



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>

Volume 2006, Number 2

February 2006

Board of Trustees

Terra Collier-Young	President
Don Hoernschemeyer	Vice President
Bill Sampson	Treasurer
Rich Fallis	Secretary
Kären Aaker	Past President
Judy Anton	Trustee
Andrea Webster	Trustee
Janus Blume	Trustee
Lora Lee Chapman	Trustee
Sylvia Forsyth	Trustee
Sue Meyer	Trustee

Interim Minister

Rev. Ann Schranz

Office Hours

Tue, Wed, Sat from 10:00-2:00p.m.
Monday is Rev. Ann's day off.
Appointments can be scheduled at other times and are always encouraged.
Please call office or email
minister@uufsc.org

Office Manager

Marianne Osborne.....

Office Phone (831) 684-0506
Fax (831) 685-6736
Email administrator@uufsc.org
Office Hours Mon, Fri
10:00a.m.- 4:00p.m.

The UNICORN

Terra Collier-Young Publisher || Scott Young..... | Technical Support |
Marsha Hudson.....	Proofreader
Dave "Woody" Wood.....	Production
Email.....	unicorn@uufsc.org

Please send all newsletter entries to the unicorn@uufsc.org address

February Sunday Services

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

February 5, "Guides for the Spirit"

In the course of a lifetime or in the course of a week, we may resist guidance, crave guidance, and provide guidance. Members of the congregation will talk about the people they find inspiring. Guides for the spirit are not always the usual suspects. This service is inspired by *The Beat Face of God: The Beat Generation Writers as Spirit Guides* by Rev. Stephen Edington.

Rev. Ann Schranz

February 12, Secret Pals Revealed

Join us as members of all ages present stories during the service to illustrate the importance of intergenerational friendships in our community. A potluck and unveiling of Secret Pals will follow. Members participating will include Robyn Blume, Molly Shane, Karen Holl, and Thomas Witz.

Erin Balabanian, Service Associate

February 19, "Shared Ministry"

Who is sharing what with whom? Many Unitarian Universalist congregations were started as part of the "Fellowship" movement. Feminism has also influenced congregational life. Given widespread skepticism about priests, prophets, and beliefs, what are we to make of the notion of "the priesthood and prophethood of all believers"?

Rev. Ann Schranz

February 26, "Living with Depression"

Depression is one of the most common mental illnesses. It is also one of the most treatable. Rev. Barbara Meyers has started depression support groups, communities of and for people who are living with depression. Such groups provide participants with a safe place to be honest about their condition and its impact on their lives.

Rev. Ann Schranz and Rev. Barbara Meyers

Letter from Rev. Ann



May you be blessed with relationship health! I refer to the individual relationships in your life and to relationships within the congregation. I also refer to relationships between the congregation and the wider world. February, with its Valentine's Day holiday, always lifts up for me the importance of relationships. What makes for a healthy relationship? That is not an easy question to answer for two reasons. First, it is easy to "go with the flow" since it is the flow. Second, it is easy to "resist the flow" since it is the resistance.

Religious maturity calls us to ever greater self-awareness and to ever greater other-awareness. The ability to wisely and compassionately critique ourselves and others is a mark of religious maturity. In terms of individual relationships, many Unitarian Universalists are promoting same-sex marriage. For more information, see the "Interfaith Amici Brief" and the recent press release of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, posted at this website: www.uulmca.org.

For what it is worth, I suspect that marriage, whether literal or metaphorical, is not necessarily the end-all and be-all of healthy individual relationships. For more information, visit the Alternatives to Marriage Project website: www.unmarried.org.

In other matters, if you are interested in learning more about the Fellowship and Unitarian Universalism, please consider coming to my office from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 12 and on Sunday, February 19 for the "New UU" sessions.

You are also invited to come to the Mentoring Ministry program. This is a form of leadership development nestled inside small group ministry. One purpose 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.

Past president Karen Aaker and I will facilitate the six sessions. The book *Churchworks: A Well-Body Book for Congregations* by Anne Odin Heller is the recommended text. It is available for \$20 from the UUA bookstore. The sessions are designed for drop-in participation (come when you can, to as many sessions as you can).

The hope is for newer members to attend most, if not all, sessions. Experienced members are encouraged to come to the sessions that interest them most and to the sessions relating to committees on which they serve. Sessions are on these Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The committees and groups next to each date are encouraged to attend in order to mentor the newer members in their areas of expertise.

January 28 -- Sunday Services, Music, meditation and chanting group, Chavarot, Deep Conversation Circles group, Book Club

February 25 -- Caring Connection, Personnel, ad hoc committee on Goals, Committee on Ministry

March 18 -- Membership, Denominational Affairs, Communications, Event Planning, Social Action, COPA, Welcoming Congregation

April 22 -- Bylaws, Finance, Budget, Endowment, Canvass

May 20 -- Membership, Hospitality, Religious Education, Art, Facilities

June 17 -- Board of Trustees, Nominating

Participants will have the option of ordering pizza, sub sandwiches, or some other meal after each session if they want to stay and socialize.

Finally, I thought it might be a good idea to restate the congregation's interim ministry goals:

- 1) Prepare the congregation to grow in numbers and in membership retention.
- 2) Assist the congregation in claiming and honoring its past and in healing.
- 3) Illuminate the congregation's unique identity, its strengths, its needs, its challenges, its diversity.
- 4) Clarify the multiple dimensions of leadership, both ordained and lay, and aid the congregation in navigating the shifts in leadership that accompany times of transition.
- 5) Renew connections with available resources, within and beyond the UUA.
- 6) Enable the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, implement its goals, and prepare for new professional leadership.

Please feel free to contact me at annschrantz@aol.com or by calling the Fellowship or my home number at 786-0161. Best wishes for relationship health and happiness in the new year!

President's Letter

“Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations [and] affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

In the last few months I have been using the theme of the UU principals, purposes, and sources for my “President’s Letter” to you. I view these statements as a list of affirmations and wise quotations to consider when I am in a situation needing spiritual or practical guidance. In times of frustration or emotional challenge I find it very comforting to have memorized these and other philosophical ideologies, like the Wiccan rede of “an it harm none, do as thou will,” or as good ole’ Rama P. Jama (a former D.J. on KAZU) used to say, “remember, everything is the way it is and the only difference anything makes is your attitude toward it!” When I find myself struggling against situations, I look for guidance and I am comforted to know that I am in a community of people who affirm and promote these ideals.

There is no doubt that every religion and culture around the world evolved out of an absolute necessity and a deep desire. The need to understand the physical world around us spurred myths of gods and goddesses, and incited the curiosity and inquiry that began scientific exploration. This, combined with contemplation, a sense of awe, and the need for a moral and ethical standard, led to a wide variety of cultural identities that recognize the spirit of life and call it by many names through many religious traditions: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Jainism, Christianity, Wicca, Druidism, Sikhism, Hinduism, and all the African and Native American beliefs to name a few.

Every one of them came into being and set out to answer the difficult questions found when humankind self examines, that is, when we contemplate our purpose on earth and how we relate to our physical environment and to each other. It is by this process that we create theologies and explanations in the form of myths and legends, rituals and sacred laws. In my studies of anthropology I am constantly amazed by the vast capacity of the human expression.

I have made this a large part of my field of study because religious differences and ideologies are the greatest (and worst) excuse for warfare worldwide and throughout time. Whether religious beliefs are used as the motivation for a “holy war” by the powers that be, or because people of one religion believe theirs to be “the only true religion” and that everyone else is misguided or misinformed, a myriad of oppression, domination, and intolerance has been a blatant part of religious history all over the world. It is a sad irony that wars in the name of God are prevalent, but in the same breath it is declared, “God is Love.” And of course everyone wants God on their side!

And so Unitarian Universalism reminds us to affirm and promote a principal of acceptance and encouragement to spiritual growth. It gives us permission to appreciate another’s religious practice without feeling that it somehow threatens or diminishes our own. We can see the value of how religion serves and supports others without subscribing to it ourselves. In my opinion, it is a conscious evolutionary action where we move beyond base prejudices and on to “engaged pluralism, not just tolerance or relativism, but people of diverse background, ethnicity, belief, and spiritual practice deepening one another’s lives through efforts at mutual understanding and service to the common good,” as written by Diana Eck in the *UU World Magazine*.

By having the right to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning (thank you, Thomas Jefferson!), I have had the opportunity to develop my own spiritual practice, one that serves me on every level, one that I can serve with heart and soul, one that I love dearly. By this liberty we UU’s have a right and responsibility to explore the vast and immeasurable cosmos, be it intellectual observances or spiritual insights. This is a hard earned right, one I want to encourage us to appreciate and make the most of.

Blessed Be, Terra Collier-Young



ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Membership Committee invites everyone who is interested in knowing more about the Fellowship, the denomination, and how to become a member, to attend a class offered in two parts on February 12 and February 19 from 11:30 to 12:30 in the minister's office. During the first session prospective members, fellowship members and the interim minister will have an opportunity to get to know each other better. During the second session, in addition to continuing the discussion of the previous week, Reverend Ann Schranz, Interim Minister, will give a brief overview of Unitarian-Universalism and Terra Collier-Young, Board President, will talk briefly about our Fellowship.

Please let Iran Mohsenin or Judy Anton, Membership Committee co-chairs, or Rev. Ann know if you plan to attend.

Chant Night Returning!

We are excited to announce the return of "Chant Night." For now, it is scheduled to be held on the last Wednesday evening of the month. All are invited to attend Chant Night on February 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The future time and schedule may change depending upon who attends and who is available. We will make every effort to work with your schedule, so please join us.

We will share a series of soothing spiritual chants interspersed with periods of quiet meditation and poetry. And remember – this isn't the choir! Persons who are pitch-challenged and/or monotonically inclined are as welcome as anyone else. If you wish, you may simply sit in silence.

Service Associate Training

The Sunday Services Committee will be holding a Service Associate training workshop on Feb 18 from 10a.m. until 2p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All who have any interest in being a part of Sunday morning services, be it leading a song, reading a poem, lighting the chalice, or speaking a credo, are encouraged to attend. Please contact Marsha Hudson to sign up.

Gourmet Dinner Fundraiser

This is the month to sign up to attend a gourmet dinner. Our talented fellowship chefs will be offering these in March, April, May and June. Members can sign up for one dinner on February 5. On February 12 and 19 sign ups for more dinners may be possible. Please call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660, for more information.



Dinner Club for February

Remember, the first person listed is the host and provides appetizers and beverages, the second person brings the main dish, the third brings salad and bread, the fourth brings dessert, and if there is a fifth, they bring a vegetable. Please use the substitute list if needed at the bottom of "Groups."

Group 1: 1 Mohsenin 2 Cole 3 Neher 4 Star Dancing/Partlow 5 James/McCrow

Group 2: 1 LeMaster 2 Wood 3 Ratcliffe 4 Sprague

Group 3: 1 Aaker/Fihe 2 Oxley/Newfarmer 3 Fish 4 Rogers 5 Bailey

Group 4: 1 Smith-Merrill 2 Pakulis 3 Lamb 4 Meyer

Group 5: 1 Crawford/Newbold 2 Morairy 3 Newman 4 Senko

Group 6: 1 Anton 2 Hoernschmeyer/McVeigh 3 Collier-Young 4 Hudson/Shackelford

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

Welcoming Congregation

At the UUFSCC Board of Trustees Meeting on July 21, 2005, it was recommended to the Board by the Welcoming Congregation Committee that fellowship events not be planned on the first Sunday in June because of a conflict with the annual Santa Cruz Pride Day. The Board unanimously passed a policy stating "the fellowship adopts a policy of having no other planned Fellowship activities after the service on the first Sunday of June in honor of pride each year." Coming up... at the April Congregational Meeting our congregation will have the opportunity to vote on two items regarding our inclusion of GLBTQ members, friends, and employees in our fellowship family. The first item will be a change to the bylaws, stating that UUFSCC does not discriminate in employment on the basis of affectional/sexual orientation. The second will be our vote to decide whether or not we want to become an official Welcoming Congregation. Please come out for the vote!



Open Mic Date

Saturday, February 4th, First Saturday of the Month. Time: Sign-up: 7:00, Start time: 7:30 pm. 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 Open mic provides a comfortable venue for musicians, poets, magicians, and other artists of all ages to perform before a live audience. Refreshments are provided. Donations accepted.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

JASON SHELTON MUSIC WORKSHOP

The Rev. Jason Shelton, a noted Unitarian Universalist composer-minister, will lead a choral music workshop at the UU Church of Davis February 24-26. All UUs are invited to attend.

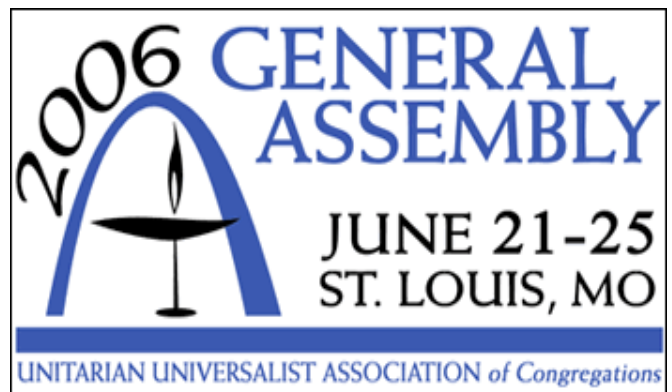
Workshop attendees will embrace our UU heritage by learning to sing UU choral pieces--including Rev. Shelton's "Standing on the Side of Love," "The Fire of Commitment," and "Morning Has Come"--and by enhancing our awareness of the significant role of music in our worship services.

The workshop opens Friday evening, continues during the day on Saturday, and culminates with Rev. Shelton conducting workshop participants in song for Sunday morning services at the UU Church of Davis. The cost for the workshop will be \$25 per person or \$40 for families of two or more. Registration deadlines will be announced soon. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Nancy Lower, music director, UU Church of Davis, at (707) 678-6567 or at nlower@onramp113.com.

Save the Dates

Leadership School Reunion, Saturday March 18, 2006, 10a.m. to 4p.m. "Finding Our Spirit as a Lay Leader." Contact Barb Zoellin-Malm at bzm@pacbell.net

Pacific Central District-- UUA's District Assembly "A Circle Within a Circle", April 28 - 30, Concord Hotel, Concord, CA. Guest speakers are the Rev. William Sinkford, President of the UUA; the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, President of Starr King School for the Ministry; and Jon Carroll, San Francisco Chronicle Columnist.



Directory Updates

- *Liz Stewart's email should be corrected to lizstewart@sbcglobal.net.
- *V Kingsley, Dani Hope, and Parker Langston's new address: 5495 Jackson Way, Felton 95018
- *Mark & Cindy Rogers' correct phone # is 464.2564
- *Rob & Sunni Fish's only phone # is 476.0864
- *Ted Merrill can be emailed at Marley@baymoon.com
- *Hanna Gaylord's new address is 2990 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz 95060
- *Trish Keith-Spiegel's correct email is pkspiegel@direcway.com
- *Yael Lachman's correct phone # is 458.3053
- *Suzanne Semmes' correct email is gibsongirl@ureach.com
- *Hilda Berra: 3580 Viola Drive, Santa Cruz 95004, 726.1194; aromashilda@hotmail.com
- *Harriet Blue's new email: hactblue@yahoo.com

Please make a note of these changes in your blue covered directory.

UUF FYI's

- *The UUFSCC contribution to "Guest at Your Table" was \$2,059.44.
- *Personnel Committee Members Needed. Please contact Rich Fallis or Terra Collier-Young
- *Please send all correspondences for the Board President to president@uufsc.org and all newsletter items to unicorn@uufsc.org with the description of "Prez" or "Unicorn" in the subject line.

First Friday Book Group

On the first Friday of the month, Joan Roberts' hosts a book group for all interested readers. Contact her at 688-7598.
February 3: *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
March 3: *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch
April 7: *Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd



Art News

The current solo exhibition of abstract paintings are by Vivienne Andres. Her work has been exhibited extensively in California since 1963 in solo and juried group shows. Her paintings have been purchased for book cover designs by McGraw-Hill Book Company and are hung in private collections throughout the United States and in Europe. Vivienne paints with water-based medium and uses various painting and collage techniques to produce interesting surface overlays.

This exhibition will close mid February and will be followed by the art of UUF member, Judy Anton.

Marylou Lamb

JUDY ANTON/artist's statement

I attempt in my paintings to isolate what for me is emotional truth, what has often been described as "making the invisible visible." Reaching for the core of a thought, feeling or concept is what it most feels like. One of the great joys of working this way is that frequently it unfolds even to me as a mystery, the meaning or insight revealing itself only at the very end. At the same time, however, conscious aesthetic decisions are being acted upon moment by moment. As a result, I've come to respect the delicate dance of the rational with the intuitive, one leading at one moment, the other, the next. The entire process, highly-charged at its best, feels like one of sharp focus and total engagement, and one that I often experience as being lived out in a different state than that of "ordinary life."

The challenge I see ahead is the attempt to react in a committed and personal manner to large contemporary issues that touch us, while avoiding the trite and propagandistic. When the choice presents itself, I want the art always to come first...

As a medium, acrylics excite me most. The modern colors and pastes, gels, textures, etc., are so incredibly rich, a distant cry from their chalky and pallid forbears. And so, putting brush or knife to canvas is a dream, nowadays...

Trial and error, as well as a deeply affectionate appreciation for the works of master painters, both traditional and contemporary, have been my mentors. I hope always to ask myself, "What have you learned here? How open are you to risk? Which cliff are you willing to jump off next?"

Judy Anton

Volunteer of the Month: Andy Kreyche

“Can You Hear Me Now?”

Bet you haven't been sitting next to Andy Kreyche during Sunday services lately. That's because Andy, our Volunteer of the Month, has been spending his Sunday mornings in the back corner of the room. A dedicated member of the Sunday Services Committee, Andy has been troubleshooting, monitoring, and upgrading the sound system in our fellowship hall. And he's done a fantastic job -- patiently working the bugs out of our pulpit microphone and coming in early every week to string cables and run sound checks.

As if that weren't enough, Andy also spent months researching digital recording systems, an effort that recently helped the Sunday Services Committee to purchase a brand-new CD-recorder. Andy is now getting to know this piece of equipment so that very soon we'll be able to offer recordings of Sunday services on CD and on our website.

A million thanks to Andy for making sure we can all hear each other!



Social Action Committee

SAC is working on: 1.-bringing the STEP Resolution, which is supported by many churches, including the UUA, to the Congregational Meeting in March for affirmation: “Whether you support an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops, or believe they should stay until stability is achieved, we can all agree that it's time for Congress to declare, ultimately, it is U.S. policy to withdraw completely from Iraq.” 2.- Application for an Endowment Grant for the continuation of the ISSP program. 4.- Continued work on “Health Care for All” bills, state and federal. 5. - Encouraging more of you to join us at our monthly meeting on the second Thursday at 6:00p.m. Contact Sylvia Forsyth.

Network of Spiritual Progressives

Rabbi Michael Lerner to Speak February 16

Our congregation is being invited to participate in a new national interfaith group, the Network of Spiritual Progressives, and its recently formed local chapter for Santa Cruz County. Michael Lerner, a co-founder of the Network, noted author and rabbi will be visiting Santa Cruz on February 16 to present his ideas and introduce his new book, *The Left Hand of God: Taking our Country Back from the Religious Right*.

Lerner's talk will be held at 8:00 PM Thursday, February 16, in the Veterans Hall Auditorium, downtown Santa Cruz next to the Post Office, donation \$5-\$20, with no one turned away for lack of funds. A free ticket to the event is included with advance purchase of Lerner's new book *The Left Hand of God* from the Resource Center for Nonviolence or Bookshop Santa Cruz.

Meet Rabbi Michael Lerner and leaders of diverse local faith communities at a reception following the talk: 9:30 PM Thursday, February 16, Veterans Hall. A donation of \$35-\$100 includes admission to the preceding 8:00 PM public talk and a copy of Rabbi Lerner's new book.

Tickets to the public talk and the reception, and copies of Michael Lerner's *The Left Hand of God* are available for purchase at the Resource Center for Nonviolence and at Bookshop Santa Cruz beginning February 7. Advance orders may be made from the Resource Center for Nonviolence by calling 423-1626. Tickets and books will also be available at the door.

More information:

Network of Spiritual Progressives (national)
www.spiritualprogressives.org.

Network of Spiritual Progressives (chapter)
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/nspsc Rabbi

Michael Lerner www.tikkun.org
Resource Center for Nonviolence
www.rcnv.org.



*Valentines Day is a perfect time to say
"I LOVE YOU" to the ones you do!*

SECRET PALS: A TIME TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

*After the service on February 12th we will
reveal ourselves to our Secret Pals and have lunch with them at the
"Make Your Own Sandwiches Smorgasbord."*

A-E bring deli meats or cheese

F-I bring drinks

J-M bring chips or salad

N-R bring bread or condiments

S-Z bring dessert

SHARING GIFTS OF FRIENDSHIP, MENTORING, AND JOY!

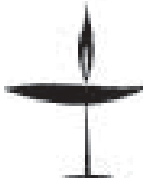


If you see a red dot on your mailing label your UNICORN subscription expires with this issue.
To renew, send \$12 to the Fellowship—or join us and receive it as a membership benefit.

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Santa Cruz County
6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos, CA 95003**

*Time Value Material
Please Do Not Delay*

Non-Profit U.S. Postage Paid Aptos, CA Permit #11



Return Service Requested