

Q-Z please bring SALADS/BREADS

So, come and be jolly, and bring something to share for eight people. For more information, call Patt Taylor at 724-9545

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### First Friday Book Group

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It's hard to realize that this is going in the first 2006 *Unicorn* but, as they say, time flies when you are having fun. Of course there's not been a lot of fun in 2005. I'll wish for more for all of us in 2006.

You already know our first two choices for this new year: *The Leopard* by Giuseppe Di Lampedusa for January; *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain for February; and for March we'll be reading *White Magnolias* by Janet Fitch. We meet on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 at Joan Roberts' home.

We'd like to have you join us. If you need more information please call 688-7598.

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### Membership Table Greeters

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Jan 1 Iran Mohsenin

Jan 8 Jane Boone

Jan.15 Marsha Hudson

Jan. 22.Karen Aaker

Jan. 29 Judy Anton

To sign up please contact Iran or Judy in the Membership Committee

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### Secret Pals: Spread a Little Warmth This Winter

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The winter days are windy and cold. Darkness comes early each evening. Our fellowship kids mostly stay inside wondering if there is any light and warmth left in the world. Amid the monotony, every day there is that brief moment of hope when the mail carrier drops off the mail. Our kids think to themselves (but don't dare say out loud), "Could there be a letter for me today?"

Yes, there could be! There is! And even better, the letter is a warm mystery from someone secret, someone who really cares about their young friend. Their Secret Pal! Reading their Secret Pal letters brings the warm feeling of belonging and being cared for into the hearts of our Fellowship kids. And when Secret Pals finally reveal themselves, a friendship is cemented that lasts a lifetime.

This winter, you can be a Secret Pal. At the January 15 service, we will sign up grown-ups (Secret Pals) and kids. By January 22, grown-ups will find out who their new Secret Pal is, what their interests are, and what their address is. They write letters to their pals over the next few weeks. At the end of the February 12 all-age service (dedicated to inter-generational appreciation), Secret Pals will reveal themselves and together the new friends will enjoy the reception after the service.

Please sign up in mid-January to be a Secret Pal. Talk to Cindy Rogers or Brent Haddad for more information.



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## Gourmet Dinners Again!

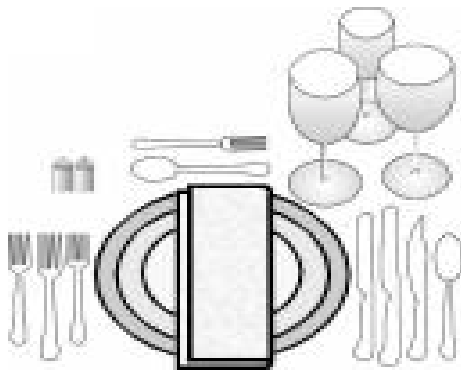
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Last year several fellowship members offered gourmet dinners with an international flair. Again this year members will cook and serve a fine dinner as a fun fundraiser. We hope to have at least ten dinners, for six, eight or ten guests.

In 2005 we had a marvelous array, including Greek, Persian, Japanese, Norwegian, Scott's Ribs, Mexican, Tax Relief, English Country and French.

Anyone wishing to donate a dinner should call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660.

Guest signups will be on Feb. 5, 12 and 19.



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## TUTORS NEEDED!!

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Volunteer tutors are needed for the after school program at Valencia Elementary School near Aptos Post Office. The program runs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-4:30 at Valencia. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade attend. Susan Murphy is in charge and can be reached at Valencia Elementary at 688-2013. Numerous people from the Fellowship have tutored over the years at Escuelita at Golden Torch and now at Pinto Lake. These children have all been students at Valencia, which seems to be a very good and caring environment.

Linda Milgate



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## Dinner Club for January

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Dinner Club meets once a month, usually on the 2nd Sat.. The coordinator assigns 6 or 7 persons per hostes. The first name on the list is a host, providing appetizers and beverages. The second name is the peron who brings a main dish, the third name brings salad and bread, the fourth brings dessert. If there is a fifth, that person brings a vegetable. Each month there is a new host and a different set of people. Please call your guests to set up time and date. If the 2nd Sat. does not work, find a date that all persons can come, if possible. If a person on your list cannot come, see the substitutes at the bottomeof the list. If a person on your list cannot come, please inform Iran Mohsenin imohsenin@comcast.net for her records.

### Group 1

- 1 Wood
- 2 Fish
- 3 Hudson
- 4 Pakulis
- 5 LeMaster

### Group 5

- 1 Horenschmeyer
- 2 Neher
- 3 Ratcliffe

### Group 2

- 1 Senko
- 2 Newman
- 3 Anton
- 4 Smith-Merrill

### Group 6

- 1. Wilson
- 2 Star Dancing/ Paltrow
- 3 Oxley/ Newfarmer
- 4 Cole

### Group 3

- 1 Lamb
- 2 Rogers
- 3 Lachman/Lawson
- 4 Collier-Young

### Group 7

- 1 Sprague
- 2 Aaker/ Fihe
- 3 James/ McCrow
- 4 Bailey, G

### Group 4

- 1 Morairty
- 2 Meyer
- 3 Mohsenin
- 4 Crawford,/Newbold



**Chilie Cook Potluck January 15th**

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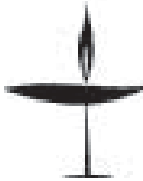
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