



The UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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The UNICORN

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Next Unicorn due date will be Nov 19
Please send all submissions by this date
to unicorn@uufsc.org.

November Sunday Services

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

Nov 5

"Samhain ~ All Souls Celebration"

Let us remember all that came before us, that we may give reverence and thanks for our departed beloved. Please bring a photograph or an artifact of anyone you wish to honor for the community altar. CUUPS and Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate

Nov 12

"Integral Spirituality"

Integral spirituality honors the truths of modernity and postmodernity – including the revolutions in science and culture – while incorporating the essential insights of the great religions. We will explore the relevance of Ken Wilber's latest book to Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Ann Schranz

Nov 19

"Righteous Among the Nations"

Waitstill and Martha Sharp rescued Jews and others persecuted by the Nazis. They were recently honored in Israel as "Righteous Among the Nations." Their work led to the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). What is the UUSC doing today?

Rev. Ann Schranz

Nov 26

"Smoothing the Rough Edges"

What smoothes the rough edges of life and brings a sense of equanimity? Hint: It is free, but it takes practice to develop. Gratitude is a habit worth cultivating in congregational life, as well as in our personal life.

Rev. Ann Schranz

In the Interim with Rev. Ann Schranz

It is time to experiment. During periods of interim ministry, familiar patterns are often changed. Why? First, the congregation's response to change provides valuable information about its flexibility and relative health. Flexibility is an asset because your new settled minister will undoubtedly bring changes – changes in the Order of Service, changes of style, and changes of substance. Second, familiar patterns may be changed by the interim minister because the existing patterns are not beneficial to the congregation.

We will experiment for three months (November, December, and January) regarding verbal announcements on Sunday morning. The experiment is designed to address several interrelated issues:

- 1) People are often outside chatting at 10 a.m. when the service is to begin. That behavior is disruptive and starts the service on a sour note.
- 2) Sometimes announcements are disguised as joys or sorrows.
- 3) Currently, announcements may only be made about Fellowship-sponsored events. A case can be made that there should be some way (other than the bulletin board) to inform members about community events or social action opportunities even if they are not sponsored by the Fellowship.
- 4) As the congregation prepares to grow, it will have to be intentional about finding new ways for people to connect. Hearing others talk about what is important to them is one way to do this.

The pulpit microphone will be available at 9:45 a.m. for those who wish to make announcements and for those who wish to share life experiences which do not rise to the level of deep, personal joys or sorrows. Those who want to hear the announcements and such personal sharing should plan to be at the Fellowship by 9:45 a.m. These verbal announcements may relate to Fellowship-sponsored events or to non-Fellowship-sponsored events. The service will start at 10 a.m., and no verbal announcements will be made once the service starts.

There is no change to the practice for written announcements. Give any written announcements to Priscilla by noon on Wednesday if you want them on the back of the Order of Service. Written announcements must relate to Fellowship-sponsored events.

The minister has overall responsibility for the Sunday service, in consultation with relevant committees. I will consult with the Sunday Services Committee and the Committee on Ministry during the experiment. Please give feedback to these committees or to me. This experiment was inspired by the "Time for Community" at the First Unitarian Church in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Rev. Ann



Ministerial Search Committee

The Congregational Record was unveiled on October 6. There is a thirty-day period before candidates can contact us; so we should begin to hear from them thirty days after that day. With all of your help, we think we made a good presentation and represented the congregation accurately.

We are now putting the packet together to present to the candidates in whom we are most interested and who are most interested in serving as our future minister. They too create packets about themselves that they give us for review. The candidates will be including references. In November we will be corresponding with potential candidates (we hope), calling references, and deciding whom we wish to bring to Santa Cruz for more serious consideration.

In December we are sponsoring a workshop that I found very meaningful in 1997: Beyond Categorical Thinking (see page 5). It is recommended that churches or fellowships undergoing a search process have one of these to be certain all the members of the congregation are comfortable with all kinds of people. I noticed on the survey that some of us are less than comfortable with Republicans; so perhaps we could use a little training to avoid putting people into categories. It is fun and informative, and the team that is sent by the UUA for the workshop will also do the Sunday Service. Last time they sent an African American woman and a gay man who helped us see the world from their points of view.

Members of the Search Committee are: Bruce Fihe-Chair, Randy James, Andy Kreyche, Steve Morairty, Mark Rogers, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, and Jenny Wood.

President's Letter

What you are willing to give up in order to go forward? I had a teacher when I was a high school student who put it this way, "You have to break eggs to make omelets." Meaning you can have eggs or omelets, not both. I have found that when I remember this, it is easier to let go of attachments. Often, when I am willing to let go, either of an old idea, an old routine or even an old material item, I am truly free to move to the next level.

A great example of this is in our RE program. We, in an act of incredible daring, let go of the RE director position, something basically unheard of in the UU world. We tried paid teachers. The benefits to kids and parents were immediate. Now that most of teachers have stayed with us for a second year, we are really able to say "this works."

Ask yourself, "is there anything that I can release?" Maybe you have been on the same committee for years, afraid to leave since no one has appeared to replace you. Maybe it's a perception of how things should be done, at home (like loading a dishwasher) or at work (like a process or procedure). Try it out. You may find that you are suddenly open to new and wonderful things.

A quick word of thanks to the retreat planning committee of Terra Collier-Young, Ann McCrow and Erica Crawford, as well as to Rev. Cat Cox-Burneo for a great weekend at Land of Medicine Buddha. I loved it!

Remember that you can reach me by phone at 831-332-7599 and every week in the office from 9a.m. to 12 noon, Thursdays.

I am yours in service, Lora Lee Chapman

Congregational Meeting

Please save the date of Sunday, November 12th, immediately following the service for the Congregational Meeting. Agenda items include voting for the Nominating Committee members and a item from Social Action.

All members who joined more than thirty days before the date of the meeting are eligible to vote.

The Hospitality Committee will offer a sandwich lunch.

Come and participate in the democratic process of the UUFSCC.

Board approved the following:

*Motion to accept finance committee's recommendation that Scott Young do an internal audit and accept professional consultation by Jim Bouchard.
*Special collections (one/half of undesignated funds) for Curtis Reliford's "Following Your Heart" organization (Louisiana relief work) and Western Service Workers' Association, to be held on two Sunday morning services

*Writing of a resolution to express outrage at recent INS action re: apprehension of Latino immigrant families

*Designation of working Canvass Committee members: Iran Mohsenin, Helen Oxley, Karen Aaker, Donna Senko, and Katherine LeMaster

Help Needed in the following areas:

*Potluck/coffee hour, contact Hospitality committee
*Flower providers for Sunday services, contact the office

*eScrip program, contact Finance Committee

*Communications Committee needs members, contact Terra Collier-Young

*Volunteer coordinator, contact Ann McCrow, Personnel committee

Respectfully submitted, Lois Cole, Secretary

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry wishes you Happy Thanksgiving! There is not a lot to report from our meeting this month so we are bringing you a few words adapted from an original verse by Bessie Anderson Stanley.

To laugh often and love much... to enjoy the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children... to leave the world a bit better... to know even one life had breathed easier because you had lived... that is to have succeeded.

Erica Crawford, Thomas Witz, Marley Smith-Merrill, Linda Neher, Lee Cavanaugh



Social Action Committee News Items

Realizing that the Social Action Committee (SAC) needs more effective input and active participation from all UUFSCC members, the Committee is planning a Fellowship Open House for late fall. This will take place after service on November 19, so please mark your calendars. At this event, we will be highlighting our plans for the year and, among other things, inviting suggestions and participation from the Fellowship about proposed future activities, films, speakers and other worthy projects.

Perhaps no better way to unite spiritual awareness and conscience with social justice is the formation of a Sustainable Living Sub-committee. Guided by the Seventh UU Principle, its purpose will be to create a UU Green Sanctuary here at UUFSCC. Fortunately, because of earlier work, our facility is already well on the way to meeting many of the Green Sanctuary criteria set out by the UUA. We are hoping that this new project will provide members with another opportunity to deepen their personal sense of commitment and fulfillment to restore the earth. If you are interested in participation in, or finding out more about this project, please contact us at the numbers listed below.

In other news, the SAC recently released, along with other area churches and people of faith, a press report expressing the Fellowships' dismay at the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] raids that resulted in the apprehension of 107 Santa Cruz County residents. In full support of Communities Organized for Relational Power [COPA] we see this INS action, called "Return to Sender", particularly reprehensible because of its timing, its methodology and its apparent intent to spread the corrosion of fear and anxiety through the immigrant population. COPA Committees are working hard right now on Immigration and Housing issues. At the present, there is no exact date for a COPA assembly in early November on Immigration at which Sam Farr, Marty Wormhoudt, and several law enforcement representatives are scheduled to speak. A spokesperson from the Watsonville Law Center will also speak. Be alert for more announcements about this event.

Social Action Committee Co-Chairs,
Brian Heath, 464-8442; brianregheath@yahoo.com
Ruth Valdez, 662-1738; ruth@emeraldcitydesign.net

**Email List for Progressive Activities in Santa Cruz Area*

Our Social Action Committee wants you to know about a way you can become more involved in local progressive activities. There is an email list you can join for free to receive notices of local events by email. The Santa Cruz Progressive Email List (SCPEL) is a moderated email forum for sharing action alerts, requests, information about events, meetings and projects, ideas and other "one-of" announcements of interest to the Santa Cruz county-wide progressive community. It is not a discussion list. You will not get deluged with irrelevant email because of the care the "editor" takes in selecting articles.

Regular posters include: Resource Center for Nonviolence, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Declaration of Peace Campaign.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe), go to:
<http://lists.panna.org/mailman/listinfo/scpel>



**Health Care Reform*

If you care about the future of health care in California, were excited by the passage of the Sheila Kuehl health care bill, SB 840, by our state Assembly and Senate, and would like to learn more about what is currently happening to ensure quality affordable health care, you are encouraged to come to the program on Thursday, November 30th from 10a.m. to noon at the Fellowship, which is co-sponsoring the event.

The program, sponsored by the League of Women Voters will feature a DVD presentation prepared by the OneCareNow campaign and a talk by Carol Robertson, a community leader in Health Care for All and OneCareNow. Come to learn and participate in the question and answer session following the presentation. Submitted by Barbara Lewis, President, League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, 335-7816

Art Committee Happenings

After months of research and discussions we have sufficient input from the congregation and other sources to proceed with acquiring a major art work for the main wall in the sanctuary; more about this in the December issue.

We need to design a new banner for the Fellowship. This is a good opportunity to tap into your creative genes and come up with a design. You design it --- we will have it made. A congregation wide vote will determine the winner. Contact anyone in the Art Committee for details. Marylou Lamb, Judy Anton, Lee Cavanaugh, Lois & Mel Cole, Sue Meyer and Carol Streib.

UUF Welcomes New Members

Please welcome our two new members:

Beth McKinnon
331 Silverton St. Santa Crua 95062 426-8808

Wendy Wycoff
134 John St. Santa Cruz 95060 457-1730
wwyckoff1@sbcglobal

eScrip: An Everyday Fundraiser

We are participating in a powerful fundraising opportunity called eScrip. eScrip is a hassle-free way our fellowship can raise funds through our everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants who have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to our fellowship.



Shop the way you like to shop for groceries, clothing, travel, and entertainment. It's simple and convenient, all you need to do is register your grocery club cards, debit/credit cards, and the rest is automatic. Safeway, Nob Hill, Raleys, Macy's, OfficeMax, American Airlines, and many more business are participating.

Register on our website at www.uufsc.org/escrip.htm. Alternatively, bring your grocery, credit, and debit cards to fellowship and Scott Young will be available a few times per month during coffee hour to help you sign up.

UUF Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee wants thank you for signing up for coffee hour and if you haven't yet please do.

A big thank you to Shannon Edwards, and Ken Chambers, Rick and Sue Meyer and the clean up crew for the October potluck, Eve and Fred Seamon, Devi Tong, Helen Oxley and Don Newfarmer, and Sylvia Forsyth. It works because you work!

December 3rd Potluck

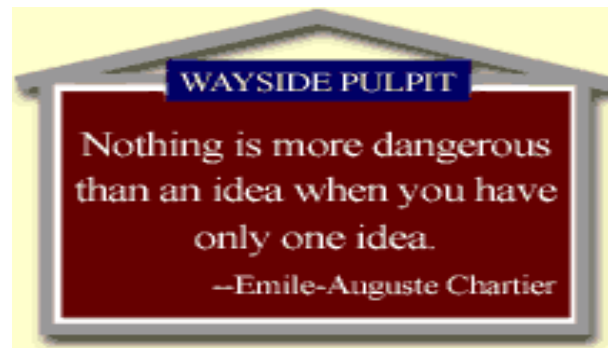
A-G clean up

H-N Main dish

O-R Salad or Bread

S-Z Dessert

***Flower Donation and Dedication:** you have an opportunity to enhance the beauty of Sunday morning services and to honor a loved one with flowers. Contact Priscilla in the office by Wednesday noon to have the dedication printed in the order of service and bring flowers on Sunday.



Beyond Categorical Thinking

“Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I’m living with? How will the community respond to our minister?”

In answering these questions, a picture of the “ideal minister” (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to “our picture,” we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On Sunday, December 10th, our congregation will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members and friends to participate in this workshop.

The BCT program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. The program includes a Sunday morning service with BCT workshop facilitators followed by a workshop when UUFSCC members will:

- *Consider the hopes, expectations and concerns they have for a new minister;
- *Learn more about the ministerial search process;
- *Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

Come on Sunday, December 10th to the Sunday morning service to participate in this UUA sponsored workshop, facilitated by Keith Kron, lead trainer for the UUA. The selection of our next minister is extremely important. The BCT workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process. This experience will provide guidance for the Search Committee in our work.

Lorraine Sandoval~Vigil

The Poet's Corner

Staff of Life



*Stalks of grain
In the sea breeze
Leaning toward the lee.*

*Weight of grain
Bending down with fullness
Of the ripened seed.*

*Base of stalks
Encased in leaves
Connect to the earth.*

*They yield up
Their grain to me
For my sacred nourishment*

*This staff of life
Reminds me again
Of the my many blessings.*

*I too am Connected to the earth
Filled with ripened seed
Leaning toward the lee.*

--Bill Taggart

**This space is available for all UUF poets to showcase their work. Please send submissions to unicorn@uufsc.org with "poet's corner" in the subject line.*

Communications Committee

This is a call to all who desire and support quality communication, within and without the Fellowship, to come for the first meeting of the Communication Committee on Monday, November 13th at 7:00p.m. in the Gallery. It will be an opportunity to bring our ideas together to support the newsletter, the website, as well as advertising and other outreach. It is suggested that committee chair-persons designate someone to represent their committee and are encouraged to invite another interested persons to come as well.

"Come, come who ever you are..."

CUUPS:

the 6th Source and 7th Principle

Ah November, that month of sweaters, long shadows, and nearly naked deciduous trees, of pomegranates, squash, and Thanksgiving Day, all reminding us to appreciate the cycle of life that moves from repose, to death, to regeneration, to rebirth, to life, to fulfillment, and to repose again. To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson "The years teach much what the days never knew."

This point in the year is an auspicious time to take action on the reflection we practiced in October by banishing habits and behaviors that no longer serve us. This is in preparation for the New Year and the resolutions we wish to bring to with it. It is like "feng shui" for our psyche!

On November 5th CUUPS will offer the Fellowship our annual Samhain ~ All Souls Sunday morning service. You are invited to bring pictures and/or artifacts of your dearly departed, that we may invite them into our sacred space, to take comfort or instruction from them as needed. This morning we will also "spiral dance" on the patio as a part of the service. This is an opportunity for us to make a sincere connection with our beloved community through movement and eye contact.

May the good work of thanks giving and space clearing prepare a place in your soul for healing and renewal.

So Mote It Be, Terra Collier-Young

Musical Ministry



***Open Mic:** On November 18th, third Saturday of the month we will gather at 7:30p.m. for sign up's, starting time at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. For information call Marijke Meijer at 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.

***Chant and Meditation Circle:** November 29th (the 5th Wednesday due to Thanksgiving) will gather at 7:30p.m. in the sanctuary for an hour of chanting and quiet contemplation. Come for this soul enriching experience lead by new member and musician, Jenean Watrous.

Dinner Club for November

The Dinner Club is open to all members. If you are interested in joining, please call Iran Mohsenin at 479-0105 or email her at imohsenin@comcast.net for more information.

Remember, first name listed is the host, the second brings main dish, the third brings salad/bread, and fourth brings dessert. Usually dinner club is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, but it can be any evening that all members can attend. Host arranges any changes.

Group 1

1. James/McCrow 2. Collier/Young 3. Smith/Merrill 4. Aaker/Fihe

Group 2

1. Neher 2. Newman 3. Star/Partlow 4. Meyer

Group 3

1. Hudson/Shackelford 2. Bowman 3. Rogers 4. Cole

Group 4

1. Oxley/Newfarmer 2. Crawford/Newbold 3. Lamb 4. Wood

Group 5

1. Heath 2. Mohsenin 3. LeMaster 4. Senko

Substitutes: Morairty, Seamon, Thiemann, Hoernschemeyer, Fish, Lachman

First Friday Book Group



Well, the Book Group has its complete lineup through December. On November 3rd it is *Howard's End* by E.M. Forster and if all works out we will be watching the critically acclaimed, winner of many awards film version on Saturday night, November 4th at 7:30p.m. On December 1st we will venture in a little different direction and read a spy novel, John LeCarre's *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*. This also has a movie adaptation (not as highly rated as *Howard's End* but with Alec Guinness in it is bound to be good) and we will watch it the following night, with the usual caveat that we will watch it if we can get it. The viewing will be on December 2nd.

These events almost always take place at 7:30p.m. on the first Friday/Saturday of the month at Joan Roberts' home. Won't you join us? If you need more information please call 831-688-7598.

Stewardship Day, Revised

Please note the changes: the first Saturday of the month, November 4th, will be "Power Tool Stewardship Day" lead by Scott Young, from 9:00a.m. to noon, and on the second Saturday of the month, November 11th, will be "Gardening Stewardship Day" lead by Mary Brooks, from 10:00a.m. to noon.



This is a time when volunteers spend the morning helping to maintain the quality and beauty of our UUF buildings and grounds.

Won't you join us?

UUF FYI's

***Share Our Living History:** We are seeking veterans, historians, and fun people who are willing and able to share their stories of faith and history with our teens during our Sunday morning classes. If you are interested in visiting our group, please contact the teen teacher, Becca Beddingfield, at reddingfield7@yahoo.com or speak with her after services.



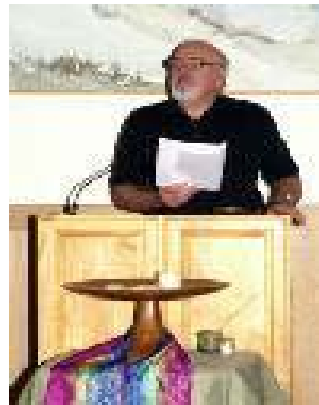
***Mentors wanted for UUF youth:** The RE committee is looking for adults to mentor our teens for the Coming Of Age program, beginning in February. This is a great opportunity to support our youth and RE. Please contact Susie Shane to sign up.

***Social Action Committee Open House:** On November 19th after the service, SAC will host an opportunity for fellowship members and friends to hear what is happening in the committee and are invited to offer input. See the article on page 4.

***Our annual Fall yard sale was a grand success; \$2546 profit.** Many thanks to dedicated workers for the 2-day event: John Thiemann, Mary Brooks, Jane Boone, Rosalie Kraft, Linda and Andy Neher, Ben LeMaster, Helen Oxley, Don Newfarmer, Devi Tong, Erica Crawford, Mark and Cindy Rogers, Iran Mohsenin, Lee Cavanaugh, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, MaryLou Lamb, Eve Seamon, Pat McVeigh, Stephen Morairty, Doug Bowman, Karen Aaker, Bruce Fihe, Mel and Lois Cole, Sylvia Forsyth, Edy Rhodes, Joan Roberts, Scott Young, Shannon Edwards, Ken Chambers, and Brian and Marcia Heath.



Thomas Starr King,
"the orator who saved the nation."



"We Remember, Starr King"
by Marie Tolen

Photos by Erica Crawford

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