



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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March 2007

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Priscilla Mann.....
Office Phone (831) 684-0506
Fax (831) 685-6736
Email administrator@uufsc.org
Office Hours Monday - Thursday
10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.
Every third Thursday 3:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.

The UNICORN

Terra Collier-Young.....Publisher
Scott Young.....Technical Support
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Dave "Woody" Wood.....Production
Email.....unicorn@uufsc.org

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RELATED ARTICLES AND
INFORMATION TO
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April Unicorn due date is March 18.

March Sunday Services

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

March 4

"Caring for our Parents"

When our parents need our assistance because of illness or the frailty of age, we are called upon to meet uncharted challenges, sometimes for many years. These challenges can be emotional, physical, logistical, or financial in nature and few of us are ready when they come our way. Bill Sampson and Marsha Hudson will speak about their experiences as caregivers for their parents.

Marsha Hudson, Service Associate

March 11

"Unitarian Universalism: Fellowships vs. Churches"

The Fellowship movement was launched in 1948 to extend the denomination by supporting the establishment of lay-founded, lay-led religious groups. How has the Fellowship movement evolved over the past half century? Iran Mohsenin will examine the Fellowship movement and its impact on the denomination.

Bob Kraft, Service Associate

March 18

"What We Are Becoming"

Participants in the Coming of Age program will share their views on life, love, religion, and meaning. The program's chalice lighting words are from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "A person will worship something, have no doubt. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives and our character. What we are worshiping, we are becoming."

Coming of Age participants with Rev. Ann Schranz, Service Associate

March 25

"Uprooting Racism and White Guilt"

Do feelings of guilt by white people help or hinder the process of uprooting racism? We will explore ways that individuals collectively impact systemic racism. The insights and practices of liberal religion will guide us in interpreting "Uprooting Racism" by Paul Kivel and "White Guilt" by Shelby Steele.

Rev. Ann Schranz

In the Interim with Rev. Ann Schranz



A blue-ribbon panel called the Commission on Appraisal is taking the lead in examining the section of the Unitarian Universalist Association's by-laws which sets forth its Principles, Sources, and Purposes. The Commission on Appraisal is soliciting input on them from children,

youth, and adults. See <http://www.uua.org/coa/> for more information.

Why this? Why now? No doubt there are several reasons, including the fact that the UUA by-laws call for a periodic review of the Principles, Sources, and Purposes. In addition, we make sense of our lives through stories -- the stories we tell (or ignore), as well as the stories we listen to (or ignore). Making sense of our lives through stories is more difficult than ever because in the "global village" we have more "neighbors" whose life experiences are vastly different from our experiences. A widespread religious and cultural interest in questions of "purpose" expresses our longing to integrate multiple stories into a coherent whole.

Unitarian Universalist congregational life is a project of integrating multiple stories into a coherent whole. In congregations, we separate insight from instinct, and we gather steam to venture forth into the world as change agents. The lyrics of an old song advised, "Brighten the corner where you are." Unitarian Universalists are called to integrate the many stories tucked inside the Sources of our living tradition, and we are called to do so in the corners where we are.

A focus on the congregation, the community, or the country is a focus too narrow. "What does the world require of us?" asks Rev. Peter Tufts Richardson in his book *Exploring Unitarian Universalist Identity*. What is our purpose? His answer – and my answer – is this: The purpose of Unitarian Universalism as a movement and the purpose of individual Unitarian Universalists is to nurture multifaith congregations having an interfaith ministry. That is our unique contribution to the religious heritage of the world.

Rev. Ann

President's Letter

Now that we are into March, the registration is open for General Assembly, held this year in Portland, OR on June 20-24, 2007. GA is the annual gathering for all member organizations within the UUA. There are workshops, lectures, and lots of chances to learn about the activities of congregations all around the country. I have attended several and really recommend that you consider going. My favorite part is at the beginning with the "Parade of Banners" that opens the event. All these details can be found at the UUA website, www.uua.org/ga

With it so close this year,

I hope a lot of us can make it.

I will be there!

Yours in service, Lora Lee
831-332-7599



Ministerial Search Reports



There is little to report this month. We are interviewing the candidates in confidence and will have chosen one by March 21. Candidating Week is coming, April 15 to 22 and

the Search Committee will be looking for your help to fill 30+ events during this week to allow everyone to meet our ministerial candidate. We will provide more information soon about how you can help create and/or attend these events.

Jenny Wood, Bruce Fihe, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, Randy James, Andy Kreyche, Mark Rogers, Stephen Morairty

UUF FYI's

**Stewardship days* will be Saturday, March 3, 9a.m.-12p.m., when we work with each other to fix up and beautify the Fellowship, inside and out, rain or shine. On Saturday, March 10, 10a.m.-12p.m., we will do some gardening, weather permitting.

**New Interim Directories* available after the service on the membership table. Please look for your name on the back. \$3 donation appreciated.

**Candidating Week* will be April 15-22. A congregational meeting will be held after both services. Please mark your calendars and be prepared to attend these important UUFSCC business meetings.

**Email address change:* Ken Chambers' new email address is "kchambers@surfnetc.com"

Splinters from the Board: February 2007

- *Silent Auction to happen in the autumn
- *Dates for "Gourmet Dinners" are being set
- *The revitalized Communications Committee has crafted working mission statement and is looking for members
- *Ministerial Candidating week will be April 15 - 22
- *Canvass will begin May 5 with a Member's Dinner
- *the Midterm Interim Ministry Evaluation was discussed
- *Membership Committee has changed its meeting time to 7:15p.m. Tuesday evening and is looking for new members
- *District Assembly dates are April 27th - 29th, all are encouraged to attend

Respectfully submitted, Lois Cole, secretary



**Live in the present.
Do all the things that need to be done.
Do all the good you can each day.
The future will unfold.**

--Peace Pilgrim

New Wisdom Circle Beginning



Wisdom Circles are closed, time-limited groups which foster deeper relationships by providing an opportunity for uninterrupted personal sharing about topics of a spiritual nature. A new Wisdom Circle will begin the week of March 19th.

For more information, call Marsha Hudson (425-8167), Linda Neher (471-2109), or Rev. Ann Schranz (684-0506).

Nonviolent Communication

UU's who know the basics of Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication (NVC) are invited to a free, drop-in practice group 7:00p.m. at the Fellowship on the first and third Mondays of the month beginning March 5.

To learn the basics prior to joining the group, there are various options, including books, local instruction, and an on-line introductory course available at www.nvccademy.com.

Call Kara Bowman (438-5460) or Linda Neher (471-2109) for more information.



A Message from the Nominating Committee

Nothing more than a building...

Our Fellowship is nothing more than a building unless we endow it with greater meaning. We are a "Community of Faith" that gathers together in spiritual practice and kinship. We are the community that will take each of us in its arms when our tragedies come, will comfort us in our ancient days, and will mourn us when we have left this world. And we are the Community that, through social action, strives to make manifest the soaring values we share as Unitarian Universalists, our most profound form of social evangelism.

Yet still our Fellowship starts as a building, nothing more, unless we endow it with greater meaning. By sharing in the formal roles of commitment, each of us in their turn - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees, Committee Chairs, Committee Members - together we can realize all the personal and community rewards our Fellowship promises us. This year, next year, the following... each of us will have their opportunity to lead and to serve: to help give our Fellowship that greater meaning: a comfort to those in need and a beacon of hope in a troubled world.

The Nominating Committee thanks you now for the gift of your leadership when it is your time to serve.

Brent Haddad for the Nominating Committee



"Paving the Way" Canvass 2007

Our 2007 canvass plans are moving forward nicely. We have recruited 22 individuals to act as canvassers this year. Thank you to those who have agreed to support the fellowship this way! The canvassers will learn the names of their canvasees in the next few weeks, so that during the fellowship potluck on March 18 the canvassers and canvasees will have a chance to connect. The dates of the canvass this year have changed slightly. The canvass will take place May 8-20.

The 2007 Canvass Team:
Kären Aaker, Katherine LeMaster,
Iran Mohsenin, Helen Oxley, and
Donna Senko



Take a moment and thank a volunteer!

Social Action Committee News

“Green Team Report”

On February 11th the concept of a UUFSCC Green Sanctuary was enthusiastically endorsed at the post-service meeting attended by over forty congregants. Funds were donated in order to purchase a “UUA Green Sanctuary Manual” so that we can move forward and become more informed about the application process and the UUA requirements for membership. We also viewed the documentary “The Next Industrial Revolution,” an inspired presentation explaining how several corporations have been willing to modify their buildings and manufacturing processes in order to incorporate earth friendly concepts. Our next Green Team meeting is scheduled after service on Sunday, March 25, 2007.



The UUF congregation is fortunate to have the award-winning filmmaker, journalist, author and activist Saul Landau speak at the Fellowship on May 11, 2007. He will be showing a wonderful short film documenting one of his trips to Cuba and will share his insights on developments in that beleaguered but resilient country.

Laudau is known for his work on foreign and domestic policy issues, Native American and South American cultures, and science and technology. Saul Landau's most widely praised achievements are the forty films he has produced on social, political and historical issues, and worldwide human rights.

SAC has another film to share with you! On April 1, 2007 after the service you can view “Peak Oil in Cuba.” Cuba’s oil supply disappeared because of the USSR collapse in the early 90’s and they were desperate to find ways to cope. Their solutions can serve as models in our own preparations for ‘peak oil’ in the US.

Sharing: The Social Action Committee has books and videos to loan. You can find them in the Gallery bookshelves in the section labeled SAC. Enjoy and Return. And you can contribute more books and videos to build up this collection.

For the Social Action Committee,

Ruth Valdez and Hilda Berra

(contact Ruth at ruth@emeraldcitydesign.net)

Margaret Mead is not alone in saying:

“Never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world; indeed that’s the only thing that ever has.”

SAC presented a viewing of “An Inconvenient Truth” after service on February 18th and on Feb 22nd cosponsored the showing of “Peace Villages” with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Cuba Study Group of Santa Cruz at the United Methodist Church.

Brian Heath, co-chair of the Social Action Committee

“The Social Action Committee Hard at Work”

Taking a Stand: SAC has passed unanimously the motion to join SAVE Darfur.org. Soon you will see a banner notifying the world of our commitment to this UUSC nationally endorsed movement to call for the end of genocide, injustice and social repression in Darfur.

Proud to Announce: SAC is cosponsoring a reception, film and discussion featuring the Reverend Lucius Walker, Jr., founder of Pastors for Peace Caravans to Latin America, on Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 7:00p.m., at United Presbyterian Church in Watsonville.

More than 50 Pastors for Peace caravans have traveled to Mexico, Central America and Cuba - delivering life-giving aid, and organizing here at home for a more just policy toward our neighbors in this hemisphere. On March 11th after the service you can see a documentary film about Caravans to Cuba, “El Bloqueo.” You’ll have the opportunity to speak with a four-time “Caravanista,” and to contribute hospital supplies, which the Caravan will carry to Cuba this July.



Wayside Pulpit

May the Love which overcomes
all differences,

Which heals all wounds,
which puts to flight all fears,
which reconciles all who are
separated,
be in us and among us
now and always.



-Frederick E. Gillis

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee meeting time has been changed to the first Tuesday of the month at 7:15p.m. at the Fellowship. We hope that this new time will allow more people who would like to join our committee attend. The next meeting is March 6.



WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!

The membership committee has been granted a PCD grant for \$466 to place two ads in *Good Times* newspaper. This is in addition to the funds for ads awarded from the endowment committee to place picture ads once a month in the Sentinel.

Our committee consists of Joan Roberts, Rosalie Kraft, Jane Boone, Devi Tong and Iran Mohsenin. Please contact any one of us if interested in learning more about our committee.

*A vital Membership Committee is a sure sign
of a vital congregation!*

Gourmet Dinner Signup's Begin

Guest tickets for our ten "Gourmet Dinners" fundraiser will go on sale starting March 4 through March 11 and 18. The dinners available this year are Chinese, Spanish, New York Steak, French, Turkish, Italian, Mexican, Scott's Ribs, Vegetarian, and Seafood Extraordinaire. Also, there is a Ranch Picnic and a Wine-Cheese-Salmon Luncheon.

Please bring your checkbooks. Dinners are sold in advance. Call Rosalie Kraft, 475-5660, for more information.



UUA - PCD Happenings

***Pacific Central District:** On March 17th the Palo Alto Church will host a Hospitality workshop to launch our PCD Outreach Campaign to promote Unitarian Universalism. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



As of February 18th we have signed on eleven new chalice lighters bringing the UUFSCC up to the recommended 15% of our congregation. Let's keep this up! Contact Karen Aaker for more information and to sign up.



***Unitarian Universalist Association:** General Assembly will be held in Portland, Oregon; so let's have a great turn out this year!



***Women in Religion:** March 9-11, Enchanted Hills near in Napa County

***PCD Spring Thing at Asilomar:** April 6 - April 8

***wUUrld's 2007 WhaleCoast Alaska Tour:**

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to an eco-cultural journey in "The Great Land" offered in June right after the Portland UUA General Assembly. This innovative eco-cultural program includes traveling throughout Alaska to see wildlife, the magnificent country, and the opportunity to meet Alaska Native groups. For more info go to www.wuurld.org, E-mail alaska@wuurld.org or phone toll-free 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure.

***Cruise Stebbins at Asilomar** - July 28 - August 2, 2007. It is the affordable way to enjoy an all inclusive vacation experience with UU's and friends on the Monterey Bay at Asilomar. For more information talk to Helen Oxley or Marsha Hudson about their own wonderful experience at Stebbins in prior years.

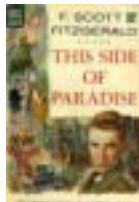
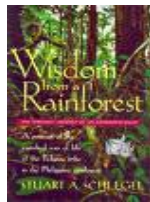
First Friday Book Group

Can't believe it, the First Friday Book Group is already selecting books for May. I won't repeat the old adage about time, but it really does, doesn't it?

As you know, we've chosen Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinkers Creek* for March and *Wisdom From a Rain Forest* by Stu Schlegel for May. Then in May our reading will take us back to the 20's and we'll read *This Side of Paradise* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It was his first published novel and brought him literary recognition at age twenty-three.

If you have any suggestions for our group please bring them to one of our meetings. We do meet, as our name suggests, on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 at Joan Roberts's home.

Questions? Call 688-7598.



Dinner Club for March

The Dinner Club is open to all members. Each month, people are assigned a different dinner group and take turns being a host/ess, so everyone will meet and dine with different people.

The first name on the list is the host-ess, the second name listed brings main dish, the third brings salad and bread, and the fourth brings dessert.

Group 1) 1. James/McCrow 2. Mohsenin 3. Anton 4. Senko

Group 2) 1. Lamb 2. Meyer 3. LeMaster

Group 3) 1. Aaker-Fihe 2. Bowman 3. Cole 4. Heath

Group 4) 1. Neher 2. Oxley/Newfarmer 3. Newman 4. Star-Dancing

Group 5) 1. Hudson/Shackelford 2. Smith-Merrill 3. Crawford/Newbold 4. Wood

Substitutes: Morairty, Seamon, Thiemann, Hoernschemeyer, Fish

If you cannot participate, please let your host know so he/she can find a substitute. Our last Dinner Club for this season will be in April because we will have the membership dinner in May.



Musical Ministries

Open Mic

Date: Saturday, March 17th, the third Saturday of the month.

Time: Sign-up at 7:00p.m.

Start time 7:30p.m.

Place: Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship of Santa Cruz County.

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.

*Chant and Meditation Circle

Join us for an hour of calm; when we feed the soul with music and soothe the mind with meditation; held on fourth Wednesday of the month, March 28th at 7:30p.m. in the Sanctuary at the Fellowship.

All are welcome!

*Choir Practice and Performance Schedule

Sunday, March 4, 9:30a.m. in Gallery, Choir runs through the hymns for service

Wednesday, March 7, 7p.m.-8:00p.m. Jenean & James' house, regular rehearsal

Sunday, March 11, 9:30a.m. in Gallery, Choir runs through the hymns for service

Wednesday, March 14, 7p.m.-8:30p.m. Sylvia's House, regular rehearsal

Sunday, March 18, 9:00a.m. in Gallery, Choir performs for service

Wednesday, March 21, 6:30p.m. at Rob's house for a potluck and extended practice; we'll think about March services and work on Easter music

Sunday, March 25, 9:00a.m. in Gallery, Choir performs for service



Committee Encouragement

If you have not served on a committee in a while, are new to the Fellowship, or are wondering about trying something new, consider these: Membership, Finance, Music, Choir, Social Action, Hospitality, Facilities, Sunday Services, Religious Education, Endowment, Caring Connection, Art, and Personnel; or perhaps you would like to participate in the Book Group, Dinner Club, COPA, CUUPS, Men's group, Chavorot, Wisdom Circles, Non-violent Communication; and if the Nominating Committee gives you a call, please consider the value of what you have to offer in service.

We're all the better for your shared time and talent!

Endowment Committee Initiates Second Call for Grant Proposals



The Endowment Committee has decided to take grant proposals from UUFSCC members and committees for a second time in the 2006-7 year. Normally, the Endowment Committee funds grant proposals only in November, but, due to the fact that we still have grant monies available, we are offering everyone another chance to apply. Endowment Grants are given primarily to enhance the community, social justice, and educational programs of the UUFSCC. Proposals are due no later than Sunday 22 April 2007.

Submit to: jadeskye1952@sbcglobal.net (e-mail for an application form) Submitted by: Susie Shane, Chair, Endowment Committee

CUUPS: the Sixth Source & Seventh Principle

The beauty of this list of affirmations we call the Principles, Sources, and Purposes, is that they are supportive of all life. They touch base on most of what I value as an ideal way of being, with ourselves and with the world around us. I often imagine how nice it would be if everyone in the world would spontaneously treat each other with dignity. Try it sometime, it's a great thought!

Amongst Pagans, we strongly believe in what-goes-around-comes-around! The laws of Karma and Cause and Effect are very real; they are the very thing that sets prayers, meditations, and spell work into motion.



While considering how the "spiritual teachings of Earth centered traditions" strive to be in harmony with the rhythms of nature and of our fellow human beings, let us be mindful that the rungs of the web of life vibrate with all of our steps; let us step with care and consideration. It's good all the way around!

While considering how the "spiritual teachings of Earth centered traditions" strive to be in harmony with the rhythms of nature and of our fellow human beings, let us be mindful that the rungs of the web of life vibrate with all of our steps; let us step with care and consideration. It's good all the way around!
Namaste, Terra

*Contact Terra with ideas for CUUPS events, terracojo@yahoo.com.

The Poet's Corner

I have a dear friend named Keavon
Whom on Sundays I hate to see leaving!!
Keavon's dad has a car ...
that's really a boat
Under the right circumstances ... that thing it can float
Now Keavon's amazing ...
he's never a bore!!
But one thing I ask him ...
I truly implore
When your vehicle's out on the water
Remember ... you ain't no Sea Otter
So ... don't snatch the latch
Don't ever pull the lever
What I'm trying to say ...
In a most long, long, long winded way
Is never, never, never, never,
NEVER OPEN THE DOOR!!!!!!

By Dave "Woody" Wood



Hospitality Committee Reports

Thanks so much to Sally Real, Bill Taggart, Devi Tong, Beth McKinnon, Don Hoernschemeyer, John Thiemann and the RE Committee for the great coffee hours in February! The Hospitality Committee feels that the refreshments have been just right!

MARCH 18TH there will be a "GREEN" potluck. GREEN means organic and/or the color green. It will be the day after St. Patrick's Day but please, no green beer!

Bring the following:

- A-D Salads
- F-N Main Dishes
- O-R Bread and butter
- S-Z Desserts



This same day the new "Green Sanctuary" Committee will share information with us about what we all ready do and what we all need to do for our Fellowship and ourselves to help save the environment!

Thanks and keep signing up for coffee hour!
Jane Boone, Kara Bowman, Patt Taylor, and Sylvia Forsyth

SMILE!



The publisher of the *Unicorn* would love to have members and friends of the Fellowship send photos to grace this back page! Please send electronic pictures to unicorn@uufsc.org.

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