



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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September 2006

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Tues, Wed, Sat, 10:00-2:00p.m.
Monday is Rev. Ann's day off.
Appointments can be scheduled at other
times and are always encouraged.
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The UNICORN

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September Sunday Services

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

Sept 3

"Labor of Love"

This morning we join in with the Facilities Committee and prepare the fellowship grounds and hall for our annual "Homecoming." Bring gloves, gardening tools, and elbow grease as we work together for our beloved community.

Contact Scott Young for information.

Sept 10

"Homecoming"

The rhythm of the year scatters us in summer and calls us together in fall. Near this fifth anniversary of September 11, bring a 17-syllable haiku to tell us where you were this summer or how you are right now.

Rev. Ann Schranz

Sept 17

"Good for the Goose and Good for the Gander"

Unitarian Universalist adults tend to like religious education for children and to be ambivalent about it for themselves. We will look at opportunities for spiritual deepening in the context of religious education. Hear also about the "Coming of Age" program.

Rev. Ann Schranz, Cindy Rogers, and Suse Shane

Sept 24

"Money and Influence"

The "immortality of influence" depends in part upon what we do with our money when we die. It also depends upon what we do with our time, talents, and money when we are alive. Find out how to extend the reach of your influence. Rev. Ann Schranz, Suse Shane, and Lora Lee Chapman



In the Interim with Rev. Ann Schranz

I hope you enjoyed the summer! This summer I took two trips – one to General Assembly in St. Louis and one to southern California to visit the friend with whom I lived during my ministerial internship. He is 79 years old, and we have been friends for 27 years. He is a whiz at sudoku, the numbers puzzle. He is experiencing the agony and the ecstasy of owning a new laptop computer. We are never too old or too young to be friends with each other. I look forward to hearing about your summer.

As we begin our second year of interim ministry together, we have the opportunity to go deeper into the interim ministry tasks. Here they are:

- 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 and 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, and
- 6) Enable the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, implement its goals, and prepare for new professional leadership.

I understand that the Communications Committee is going to be revitalized. Please notify Lora Lee Chapman if you would like to serve on the committee. I hope the committee will consider renaming the *Unicorn* newsletter. This name and the unicorn logo make the congregation seem “stuck in the past” and frivolous. As you move further into the search for a new settled minister, this is a good time to consider your identity and the image you wish to project. This congregation deserves to be taken seriously.

I have co-led two services on COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action). You may be thinking, “Enough background. How can I participate?” Go to the COPA-sponsored Live Oak Human Services Assembly on Thursday, September 7 at Del Mar School, 1959 Merrill Street, at 7 p.m. Support additional “English as a Second Language” classes and construction of a larger Live Oak Family Resource Center.

“Homecoming” Sunday is September 10. Bring real or “virtual” water that you gathered over the summer. The service may be “standing room only.” To promote poetry, full participation, and reasonable length in the service, please bring an original haiku. A haiku is a 17-syllable poem. Those 17 syllables may evoke a place you visited or may evoke your current state of mind and heart. This approach worked well last year, so we will try it again. Homecoming Sunday is also the day before the fifth anniversary of September 11. Your haiku may relate to that anniversary, as well.

Rev. Ann



Committee On Ministry

By the time you read this the COM will have had our annual one day retreat the end of August when we welcome our new members Lee and Linda. We will have shared our purpose with them and talked about our vision and goals for the coming year. And for those of you who are not clear on our purpose, it is *“The ministry of the Fellowship is the fulfillment of its REACH Covenant and the charge to the COM is to serve as the guardian of the Covenant. We hold up the mirror to the lay led congregation and the professional minister in order to promote a Shared Ministry that retains the wholeness and direction necessary to fulfill our stated principles and goals and to provide an environment for healthy community”*.

We also fill the role of conflict managers, and while we wish you all a conflict free life we are here just in case a problem crops up. If a conflict arises between you and any employee, member or visitor please contact one of us so we can address it quickly and try to arrive at some resolution or understanding that keeps UUFSCC communicating and healthy. Hope you had a great summer and are revitalized and ready to get involved in Fellowship activities. This is going to be a very important year!

Erica Crawford for the C.O.M. (myself, Thomas Witz, Marley Smith-Merrill, Linda Neher, and Lee Cavanaugh)

President's Letter

What an enjoyable weekend I have just spent at Lake San Antonio. My husband Bill and I chose to go to the annual UUFSCC camping trip, and spent two great nights and three delightful days with other members, friends and guests. A big thank you to both Terra Collier-Young and Ken Chambers for organizing this event.

What made this experience so much fun, you might ask? Was it the beautiful natural setting with vivid blue lake so close, and the hills filled with bunnies and deer? Was it the chance to relax away from the cares of daily life? Yes, but it was more than just that. Was it a chance to drive the Amphicar (combo boat/automobile)? Yes absolutely, but there was more. The value I found was in the chance to get to know the people who joined with me to attend. Taking the time to talk and listen, and eat together, and learn new things about one another. The sense of community that arises from shared adventures was present with us all weekend. I hope these deeper bonds between all of us will linger as we go forward together into this new fellowship year and beyond. So much of what we offer at the UUFSCC is found in the people we meet via the UUFSCC. So, if you also seek a sense of community from the UUFSCC, I warmly encourage you to partake in the chance of getting together socially with members and friends: the Dinner Club, the TGIF's, our up coming retreat at the Land of Medicine Buddha, and other events offer opportunities to us all.

One of the tasks I do regularly as your President is help craft the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting. If you have an item you think that the Board needs to be aware of or address, there are lots of ways to get it on the Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

*Let me, Don Hoernschmeyer, Brad Trusso, or Lois Cole know what it is, and by the second Thursday of the month.

*If there is a committee involved, have the committee chair (or another member) contact their Board Liaison by the second Thursday of the month.

*Or, as a last resort you are always welcome to attend Board meetings (and the next one is Thursday, September 21st beginning at 7pm in the Gallery). If time allows, we can add your concern to the "New Business" section of the agenda.

I am in our office every Thursday from 9am to 1pm, and my mobile phone number is 831-332-7599. I remain open to your thoughts, cares, concerns and feedback.

Yours in Service, Lora Lee



Highlights from the July Board Meeting

The following items were approved by the board at the July meeting:

*Congregational Meeting Dates set: November 12th election of five nominating committee members: April 22, 2007 congregational meeting date will be only for voting on a settled minister: a regular/standing orders congregational meeting will be held on April 15, 2007.

*MFC (Ministerial Fellowship Committee) evaluation for Rev. Ann Schranz

*Hiring of RE teen leader candidate, Becca Beddingfield, to begin this fall

*Hospitality Committee needs help with clean-up after pot lucks and congregational meetings. It was recommended that different committees take turns with clean-up, or members at large (perhaps alphabetical, according to last name)

*Living Wage statement to be readied for November congregational meeting so that Fellowship members have a chance to vote on this issue

*Board is looking for a volunteer to fill position as head of Fellowship pledge drive. Position needs to be filled by December or January. Rosalie Kraft will serve in an advisory capacity

*An active, over-all communications committee was recommended

*Board was asked to recommend one Board member and one member at large to join Randy James in forming the negotiating team for our new settled minister. Terra Collier-Young will be the board member on the negotiating team. Members are urged to see Bruce Fihe and sign up for informational cottage meetings re: ministerial search.

Respectfully submitted, Lois Cole, Secretary

Covenant Groups Forming

You are invited to participate in a new small group ministry program this fall. If you're interested in discussing personal, spiritual topics with the same people over a period of time, contact Marsha Hudson, Linda Neher, or Rev. Ann Schranz. The first group will start when we have ten people signed up.

Known as Covenant Groups, small groups like this are becoming very popular within UU congregations across the nation as a way to foster deeper relationships and provide a spiritual setting for personal growth. In good UU fashion, the members of each group covenant with one another about the specifics of how they want their group to function. Generally six to ten people meet twice a month for an agreed-upon length of time, perhaps three months. Each group has a facilitator who helps the group stay focused. Every session begins with a simple ritual, perhaps simply sitting quietly so that everyone can ready themselves to be fully present to others in the group. After a brief check-in, each person is invited to talk without interruption about a mutually agreed-upon topic, for example, "a turning point in my life," "something I did recently that enriched my spiritual life," or any other topic the group picks that is consistent with fundamental UU principles and interests. After everyone has shared, time is provided for open discussion of the topic. A simple ritual ends the meeting.

Although each group is closed for the covenanted period, at the end of that period, members are free to drop out or continue, while new members are added and a new covenant made. Many groups find that their experience is enriched by also working together on some project that serves the larger community, for example, cooking a meal for ISSP together.

Mentoring Ministry



Musical Ministry

Open Mic: Open mike September 23, 7:30p.m.

Beginning in October Open Mic will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Sign up time is 7:30p.m., start time is 8:00p.m. in the fellowship hall.

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 and donations are accepted.

**Chant and Meditation Circle:
September 27 7:30p.m.**

As Unitarian Universalists we are blessed with the principal of a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" and the "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." In the spirit of these practices we offer you a monthly gathering of song, poetry, candle lighting, and reflective silence.

Come sooth your mind, body, and soul.

En-Chanting Yourself

Here's a great reason to spend the day in Monterey! The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula is offering special workshop on chanting.

Chanting can lift the spirit and connect you with yourself and others in new and meaningful ways. Come chant with us and discover its power. We will explore several styles and themes of chanting and simple movement that can be used as personal spiritual practice and as community worship. Singers and not-so-sure singers are welcome.

This workshop will be led by Shelley Page, an experienced chanter with an untrained voice who discovered the transformative power of chant in her own spiritual practice and in building community. Shelley is a student at Starr King School for the Ministry.

Saturday September 30, at 1:00 – 4:00p.m. The suggested donation, to help cover the costs of the workshop, is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. To pay in advance, send your check to the Monterey church office with "chanting" noted as the subject: Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 490 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93923.

Please contact either Ann Jacobson (ann.jacobson@gmail.com) or Jolinda Stephens (jolinda@redshift.com or 624-7404 x *812) if you have any questions about the workshop, and Terra Collier-Young (terracoyo@yahoo.com) or 462-4995 to join in the carpool.

**What is it you
plan to do with
your one wild
and precious life?**

—Mary Oliver

Issue 4, No. 1 THE WOMEN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP Southern California Association of Congregations

Minister Search Committee

Your committee has been working diligently all summer to analyze what the congregation wants in its next minister and what qualities it will take to lead us successfully into the twenty first century. Our analysis is based on the survey that more than 75% of the members filled out, personal interviews, and findings from the cottage meetings. If you have input you would like us to hear, either try to get into one of the last cottage meetings, September 10th and 17th at the Fellowship after service and September 7th at 7:00 P.M. in either Scotts Valley or Soquel. We remain open to people calling us or catching us at a service to give us input.

We are scrambling to meet our deadline of September 27th when we will be submitting the Congregational Record, our super-job description, to the UUA for unveiling on the Internet for candidates to read and decide if Aptos is for them. If so, they will be contacting the Committee, and we will narrow them to a manageable group of the best candidates.

Now we need something from you. Our next goal will be to produce a beautiful packet to send to the candidates. The packet we produced in 1997 is still available for your review. We would like to have the help of members who have knowledge of computer graphics and interesting information. Our new idea is to include art, music, and literature especially poetry of our talented members in an effort to show ourselves off. The sooner we hear from you on this, the easier it will be to produce the final product. Randy James is the member responsible for the packet

As always we are Bruce Fihe, Chair, Randy James, Mark Rogers, Steve Morairty, Andy Kreyche, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, and Jenny Wood.

Endowment Committee Invites Ideas for Funds

Got great idea about enhancing the UUFSCC Social Justice and educational programs? Funds are available! Our fellowship is fortunate enough to have an Endowment Fund, established with generous donations from deceased members. Any UUFSCC member or committee can apply to the Endowment Committee for a grant that will either:

- 1) boost the community and social justice programs of the fellowship or
 - 2) enhance the fellowship's educational programs.
- A recent survey of our membership asked what we want for our fellowship in the future. Attracting younger families through a stronger RE program and making our fellowship more visible as a prominent actor in social justice issues in the community proved to be top priorities.

Put on your thinking caps and send us a grant proposal addressing these goals, which fit so neatly into the Endowment Fund purposes! Application forms are available in the UUFSCC office (hard copies), on the UUFSCC website, and by contacting Susie Shane at jadeskye1952@sbcglobal.net. Applications are due by Sunday, October 15, 2006; late applications will not be accepted. Funding decisions will be made in time for approval by the Board at its November meeting.

Thank you Susie Shane, Endowment Committee Chair

Art in the Sanctuary

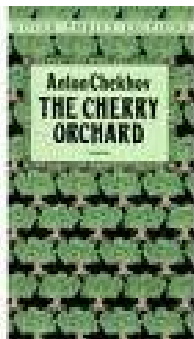
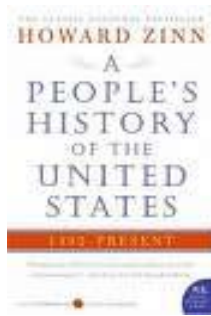
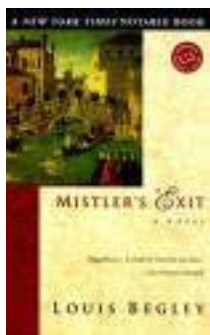
Judy Stabile has studied art in California, Oregon, New York, France and Italy. She is an accomplished painter, printmaker, and large scale sculptor; she also provides energetic guidance and support to Watsonville's Pajaro Valley Art Council. Judy's art will be in the sanctuary until the end of the month.



Small Group Ministry to read *A People's History of the United States*

Please contact Rev. Ann Schranz (minister@uufsc.org) if you would like to participate in this monthly discussion series.

The text is Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present*. Free books available to the first three people who sign up and request the book. We will probably meet one Saturday per month from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. This small-group ministry will also include philosophical and theological topics.



First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group has decided it is time to come up with some new selections for the fall. On Friday, September 1st we'll be talking about Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" and then the next night, Saturday, we'll watch Charlotte Rampling and Alan Bates in a 1999 film version of the stage play.

In October it will be Louis Begeley's "Mistler's Exit" and for November we've chosen E.M. Forster's "Howard's End."

We meet at 7:30p.m. on the first Friday of each month at Joan Roberts' home. Everyone is welcome. Call 688-7598 if you need more information.

Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser Needs Helpers

We need workers! We need donations! The Fellowship Annual Yard Sale is a 2-day event: Friday, September 15 will be a TGIF and sale, Saturday, September 16 will be the regular public yard sale. On Friday work shifts begin at 3:30p.m. and on Saturday, beginning at 7:30 A.M., the shifts are 2 or 3 hours long.

Donations of good, sellable items (not old clothes) can be brought to the Fellowship Sunday, August 27 and Sunday, September 3, or week days when the office is open (see front page for days and hours). Please call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660 to volunteer, or John Thiemann, 728-9309 for pickup.

Adult Mentors for UUF Teens Sought

Teenagers in the 7th to 11th grades will be participating in the UUFSCC Coming of Age Program this winter. We are looking for adults in our congregation who are willing to make a 6-8 week commitment to guide a teen through the process of examining his/her own beliefs. The Coming of Age Program will take place from approximately mid-January through mid-March 2007. Please call or e-mail Susie Shane to offer yourself as a mentor at 423-9725 or jadeskye1952@sbcglobal.net



Hospitality Committee

Many thanks go to the following people who served coffee this summer: Sally Real and Bill Taggart, Linda Neher, Fred and Eve Seamon, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil and Lee Cavanaugh, and the Collier-Young family for July. August had Ann Mc Crow and Randy James, Meg Lehr and Amy Carlson, Erin Balabanian, and Carol Streib.

If you haven't served coffee in a long time step right up and make a commitment by calling Sylvia Forsyth at 685-8637.

Yogabration 2006

PlusYoga classes for new students and seniors: A proposed class at UUFSCC

Millions of people around the globe, including those that are elderly and/or physically challenged, now practice some form of Yoga. Its success can be attributed largely to the realization that a regular practice of Yoga can reduce feelings of tension, increase strength and flexibility, enhance your overall feeling of wellness, as well as provide quality time for spiritual reflection.

Trained at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, I would like to offer Yoga classes at UUFSCC. I taught Yoga for almost 15 years in Connecticut. My class can help you listen to your body's needs, respect its limitations and expand its potential. Special attention and consideration will also be given to the core and structural center of the body, enhancing and maintaining physical mobility. In these classes you will also learn the basics of building a solid practice, including, but not limited to:

- *Exploring and maintaining the relationship between body, mind and spirit
- *Breathing techniques for energy and strength
- *Meditation techniques to help you relax and rejuvenate
- *Proper physical alignment and structural support
- *A sequence of postures to continue using at home and on the job

No previous experience with yoga is necessary. The first hour-long class will be free.

If you are interested in taking such a class, please contact me with the times that you are available. I can be reached at 464-8442; my e-mail address is: brianregheath@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks, Brian Heath Ph.D Certified Yoga Instructor



Poets' Corner

September

The breezes taste

Of apple peel. The air is full
Of smells to feel-

Ripe fruit, old footballs,

Burning brush,

New books, erasers,

Chalk, and such.

The bee, her hive,

Well-honeyed hum,

And Mother cuts

Chrysanthemums.

Like plates washed clean

With suds, the days

Are polished with

A morning haze.

- John Updike

*This space is available for all UUF poets to showcase their work. Please send your submissions to unicorn@uufsc.org.

UUF FYI's

Directory Changes and Additions

*Helen Oxley and Don Newfarmer 225 Mt Hermon Rd #153 Scotts Valley, CA 95066

*Ruth Valdez 201 Oz Lane Watsonville, CA 95076, 662-1738

*Bill Ashley PO Box 2466 Santa Cruz, CA 95063 458-3798, email william_ashley@hotmail.com

*Gene Stevens 80 Front St #141 Santa Cruz CA 95060, 466-9043

*Patt Taylor new email address is pattchouly4ever@sbcglobal.net

Dinner club will begin in October. Contact Iran Mohsenin to sign up for this fun and tasty month gathering.

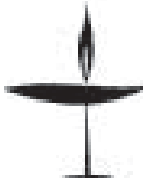
This space is available for short notices. Send submissions to unicorn@uufsc.org

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