



# 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>

Volume 2007, Number 10

November 2007

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## Consulting Minister Rev Deane Oliva

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-4p.m.  
Wednesday 2-6p.m.  
Thursday 12-4p.m.  
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Staff meeting: Tuesdays 1-2p.m.

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Staff meeting: Tuesdays 1-2p.m.

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## November Sunday Services

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

Nov 4

### "All Souls Remembrance"

This is a sacred time of year, when the veil between the worlds is thin and we pay our respects to those who came before us. Join us this morning to call out their names; to remember and give thanks. Please bring an artifact for the community alter.

Rev Deane Oliva,  
Terra Collier-Young, Service Associate

Nov 11

### "We Are a Gentle Angry People"

UUFSCC, through its Board of Trustees, has taken a stand admonishing "Not one more dollar, not one more life." How do we translate this social justice statement into right action?

Rev Deane Oliva, Fred Seamon, Service Associate

Nov 18

### "Radical Hospitality"

The holidays begin right now with an intergenerational service that will test our radical hospitality. The annual UUSC Guest at your Table boxes will also be distributed.

Rev Deane Oliva, Karen Holl, Service Associate

Nov 25

### "Favorite Things"

Join us as several members of our congregation share parts of their personal stories and beliefs. Each will talk about an important personal possession and how their relationship with that tangible object informs something more abstract: the reason they choose to live their lives as a Unitarian Universalist.

Andy Kreyche, Service Associate

**Please submit all Unicorn related material to [unicorn@uufsc.org](mailto:unicorn@uufsc.org)  
The due date for the December issue is November 18**

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## Minister's Musings

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Wow! We have just finished an intense period of Fellowship energy, activity and decision making. At this time I do not know whether or not I have been called to be your settled minister, but I do know that each of you has carefully

considered what is best for this fellowship and voted your heart and reason in this matter. Congratulations are in order!

Congratulations...and then back to work. We are blessed with a full fellowship hall on Sundays. Membership Committee is welcoming visitors and assisting folks toward joining. Know that folks are coming because they hear our message, share our values and want to participate in a dynamic, beloved community.

Let us continue to work together to foster spiritual growth and promote social justice. Let us safely and comfortably share our differences and questions as we also share common ideals. Together, with one voice.

May it be so. Rev Deane Oliva

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## Committee on Ministry

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Well, it's been an exciting couple of months. Rev. Deane has joined us as a consulting minister and is now officially candidating for settled minister. It's hard for me to write this to meet the Unicorn deadline, which is at the start of candidating week, knowing that by the time you read this the process will be complete and we will have either called Rev Deane or be facing another ministerial search.

COM met in September and October with Rev Deane and the Board President, Marsha. The meetings were normal business, enhanced by the new makeup of the committee and getting to know Rev Deane. It is both exciting and a little scary being involved in the whirlwind of acceptance, candidating and calling a new minister.

I have faith that it will turn out as it should and that the strength of all our members will get us through the process, keeping our eyes on the prize and remembering the big picture and long run through the differences that will come up in the process.

Erica Crawford for the C.O.M. (myself, Mark Rogers, Bob Kraft, Linda Neher and Lee Cavanaugh)

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## President's Letter

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Dear Friends,

Volunteering is a form of shared ministry. It is one of the ways we give to the Fellowship and one of the ways the Fellowship gives back to us. People usually volunteer because they want to help, want to feel useful, want to learn a new skill, want to make new friends, or want to get out and do something other than what they do at work. They will have a good experience as a volunteer if they are adequately informed about the scope of the task, are adequately trained, and feel welcomed and appreciated.

I have consistently contributed my time and skills to the Fellowship in a variety of ways over the almost ten years I have been a member and have given a lot of thought to the experience of being a volunteer. On the whole I have been pleased, perhaps because I try to be aware of my limitations and strengths and to volunteer in ways that match me; when I have been unhappy as a volunteer at the Fellowship it usually has something to do with acknowledgment, with "being seen" for who I am and for what I am contributing.

How good a job do we do in acknowledging each other for our work in the community? In this month of thanksgiving, I want to recognize all of our volunteers, from the busy parent who can give an hour on Sunday to help in Religious Education to the member of the Board who gives five hours a week to governance matters. When I last counted there were over forty of our members in specific volunteer positions. This is one third of our membership and that number doesn't account for all of the rest of the members who help out in a myriad of ways on Sunday and at special events. There are many members sharing in the ministry of volunteering.

We have much to be thankful for. Let's be sure to give thanks to each other for giving of ourselves as volunteers. Marsha Hudson



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## Opening Words

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Gratefulness brings joy into my life. How could I find joy in what I take for granted? So I stop “taking for granted,” and there is no end to the surprises I find. A grateful attitude is a creative one, because, in the final analysis, opportunity is the gift within the gift of every moment – the opportunity to see and hear and smell and touch and taste with pleasure.

There is no closer bond than the one than gratefulness celebrates, the bond between giver and thanksgiver. Everything is a gift. Grateful living is a celebration of the universal give-and-take of life; a limitless yes to belonging.

Can our world survive without gratefulness? Whatever the answer, one thing is certain: to say an unconditional yes to the mutual belonging of all beings will make this a more joyful world. This is the reason why yes is my favorite synonym for God.

--Brother David Steindl-Rast



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## Congregational Meeting November 18

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Please plan to attend the congregational meeting to elect the 2007-2008 Nominating Committee on November 18 at 11:30am. We will be electing four new members, rather than the usual three members, because one member, Meg Lehr, had to resign (for family reasons) while in the first of her two year term.

The '06-'07 nominating committee comprised Karen Aaker, Lee Cavanaugh, Brent Haddad, Marsha Hudson, and Meg Lehr. Marsha Hudson, Brent Haddad, and Lee Cavanaugh completed their term this year (Marsha Hudson resigned in April when she became the President-elect.)

We will also ratify by vote the board selection of Kara Bowman as treasurer to replace Lora Lee Chapman, effective September 15, and Helen Isherwood as trustee to replace Mary Lou Lamb who resigned as of October 1, 2007.

by Marsha Hudson, UUF President

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## “The Sky’s the Limit” Auction Success

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On October 20 the UUF was all aglow! The auction items, food, and decorations tantalized our senses and everyone in attendance had a great time. V Kinsley was outstanding as the auctioneer and we just want to publicly thank her for sharing her time and talent with us.



So how much did we earn, you ask? The estimate for now is \$6,300 and we will be sharing %10 of this total with ISSP, COPA, Jacob’s Heart, and WomanCARE. We want to thank everyone who donated and participated in this fundraising event.

Yours in Service,  
Terra Collier-Young and Bobbi Jo Palmer

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## Poems of Praise

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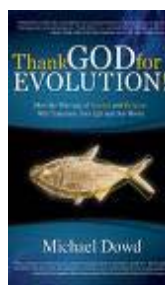
Poet Maggie Paul, author of the featured poem “Lost Boy” in the July/August Unicorn, founding member of Poetry Santa Cruz, an English and Poetry teacher at California State University Monterey Bay, and most recently published in the book “*Harvest from the Emerald Orchard*” will be leading a daylong workshop called “Poems of Praise” on February 2, 2008, from 10am to 4pm. The cost is \$20 per person. This event is organized by the UUF Auction Committee and the proceeds are a part of the “Sky’s the Limit” auction profit. Please contact me to sign up for this special event.

In the Love of Poetry,  
Terra Collier-Young,  
terracojo@yahoo.com, 462-4995

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## “Thank God For Evolution”

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Rev Michael Dowd and his wife, science writer Connie Barlow of “The Great Story,” have written a new book called “Thank God for Evolution” which is praised by UU ministers, Nobel Laureates and other Luminaries. It can be found at their website [www.ThankGodforEvolution.com](http://www.ThankGodforEvolution.com).

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# The Larger UU Picture

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## *The Pacific Central Districts*



### ***Saturday, November 10 at the Palo Alto Church:***

The Pacific Central District's Leadership Development is a daylong adventure of learning, networking, worshipping, seeing old friends and making new ones. This year there are a number of very worthwhile workshops conducted by expert leaders that directly speak to our Fellowship needs. These are described here:

**Congregational Polity:** Congregational Polity is our basic organizing principle for Unitarian Universalist congregations. What is it? Where does it come from? What does it mean for our Fellowship? Are we doing it right? Who are we accountable to?

**Tips & Teamwork for Teachers:** This workshop is intended primarily for volunteers who work directly with children and/or youth in a congregation's Religious Education or Faith Development program. All participants will learn about what's essentially the same and what's widely divergent among our PCD congregations.

**Hospitality As Spiritual Practice:** It can be very difficult for a congregation of mostly introverts to institutionalize hospitality unless they are supported by an attitude of spiritual practice. This workshop frames many of the spiritual concepts around "Radical Hospitality" and offers a small group ministry approach to supporting this work.

**The Seven Principles :** We are several years overdue in reviewing the Seven Principles, as required by the bylaws of the UUA. The Commission on Appraisal has the process underway and is encouraging all UU congregations to play a real part in this review.

**Singing for Leadership:** This workshop explores the connection between participation in singing and the development of leadership qualities. The interactive teaching/learning method of this workshop is based on Transformative Learning

**UU Voices for Healthcare:** In this session we will provide training on issues of health, healing, and ac-

cess to healthcare for all, and we will build a framework for congregational leaders to organize conversations around stories to develop personal commitment to reform.

I heartily invite all interested in UUF leadership to register now at: <http://www.pcd-uaa.org/events>. Call or e-mail me to car pool.

### ***UUA Growth Campaign Report:***

The national UUA campaign to grow our faith is well underway. We know that an authentic and sustained effort to grow our faith demands that we focus on five areas of development — diversity, leadership, numbers, witness and spirit.

As part of that effort, the Bay Area Marketing Campaign was launched last month by the PCD, complete with radio and newspaper ads, even a display ad in the October 15 Time magazine. I hope some of you have seen them. I've spoken with several congregations including Los Gatos, San Jose and Marin, three congregations to which I am the PCD liaison. As of this writing, the response has been very positive — even "lost" members are returning.

While our congregation is not one of the 17 targeted congregations, as a "commuter congregation" we are experiencing an uptick in visitors and should be prepared to show our radical hospitality to our Sunday morning guests. NOW IS THE TIME!



### ***UUA Association Sunday:***



At the national level, Association Sunday, on October 14, brought a welcome recognition and financial response from member congregations. Our own Fellowship had a great response, contributing a significant offering. We had approximately \$80 from the undesignated plate offering and an additional fifteen contribution envelopes sent to the UUA. Our total will be announced next month. We can be proud of fully supporting this national effort.

In Faith, Kären Aaker

PCD Board Trustee and UUF Member



Check out these UU associated websites: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), [www.pcd-uaa.org](http://www.pcd-uaa.org), [www.uuba.org](http://www.uuba.org), and of course our own [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org)

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## Sunday Service Committee

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The Sunday Services Committee (SSC) works to ensure consistent and inspiring services each Sunday. In order to make our services professional and reliable, we need to keep to certain time constraints. The committee clarified some of these constraints recently at a half-day retreat and we wanted to share them with you.

We encourage all members to find their seats by 9:50 for the Open Announcement period. All comments and announcements are welcome during this period. Length is limited only by how many people wish to speak. Our service begins at 10:00. Unless it is an all-ages service, the children will be sung out to their Religious Education (RE) classes between 10:15 and 10:20. In order to have consistency with RE, our services will end between 11:10 and 11:15.

If you would like to propose a subject or guest speaker for a future lay-led service, please contact Andy Kreyche for a Sunday Service Proposal Form. We are looking for more service associates and will offer training after the first of the year. If you are at all interested in serving the Fellowship in this way, contact Andy at [akreyche@baymoon.com](mailto:akreyche@baymoon.com) or 831-429-1032.

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## CUUPS: the Sixth Source and Seventh Principle

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On Sunday November 4, CUUPS, Rev Deane, and I will be leading the annual Samhain~All Souls service. We invite you to bring an artifact to put on the community altar (please be sure to take it home with you!) This special service is an opportunity to remember and show gratitude to those who came before us, to those on whose shoulders we stand and on whose bones we walk. In this month of thanksgiving let us reflect on the abundance of our blessings and extend humble gratitude to the Universal Life Spirit.


Blessed Be, Terra Collier-Young

For more information about CUUPS (the Covenant of UU PaganS) contact Terra at [terracoyo@yahoo.com](mailto:terracoyo@yahoo.com).

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## Finance Committee and eScrip

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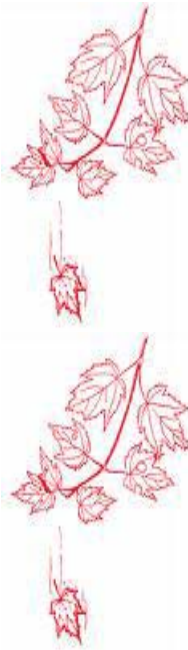
 The Finance Committee is looking for a volunteer to work with the eScrip fundraising program. Please contact Donna Senko if you can help out with this very easy way to raise money for the UUF. To sign up to participate in eScrip go to the website at [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org) and click on the link.

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## The Poet's Corner

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May the glory of the passing away  
of autumn  
lie about us  
fresh gold  
for a time.  
And when the dark comes, and  
the cold  
may we remember how today we  
stand in glory,  
how we walk in bounty  
heaped upon earth's dark carpet,  
how we move knee deep in  
abundance  
flung against night's winter curtain.  
We are thankful for its coming  
and for its passing.

Let it be. - Barbara J. Pescan

(Please submit your poetry to [unicorn@uufsc.org](mailto:unicorn@uufsc.org))

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## Art Committee News

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Words to characterize the recent meeting of the Art Committee would include exciting, interesting, and productive: the Committee has developed a mission statement; the Totem Art Project workshop plans were finalized; the UUF member art show was planned; we also discussed the possibility of creating sculpture from the remaining trunk of the olive tree in the courtyard. Artist Toshi Kawai brought a model of his inspiring sculpture for the sanctuary main wall to our meeting in October. We are hoping to bring the main wall art project to the Congregation for their decision on it at an upcoming Congregational meeting on November 18.

Indeed it is a good time to be part of the Art Committee, to see the aesthetics of the sanctuary and the garden being enhanced, and to know that art is as fully a part of our worship as is social justice, music, religious education, spiritual growth, community and all the other facets that go into being Unitarian Universalists. We are blessed.

Submitted by Joan Roberts

Mokume Mayu  
#2 & #3  
by Toshi Kawai



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## Social Action Committee News

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### *A Trip to Cuba by Chea Berra:*

On October 13, I spoke at John Isherwood's Memorial service. Here was a man who had done so much, had traveled the world - being vocal witness to the injustices, healing the victimized, working for a better and just world.

My daughters and I were the first recipients of the John D. Isherwood Educational and Travel Grant. John's wish was to give people an opportunity to change themselves and the world. Because of it, Hayley, Carla and I were able to join the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba taking humanitarian medical aid to a country that for forty years has been ravaged by a U.S. blockade.

For several months before we joined the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba on July 13, 2007, I had felt almost paralyzed, experiencing such a loss of hope. I am not an expert on Cuba and cannot address the tactics or asserted failures of Fidel Castro. What I can share is simply what we saw and heard.

We saw a village. Where families and neighbors are all part of a support system for each other; everybody working together, playing together, taking care of each other. Where the most vulnerable - the youngest and the eldest- are treated with respect and compassion.

We saw a government that prioritizes children, families, and education. The government makes provisions for mothers to be able to stay home and care for their children. We spoke with a woman who was able to stay with her baby for 18 months with her salary paid and with the guarantee that she would have her job back. We heard of social programs and workers that provide immediate assistance when a family or child is in crisis. Resources are put into education. Anyone, for example, can attend the university free of charge.

We saw happy, healthy, well taken care of children. They seemed to have such an openness and purity. They're not weighted down with all the gadgets, all the invented needs that our kids have here.

We saw a healthcare system more concerned about actually helping people than in profit margin. Doctors in Cuba are not trained to commercialize medicine. They learn that the principle of social medicine is to prevent illness and to save lives; that health is not only a matter of biology but a matter for society.

We saw that Cuba actually strives to share these values and benefits with the rest of the world.

The School of Medicine in Havana trains doctors for free from poor and underdeveloped countries and communities so that these doctors can then go back and provide care to their communities. Cuba offered to send 1,500 emergency aid workers to help during Katrina, but Bush refused their help!

Cuba offers a different model that provides both hope and the possibility that alternatives do exist to make a better world possible. My girls and I were profoundly moved by our trip. And, as John envisioned, we are ready to use what we've learned and are committed to working towards making a better and just world. John's spirit and life's work are still very much with us.

### *Green Sanctuary News:*

The Green Team will be wrapping up the inventory and audit soon.

We'll be announcing the next step to our commitment of being certified as an official "Green" home of worship.



Meanwhile, you and your family can try new habits that go easy on the Earth. In the kitchen, instead of buying bottled water, try a faucet-mounted filter. You can also attach a low-flow aerator to your kitchen faucet to mix air into the stream and cut water usage without affecting pressure. To clean kitchen surfaces and dishware, keep a stack of machine washable dishcloths on hand instead of paper towels or disposable wipes. Work your dishwasher. It actually uses less water than doing dishes by hand. Run it only when full, setting it on light rather than heavy wash, air-dry instead of heat. Automatic dishwashing detergents can contain phosphates that, when released into local waterways, cause algae growth that threatens marine life. Some detergents release chlorine into dishwasher's steam and indoor air. The Hospitality Committee and the Green Team will display "green" products at future tabling. Come and talk to us at our table at coffee hour.

For the 2007-2008 year one of the foci of the youth religious education program will be the 7th UU principle - respect for the interconnected web of life - in concert with the greening of the sanctuary program. They would welcome the assistance of any adults who would like to work with the youth on this and other social action projects, such as improving the recycling and/or composting programs at the fellowship. If interested please contact Karen Holl - 239-4110, kholl@ucsc.edu.

From CO-OP AMERICA, Fall 2007. There's a difference between RECYCLE and DOWNCYCLE! Even though we may toss all sorts of materials in our

recycling bins, not all of it is recycled into the same kind of product. Much of it is, instead downcycled into a lesser kind of product which often cannot be recycled again. Aluminum, steel and glass can be recycled over and over again. Office paper can be recycled only so often until the fibers shorten and cannot be reused again; then it is dumped into the landfill. Newsprint has even a shorter recycled life before it is downcycled then dumped in the landfill. Plastics #1-#2 are downcycled once then thrown in the landfill. Plastics #3-#7 are rarely recyclable. Recycling programs accept these plastics to simplify the program for customers but will send them to landfills or incinerators. Some stores will accept plastic bags for "recycling;" some will become plastic lumber but most plastic bags are bought in large quantity, then shipped overseas where they are incinerated or landfilled.

Global news from the Sierra Club: Cutting back on meat can help control global warming. According to a recent UN report, animal agriculture is responsible for 18% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO2 equivalents. Transportation emits 13.6%. Livestock is identified as a culprit in fifteen out of twenty-four important ecosystems that are assessed as in decline. How to help? Three times a day we can help the planet by shifting food choices towards more plant-based, local organically grown foods. By eating less meat we can help reduce greenhouse gases, water damage and land damage. Submitted by Patt Taylor

#### ***Social Action Committee Monthly Meeting:***

Scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 7:00pm, at the UUF; the first Thursday of each month thereafter; same place and time.

#### ***SAC Open House Scheduled:***

Sunday, December 9, after the service, the Social Action Committee will hold its annual Open House for 2007. This will be a potluck and will provide an opportunity for congregants to meet and talk with area social service providers and activists.

#### ***Film Series for 2008;***

Starting in January through June '08, we will feature a film series on Sundays and the second Friday of each month. Films from a social justice perspective will be selected to inform, challenge and inspire. Please contact us about any films that you would recommend for this UU Series. Contact: Ruth Valdez at [ruth@emeraldcitydesign.net](mailto:ruth@emeraldcitydesign.net), Marcia Heath at [Marcia200heath@yahoo.com](mailto:Marcia200heath@yahoo.com), or Joan Roberts at [jojoro@cruzio.com](mailto:jojoro@cruzio.com).

#### ***"Salud," a Film on Medical Training in Cuba:***

Sunday, November 4, 2007, after the service SAC will be featuring the film "Salud." We will take a look at the training of physicians in Cuba and discuss its relevance to medical treatment. You will see a different mindset with Cuban doctors working around the world providing health care to those in need and helping governments set up clinics. Corrine Woods will be present to share her granddaughter's current experiences in the free medical school in Havana.

Contact: [cheaberra@hotmail.com](mailto:cheaberra@hotmail.com)

#### ***"Save Darfur" Meeting Set:***



Sunday, November 11, after the service the first Darfur Committee meeting will take place. We will be talking about immediate and longer-term ways we, as individuals and as a congregation, can work to end the genocide occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. After recently viewing two films on the UU Service Committee's work in the Nazi era and now in Darfur, many attendees agreed to wear a green Save Darfur wristband to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur.

At this next meeting further actions will be planned: some ideas are divestment, signs in front of our homes, donating solar ovens to prevent rapes when the women go searching for firewood. Contact: Deborah Pembroke, at [pembrookspot@yahoo.com](mailto:pembrookspot@yahoo.com)

All are welcome, and needed!

#### ***"Health Care for All" film;***

Sunday, December 2, the film "HealthCare for All" will be screened. This film gives in-depth information on the Healthcare for All bill in the California Legislature, SB840. Discussion afterwards. There are things we can do now to expand support for this genuine reform, which is still alive and kicking. It's the only Legislative bill which leaves out the insurance companies!

#### ***"Not another dollar. Not another Life."***

Our UUFSCC board recently endorsed Unitarian Universalist Association President Rev Bill Sinkford's call for rapidly ending US involvement in Iraq under the slogan "Not another dollar. Not another Life." Rev Sinkford delivered over 13,000 signatures to National Congressional Leaders, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Among those were 105 signatures from our congregation to further our statement against the war.

# NOVEMBER 2007

the calendar is always available online at [www.uufsc.org](http://www.uufsc.org), clic

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28	29	30	31	1	2
9:45 Religious Education – B/G 10:00 am Service 11:30 Congregational Mtg – FH 11:30 Sandwiches – FH/K 11:30 Unicorn Folding – FH 5pm ISSP	8:00 pm AA Stag 11 - FH			7 pm Social Action Cmt @ UUF 7pm Sufi Dancing - FH	6pm Focus on Family dinner – FH/K 7:30pm Book Club OS
4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45 am RE – B/G 10:00 am Service 11:30 RE Committee mtg – G 11:30 SAC Film – Saluti! – FH 5pm ISSP 6:30 pm Men's Group - OS	10:00 am Art Committee – G 1:30 Caring Connection - OS 7:00pm NVC Group – OS 8:00 pm AA Stag 11 – FH/K	7pm Sunday Services Committee – OS 7pm Communications Cmt- OS 7pm YRUU - FH	7:00 pm Choir Practice - FH	7pm Committee on Ministry - OS	PCD Youth sleepover – all rooms PCD Youth
11	12	13	14	15	16
9:45 am Religious Ed – B/G 10:00 am Service 11:30 Darfur Committee – B 11:30 New Member Orientation - G 5:00pm ISSP – FH/K	8:00 pm AA Stag 11 – FH/K	7:30 pm Finance Cmt - G	7pm Choir practice – G 7pm Open Mic - FH	7:00 pm Board Meeting – G	
18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>UNICORN DEADLINE</b> 10:00 am All Ages Service 11:30 Sandwiches – FH/K 11:30 Congregational Mtg - FH 5:00pm ISSP – FH/K 6:30 pm Men's Group - OS	10am Hospitality – G 7pm NVC Group – OS 8:00 pm AA Stag 11 - FH	7pm YRUU – FH 7:15 pm Membership Committee - G	7pm Choir Practice – FH 7pm Huntington Disease Group - G	7pm Tick Borne Disease Group - FH	
25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45 am Religious Ed – B/G 10:00 am Service 11:30 Unicorn Folding - FH 5:00pm ISSP – FH/K	8:00 pm AA Stag 11 - FH		7pm Choir Practice - G 7:30pm Chant Meditation Circle - FH	5:30 pm TGIF - FH	9am Stewal

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## Youth Religious Education Review

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Children's Religious Education is moving full steam ahead for the fall. We're thrilled to have two new teachers on board!

Annabelle Siino, a five-year veteran teacher of elementary special education, is teaching our 4-6 grade class. She brings experience, creativity, and respect for all children's input to her class; they will meet in the Gallery.

Our 1-3 grade teacher, Liesa Lietzke, had to resign due to time constraints experienced while working on her MFA in San Francisco. Her hard work and enthusiasm will be continued by Natasha Castro. Natasha has a theatre arts degree and teaching credential and is currently teaching 3rd and 4th graders at New Horizons School for the homeless. This class will meet in the Bryan's room.

The RE committee has been working with Rev Deane to increase intergenerational participation, as well as a feeling of connectedness between children and adults in our fellowship. To that end, not only will children start in the service (except for pre-K), but so will the teachers! This will give our teachers a better feel for what is happening in the sanctuary and potential opportunities to connect their lessons to it. Two inter-generational/all-ages services are scheduled: November 18, with Karen Holl as the service associate; and December 23, with Brent Haddad as the service associate. These services will highlight both children and adult participation. The committee is excited to work with Rev Deane on exploring these new ways for all of us to further deepen our connections to one another. —RE Committee (Cindy Rogers, Devi Tong, Thomas Witz, Ted Merrill, Brent Haddad, Karen Holl, Beth McKinnon, Jenean Watrous)

### *Sunday Schedule for November:*

- \*Nov 4—RE Classes, Ted coordinator
- \*Nov. 11—RE Classes, Thomas coordinator
- \*Nov. 18—Intergenerational Service
- \*Nov. 25—RE Classes, coordinator TBD



### *Class Updates*

Preschool/Kindergarten Class: We've had an exciting beginning to the year with additional new children. Coming up we'll be preparing a dish for the homeless table, planting bulbs, and making more Fall crafts like recycled bird-feeders. We'll have our UNICEF boxes for a Halloween collection!

-Juliet Goldstein

1-3 Grade Class: Students will get to know the new teacher and each other by sharing their special qualities. After celebrating our strengths, we will engage in fun activities to practice working as a team and promote a sense of community, leading to an examination of all of the wonderful things we have to be thankful for in our lives.

-Natasha Castro

4-6 Grade Class: The 4-6 grade class will be exploring the themes of giving and receiving, adapting to and dealing with change, both in our communities and on a personal level, and continuing to discuss how our choices affect each other and the natural world. Some possible activities include making dream catchers, leaf and bark rubbings and collages, making a "tree of thanks" tree planting, and composting.

-Annabelle Siino

Sunday Morning Teen Group: The teen class will continue to learn about world religions and ways to practice using the guiding principles of those world faiths in our daily lives. We will be doing some fun activities and having in-class discussions. We will explore what all of these guidelines mean to us and how we may practice incorporating the ones that have meaning for us into how we live our lives and make our choices.

-Lee Maranto

### YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

Teen youth group, mark your calendars!

Tuesday, November 6—YRUU 7-9pm

Sunday, November 18—Feeding Homeless

Tuesday, November 20—YRUU 7-9pm

Saturday, December 1—Baking (time TBA)

Sunday, December 2—Bake Sale Fundraiser

Saturday thru Monday, January 19-21—Snow trip!!!

-Laurie Simpkinson (laurieinprint@gmail.com)



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## Welcome New Members

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The UUF Membership Committee Welcomes three new members Sharon Willey, Margaret Curry, and Julie Gill.

A "Welcoming Ceremony" will be held on November 18, during the service for all persons who have signed the membership book from July to November, 2007.

An orientation meeting for those who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and our Fellowship will be held after the service on November 11, from 11:30am to 1:00pm. This introduction to our faith is an appropriate meeting for visitors, new members, and those considering membership in the UU Fellowship of Santa Cruz County (UUFSCC). Come share, listen and ask questions. Our minister, Rev Deane Oliva, and Iran Mohsenin, Chair of the Membership Committee, will host.

Submitted by Iran Mohsenin

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## Due to Popular Demand T.G.I.F Continues

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Thank Goodness It's Friday, an informal drop-in gathering usually held at a members' home from 5:30 to 7:30p.m., will continue on the last Friday of the month, November 30, and then from January to April, 2008. Hosts provide an advance notice of directions as well as drinks and hors d'oeuvres, the guests contribute to the cost. All ages are welcome.



The November 30 TGIF will be at the Fellowship and hosts are still needed. Please call or email me to sign up. Sing ups are also needed for the dates of January 25, February 29, March 28, or April 30. If you have not hosted before, now is a good time to get your feet wet. We had a great TGIF participation this summer. It's a good way for new members to get acquainted and to stay in touch with long time friends. Please join us on November 30 for the fun and to celebrate the many accomplishments of this year. We have a lot to be thankful for!

Kären Aaker,  
662.9565 karen@aftonranch.net

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## UUF Dinner Club Is Back in Action

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The Dinner Club is a collective dinner party and an opportunity for UUF members and friends to socialize and have a good time at each other's homes. It is usually held on the second Saturday of the month. If this date is a problem, please call the host/ess to see about changing the date, or if you cannot make it please inform the host/ess so they can contact someone from the substitute list.

The first name on the list is the host who will provide the home, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages. The second on the list provides the main dish, the third provides salad and bread, and the fourth provides the dessert. If there is a fifth name listed, that person provides vegetables.

This is a great way to get to know people in a wonderful setting with great hospitality and interesting conversation. Please contact Iran Mohsenin at imohsenin@comcast.net if you are interested in joining future dinner club gatherings.



Group 1: 1) Mohsenin 2) Oxley/Newfarmer  
3) Cantwell 4) Bowman

Group 2: 1) Heath 2) Forsyth 3) Bunger  
4) Neher

Group 3: 1) Aaker/Fihe 2) Cole 3) Johnson  
4) Rogers 5) Lamb

Group 4: 1) Hudson/Shackelford 2) Wood  
3) McCreadie 4) Larzelere/Miracle

Group 5: 1) James/McCrow 2) LeMaster  
3) Newman 4) Meyer

Group 6: 1) Collier/Young 2) Crawford/  
Newbold 3) Smith/Merrill 4) Anton

Substitutes: Thiemann, Isherwood, Tong, McBrien

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## The Philosopher's Stone

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Gratitude is one of the sweet shortcuts to finding peace of mind and happiness inside. No matter what's going on outside of us, there's always something we could be grateful for.

-Barry Neil Kaufman,  
author of Happiness is a Choice

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## Musical Ministry

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*The Music Committee* would like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to Linda Neher for donating additional "Singing the Journey" hymnals for our Fellowship. Your generous gift is much appreciated.

Thank You, Katherine LeMaster

### *Invitation for Holiday Choir*

 Please consider joining the UUFSCC Holiday Choir. We will be making beautiful multi-cultural music for the holidays and lovely Christmas Eve traditional choral music. This is a non-audition choir and we need you!

The act of singing together creates fellowship and is excellent for physical, spiritual and mental health. Vocal music can facilitate sacred experiences during this special time of year.

We practice on Wednesday nights at 7pm at the fellowship and twice monthly on Sundays at 9am in the Sanctuary. We'll have our first meeting/potluck on Wednesday, November 7, at Brian Heath's house at 7pm at 6620 Mello Lane, Santa Cruz, 95062, to get cracking on the holidays, as well as music for November. Please know that you will be warmly welcomed whatever your skill and experience level is. Contact UUFSCC Music Coordinator, Gail Swain 459-9248, gailsings@cruzio.com

### *Invitation for Instrumentalists*

I am currently compiling a list of instrumentalists to assist us in the Music Ministry at the Fellowship. We would like you to play your instrument during the upcoming services, especially during the holidays. Your presence will be warmly appreciated. Gail Swain, UUFSCC Music Coordinator, 459-9248 gailsings@cruzio.com



### *Open Mic at the UUF*

On the second Wednesday of the month, November 14, the UUF opens its door for entertainers of all stripes, so come as you are and bring your song, or poetry, magic, or monologue to share with others. Sign-ups are at 7pm and the start time is 7:30pm.

For more information call Barry Seidler at 831-689-0670 or Dave "Woody" Wood.

### *Chant and Meditation Circle*

On the cold dark nights of winter we will gather to warm our souls with the sound of sacred music. Join us on Wednesday, November 28, 7:30-8:30pm in the Sanctuary to center and calm with chant and meditation

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## Hospitality Committee Reports

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Thank you for help in making our Coffee Hour a success this month. In October, Woody, Mary Bailey, Brent & Cypress Haddad, and Barbara England hosted for us. For the first week in November, thanks go out to Guy & Nancy Cantwa

I want to give a special thank you to Mary Bailey for the many times she has stayed to help clean up.



That's right folks, the same people have been volunteering most of the time. Please, let's all share this responsibility and sign up! If you haven't done anything for Coffee Hour in the last four months we need your participation.

There will be no potluck in November, but on November 18, the Hospitality Committee will be serving sandwiches for our Congregational meeting. Last year's successful Thanksgiving Dinner was masterminded by Wendy Wyckoff. Just want you to know, Wendy, we greatly appreciate your "Labor of Love." This year people should call Mary Brooks to sign up for our traditional UUF Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, which we'll be announcing at Sunday morning services. The deadline for signing up is November 19.  
Patt Taylor

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## Connecting with the Caring Connection

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The new email address for sending requests for assistance or otherwise communicating with the Caring Connection is [caringconnection@uufsc.org](mailto:caringconnection@uufsc.org)

If you send a message to this address, it will reach one of the members of the Caring Connection: Eve Seamon, Jane Booth, Missy Ratcliffe, Sylvia Forsyth, or Helen Oxley. Please note that your message will not be transmitted directly to all members of the Fellowship.

Whenever Eve or another member of the Caring Connection receives information, which needs to be transmitted to the Fellowship by email, she will prepare a notice that will be sent to the remainder of the congregation.  
Helen Oxley

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## UUF FYI's

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\*For information about the **First Friday Book Group** contact Joan Roberts at 688-7598.



*The Sky's the Limit Auction*



*October 20, 2007*



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