



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 5

May 2006

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Appointments can be scheduled at other
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and an occasional Friday as needed.

The UNICORN

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RELATED ARTICLES AND
INFORMATION TO
unicorn@uufsc.org

May Sunday Services

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

May 7

"Learning from Our Children"

In this all-ages service, the children and youth will be sharing with us what they have been learning in their classes through discussion, art, and social action. We will also honor those who have contributed to our youth RE program. Service Associate: Karen Holl.

May 14

"Pride: Taking It To the Streets"

What does it mean to take to the streets in pride? Next month, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people will celebrate and agitate in Pride parades and festivals around the country. We will explore why straight allies in this Welcoming Congregation might also take to the streets in pride. Guest musicians will also provide inspiration.

Rev. Ann Schranz

May 21

"Celebrating our Connections"

This morning we welcome the Rev. Zsolt Solymosi who will be our guest minister. The Rev. Solymosi, from Transylvania, is the 2005-6 Balázs Ferenc Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. Back home he ministers to a small congregation in Northern Transylvania, teaches at a Unitarian Boarding school, and is in charge of a weekly Unitarian radio broadcast series.

Service Associate: Terra Collier-Young

May 28

"Loss and Transformation"

Loss weaves its way through our lives. Poets convey the texture of loss and hint at the opportunities to follow. On this Memorial Day weekend, poetry will guide us into "creative interchange." This is Henry Nelson Wieman's term for that which has the power to transform us as we cannot transform ourselves.

Rev. Ann Schranz

In the Interim with Rev. Ann Schranz

I feel happy that we will be working together in a second year of interim ministry. I will serve this congregation through July 2007. Recently, a team appointed by the board evaluated the congregation's lay leadership, and it evaluated me. Separately, I evaluated lay leadership and myself. These evaluations are available from the board or from me. Here are a few highlights from mine to sharpen your appetite for reading both complete reports:

Claiming, honoring, and healing from the past -- A few of the longer-term members seemed very interested in what the "History Wall" process generated. Most members seemed fairly indifferent. "What's ahead?" seems to characterize the mood of the congregation.

Strengths, needs, and challenges regarding congregational identity -- The congregation seems conflict-avoidant until some straw breaks some camel's back somewhere, when there is an extreme reaction.

Renewing vision, strengthening stewardship, preparing for new professional leadership, and engaging the future with anticipation and zest -- I have the sense that congregants feel like "winners," not "losers," as they gear up for the settled minister search. This bodes well for the process.

Deepening of anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural commitment -- This has not been a focus, except obliquely, for me. It has not been a focus for the congregational leadership.

Goals for coming months -- I would like to encourage the congregation to consider social action to be more integrated into the fabric of the entire congregation. If the congregation is serious about growing, it will have to be more welcoming to newer members in terms of recruiting them for committees and projects. Growth will also depend on an enhanced music program. I intend to highlight growth issues so that the congregation's ambivalence around growth is in the open and can be sorted out in a healthy way.

Rev. Ann



A Special Invitation to the Friends of the UUF: "New UU" Sessions

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism? Are you considering joining the Fellowship? Please join the Membership Committee and Rev. Ann for "New UU" sessions on May 14 and May 21 from 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. in the minister's office.

Board President Terra Collier-Young will be at the session on May 14th, and she is looking forward to meeting you. Please RSVP to the Fellowship office at 684-0506, and let us know if you would like child care. *We hope to see you there!*

New Members

We are proud to recognize all the people who have joined our Fellowship since last August. They are listed below in the order in which they signed the Membership Book.

Don Foster
Frances Foster
Shannon Edwards
Ken Chambers
Paule Brie
Mary Roy
Hilda Berra
Lois Cole
Mel Cole
Marcia Heath
Brian Heath
Sara Hummingbird
Paul Frommherz
Michelle Laasi
Kara Bowman
Doug Bowman
Elizabeth Strong

Welcome!!

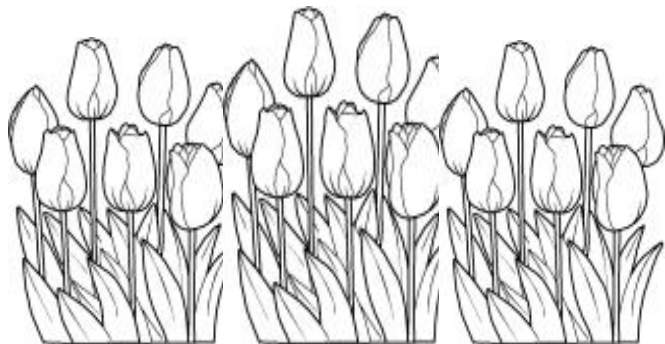
President's Letter: Terra's Muusings

Spring is such a wonderful time of year! When I gaze out of my study window I can see that the earth has been refreshed with rain. All around I see greenery: budding and blooming flowers, the unfolding of new leaves, vigorous plant life growing. And when I open the window, I smell fragrance in the air, fresh and clean. All of this is coaxed by the strengthening sun and longer days. Though it is still chilly outside, Mother Nature and the weatherman have promised that warm weather is just around the corner, when the wheel of life arches toward summer.

This vigorous spring energy is abundant in the Fellowship as well. New and returning members have been welcomed; babies have been dedicated and blessed. The Search Committee has been chosen and is committed to finding our next settled minister; one that will inspire, encourage, and enlightened us to be our best Unitarian Universalist selves. Also, this canvass and budget season we have an opportunity to nurture our ears and hearts with more beautiful music by funding and hiring a Music Director.

All around, life abounds!! What better time to celebrate and show our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part? As we practice our wonderful religious tradition, we do well to be aware of our small but significant role in the greater whole. We do well to recognize the effect we have on others. When walking across the rungs of the web, it is ideal to walk lightly, with mindfulness, balance, and *namaste*. This, in itself, is a profound practice.

Spring invites us to refresh and renew, ourselves and our commitment to this beloved community. With an appreciation for the beauty of nature and the cleansing wash of rain, may we flourish and thrive. Terra Collier-Young



Volunteer of the Month: Sally Real



The Social Action Committee has nominated Sally Real for the *Volunteer of the Month* because of the wonderful job she has been doing as coordinator for the ISSP program at the Fellowship that feeds and houses 15-20 homeless men each Sunday evening.

The Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program has been operating for about 20 years but this is the first time that someone has stepped up and regularly used the food and supplies from the Second Harvest Food bank. Sally goes each Wednesday to get fresh produce and other foods that can be used to feed the guests. The Social Action Committee pays the bill but she and her partner Bill Taggart transport, clean, and store the supplies each week.

Sally says she loves doing the job and is grateful for the people who come up to her and say "Gee, I guess it's time I did Sunday night again!" Sally was the volunteer coordinator for Longs Marine Labs for ten years before she retired so she knows how hard it is to get volunteers sometimes.

Raised in Oakland, CA, Sally came to Santa Cruz about 1975 and joined the Fellowship two years ago. Sally's daughter Jane and her husband Tom Crahan, are also members of our Fellowship.

Sally LOVES being a Grandmother and recently had an article and picture in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* showing her and grandson Riley making Jello. Morgan is her newest grandson. She also loves being retired so she can do what she wants; "Life just gets better and better."

Thanks, Sally, for including UUFSCC in your list of things to do. We are better for it.

UUF FYI's

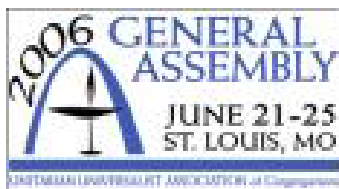
Dear Members and Friends,

This column will be an available space for you to submit requests, offers, and reminders that you want to share with the congregation. The due date for the *Unicorn* is the third Sunday of the month. Please submit a clean text via email to unicorn@uufsc.org and write "unicorn FYI's" in the subject line.

Special request: I need an apartment or house for 5 weeks, from July 15 to August 25, for my daughter who is coming from Italy with her husband and two children, ages 10 and 3. Please contact Iran Mohsenin 479-0105 or email imohsenin@comcast.net and let me know if you know of anything available. Thank you.

Leadership Development:

The Committee on Ministry and Terra Collier-Young would like the congregation to know that they have been awarded Endowment Fund money to financially support Leadership Development for the UUFSCC. If you are interested in attending General Assembly or Leadership School please contact Terra or Patt Taylor for details.



*The Pacific Central District
29th annual Leadership School
July 22-28, 2006*

Westminster Retreat Center, Alamo, California

Stebbins at Asilomar July 29 – August 3. See website at www.serve.com/stebbins or contact Marsha Hudson or Helen Oxley for details.

Sailing in the Monterey Bay with Ben Lemaster.

Look for the clipboard and sign up after service on Sunday mornings. Ben will be in touch with you.

The UUFSCC will march in the **Gay Pride Parade** on June 4. Please contact the Welcoming Congregation Committee members Meg Leher, Amy Carlson, and Fred Seamon for sign up and details.

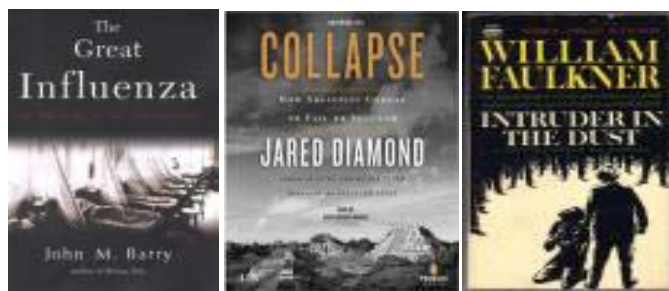
The **Coordinating Council Meeting** will be held in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00p.m. Representation of all committees is requested. If you have an agenda item please contact Don Hoernschemeyer.

UUF BOOK GROUP

At the April meeting the First Friday Book Group planned quite a ways ahead, through September to be exact. With pandemics a much talked about phenomenon, our timely selection for May, *The Great Influenza* by John Barry, will be our focus and then in June we'll discuss Jared Diamond's *Collapse*. In July it will be William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*. In August we'll be taking a critical look at Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities* and in September we'll be taking a slight detour to review a play. This time it will be Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. If there are videos or DVDs of any of these selections, we'll watch those the next night, the Saturday after the discussion.

We meet on the first Friday of each month, 7:30p.m. at Joan Roberts' home. If you need more information or directions please call 688-7598.

Won't you join us?



UUF Annual Camping Trip

UU Summer Camping Trip August 13-20. Mark your calendars and join us again this year at beautiful Lake San Antonio in southern Monterey County. Get away from it all and spend a few fun days with friends relaxing around the well equipped group site, boating on the lake, or hiking the trails.

We have the group site for the entire week but most people choose to attend on the weekend of August 18-20.

For more information contact Ken Chambers at kenneth3@concentric.net or by phone 408-353-2710



Committee On Ministry Reports

Our April meeting went very well. Besides normal business we got a report on the Goals "sermon" and are all excited about the prospect of a music director, more administrative support, a volunteer coordinator, and the possibility of a social justice workshop on the study action issue of "moral values for a pluralistic society." Hopefully the canvass will produce the support needed for these worthy goals.

We are still hoping to find a highly motivated person who would like to update their leadership skills with other leadership people from our Pacific Central District. The opportunity to attend PCD Leadership School is a wonderful experience and opportunity to learn about our incredible UU history. You will come back charged with profound knowledge that can aid you in shared ministry. If you are interested in going to Leadership School with the help of a \$500 scholarship, please let the COM know. The dates for Leadership School are July 22 to 28, 2006. The scholarship is currently available until May 1. Call contact person, Patt Taylor at 724-9545 or pattchouly4ever@yahoo.com.

Erica Crawford for the C.O.M. (myself, Patt Taylor, Robert Kraft, Marley Smith-Merrill)

Musical Ministry

Chant Night

Please join us on the second Friday of the month, in the Sanctuary for our monthly chant night. On May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Terra Collier-Young will lead us in meditative silence, entrancing chants, and thoughtful poetry. All are encouraged and welcome!



Open Mic

Join us Saturday, May 6 in the Sanctuary in a comfortable venue for musicians, poets, magicians, and other artists of all ages to perform before a live audience. Sign-up at 7:00p.m., start at 7:30p.m. Refreshments are provided and donations accepted. For more information call Marijke Meijer at 477-7588

Artist Alert!

Start planning your work now for the July members' exhibit in the sanctuary. The theme is based on our UU 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Since this principle is so inclusive (global warming, endangered species, human interactions, etc.) you will be asked to include a short paragraph explaining the relationship between your work and the principle.

All two dimensional media, including watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel, ink, pencil, photography, fabric, and mixed media will be accepted if the work is original and suitable for the setting. All work should be ready to hang, preferably with mats, frames, and no exposed edges of glass. It must include your name, phone number, title, and, if applicable, price. Please note that during the exhibit the Fellowship does not provide insurance for art works.

Your Art Committee is excited about this project. We are planning a Sunday program around this theme. For more information call Marylou Lamb 465-9973, Sue Meyer 662-0507 or other members of the Committee.



Greeters for May

May 7 Marsha Hudson
May 14 Judy Anton
May 21 Karen Aaker
May 28 Rosalie Kraft

To participate in Sunday morning greeting contact the Membership Committee co-chairwomen Iran Mohsenin or Judy Anton.



The UUFSCC 2006 PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS

Our 25 faithful canvassers will be calling on all members between April 24 and May 15 to talk about the Fellowship and ask them to make their annual pledge for the coming year.

Canvassers are as follows:

Karen Aaker, Art Anton, Doug Bowman, Janus Blume, Jane Boone, Tom Crahen, Rich Fallis, Brent Haddad, Don Hoernschemeyer, Randy James, Katherine Lemaster, Mark Rogers, Donna Senko, Marley Smith-Merrill, John Thiemann, Devi Tong, Woody Wood, Thomas Witz, Terra Collier-Young, Michael Loik, Iran Mohsenin, Ed Newman, Helen Oxley, Scott Young, and Rosalie Kraft.

Give until it feels good!

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council Meeting will be held in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00p.m. Representation of all committees is requested. If you have an agenda item please contact Don Hoernschemeyer.

Recommendations from the Goals Committee

The Goals Committee has offered the Fellowship four main ideas that they garnered from the "Desired Future State Goals" work done last year. These ideas will point us toward the future we envisioned.

- *Hire a Music Director
- *Retain a quality office staff by offering quality compensation
- *Create a Volunteer Coordinator position
- *Encourage a fellowship-wide focused study action issue, ie: the UUA's "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society"



Second Saturday Dinner Club

Many members may be attending a fund raising dinner on the second Saturday of May and the host may change the evening to accommodate all of the guests. Remember, the first person on the list is the host, the second person brings the main dish, the third brings salad/bread, the fourth brings dessert, and the fifth brings another vegetable.

Group 1] 1. Heath 2. Rogers 3. LeMaster 4. Cole

Group 2] 1. Neher 2. Senko 3. Anton 4. Aaker/Fihe

Group 3] 1. Collier-Young 2. Hudson/Shackelford 3. Meyer 4. Bailey, G

Group 4] 1. Lamb 2. Newman 3. James/McCrow 4. Laasi 5. Sprague

Group 5] 1. Fish 2. Crawford/Newbold 3. Wood 4. Pakulis

Group 6] 1. Morairty 2. Oxley-Newfarmer 3. Star Dancing/Partlow 4. Smith-Merrill

Substitutes: Boone, Brooks, Thiemann, Tong, Seamon, Keith-Spiegel, Cavanaugh/Sandoval, Mohsenin.



Deep Conversation Circles

Deep Conversation Circles are a monthly opportunity to meet with other deep thinkers for a salon-styled gathering and conversation. "Morals for a Pluralistic Society", the UUA Study Action Issue, will be the topic of discussion. Join us on the second Monday of the month, 7:30p.m., at the home of Marylou Lamb. She can be reached at 465-9973.

Directory Changes

Please note that:

*the phone number listed on the first page for our office assistant, Priscilla Mann, is her home phone and is for emergency only,

*the office fax number is 685-6736 ,

*Michelle Laasi's correct email address is mlaasi@sbcglobal.net,

*Elizabeth Strong's address is:

3540 Hardin Way, Soquel, CA, 95073

*Don Newfarmer's new contact information is:

225 Mt . Hermon Rd #153, Scotts Valley, CA, 95006. (831) 430-0211

*send directory changes and corrections to Karen Aaker or Priscilla in the office.

Hospitality Committee

"Thank you" goes out to the March coffee servers Cindy and Mark Rogers and Mary Brooks. Also to Linda Neher, Kara and Doug Bowman, Bill Taggart and Sally Real for cleaning up after the Congregational Meeting, along with the hospitality committee.

We are still looking for flower donations to decorate our chalice area, pulpit and piano. Please bring flowers as you feel inclined, or if you know how we can get them on a regular basis contact, Sylvia Forsyth, 685-8637.



Softball Anyone?

City of Santa Cruz summer softball leagues are getting organized now, and I was just wondering if there might be enough UU softball players to pull together a co-rec (men and women) fellowship team? Call or email Yael if you're interested (458-3053 or ylachman@redshift.com) and we'll see what we can do. (Deadline for team registration is early May.)



Stewardship Day

The weeds are springing to life !

This month's stewardship day is on May 6, 2006. We will wrangle the plant life, and perform some light cleaning and maintenance. This is a great way to contribute to the health and well being of our fellowship grounds and buildings. See you there.

Thanks, Scott Young, Facilities Chair



"STEP" RESOLUTION: NEWS RELEASE

At its Congregational Meeting in April, the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County unanimously adopted the STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) Resolution circulated by the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The Resolution reviews the involvement of the United States in Iraq and argues that "...we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country." It does not seek a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy, only a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases. The Resolution concludes with a plea that "...the United States Congress...adopt a sense of the Congress resolution declaring: 'It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq.'"

Leading members of the faith community have long been outspoken in opposition to the Iraq War and the FCNL reports that more than 100 congregations and Friends' Meetings have already endorsed this Resolution. "Our Fellowship was on record by Congregational Resolution on November 10, 2002 opposing a pre-emptive strike against Iraq," said Terra Collier-Young, UUFSCC President. "We continue to believe that this war is morally indefensible; we will do all in our power to end it, and we will join with others who share our views."

See the UUF website for copy of resolution, uufsc.org or contact Ed Newman from the Social Action Committee at 423-7542.



***All Fellowship Sunday Beach Afternoon
May 21, 2006***

***We'll meet at Seacliff Beach after the service; look for Ted Merrill.
Bring food for yourself and to share,
Ted will bring briquettes and BBQ equipment, paper plates and cups.
Bring beach games and good times! Sponsored by the RE Committee.***



Unicorn deadline for the June issue will be May 21.

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.

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