



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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The UNICORN

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Please submit all Unicorn related material to unicorn@uufsc.org. The due date for the September issue is August 12.

July and August Sunday Services

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

July 1

"Mission: Liberal Religious Perspectives"

Do religiously liberal people have a "Mission Impossible" or a "Mission Possible"? This is the fourth of a six-part series about key theological and philosophical dimensions of liberal religion, with an emphasis on Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Ann Schranz and
Kären Aaker, Service Associate

July 8

"Spirit: Liberal Religious Perspectives"

Where does inspiration come from? What obligation, if any, do we have to inspire others? This is the fifth of a six-part series about key theological and philosophical dimensions of liberal religion, with an emphasis on Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Ann Schranz

July 15

"General Assembly and Choices That Matter"

Join us this morning as many of our UUF members revisit and share our time at the "Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations" annual gathering of the tribe, or General Assembly, held in Portland Oregon.

Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate

July 22

"The Final End of All Things: Liberal Religious Perspectives"

Is there a final purpose or a determining cause behind all things? From the perspective of the end of time, how is the earth itself regarded? This is the last of a six-part series about key theological and philosophical dimensions of liberal religion, with an emphasis on Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Ann Schranz and
Bob Kraft, Service Associate

See page 4 for Rev Ann's "Farewell" party.

Service topics for August can be found on page 2.

July 29 ***“Alternatives to the War on Drugs”***

Troy Dayton, founder of “Students for Sensible Drug Policy” and current Senior Development Officer for the “Marijuana Policy Project,” presents this morning’s program. In 2002 the UUA passed a comprehensive Statement of Conscience titled “Alternatives to the War on Drugs” that states that the current approach to drug use and drug abuse is counterproductive and immoral. Come and find out recommendations for policy change.

Sylvia Forsyth, Service Associate

August 5 ***“Dance: An Affirmation of Life”***

Our fellowship is rich in members who have been inspired by the dynamic and transcendent power of dance. Amongst us are young students of dance, as well as mature current and former dancers. Through spoken word, performance, improvisational exploration, and community participation, we will share the special meaning that dance has for us.

Service Coordinator: Marcia Heath
Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate

August 12 ***“Community Ministry and Inter-Religious Communication”***

“There can be no peace in the world without peace among the religions” –Hans Kung. This morning we will look at Unitarian Universalist “Community Ministry” and how it can be applied to promote peace in the world and amongst the world’s religions. Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate

August 19 ***“Our Children, Our World”***

How do we act when we recognize a need that we passionately want to have addressed? Charlotte Hunter’s response to needs that might seem overwhelming to most of us can be an inspiration to all of us. Charlotte will talk about how she followed her heart and committed her energies to develop educational, health, agricultural and other programs in Tanzania that now serve 1,620 school children.

Service Associate TBA

August 26 ***“Fresh Water Resources: The Good Lie, the Bad Truth, and the Fragile Beauty of it All”***

We believe that nature (rivers and springs) can purify our water (this is the good lie), but it can’t (the bad truth). Purifying water is one of the most important and costly things we do as a society. The fragile beauty is that this ongoing encounter with the need for and danger of water is an ancient part of the human condition; how we face it is part of our humanity. Brent Haddad, Service Associate

In the Interim with Rev Ann Schranz



Goodbye, Fellowship members and friends. After two years, this interim ministry is ending, and the time has passed quickly. I have been guided by the interim ministry tasks during my time here, and the congregation has made progress in many areas. Yet ministry is not solely about tasks. I treasured the opportunity to get to know you just a little. I will always care about the well-being of the Fellowship.

In September, I begin settled ministry at Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Montclair, California. My experiences here have shaped my ministry, and the Monte Vista congregation will benefit from your influence. I am very happy that Rev. Deane Oliva will begin serving as your consulting minister in September.

I will not remain in contact with you, but of course our paths may cross at General Assembly or at other Unitarian Universalist events in the years to come. I send you on your way with my blessing, and I accept your blessing as I go on my way.

Rev. Ann

The Search Committee Has Found Rev. Claudene Oliva



The Search Committee is pleased and excited to announce that we have reached an agreement with the Rev. Claudene (Deane) Oliva to serve as our full-time consulting minister for one year starting Sept. 1, 2007.

Rev. Deane is a fresh graduate of the UU Meadville Lombard Theological School. She has come to parish ministry after a full career as a clinical psychologist and a teacher. In addition to her Master of Divinity, Rev. Deane holds a masters degree in psychology and a PhD in clinical psychology, the latter from Vanderbilt University.

Rev. Deane (that’s with a long “e” at the end, by the way) has a strong commitment and history in social activism and Buddhist meditation practices. She will be accompanied by her partner Karen Genter for the duration of her stay on the Santa Cruz area.

Best regards, Bruce Fihe (Chair,) Randy James, Andy Kreyche, Steve Morairty, Mark Rogers, Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil, and Jenny Wood.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am writing this the day after the congregational meeting on June 10 and my head is still abuzz with impressions of that meeting. Overall, it was one of the best June congregational meetings I have attended and I have been mulling over why that might be. Certainly, the budget itself was not among our best—indeed, we ended the meeting with a deficit budget. And certainly seeing the budget for the first time at the meeting itself put a burden on everyone. Even with these special circumstances I found the tone of the meeting to be one of respect for each others' opinions in the context of concern to find the best budgetary solutions. There seemed to be an underlying tone of confident mutuality and trust in each other and in the process.

This is especially heartwarming given the budget itself. The budget committee presented a budget that, as the explanation progressed under the competent guidance of Vice President Don Hoernschemeyer, revealed a deficit of more than \$20,000!! This is the bad news but the good news is that this represents an exuberant commitment to supporting staff positions in order to support change and growth. Keep in mind that last year we added a music coordinator position, and this year we added a bookkeeper position. Further, we have increased our ministerial compensation package in order to stay competitive in the search for a settled minister.

In brief, we have taken a joyful leap of faith -- and our finances have lagged behind. Our challenge this year is to find innovative ways to meet the budget deficit and put in place ways to meet our increased future budget, for our budget will most certainly grow—it will not shrink. Already Terra Collier-Young and Bobbie Jo Palmer have volunteered to produce a spectacular auction this year, and I heard a few people murmur something about presenting a Miracle Sunday. Others are already talking about the growth in members and how we might continue to attract new members who most assuredly will bring new energies and ideas.

Indeed, as I sort through my impressions, one clearly emerges: We are a congregation with a vitalized vision—and mission. This is going to be an exciting year!!

Faithfully, Marsha Hudson



Wayside pulpit

*Be tough in the way a blade of grass is:
rooted, willing to lean,
and at peace with what is around it.*
—Natalie Goldberg

Committee On Ministry

Hi, your Committee on Ministry met on June 6. It was our final meeting for the fiscal year and we had lots of business including finishing two final reviews for Rev. Ann and voting to sponsor Marsha Hudson with a partial payment toward her Pacific Central District's Leadership School enrollment fees.

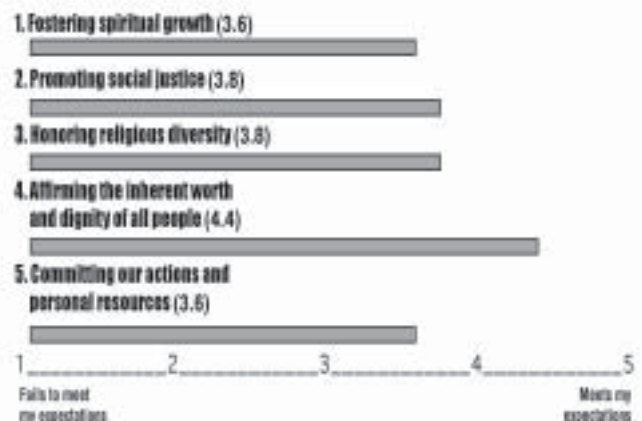
Our committee is losing two of its five members who have served three and five years on COM, Thomas and Marley have given of their time and talents, be sure to thank them when you see them. The Board voted at its last meeting on choices to replace them and later this summer we will have a retreat welcoming back two experienced committee members from the past, Mark Rogers and Bob Kraft.

We look forward to a positive and productive year starting in the fall with our new minister Rev. Claudene (Deane) Oliva.

If you have any questions over the summer please feel free to contact one of us and you can always drop us comments in our suggestion box (which is for more than suggestions, you can ask questions and deliver compliments, too!)

The graph is a visual recap of the survey we did last January that was inadvertently left out of the Unicorn last month and should have been with the written summary.

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



Social Action Committee Annual Report Summary 2006-2007

The Social Action Committee [SAC] met twelve times over the year for an approximate total of 188-person meeting hours. The committee met seven out of its eleven 2006-07 goals and will be continuing one into 2007-08 plus adding several more new tasks. In addition the SAC approved a revised Mission Statement.

It is difficult, and perhaps not even necessary, to highlight any particular achievement above the others, but with the threat of Global Warming now clearly established, setting up a Green Sanctuary team has become a new and important part of our overall UUFSCC mission. The Board recently voted to approve the creation of this task force under SAC.

Through our four Sunday services and other events programming, including two social justice forums and several films, we have been able to demonstrate our Fellowship's symbiotic social justice relationship with the surrounding community and fulfill our greater UU mission.

The congregants gave generously as SAC raised almost \$3,000 in donations during Sunday services and contributed another \$1,000 to worthy local human service programs and groups.

Through our tabling activities and first Open House in November we distributed educational literature and collected hundreds of signatures on petitions as well as sharing ideas with congregants about social justice issues and problems.

These activities are a small but hopefully significant accounting of SAC's contribution to UUFSCC's overall mission. We are open to new ideas, ways and means to solve and mediate the many diverse social justice issues that confront all of us in the world. We invite your active participation and support. Helen Isherwood will replace Ruth Valdez as co-chair with Brian Heath, Walt Rahn will be our new Secretary, and we are looking for a SAC treasurer.

Submitted by, Brian Heath



The Green Sanctuary Committee will continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month, July 29 and August 26, in the Gallery at 11:30 a.m. to work on UU ministry for Earth Eco-Spirituality program.

by Linda Milgate

Hospitality Committee Reports

Save July 22 after the service to say "Good bye" to Rev. Ann and wish her well. The committee will fire up the BBQ and supply burgers, hot dogs, and a cake, all we need to you do is bring salad, drinks, or chips. Also bring your voices and musical instruments so we can have another sing-a-long! Happy Summer!

Thanks to Marley and Ted Smith-Merrill, Eve and Fred Seamon, Mary Brooks, Ruth Valdez, John Thiemann for being coffee hosts in June. We still need coffee hosts so please sign up.

The Sunday Services Committee Announces Assistive Listening Devices for our Sanctuary



We have installed an assistive listening FM transmitter to our sanctuary to make our services more accessible to people who are hard of hearing. This transmitter's

signal can be picked up by a receiver worn anywhere in the sanctuary. Ask a Sunday service greeter if you would like to try a receiver. We have six that can be used either with headphones or a neck loop. Neck loops work with hearing aids that have a T-coil or telephone setting. When the loop is around your neck, the signal goes directly to your hearing aid.

We can all improve accessibility by keeping the following in mind:

- *Always use the microphone in the sanctuary to take advantage of our FM transmitter and to aid everyone's hearing.

- *Speaking slowly and distinctly with good projection is easier to hear than yelling.

- *Many, but not all, people who are hard of hearing read lips. Remember to keep your hands and the microphone away from directly in front of your mouth.

- *Talking in an exaggerated way can make lip reading more difficult.

- *People who are hard of hearing usually have different levels of hearing in different ranges and in different ears. Hearing aids aren't like eyeglasses. While hearing aids may improve hearing in some ranges, it may not help in other ranges.

Thanks go to the Endowment Committee for granting the Sunday Services committees proposal. Also, thanks to Andy Kreyche and all the members of the Sunday Service committee.

- Deborah Pembrook

CUUPS: the Sixth Source and Seventh Principle

“Spirits of the South, of Summer and Fire, send your warm rays of sunlight to us and our gardens. You are the long day of heat that makes things grow, and are the parched mouth we quench with fresh lemonade, Hail and Welcome!”

One may call out this invocation when they celebrate Lughnasadh on August eve. Lughnasadh is one of the four main festivals of Celtic religion –the others being Samhain at the end of October, Imbolc at the first of February, and the joyous Beltane on May first. This is when modern Pagans celebrate the first harvest and the abundance of food. It is a time of renewal, growth, and mystic regeneration, one that promotes peace and good neighbors. Lughnasadh means “Lug’s assembly” and is dedicated to Lug, the main god of Celtic mythology.

A local Pagan group called “Community Seed” will be hosting a public Lughnasadh celebration on July 28, 2007 at the DeLaveaga Park’s 40 Thieves area. Check out their web site at www.communityseed.org for details. Their rituals are always beautifully produced, engaging, and thought provoking, and all ages are welcome.



CUUPS (the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist PaganS) will also be celebrating these long warm days of summer with two drum circles.

Please join us on Sundays, July 15 and August 19, up in the Oak Grove above the Sanctuary, at around 11:30p.m., after the service. (On July 15 we can discuss going to the beach for our August 19 drum circle.) There will be instruments and beach chairs available, but if you have some, bring them!

In the spirit of summer and the first harvest,
Blessed Be, Terra Collier-Young

Homestay Programs Urgently Seeking Host Families

Host families for international students from Italy, France, Germany, and Brazil are sought for 2-week programs this summer and for a high school semester. It is a great opportunity to extend our Santa Cruz hospitality and make a new friend you can visit!

For more information contact Sandi Spanfelner (friend of Marcia Heath) at 335-3088 or email her at sandispan@aol.com.

Poet’s Corner

Lost Boy



What did you expect me to do while you were chopping wood preparing the fire? I remember. I followed the dusty copper colored trail to where it bent and broke at the ridge. I slid down and climbed up a path made by wolves. I wanted to go the way they go. Anyone would want to if they saw the sky like that, soaked in gold, or smelled the hooves of a hundred four-legged animals

on the dirt beneath their feet. You were busy, chattering grown-up talk, trying to impress the others with your arms full of wood. I had my blanket. The boulder was a house. I lay beneath it and stayed warm. I sang to let the animals know I love them. I sang to be like one of the birds who visited as I slept. I wish you’d never come here with your dogs and radios. It was so peaceful hearing the sound of my own voice.

--Maggie Paul,

founding member of Poetry Santa Cruz; her chapbook “Stones from the Baskets of Others” was published by Black Dirt Press in 2002

Musical Ministry



**The Chant and Meditation Circle* will continue during the summer, so we invite you to join us for an hour of calm reverence and of peaceful fellowship.

On July 25, chant night will be lead by Terra Collier-Young and on August 22, it will be lead by Jenean Watrous, beginning at 7:30p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Open Mic* is primarily for fellowship members, but is open to the greater community, so invite your friends. We provide a comfortable venue for musicians, poets, magicians, and other artists of all ages to perform before a live audience. Refreshments are provided. The summer schedule has been changed to Wednesdays, July 11 and August 8. Sign-up’s at 7:00p.m., start time is 7:30p.m. in the UUF Sanctuary.

For further information call
831-689-0670.

Submitted by Barry Siedler



Yard Sale! Yard Sale!

The UU Fellowship's Annual Fall Yard Sale will be Friday, September 14 and Saturday, September 15. Please check your garage, closets, etc, for usable items to donate for the sale. Plan to attend the TGIF pre-sale for the opportunity to purchase great bargains.

Sale leaders John Thiemann, Mary Brooks and Cindy Rogers will need helpers to set up, take down, and staff the shifts. Call or email Cindy Rogers to volunteer. John Thiemann can pick up large items (not too large.)



Submitted by Rosalie Kraft

First Friday Book Group

The First Friday Book Group had a lively discussion of "The Painted Veil" in June but we wondered if Somerset Maugham was turning over in his grave when we watched the movie. We all agreed the book was much better.

But we are not discouraged; we are going to try again in July by reading "Passage to India" by E.M. Forster and then watching the much-praised movie starring Alec Guinness, James Fox and Judy Davis the following night. We are hoping for a better experience than last month's.

August's book is Barbara Kingsolver's "The Bean Fields" - sorry, no movie for this choice - and in September we'll be doing Ian McEwan's "Saturday."

We meet at Joan Roberts' home at 7:30p.m. If you need more information call 688-7598.

Communications with Caring Connection



Jane Boone will be the new contact person for Caring Connection information, at least for the present, since Liz Stewart is no longer a member of the Fellowship.

If you become aware of needs among members of our community, either yourself or others, that need to be communicated to others in the Fellowship, please notify Jane at janebb@cruzio.com.

No message will be sent out without the knowledge and consent of those involved.

Summer TGIF Gatherings!



Thank Goodness It's Friday is an informal drop-in gathering at members' homes from 5:30p.m. to ~7:30p.m. on Fridays throughout the summer. Hosts provide directions in advance, as well as drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and guests contribute to the cost. All ages are welcome.

We got off to a great start at Gail's home in June with many folks joining in musical community singing and playing all sorts of instruments. Please join us for the fun and to welcome new and old members. We have a lot to celebrate!

- *July 6 Donna Senko
- *July 13 John Thiemann hosts at the Fellowship
- *July 20 Katherine & Ben LeMaster
- *July 27 Missy & Ed Radcliffe
- *August 3 Karen Holl & Michael Loik
- *August 10 Lois & Mel Cole
- *August 17 Terra Collier-Young & Scott Young
- *August 24 Marsha Hudson & George Shackelford
- *August 31 Linda & Andy Neher

Please see the directory for contact information and look for printed directions after the service.

Thanks to all of our hosts, Kären Aaker

UUF FYI's

**The Personnel Committee* is looking for an additional person interested in personnel matters. Personnel's mission is "To support and guide the Fellowship and paid staff in following fair employment practices, always mindful of UUA principles, with respect and compassion for all." We meet once a month, maintain current job descriptions, etc. If you are that interested person, contact either Wendy Wyckoff at 457-1730 or Lois Cole at 477-1105.

**Intermediate Non-Violent Communication* (NVC) practice group is held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00p.m. Call Kara at 438-5460 or Linda at 471-2109. Mark your calendar for a beginning NVC training to be held after the service on September 9, 16, 23, 30, and October 7; see June Unicorn, page 4 for details.

**Remember to collect water* from your various summer experiences and visitations to share at our annual "Gathering of the Waters" ceremony, usually held on the 2nd Sunday of September.

Good News from the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is proud to announce that in the month of May, we had sixteen people sign our membership book. They joined the five who had signed the membership book last fall, and two members who have returned to the Fellowship. *"We're glad you're here!"*

Please add the following contact information to your directory:

***Barbara Ambler and Aren Hammond**

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***Debra L. Bunger**

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email: debrabunger@aol.com
children: Melissa Nicole Bunger Cherpas 8/28/92
Madison Lynn Bunger Cherpas 8/7/94

***Guy and Nancy Cantwell**

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***Aurora Skarra-Gallagher**

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Santa Cruz Pride Parade, 2007 “We are gay and straight together, and we are singing, singing for our lives!”
photos by Erica Crawford

