



The UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
6401 Freedom Boulevard, Aptos, California 95003, (831) 684-0506
Website home page: Use <http://www.uufsc.org>

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2007

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The UNICORN

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**Please submit all Unicorn related
material to unicorn@uufsc.org
The due date for the May issue is
April 15, 2007**

Sunday Services

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

April 1 ***"The Funny Bone is Connected to Which Bone?"***
Humor can be subversive. Humor can mask
pain. Humor can help heal. On this April Fool's
Day, we will look at the pastoral uses and the
prophetic uses of humor. Rev. Ann Schranz and
Ed Newman, Service Associate

April 8 ***"Flower Communion"***
The Flower Communion service was created
by Norbert Capek. He founded the Unitarian Church
in Czechoslovakia and introduced this special
service to that church in 1923. It was brought to the
United States in 1940 by Dr. Capek's wife, Maja
Capek. In this service for all ages, we focus on giv-
ing, receiving, and sharing. Rev. Ann Schranz and
Brent Haddad, Service Associate

April 15
&
April 22 ***"Candidating Week"***
Please join us on Sundays April 15th and 22nd
when the Ministerial Search Committee will present
our Ministerial Candidate.
Please see page 3 for the details of activities and
opportunities to meet the candidate, and plan on at-
tending the Congregational Meeting to be held after
the service on April 22. The Service Associates will
be members of the Search Committee.

April 29 ***"YRUU's Voice"***
Do you remember what it felt like to be a
teenager? Today our youth group will lead the
service, sharing insights from our Tuesday night
discussions and offering a window into what it means
to be a teen today in our world and congregation.
YRUU youth with Laurie Simpkinson and
V Kingsley. Karen Holl, Service Associate

In the Interim with Rev Ann Schranz



In these gorgeous days of blooms and blossoms, let us pause in gratitude for the beauty around us. Rev. Mary Wellemeyer reminds us that “we must move the seasons of the self.” This poem was published in the meditation manual entitled *Admire the Moon*, published by Skinner House Books:

“Spring” by Mary Wellemeyer

The winter is over, and all around nature renews herself in small and large ways; red-winged blackbirds call among cattails in the marsh, woodchucks leave their homes to search for mates, frost surrenders the ground to growing things, and the buds of leaves on trees begin to swell.

Still, for some, this brings a sense that for them, there will be no spring. Winter never leaves the heart. We must move the seasons of the self, or light on our faces will forever remain a myth. This is truly a matter of life and death.

What birds need to fly home to your spirit? Where can you find love? What sun will melt the frost in your heart? What buds are waiting for a touch of warmth?

So we sit for a time in silence, receptive, in the comfort of one another’s presence, letting spring begin to renew our selves in small and large ways, that life may prevail.

How do we move the seasons of the self? The answer most appropriate for each of us may come as we sit for a time in silence, receptive, in the comfort of one another’s presence. Congregational life includes many things, including quite a bit of talking and activity. As the settled minister search process continues to unfold, remember to sit for a time in silence, receptive, in the comfort of one another’s presence.

Rev. Ann



President’s Letter



Cycles: full moon, ebb and flow, up swing, budget cycle, fiscal year. Cycles of the year, of life, cycles that run the order of time, spring, summer, autumn, winter. We are all in a cycle of life, be it the age we are (high school, working, aging or just being born) or life milestones (marriage, death, moving, or having a child). The planet clearly shows its cycle with a time for growing, harvesting and resting dormant.

Also, we have a cycle at the UUFSCC. A fiscal year, a time for certain tasks. Our canvass is but part of the larger cycle. This month we will finish a cycle we began 2 years ago in the search for a new settled minister. I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You All!” to the Search Committee: Bruce Fihe (Committee Chair,) Jenny Wood, Randy James, Stephan Morairty, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, Mark Rogers, and Andy Kreyche.

As I go about the tasks before me, I try to notice which cycle is in effect. I may be struggling, having a hard time, finding roadblocks and resistance. Yet, if I can just see the cycle, reflecting on the importance of the right task at the right time, I see the flow return. I have only to plug into the rhythm, find the cycle to ride and I can be in sync. How much simpler to do that, rather than impose my timeline and force it through. Lessen the struggle with a sense of synchronicity.

This month I will not be in the office on Thursdays. I remain very available via the phone at 831-332-7599 or email at president@uufsc.org.

Yours in Service, Lora Lee Chapman

Board Highlights: 3-15-07

*The RE Program Review was given by Karen Holl, RE chair, on behalf of the RE Committee and was commended for their hard work, excellent report, and the overall success of the paid teacher model.

*The Board will host a luncheon for our ministerial candidate Wednesday, April 18.

* Action item passed unanimously by the Board: Absentee ballots will be available for members who will be absent April 22nd, (see page 3 for details.)

*As of April 22nd, the Ministerial Search Committee’s work is done. **“Thank you very much!”**

*The Board voted to be a co-sponsor of upcoming Compassionate Communication (NVC) events (see page 4.)

Respectfully, Lois Cole, Secretary

Wayside Pulpit

*This is the mission of our faith:
To teach the fragile art of hospitality;
To revere both the critical mind and
the generous heart;
To prove that diversity need not mean
divisiveness;
And to witness to all that we must hold
the whole world in our hands.*

--William F. Schulz

Ministerial Search Committee



By the time you read this, the suspense will be over. It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with all of our candidates. Be sure to carve out time April 15 to 22 to meet the person we hope will become our next settled

minister. Our selected candidate will be preaching on both Sundays, there will be many opportunities to meet him or her during the week, and we will vote to call (or not) at the congregational meeting on April 22. Thank you for all your support.

Bruce Fihe, Committee Chair, Randy James, Mark Rogers, Steve Morairty, Andy Kreyche, Loraine Sandoval-Vigil, and Jenny Wood

Nominating Committee Report

At our April 22 Congregational Meeting, in addition to our vote on calling our minister, we will vote on our slate of candidates for Trustees and Officers of the Fellowship. Our proposed slate currently stands as follows:

President: OPEN

Vice-President: Bruce Fihe

Treasurer: OPEN

Secretary: Marcia Heath

Trustees: Mel Cole, Randy James, Jenny Wood (Trustees who are returning to the Board include Helen Oxley, Donna Senko, and Marylou Lamb; they do not require a vote.)

The Nominating Committee will continue our efforts to identify nominees for the open positions. Fellowship Members will have an opportunity to nominate Officers and Trustees from the floor at the meeting. See you April 22!

Brent Haddad, for the Nominating Committee, Marsha Hudson, Kären Aaker, Meg Lehr, Lee Cavanaugh



Absentee Ballot Information

The Search Committee and the Board of Trustees hope that as many members of our congregation as possible can participate in the vote to call our next settled minister on April 22nd. This vote will take place at a Congregational Meeting following the service on that Sunday. The Board, upon the recommendation of the Search Committee, voted to allow absentee ballots as authorized in our by-laws.



The Board and the Search Committee also feel that this needs to be an informed vote. In order to receive an absentee ballot, a member must meet all by-law requirements to participate, AND meet the candidate at one of the events during Candidating Week (April 15 through April 22).

Members may request an absentee ballot between April 15 and April 21. There will be Search Committee members at most of the Candidating Week events. Simply request your absentee ballot at one of these events.

Absentee ballots must be returned to a member of the Search Committee or placed in the Search Committee folder in the office prior to the beginning of the Congregational Meeting on April 22.

If you have any questions, please contact one of these members of the Search Committee:

Bruce Fihe 662-9565, Committee chair, Loraine Sandoval-Vigil, Randy James, Mark Rogers, Steve Morairty, Andy Kreyche, and Jenny Wood.

Join Us At District Assembly



We are taking suggestions for delegates and alternates to represent our congregation at District Assembly this month. Our delegates need to be informed and participate in all the business meetings, then report back to the congregation. We already know of several who will be attending and especially encourage anyone who has not participated to join us this year. It's a great way to serve the UUF!

Let Lora Lee, Don, or Kären know if you plan to attend, even for just a day, and of your interest in being a voting delegate or alternate.

Last Chance to Apply for Endowment Grants

The Endowment Committee has decided to take grant proposals from 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, and programs of the UUF. due no later than 22, 2007.



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

Compassionate ~ Nonviolent Communication Opportunities

**Compassionate Communication* is a way of interacting with others that allows everyone's needs to be equally valued. It shows the way to connect with the human spirit in others and ourselves in every situation by offering a positive way of dealing with conflict.

Kara Bowman is considering bringing a Compassionate Communication trainer to the Fellowship for an introductory series of classes. The cost of this training would be \$720 so, before making a request of the Endowment Committee, it would be helpful for her to know whether there is interest in this training. You do not have to commit, this is just an assessment of how many members are interested.

Also, the Fellowship is co-sponsoring a visit by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, originator of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) on April 6th - 10th. Dr. Rosenberg travels all over the world teaching these techniques and process.



He will be offering one evening introductory talk and four all day workshops. For more information, please go to the following website: www.nvcsantacruz.org.

Our Fellowship has a Compassionate ~ Nonviolent Communication practice group which meets **off-site** on the first and third Mondays of the month.

For more information, or to express interest in the workshops, or practice group, please call Kara Bowman (438-5460) or Linda Neher (471-2109.)

New Announcement Policy Starts April 1st



Six months ago, Rev. Ann proposed an experimental announcement policy to have no announcements during the service, but instead to allow members to make any announcement that they wished during the 15-minute period prior to the service.

This experiment has had a good trial run, and we have learned that people who attend the announcement period say that they enjoy the relaxed nature of sharing information with each other, yet many people miss important announcements because they are not in the sanctuary during this period.

The Sunday Services Committee (SSC), having received and considered various viewpoints concerning announcements, has decided on a compromise policy, which will hopefully satisfy the needs of a majority of our members. Starting April 1st, we will have announcements both before and during our services.

From 9:50a.m. to 10:00a.m. people are free to make any announcements they wish, fellowship related or not. After the bell rings at 10:00a.m., the Service Associate will have time to read up to three fellowship related announcements that have been provided to him/her in writing. It is ideal to get the request to the Sunday Service Associate (SSA) prior to the service day (SSA's are listed on the front page Unicorn newsletter) and announcements submitted at least ten minutes before the service starts can also be spoken. For an important event that directly impacts the whole fellowship, it is acceptable for the individual to make the announcement personally, with prior arrangement with the Service Associate.

In addition, the SSA can be asked to remind the congregants of fellowship-wide activities that are scheduled after the service.

Your Sunday Services Committee, Marcia Heath (current chair), Andy Kreyche (incoming chair), Terra Collier-Young, Brian Heath, Deborah Pembroke, and Randy James

Please continue to keep the members of the SSC informed about your views on this and other matters that pertain to your experience in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Social Action Committee News

This month SAC will be approaching the UUFSCC Board to approve the concept of a one-day Prejudice Reduction Workshop at the Fellowship conducted by the National Coalition Building Institute [NCBI]. At the workshop, a wide range of issues including race, ethnicity, gender, social class, age, sexual orientation will be addressed.

During the next few weeks, the SAC members will conduct a membership drive for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee [UUSC], a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) affiliate. It is our hope that we can encourage at least twenty-five percent of UUFSCC members to join this important UUA committee. This organization sponsors the annual Guest at Your Table Program, as well as other things.

No fools we, the Green Team will be holding a meeting at the fellowship after the service on Sunday, April 1, 2007. We will be examining and taking some of the first steps in our work to qualify as a UUA Green Sanctuary. Join us if you dare! And remember that April 22nd is Earth Day.

Proud to Announce: Sunday, April 8th our 11:30a.m. screenings after the service will continue with a classic film on the issue of Peak Oil; *"The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream."* This documentary explores the prospects for the continuation of the "American Way of Life" as the planet approaches a critical era when the global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. Fill up your plate and join us in the Fellowship Hall for this important and thought provoking film!

Our most recent 11:30a.m. film, *El Bloqueo* was a documentary about the 46 year cruel, but futile US blockade of Cuba, which blocks even food and medical supplies, even from other countries. It also showed the work of the Pastors for Peace, which purposefully defies this blockade every year with its "Caravan to Cuba" which carries humanitarian aid to help the ordinary citizens of Cuba. Our own Hilda Berra is working on raising funds for her and her daughters, Hayley and Karla, to go on the Caravan in July. See or email Ruth Valdez if you have questions about this, ruth@emeraldcitydesign.net. And watch for news about our next 11:30a.m. film on May 6th.

Then on Saturday, April 21st it is with pleasure that Social Action Committee members will host a breakfast with the UUFSCC Ministerial Candidate!

Brian Heath, Co-chair for SAC

In Memory of Harriet Blue

2- 20-1921 to 1-28-2007



To celebrate the wonderful life of Harriet Blue, about 150 friends gathered at the Fellowship on Feb 24 to share their memories of her.

Helen Isherwood conducted the service.

(If you were unable to attend and would like to see the video of the celebration of Harriet's life, contact Paul Blue at 684-1401.)

Harriet and Paul joined the Fellowship in 1980 after moving to Aptos with their children from Southern California. She was chairperson of the Social Action Committee for many years and was involved in peace actions wherever there were any. She also was involved in many other local organizations, including WILPF (Women's International League of Peace and Freedom), the Alliance for Children, and Health Care for All. She also conducted interviews on KUSP Radio for several years. Eighty-six years young, Harriet had been an elementary school teacher and enjoyed teaching in many situations, even after her retirement.

Harriet made a very valuable contribution to the UU Fellowship in 1989 when she, Blanche Zimmerman, and Britt Pfeffer worked with Rev. David MacMillan to finalize the wording for our Fellowship Covenant.

Harriet and Paul were married for 66 years. In addition to Paul, she is survived by two daughters, Marilyn and Paula, and two granddaughters, Jamilah and Amber.

By Rosalie Kraft

Santa Cruz Pride: Save the Date

June 3, 2007

We will be marching again this year in the 2007 Santa Cruz LGBT Pride Parade! We had a great turnout last year along with the support of three monitors (Thanks again to Bill, Bruce, and Woody!). We want to keep the momentum this year with another enthusiastic march. In order to do so, we need a couple of volunteers for monitoring the parade. Please contact Fred Seamon at 464-3397 or Meg Lehr at 336-8460 if you are interested in monitoring.

Thanks! The Welcoming Congregation Committee.

Membership Dinner: A Call For Entertainment

Would you like to be a part of the entertainment at the annual Membership Dinner on Saturday, May 5? And do you have other suggestions for someone who might participate?

Then call one of us below and tell us your ideas. We are the members of the Fellowship's newly revitalized MusicCom, and the Board has asked us to plan the entertainment that evening. The entertainment can be a mix of musical and non-musical items--we're open to your suggestions! And we may not think of something that you assume we will include unless you tell us--so please do call us with your ideas.

YOUR MUSIC COMMITTEE,

Jenean Watrous, 477-7668

Katherine LeMaster, 761-3636

Don Newfarmer, 430-0211

Sylvia Forsyth, 685-8637

Carol Thorson, 259-3738



First Friday Book Group

True to schedule, the First Friday Book Group will meet on Friday, April 6th at 7:30p.m. at Joan Roberts' home. We'll be discussing Stuart Schlegel's *Wisdom from the Rain Forest*. This book has been successfully adapted as a stage play on the east coast and the Book Group will be attending a local production of the same. More information will follow in a later Unicorn.

Then for June we will be reading F. Scott Fitzgerald's *This Side of Paradise*, the book which brought him fame when he was only twenty-three.

If you want to know what we'll be reading for the summer, sorry, but you'll have to wait for the next Unicorn. Other information can be gotten by calling 688-7598.

TGIF Sign-ups Start Now

Thank Goodness It's Friday,
an informal drop-in gathering
at members' homes from

5:30p.m. to ~7:30p.m.,

will begin next month. Hosts provide directions, as well as drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and guests contribute to the cost. Please join us for the fun and fellowship on the following dates.

May 18, 25; June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; September 7, 14

Kären Aaker will have a sign up sheet in April or call her to reserve a Friday, 662-9565.



Hospitality Committee Reports

Please notice the new easel for Hospitality information. Now, you can easily see where to sign up for coffee host. Thank you to those people, you know who you are, including Beth McKinnon and son Quinn, for helping in the kitchen in the Month of February and March. Blessed Be!

Yes folks, there will be an April Potluck. April 15 - Theme - "Spring is finally here. Please participate and make this one a *Spring Fling*.



A - D Dessert

E - N Salad

O - R Main dish

S - Z Bread & Butter

We will be offering a lunch on April 22, before the Congregational Meeting and much awaited vote for the ministerial candidate, courtesy of the Search Committee.

Musical Ministry



**April '07 Choir Practice Schedule*

Sunday, April 1, 9:00 a.m. in Gallery,

Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Sylvia's House

April 8, 9:00 a.m. in Gallery, Choir performs

Wednesday, April 11, 7p.m.-8:30p.m. Sylvia's House,

Sunday, April 15, 9:30a.m. in Gallery, hymns

Wednesday, April 18, 6:30p.m.- ? Sylvia's House, potluck and extended practice

Sunday, April 22, 9:00a.m. in Gallery, Choir performs

Sunday, April 29, 9:30 a.m. in Gallery, hymns

**Open Mic*

Date: April 21, the third Saturday of the month.

Time: Sign-up: 7:00p.m., Start time: 7:30p.m.

Place: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship sanctuary
Information Phone: 831-689-0670

We provide 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 this evening for an hour or so, when we feed the soul with music and chanting, and calm the mind and spirit with meditation.

Chant night is held the fourth Wednesday of the month; April 25th at 7:30p.m. in the Sanctuary at the Fellowship. **All are welcome!**

The Caring Connection Is Here To Assist You

The members of the Caring Connection function as liaisons, who pass on information regarding the health and needs of members of the Fellowship Community, who request it, to the rest of the Community. In this way, everyone has the opportunity to assist those in need. The Caring Connection also does their best to keep in touch with our members, who are ill or incapacitated. The intention is to make sure that they have no additional needs, that they are doing well and to let them know that they are not forgotten.



CARING CONNECTION MEMBERS: Jane Boone 684-0410 (janebb@cruzio.com) Helen Oxley 430-0211 (Hao3@aol.com) Missy Ratcliffe 335-2445 (oldmem@cruzio.com) Eve Seamon 464-8323 (eveartista1@mac.com) Liz Stewart phone not available (lizstewart@sbcglobal.net)

PROCEDURES: The Caring Connection has three basic methods for keeping the Community apprised of health issues and/or situations of need among our members: By e-mail/phone tree, by public announcement on Sunday, and by the Caring Connection Bulletin Board.

In case of urgency, the person making the report should call Rev. Ann Schranz, our interim minister, (office 684-0506, home 786-0161), or send an e-mail to both Rev. Ann (annschrantz@aol.com) and Liz Stewart of the Caring Connection, (lizstewart@sbcglobal.net). It is easiest to contact Liz by e-mail. Calls can also be made to any of the Caring Connection members, listed above. Immediate action will be taken to convey the information to the Fellowship Community for action.

Urgent matters, like illness or death of a member, will be forwarded to the Community as soon as possible by e-mail/phone tree. Less urgent matters, like requests for cards, phone calls and visits, would also be handled by e-mail/phone tree and also go through Liz Stewart. Examples of such needs might range from wanting visitors, phone calls and cards for someone who is in the hospital or homebound, to needing meals on a temporary basis, to requiring a ride to the doctor, or to the Fellowship, etc.

Personal announcements, prior to the service on Sundays, could convey emergency situations or less serious ones. **(Continued next column)**

Poet's Corner



An Eye for Miracles

You who have an eye for miracles regard the bud now appearing on the bare branch of the fragile young tree.

It's a mere dot, a nothing.

But already it's a flower, already a fruit, already its own death and resurrection

"God's Eye"

by Jeremiah Bert

-Diego Valeri

*This space is available for your poetry and/or prose. Please submit your writings to unicorn@uufsc.org.
Many voices celebrate diversity!

UUF FYI's

***Stewardship Days** are April 7th and 14th. Please contact Scott Young, 227-4424, for details.

***Those desiring extra directories** may purchase them for \$3.00 each. See Kären Aaker if you want an extra directory. Please add to the new directory: **Deborah Pembrook** 343 Soquel Ave #505 Santa Cruz CA 95062 464-1110; **Gail Swain** (Music Coordinator) gailsings@cruzio.com Home: 459-9248, cell: 334-2315; **Aurora Skarra-Gallagher** 704 Graham Hill Rd Santa Cruz CA 95060, oceanpullsmeclose@yahoo.com

*Remember to attend:



(Caring Connection, continued)

The Caring Connection Bulletin Board is for members of the Fellowship Community to post personal requests themselves or by proxy. The purpose of the Bulletin Board is to provide a method for members of the Community to communicate directly with each other. They can post requests for or offers of specific items, housing, employment, music lessons and/or bartering of services or goods. Each item must be dated, and, unless it is of an ongoing nature, will be removed after one month. The only requisites are that the posting be appropriate to a spiritual sanctuary and that any posting requiring an exchange of money be solely the responsibility of the members involved.

Many members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County were at the Peace Rally held at the Santa Cruz County courthouse on Saturday, March 17, 2007...

... where we proudly displayed the UUF Banner.



Photos by Rick Meyer



I shall take my voice where ever there are those who want to hear the melody of freedom or the words that might inspire hope and courage in the face of despair and fear.

My weapons are peaceful, for it is only by peace that peace can be attained.

The song of freedom must prevail.

-Paul Robeson

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