



# 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 3

March 2006

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## 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](mailto:minister@uufsc.org)

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Every third Thurs 3:00 to 8:00pm..

## The UNICORN

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RELATED ARTICLES AND  
INFORMATION TO  
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## March Sunday Services

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

March 5

### *"Truth and Truthful Living"*

"Truth is high. Truthful living is higher." This perspective has a particular depth of meaning for those of the Sikh faith. One of the sources of Unitarian Universalism is wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life. We will focus on the wisdom of the Sikh faith. Rev. Ann Schranz

March 12

### *"Flight of the Spirit"*

Poet, troubadour, minister, songwriter, philosopher, one who redefines the human experience in contemporary terms, author of 18 books, and a friend and ally in the struggle for wholeness in life and living - that's Ric Masten. In a recent poem, he asks, "Who can predict how high the spirit can fly?" Let us explore that question together.

Rev. Ric Masten and Rev. Ann Schranz

March 19

### *"Spring Equinox"*

The light, the dark is equal; the light, the dark's the same. Come join us this morning as we celebrate the turn of the wheel and high spring in this all ages service. Please bring flowers for the festivities.

Service Associate: Terra Collier-Young

March 26

### *"Justice Sunday"*

Around the world, people's rights to earn a living wage with dignity are being threatened. This congregation will join with others and with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to speak out and to take action to defend workers' rights. Rev. Ann Schranz

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## Interim Minister Report from Rev. Ann Schranz

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What is it like to be part of a living tradition? Unitarian Universalists know what it is like. Unitarian Universalists draw from a living tradition, which means that your presence makes a difference. Here are some of the sources of our tradition:

- 1) Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit
- 2) Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- 3) Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- 4) Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- 5) Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit

Being part of a living tradition means participating in an ongoing process of action and reflection and action and reflection and action and reflection and on and on. Here are some of my recent reflections:

The congregation's Social Action Committee seems fairly distinct from the congregation. I encourage the congregation to integrate social action into the fabric of the entire congregation.

The congregation's goal-setting process stalled at the implementation phase. It is in motion again. I support the process, though there are limits to appropriate involvement by an interim minister.

If the congregation is serious about growing in numbers and maturity, it will have to be even more effective at welcoming frequent visitors and newer members into congregational life. Growth may also depend upon an enhanced music program. There may be ambivalence about growth. I encourage people to talk about their feelings. What does it feel like to have a full sanctuary? What does it feel like not to know everyone?

As we move into the spring season of renewal, may we notice that upon which we focus our attention.

Rev. Ann



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## President's Letter

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In keeping with the theme of studying our Principals and Purposes as my topic for the President's Letter, it is timely that we will be having the opportunity to exercise our "right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation" at the Congregational Meeting after the service on Sunday, April 2, 2006.

Two important items to be voted on will be a By-law revision that adds inclusive language, aiding in our becoming a Welcoming Congregation, and approving the Nominating Committee's (Nom Com) recommendation of seven members to serve on the Search Committee, who will diligently work on finding our next settled minister. Please look for relevant information pertaining to these, and other items on the congregational meeting's agenda, on the member's table Sunday mornings and in the office during the week. The slate proposed by the Nom Com can be found on page three.

As Americans, we tend to highly regard democracy, thinking it is the best form of government because many of our ancestors fled their country of origin to get away from some of the more oppressive ones. As Unitarian Universalists, we agree that every citizen has the right to vote their conscience and we tend to accept this right as a responsibility and a practice within our faith, perhaps something we are divinely commanded to do! I hope this principal will inspire you take the time to come out and be a part of the democratic process at the UUFSCC on April 2nd. We have a lot of good work to do together and a Congregational Meeting is one of the most important places to do it!

In Service, Terra Collier-Young

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## Election of Board Members

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### Search Committee “Dream Team” Selected

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The Nominating Committee, charged with finding seven people to serve on the ministerial search committee, will present a slate of candidates to the congregation at the business meeting on April 2. The seven nominees are Bruce Fihe, Randy James, Andy Kreyche, Stephen Morairty, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, Mark Rogers, and Jenny Wood. According to our by-laws, "Additional members may be added to the slate by 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 process the nominating committee followed to select the "dream team" required that the five member nominating committee call all 125 members of the Fellowship and ask each for his or her seven member "dream team." The committee then merged the lists to determine which people were mentioned the most often. These people were then invited to accept the nomination. Not all of those at the top of the list, however, said "yes" to the invitation so the nominating committee had its work cut out for it. In its deliberations the committee was mindful about the need for the Search Committee to be balanced in regard to age, sex, skills, interests, and tenure of membership to best reflect the diversity of the congregation, and did what it could to achieve this balance.

The seven nominees approved by the congregation will attend a weekend retreat on May 6 and May 7. Laila Ibrahim, Ministerial Search Representative of the Pacific Central District, will join them at the retreat. Information about the search process is available to all in the Settlement Handbook which can be found on the UUA web page.

*April 2nd Congregational Meeting information can be found on the UUF web page, [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org), or on the members' table on Sunday mornings and in the office during the week.*

At the April congregational meeting, three new trustees will be chosen to replace Andrea Webster, Janus Blume, and Lora Lee Chapman who are going off the board at the end of June this year. Trustees Judy Anton, Sylvia Forsyth, and Sue Meyer were elected last April and therefore have one more year on the Board. All positions of officers are open.

A nominating committee, comprising Marsha Hudson, Lee Cavanaugh, Kathy Norton, Dave Wood, and Brent Haddad has nominated the following slate for officers: President, open; Vice President, Don Hoernschemeyer; Secretary, Lois Cole; Treasurer, Bill Sampson; and the following slate for trustees: Helen Oxley, Donna Senko, and open.

Please consider who you would like to see as a trustee or officer on the Board, discuss it with the person(s) to determine if they are willing to serve, and come to the April congregational meeting prepared to nominate from the floor your chosen person(s).

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### UUF FYI's

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\*Please send all email correspondences for the Board President to [president@uufsc.org](mailto:president@uufsc.org) and all newsletter items to [unicorn@uufsc.org](mailto:unicorn@uufsc.org) with the description of "Prez" or "Unicorn" in the subject line.

\*To view past issues of the Unicorn on the web page you need the pass word of "green" then "room."

\*Congregational Meeting on April 2nd following the service. The issues to be discussed and voted on are available on our website at [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org) or Sunday mornings on the members' table and in the office during the week.

\*The budget process will begin again very soon and the Board is looking for volunteers to partake in this annual ad hoc committee. The time commitment is between 3-6 hours a month and it is a great way to support the UUF with your time and input. Come, be a part of the process! If you are interested, contact Lora Lee Chapman, 438-8070, or [loraleechapman@yahoo.com](mailto:loraleechapman@yahoo.com).

\*An updated list of UUF Committees and their members is available upon request in the office.

\*Deep Conversation Circles is a "salon" styled gathering where we can delve into topics of interest and concern. Contact Don Hoernschemeyer at 475-9357 for details.

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## Faithful Fools Street Ministry

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Our UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale invites you to a performance of *The Witness*, a powerful one actor play originally produced by the Faithful Fools Street Ministry. The performance, featuring the Reverend Kurt Kuhwald, will be on Sunday, March 5, from noon to 1:30. A light lunch will be served at 11:15, and a discussion period will follow the play. The suggested donation is \$5, and child care will be provided. RSVP to [intern@uufs.org](mailto:intern@uufs.org)

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## PCD Representative News

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I met with the PCD board for the first time last November 19 at the San Mateo UU Church as an invited visitor and UUFSCC representative. Not surprisingly, much time was spent on the 2006 -7 budget to be submitted at the District Assembly in April, and a discussion of the Annual Program Fund (APF), the primary source of PCD revenue, which comes from member congregations' fair share contributions. By-law changes and board openings were two of the agenda items, and I was invited to consider applying to the board for a two-year term or for fulfilling the term of a resigned director.

### March 10 - 12: Women & Religion Retreat

All women of our Fellowship are invited. I have heard personal testimony that it is a "great experience," The Women & Religion chapter at the UU Fellowship of Stanislaus County is facilitating the PCD's W&R annual retreat at Enchanted Hills, Napa, CA. The theme is Metamorphosis\* - A Weekend Retreat Exploring Change. Currently planned workshops include • Jesus Was a Feminist • Inanna - Descent into Renewal & Transformation • Mama Gena's School for Womanly Arts • Sex After Midlife • Self Portrait Art • Yoga • Earth-based Songs / Chants • Creating Fimo Goddess (or other figures) For more information, contact Shannon Lewis, [shanny676@yahoo.com](mailto:shanny676@yahoo.com)

### March 11: PCD Board Meeting

Let me know of any concerns or ideas you may have regarding district functions and/or issues.

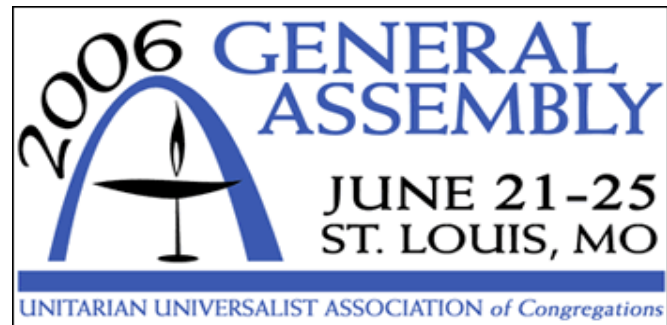
### March 18: Leadership School Reunion

Our own graduates, Linda Neher, Patt Taylor, Kären Aaker and Terra Collier-Young, are encouraged to attend. Anyone know of others? Starr King Church, Hayward, CA. Contact Drew Wilson at [dandjwilson@comcast.net](mailto:dandjwilson@comcast.net) or [ulspring@comcast.net](mailto:ulspring@comcast.net)

### April 28 - 30: District Assembly

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WE NEED 2 DELEGATES AND 2 ALTERNATES IN ADDITION TO REV. ANN AND KÄREN. LET ANY TRUSTEE KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST. Concord Hilton; Concord, CA, Hosted by the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek. Join our delegates, UUA President Rev. William Sinkford, *SF Chronicle* columnist Jon Carroll (author of Unitarian Jihad!) and Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, and ±400 Festive and Feisty UU's from all over the Pacific Central District! You can make your hotel reservation at [www.Hilton.com](http://www.Hilton.com) or by calling 1-800+HILTONS. Tell them that you are with the UU District Assembly to get our special rate! For additional information contact the PCD office at [pcd@pcd-uaa.org](mailto:pcd@pcd-uaa.org) or 510+601-1437

In faith, Kären





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## SIGN UP TO HOST WEEKEND RENTALS

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The Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate Building Use is implementing a new practice of having a fellowship member serve as a host to greet people who rent our facility on Fridays and Saturdays. The host will be at the Fellowship when the rental period begins in order to welcome the renter and be on hand to answer any questions they may have. The host should return once or twice later during the rental period to “check in” and make sure that all is well. The Building Use Committee feels that this personal attention will communicate to renters the pride we take in our buildings and our expectation that they will treat the facility well and will wish to rent with us again. Hosts will receive an honorarium of \$25 or \$50, depending on the length of the rental and the time of day, for their services. Members who live close to the Fellowship are especially encouraged to become hosts. If you want to help the Fellowship’s “bottom line” in this way, please give Marsha Hudson, ad hoc committee chairperson, a call at 425-8167.

The Board established the Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate Building Use in December 2005 in response to concerns expressed by Marianne Osborne, the Office Manager at that time. The Committee submitted an Interim Report to the Board at its January meeting and a proposal for rental hosts at the February meeting. The committee hopes to submit a proposal for an ongoing building use fee schedule to the board in March. Members of the committee are Marsha Hudson, Karen Aaker and Iran Mohsenin.

The Fellowship derives significant income from our single event rentals, such as the recent day long training for the Santa Cruz Chapter of Marriage and Family Therapists, or such as a dinner sponsored by the Migrant Parents’ Association to raise scholarship funds for children of migrant parents.

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## WELCOMING CONGREGATION VOTE

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After a couple of years as head of the Welcoming Congregation Committee, I am pleased that we will soon vote so that the fellowship can be officially and publicly identified as a Welcoming Congregation. Along the way, I don’t know how many times I’ve been informed by friends to the effect that “everyone knows UUs are a progressive, tolerant group; that we welcome members of the GLBTQ community, so why did the Committee feel it was necessary to put on an educational program and why do we need to vote?”

I agree that we are a progressive, tolerant group. But as is often the case, I fear that many of us take our beliefs for granted. We need to let people know who we are through our actions. Many of our heroes are activists. They include civil rights activists like the Reverend Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks and pacifists and anti-war activists such as Gandhi and now Cindy Sheehan. All would be unknown had they not fearlessly taken to the streets to publicly proclaim their beliefs and attract followers to their causes. Today, more than any time in recent history, our GLBTQ brothers and sisters are under attack, and not merely by unorganized homophobic bigots scattered throughout our society, but by the government, supported by well-organized, powerful religious bigots from the far right. It is time for all of us to become active in the fight against homophobia.

As UUs, we need to begin by being recognized as a Welcoming Congregation. In 2004, I learned an important political lesson: no matter how good your message or widespread your appeal to voters, all is for naught if you do not turn out the vote on election day. And so, committee members Amy and Meg and I appeal to everyone to vote for the fellowship to become a Welcoming Congregation. Our goal is 100 percent voter turnout.

Thank You, Fred Seamon



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## Volunteer of the Month: Dave "Woody" Wood

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David Wood, or "Woody," as he prefers to be called, has been an active member of the Social Action Committee from the start, which has probably been about 15 years. He has been a voice for thoughtful consideration of whatever issue is being discussed, always with a kind and considerate manner and tone. He is sympathetic to individual's needs, as well as to broader social issues, and is willing to take needed action in the public arena. Recently, Woody was pictured on the front page of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, protesting against the Santa Cruz police spying on the organizers of a peaceful demonstration. Social action in action!!

His generosity with resources and funds has helped in many situations. Woody has shared his passion for peace by writing songs and publishing them on C.D.'s that he shares with other like-minded "peaceniks" under the alias of Santa Cruz Woody. He also has a vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains and works with a wine master to produce a wonderful pinot noir.

We are grateful for Woody's participation in all fellowship activities, be it coordinating the production of the newsletter, greeting folks on Sunday mornings, and singing in the choir. As acting chair of the Social Action Committee, I am honored to work with Woody.

Harriet Blue, acting chair of SAC.

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## Silent and Live Auction

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Are you interested in putting your time and talent toward generating income for the fellowship and creating a good time for all who attend? Do you like the excitement of organizing people, places and things?? Well, the Board and Finance Committee would love to hear from you. In the past, the Silent and Live Auction has been a fun family event for fundraising and community building.

Contact the Finance committee's chairperson, Stephan Morairty at [stephan.morairty@sri.com](mailto:stephan.morairty@sri.com) or Terra Collier-Young at [president@uufsc.org](mailto:president@uufsc.org) to get this fun-draiser back in action.



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## FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

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March 18      Green Eggs and Ham  
(or Corn Beef) Potluck

A - H Salads/Breads

I - P Drinks/Desserts

Q - Z Main dish

THANKS To the following people for doing COFFEE for the last month: Ed & Missy Ratcliffe, Jane Real & Tom Crahen, Iran & Nuri Mohsenin, Katherine & Ben LeMaster, Linda & Andy Neher, and Kathy & Scott Norton.

Thanks also to the organizers of the Secret Pals and for February's potluck and all the members who participated.

April 2nd, between the Sunday service and the Congregational Meeting, the HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE will serve sandwiches and drinks for a donation. For more information, call Sylvia Forsyth at 685-8637.

There is a new instruction sheet for doing coffee on the kitchen bulletin board. When you sign up for coffee you will receive one in the snail or e-mail as a reminder the week before.

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## Open Mic

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Saturday, March 4th, first Saturday of the Month. Time: Sign-up- 7:00; Start time- 7:30 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

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.

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## Dinner Club for March

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Since some members may be attending an international dinner on the second Saturday of March, the host may change the evening to accommodate all the guests. Remember, first person on the list is the host, the second person brings main dish, the third brings salad/bread, and fourth brings dessert. If there is a fifth, that guest brings a vegetable and in some cases if there is a sixth, that guest may bring an appetizer. In all cases, there is no more than eight people for a dinner club.

Group 1: 1) Hudson/Shackelford, 2) Lachman/Lawson, 3) Morairty, 4) Neher

Group 2: 1) Oxley/Newfarmer, 2) Anton, 3) Heath, 4) Wood

Group 3: 1) Newman, 2) Smith/Merrill, 3) Lamb, 4) Bailey,G. 5) Fish

Group 4: 1) Cole, 2) Sprague, 3) Hoernschmeyer/McVeigh, 4) Meyer

Group 5: 1) Rogers, 2) James/McCrow, 3) Laasi, 4) LeMaster, 5) Pakulis

Group 6: 1) Ratcliffe, 2) Crawford/Newbold, 3) StarDancing/Partlow, 4) Aaker/Fihe

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## Greeters For March

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March 5 Rosalie Kraft  
March 12 Judy Anton  
March 19 Jane Boone  
March 26 Karen Aaker

Please contact the Membership Committee co-chair persons, Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or Judy Anton 684-9608, to sign up as a greeter.

It's a great way to nurture our fellowship!



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## CHANT NIGHT CONTINUES!

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All are invited to attend. March 29th Chant Night will continue on the last Wednesday evening of the month at 7:30 in the sanctuary. We'll gather by candlelight for an hour of singing soothing spiritual chants, poetry, and quiet group meditation. This is not a choir, and if you wish, you may sit in silence. Come and experience the joy.

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## Fellowship Library News:

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Plans are being made to dust off our books, purchase some new ones, and make the Fellowship library a comfortable, inviting place for study, conversation, and, yes -- reading! Do you have ideas about what kind of a library you'd like to have? Are there books you wish we had on our shelves? Then come to a meeting on Sunday, March 12 at 11:30 p.m. in the Gallery. We'll be brainstorming about everything from shelving to seating, and we'd love to have you join us. Questions? Can't make the meeting but still want to talk about the library? Call or email Yael at 458-3053 or ylachman@redshift.com.

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## Stewardship Day

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The weeds are springing to life ! This stewardship day March 4, 2006, at 9:00a.m. we will start preparing for spring as well as perform some light cleaning and maintenance. This is a great way to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our fellowship grounds and buildings. See you there. Thanks, Scott Young, Facilities Chair



*March 18th is the Spring Equinox (All Ages) Service.  
Please bring flowers for the Flower Communion  
as an act of sharing with our beloved community*

*This service will be followed by a “Green Eggs and Ham (or Corned Beef)” Potluck  
(see page 6 for potluck details)*

*April 2, 2006 Congregational Meeting  
to vote on the Ministerial Search Committee;  
the 2006-2007 Board;  
the By-laws revisions;  
“Iraq Step Resolution” presented by the Social Action Committee.*

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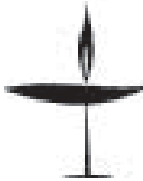
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