



The UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
6401 Freedom Boulevard, Aptos, California 95003, (831) 684-0506
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June 2006

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Every third Thursday 3:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
and an occasional Friday as needed.

The UNICORN

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PLEASE SUBMIT ALL UNICORN
RELATED ARTICLES AND
INFORMATION TO
unicorn@uufsc.org

June Sunday Services

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

June 4

"The Element of Surprise"

On this Sunday members are encouraged to march in the Santa Cruz Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Parade, the format of this service will be a surprise. Bring your pressing theological, philosophical, and ethical questions.

Rev. Ann Schranz

June 11

"Ethics in People-Maneuvering"

What is ethical to do, and what is not, when we try to maneuver other people to behave the way we want them to? We may adopt strategies to influence others which are beyond simple requests, such as disclosing or withholding information. We will look at maneuvering as manipulation, and maneuvering as valuable contribution.

Helen Oxley and Rev. Ann Schranz

June 18

"What Do Men Want?"

Across the country and across religious denominations, there tend to be more women than men who are active in congregations. Why? On this Father's Day, we will focus on men's ways of relating and acting. *VoiceMale*, the new book by Unitarian Universalist Neil Chethik may provide some insights. Ed Newman and Rev. Ann Schranz

June 25

"Border Lands"

Dr. Victoria Rue, a Roman Catholic female priest, and professor of Religious Studies and Women's Studies at San Jose State University, will speak about the landscape of her spirituality as a woman and lesbian, and as a priest ministering on the margins of the traditional Roman Catholic Church.

Fred Seamon, Service Associate

In the Interim with Rev. Ann Schranz

Several months ago, an incident occurred after a service in which several members felt physically and emotionally threatened. As a consequence, the board started investigating the merits of adopting a policy on disruptive behavior. This policy was adopted at the April board meeting:

“While openness to a wide variety of individuals is one of the prime values held by our congregation and expressed in our denomination’s purpose and principles, we affirm the belief that our congregation must maintain a secure atmosphere where such openness can exist. When any person’s physical and/or emotional well-being or freedom to safely express his or her beliefs or opinions is threatened, the source of this threat must be addressed firmly and promptly, even if this ultimately requires the expulsion of the offending person or persons.

It is the policy of this congregation to address the disruptive behavior of any individual or individuals on the Fellowship premises under either of the following conditions:

1. When there has been a perceived threat to the direct personal (physical and/or emotional) safety of any adult or child
2. When there has been unwarranted and serious disruption of Fellowship activities

It is also the policy of this congregation to be sensitive to the needs of those who have felt threatened by such individuals and to respond to their needs in an empathetic and supportive fashion.

The procedures for implementing this policy will be established by the group consisting of the Safety and Comfort Committee and the minister. The Safety and Comfort Committee is an ad hoc committee. The procedures may be changed at any time by the group consisting of the Safety and Comfort Committee and the minister.”

A few people with relevant experience are being identified as possible members of a Safety and Comfort Committee should the need arise. The policy and the initial procedures for implementing it are available for review on the bulletin board inside the Fellowship office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or a board member.

Rev. Ann

Important Notice of Town Hall and Congregational Meetings

On Sunday, June 18 there will be a Congregational Meeting held in Abrams Hall at 11:45a.m. after the service to approve a budget for 2006-2007.

Before the service at 9:00a.m. the Budget Committee will facilitate a Town Hall meeting in the Gallery. This meeting is an opportunity to express your opinions and ask questions about how our income is spent.

A preview draft budget will be available on Sunday, June 11. On Thursday, June 15 the Board will be voting on its approval.

The potluck before the meeting will be “Salad and Dessert”. People whose last name begins with A-K bring salad, L-M bring bread and spreads, N-S bring dessert, T-Z bring drinks.

Thank you for participating in the process.



Board Summary

What the Board Did May 18, 2006:

Your Board:

1. Heard that Bill Sampson is resigning as Treasurer effective July 15.
2. Discussed preparations for the June 18th Congregational Meeting.
3. Discussed the process for submitting the board’s review of Reverend Ann to the UUA.
4. Heard that a new copier will be needed in the office by October 18.
5. Adopted a special collections policy to allow up to six collections per year where half the undesignated funds will go to a recipient designated by the Board.
6. Approved the contract with Reverend Ann for the year beginning in September.
7. Discussed the issue of not having board members as committee chairs.

Remember, board meetings are open to all interested members.

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of the UUFSCC,

It has been a good year! But come June 30, I will step down as your President and Lora Lee Chapman will step up. As we approach the changing of the guard I thought I would take this opportunity, as this is my last President's letter, to look back on all the good work we have done together.

*With diligence, Vice President Don Hoernschemeyer has revitalized the Coordinating Council and it has been held quarterly with all committees represented;

*We found a wonderful Interim Minister, the Rev. Ann Schranz, who will be staying with us for another year. She will continue to hold up a mirror to us as we go through the settled ministerial search, with the goal of calling a new minister in Sept, 2007;

*At the November Congregational Meeting we voted to name the fellowship hall-sanctuary the "Abrams Hall" in honor of our beneficiary Delores "Dee" Abrams;

*We adopted a policy of having no other planned Fellowship activities after the service on the Sunday of Gay Pride, typically set for the first Sunday of June. We adjusted the by-laws to be in accordance with what is considered a "Welcoming Congregation" with the UUA;

*We financially supported several social causes and organizations: ISSP, COPA, the play "Side by Side" about mental illness, Sheila Kuehl and the Health Care for All initiative, and a special collection of \$1,151 for the Katrina-Gulf Coast relief;

*The Goals Committee coalesced the data collected from last year's "Desired Future State Goals" work to bring the congregation the top four hits: to hire a Music Director, to maintain quality office staff, to create a volunteer Volunteer Coordinator position, and to pursue a fellowship wide theme and social justice focus with coordinated activities for the whole fellowship;

*With the help of Linda Neher, we revitalized the Chant and Meditation Circle;

*We participated in many of the Pacific Central District (PCD) events like Leadership School, the Leadership Development Day, and we had 11 members attend the District Assembly in Walnut Creek;

*We fulfilled the suggested activities for the General Assembly's Study Action Issue for 2003-05 regarding Global Warming;

*With the leadership of Marsha Hudson, an ad hoc Rental Committee worked hard to create a consistent and comprehensive rental policy for all UUF rentals;

*After 4 years George Shackelford handed over the "Adobe PageMaker" program for publishing the Unicorn newsletter to Terra Collier-Young;

*The Endowment Committee designated funds for Leadership School, new books for the library, registration fees for the PCD and UUA assemblies;

*We joined in with many progressive religious organizations, the Friends Council in particular, to support the Iraq STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) proposal;

*We had a successful year in our trial run of having paid RE teachers and will be doing it again next year;

*Sunday Services Committee purchased a digital recorder for quality service recordings on CD's (available soon) and implemented a successful announcement policy;

*An updated and enhanced contract with Rose Blossom School was crafted with care;

*With the help of Art Anton and Brian Heath we crafted a well thought out policy on how to respond to and take care of disruptive people;

*We adopted a chalice design created by UUF artist Mary Brooks;

*We bought a new PC computer for better office management;

*Thirteen new members have signed the book;

*The Board, all of the committees and affinity groups have continued to be vital contributors to our beloved community.

Like I said, it has been a good year. Heck it's been a great year, and I am quite certain that the progress of the UUF will continue as the years pass.

Thank you all for your support. It has been a challenge, a valuable learning experience, and a genuine pleasure to serve you.

Many continued blessings to us all.

Terra Collier-Young

Artist Alert II

During the summer months the walls of the sanctuary will be graced with art submitted by fellowship members and friends on the theme of the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. If you would like to submit a piece, contact Judy Anton for details. All art forms are welcome.

On July 7, there will be a reception at the fellowship for a special Members' Exhibit Preview and TGIF from 5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m.

And on Sunday, July 9th, the Art Committee is planning a Sunday Service devoted to our seventh principle, our regard and respect for the interdependent web.



Celtic Web of Life

UUF Annual Camping Trip

Our RE Summer Camping Trip will be 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



Social Action Committee & Volunteer Recognition

The 4 – 6 grade RE class initiated several social action projects this year, and one of them involves all of you. The students created a vibrant new banner for our community donation box. The large, wooden box, somewhat neglected and prone to becoming a trash receptacle in the past, stands in the corner of the entry courtyard at the Fellowship. The RE students revived it with a colorful banner declaring “Helping Our Community” and have initiated a collection drive of clothes and blankets to set the stage for an ongoing collection from our members for less privileged members of the Santa Cruz community.

The Social Action Committee has long been in charge of collecting donations from the fellowship and transporting them to various organizations around town. The tirelessly dedicated Claire DuBois has delivered our donations for many years to the beach flats area. Claire is also an active advocate for the “Alliance for Children” and “Coat for Kids” programs. With our rejuvenated donation program, Claire is taking donations to the Homeless Family Shelter, the Adult Transitional Housing Center for the homeless, the Walnut Avenue Women’s Shelter, the New Life Center and the Davenport Resource Center.



Claire Dubois

Please think of our community box every week when you come to the UUF and bring along good used clothes, blankets, towels, twin sheets, personal hygiene items like soap, laundry soap, household cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, and toilet paper.

We are so grateful to see our RE children getting involved in community service in alliance with the Social Action Committee. It is up to the rest of us to keep this wonderful program going!

Susie Shane

Canvass Success

A total of \$123,959 was pledged by ninety pledge units (members and friends) in our most successful canvass ever. Rosalie Kraft and Helen Oxley, the pledge drive co-chairs, thank our twenty-four canvassers for their dedication.

The Settled Ministerial Search Committee is Up and Running

We started with a weekend retreat at Seacliff Inn with Rev. Leila Ibrahim in which we all took responsibilities and we outlined the process we will be going through for the next eighteen months. We are Bruce Fihe (Chair), Randy James, Steve Morairty, Andy Kreyche, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, and Jennifer Wood, the communication specialist.

A general overview of the period (between now and September, 2007) is that we will survey the congregation from May 14 to June 17. That will be in progress by the time you read this. We are trying to get a 100% return of the survey which can be taken on line, written, or orally. Over the summer we will analyze the results, interview opinion leaders (you may request to be interviewed), and arrange to have other local churches hold places for our candidates to give sermons that the committee can secretly attend. In August and early September, we will have small group meetings to learn more about the congregation members' visions for the future.

In the end of September we will unveil a congregational resume on the Internet which interested candidates can read and contact us. Of the contacts, we choose about ten to exchange packets with, booklets, disks or websites. (You can review our 1997/8 packet in the office.) From those we choose a smaller number of people with whom to do phone interviews, and from those we choose three to bring to the area for entire weekends in February and March. Finally, we choose one candidate to bring to the Fellowship, for a week in April, to present to all of you with two Sunday sermons and a lot of meetings and touring. The week is planned for April 15, 2007, unless something changes.

If you have any questions. Please call Jenny at 458-0914 or JJChoate@aol.com or Bruce at 662-9565 or bruce@aftonranch.net.

Musical Ministry



OPEN MIC

Saturday June 3rd

First Saturday of the Month. Sign-up: 7:30, Start time: 8:00 pm. Note: sign up and start times have changed. Place: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County For information call Marjike Mi 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.

CHANT NIGHT

Friday, June 9

In the spirit of musical ministry, chant night continues. Please join us in meditative silence, chanting, and thoughtful poetry in the Sanctuary at 7:30p.m..

First Friday Book Group

At our May meeting we didn't make any new plans beyond September. As listed in last month's Unicorn, in June we are reading Jared Diamond's *Collapse*, in July it will be *Intruder in the Dust* by William Faulkner, August will be Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities* and September's choice is Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. There are DVDs or CDs of some of these selections, so when available we will be watching those the following night.

Usual meeting time and place: 7:30p.m. on the first Friday of each month at Joan Roberts' home. Call 688-7598 if you need more information.

PCD ~ UUA

*Remember, there is endowment money for GA registration and Leadership School. Contact Terra Collier-Young or Patt Taylor for information.

*Be sure to check out the PCD website for transcripts of Rev. Rebecca Parker's sermon, <http://www.pcd-uua.org/>



Greeters for June

June 4 Iran Mohsenin
June 11 Marsha Hudson
June 18 Jane Boone
June 25 Judy Anton

To be a greeter or to bring flowers for the service please contact Judy Anton or Iran Mohsenin.

TGIF

Thank Goodness It's Friday, an informal weekly social drop-in gathering in members' homes on early Friday evenings during the summer, is set to go. The gathering begins about 5:30p.m. and ends around 7:30p.m..

Hosts provide drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and everyone contributes to the cost. There is no socially redeeming purpose other than to enjoy being together, and it's a good way for new members to get acquainted. Generally hosts provide directions and/or maps the Sunday before.

Hosts are still needed for July and August, so sign up with Karen Aaker. E-mails and phone calls are OK.

Listed below are the hosts for June:

June 2 - Terra Collier-Young & Scott Young
June 9 - Janus and Robert Blume
June 16 - Lois and Mel Cole
June 23 - John Thiemann
June 30 - Sylvia Forsyth

The Dinner Club will resume in October.

Stewardship Day: the First Saturday of the Month

This stewardship day, June 3, 2006, we will prepare the grounds for the long hot days of summer. Bring weed pulling gear, chain saws, weed eaters, etc. This is a great way to contribute to the health and well being of our fellowship facilities.

See you there ! Scott Young, Facilities Chair



UUF:FYI's

*SUNDAY JUNE 11 – GENE STEVENS' 90th Birthday Party Potluck! Everyone is invited. Please stay after the service and bring a potluck item to share in celebrating Gene's landmark birthday. Please bring food items according to your last name: A-F Bring drinks; G-M Bring salads or side dishes; N-S Bring desserts; T-Z Bring main dishes.

*Draft budget available Sunday June 11, after the service and in the office

*Town Hall meeting to discuss the budget, Sunday June 18 at 9:00a.m.

*Congregational Meeting June 18, 11:45a.m.

*When you want an announcement written on the back of the Order of Service contact the office by the Wednesday before. For a spoken announcement contact the office by Thursday or fill out a form, found on the members' table and give to the Service Associate at least ten minutes before the service.

*Notice: date of Yard Sale pre-sale Friday September 15 with a TGIF, public Yard Sale Saturday September 16, 2006

*Membership Dinner was a big success. To see the pictures check out this website: <http://web.mac.com/ericacrawford/iWeb/Site/>



Directory Changes and Updates

*Don Newfarmer's Scotts Valley zip code is 95066

*Pamela Hinz phone number is 828-1066

*Michelle Laasi 's phone number is 426-6787

*Kreyche, Andy & Golston, April
429-1032 Andy: 239-1865 cel
438 Roxas Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Graden 11/14/95
akreyche@baymoon.com

*New Email address for Bill Sampson:
wfs1929@comcast.net

Important dates and times to remember:

June 4, join us this morning for the “Gay Pride Parade” as we show our support for the GLBT community by marching in the parade with the UUF banner.

Contact Meg Lehr, Amy Carlson or Fred Seamon for details.

June 11, a 2006-2007 budget draft will be available after the service and in the office.

June 18, at 9:00a.m. the Budget Committee will facilitate a town hall meeting to address questions about the budget.

June 18 at 11:45a.m. there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the budget.

Unicorn deadline for July and August publication is June 18th.

Please have all materials for both months sent to unicorn@uufsc.org for the special summer issue.

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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