



The UNICORN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
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Website home page: Use <http://www.uufsc.org>

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January Sunday Services

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

Jan 6

"New Year Renewal"

Let's rid ourselves of baggage and open ourselves up to the new year with curiosity and energy through self love and forgiveness.

Rev. Deane Oliva,
Sylvia Forsyth, Service Associate

Jan 13

"White Privilege: Black Ice"

Living the privileged life of being white in America tends to block the reality of our substantial power and oppressive tendencies. Change requires effort. Let's explore it.

Rev. Deane Oliva,
Iran Mohsenin, Service Associate

Jan 20

"Health Care For All"

Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Seventy-nine years after his birth, we honor Dr. King's legacy by hearing the stories of two grassroots organizers for social change in the new millennium. Gail Olson and Carol Robertson, co-directors of Health Care for All Santa Cruz, will tell us why they see universal health care as a civil right, how they are trying to make it happen in California, and what we can do to help. A short film and discussion will follow the service.

Ed Newman, Service Associate

Jan 27

"The Lotus: Remarkable Symbol"

What images are important to you and how do you appreciate and use them in your daily life?

Rev. Deane Oliva

**Please submit all Unicorn related material to unicorn@uufsc.org
The due date for the February issue is January 20, 2008.**

Opening Words

Out of wood and stone, out of dreams and sacrifice, the People build a fellowship*. Out of the work of their hands and hearts and minds the People fashion a symbol and a reality.

May this fellowship be truly a place of Meeting—meeting one another in warmth and joy and openness; meeting one with another in courage and love and trust.

May all who enter here trust one another so surely that they dare to share the deep fires that burst into anger as much as the sweet springwaters that swell into laughter; the slow erosion of wounded tears as much as the soaring song.



May these walls know silence as a hundred hearts search inward each for its one small spark of hope that might otherwise be snuffed out in the noise.

May these rafters hear the voice of the child as surely as that of the orator, as the sound of the lute, the clack of the typewriter, the swish of the broom, and know that all are as holy as the shout of a million stars.

May the rain fall lightly on this house, the sun shine warmly, the winds blow softly, and bless it as a place of joy and peace.

—Eileen B. Karpeles

(*Words changed from “house” in the *Singing the Tradition* hymnal, #733)

Winter Activity Ideas for Inner Growth

*Reading is a wonderful invitation to growth, but sometimes we get stuck in a rut, reading the same authors and types of literature. Break out! If you like scientific works, consider poetry or try a theological treatise. If you like British authors, try a non-Western writer.

*Reflection is a goal worthy of consideration. Not as structured as meditation, one can simply sit and entertain one’s thoughts. Sometimes we forget just how energizing it is to sit with oneself, -- regularly.

*Writing, particularly uncensored writing, can often surprise us. Too often we start to write and get caught in the trap of allowing wordsmithing or grammar checking to distract us from real exploration of our thoughts and premises. Try using a timer and writing for at least five minutes without stopping. If you

Minister’s Musings

Happy New Year!

Winter is a wonderful time to cuddle up with a blanket and a good book, a time of rest and renewal. Although many complain about the cold dampness of the season, it is a period of incubation for the new growth to come this spring. It is a time to take stock, to discern what is missing in our lives and to plan to correct our course. It is the season to check our inner baggage, to get rid of the dead weight, -- those grudges that do not serve us, perceived failings that we pine over, loneliness that we initiate, and attitudes which hurt and to nourish new ideas and inquiries



Winter is also a time of great joy. Leaves have dwindled and the earth is open to inspection. The richness of the browns beckons us to be more discerning. The shortness of the days reminds us of the beautiful interplay of dark and light. The cold urges us to appreciate warmth.

Joy to the world! ‘Tis the season to contemplate our roots and to celebrate life. Karen and I extend warm wishes to you and your families for a new year of good health, sweet dreams and the peace of a life well lived.

Rev. Deane Oliva

Continued from “Winter Activities Ideas...”

decide to use this approach to growth, definitely try it several times.

*Expand your creative talents. Try new modalities, not for artistic merit, but for self expression. And if you feel like you have no talent, take some smelly marker pens and large sheets of paper – total investment less than \$2.00 and draw your mood, your mind, your desires, your feelings. When done, turn the page over, date it and journal.

*Look at the world from a new perspective – a telescope, camera, or binoculars. Challenge yourself.

*Pick a concept a week such as love, God, atheism, reason, justice. Think, read, write about it. Bring it up for discussion. You might be surprised at how excited folks feel when they are asked to discuss interesting concepts.

*Consider taking a class. Might I recommend our Faith Development courses, the very popular Building Your Own Theology and the brand new and well-received Spirit of Life curriculum? I would love to have your energy in these classes.

--Submitted by Rev. Deane

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

Happy 50th Birthday!

The new year is upon us and we are on the threshold of 2008. I usually react to the beginning of a new year with a feeling of refreshment and renewal. What will the new year bring? Will I respond to events in a new way or will I fall back on habitual patterns?

The fellowship is 50 years old this year. What will crossing this threshold of a half century bring us? Will we meet it with renewal or will we fall back on old patterns? What do we hope for our community? Here is my new year's list of resolutions for us:

- remember our history
- attract new members
- grow in self awareness
- express pleasure at being in each other's company
- support a volunteer coordinator
- expand our choir of joyful singers
- rejoice in our differences
- live our UU values
- envision a vibrant tomorrow
- offer a haven to spiritual pilgrims
- embrace our children
- engage the wider community
- love the truth
- practice honesty
- honor conflict

I hope we will set aside some time, possibly a weekend retreat, for a celebration of our fiftieth birthday, and perhaps together set forth our wishes -- or goals-- for our future. If we resolve it to be so, 2008 can be glorious.

Faithfully, Marsha

Special Congregational Meeting, January 27, 2008

The Board has scheduled a special congregational meeting for January 27, for the purpose of discussing Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County finances, most especially the budget deficit and how to make sure we can financially support a settled minister. This special meeting is partially in response by the Board to the petition of November 4. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

Splinters from the Board

From the November 15, Board Meeting.

Notes taken by Marcia Heath:

*The Board approved the Finance Committee's request for the use of a payroll service, as well as the purchase and use of QuickBooks.

*Substantial discussion at the meeting concerned the impact on morale as a result of the Oct. 28 vote, the November 4 petition, and how the Board should respond to the requests of the petitioners. The Board agreed to start by calling a special Congregational Meeting to resolve the Fellowship's finances, including how they pertain to the calling of a new settled minister, for January 27. It also approved the week-end visit by the Rev. Marge Keip to meet with Fellowship members and to present the sermon on December 2.

*The Finance Committee brought a proposal for a new investment policy to the board; after discussion the decision was tabled to the December meeting.

*A split collection for the UU Legislative Ministry was approved for the Sunday service on December 9, 2007.

The Nominating Committee Approved in November

At the November 18, 2007 Congregational Meeting, the congregation approved the following members to join Kären Aaker on the Nominating Committee for 2008: Lois Cole, Sylvia Forsyth, Don Hoernschemeyer, and Ed Newman.

The congregation also approved Kara Bowman as Treasurer.

Thank you to all volunteers for serving the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County!



Committee On Ministry: REACH Covenant

Happy New Year! May 2008 bring Peace to Freedom Blvd. and beyond. Much of the Committee on Ministry's job is help members focus on our Mission and REACH covenant in addition to assisting our minister in her duties. The spirit of the REACH Covenant can sometimes be forgotten. When that happens, the Committee on Ministry's specific task is to "serve as the guardian of the Covenant." I thought it would be helpful to remind folks that the covenant asks us all to bring our higher selves to this community and to promise to:

***Respect** others. I recognize the worth of all people. I will show others that I value and appreciate them and their ideas though my words and actions.

***Empathize** with others. I will slow down, listen attentively and openly, and allow for expression of feelings. I will let others know they were heard and respond with understanding.

***Accept** the rights of others to express opinions and to encourage actions that may differ from my own. I will imagine how they have arrived at their point of view. I will seek accurate information from which to test my own assumptions, and will do so in a way that will maintain my personal integrity.

***Show Compassion** and deep love through the humble act of forgiveness with all the members of our religious community.

***Act with Honesty**, to keep my word and to speak the truth with kindness.

The Pacific Central District consultant Rev. Marge Keip, who visited us for the weekend of December 2, 2007, has recommended that Committee on Ministry could offer or facilitate small healing groups where a safe space for expression is provided. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating in such a healing session.

Erica Crawford for the Committee on Ministry (myself, Bob Kraft, Linda Neher and Lee Cavanaugh)



Open Doors



Open Hearts



Open Hands

Sunday Services Committee

Some Requests and Changes:

You may have noticed some of the changes that the Sunday Services Committee has instituted. They include:

1) The semi-circular arrangement of seats: We want to know if this new arrangement working well for you or if you have ideas for improvements? We are attempting to keep a clear passage around the perimeter of the room and to keep seats open in the back of the room for those who come in late. Please be aware of this when you take your seats and try to arrive on time to find a seat before the service starts. It is a considerate and beneficial thing to do for everyone!



2) The Sunday Morning Service Host: In the past two months a SSC member has been acting as a greeter and usher at the side door inside the sanctuary. The role of the Host has been described in writing and approved by the SSC, and now we need some good folks to come forward to volunteer to host services once in a while. It's a very nice way to extend hospitality to those who enter a crowded sanctuary, and we believe it is a valuable service. If you would like to help out in this simple way, please email Marcia Heath (684-0506), SSC Chair Andy Kreyche (684-0506), or talk to one of us before or after a service.

Your input about Sunday Services is always welcomed. Submitted by Marcia Heath

Sunday Service Committee events:

We would like to announce two events to start off the New Year. On Sunday, January 13 after the service, we will hold our 2nd Annual Brainstorming Session. This will be an opportunity for all in the congregation to submit ideas for future lay led services in the coming year. Please plan on attending during coffee hour so we can do our best to reflect the many interests of our membership.

On Saturday, February 16, we will be holding a training session for all current and new Sunday Service Associates. It will be a great opportunity to brush up on your skills, stay abreast of changes, and train new folks in preparation for representing and supporting our Fellowship in this public and important way. Please save the date. If you have interest in becoming a Sunday Service Associate, please contact Andy Kreyche on any Sunday or at 684-0506.

Art Committee News

The Art Committee's meeting in December covered lots of topics and projects as we made plans for the holidays and beyond.

*The December wreath-making workshop went well and we hope the UUF members and friends



have noticed how lovely the sanctuary has looked these past few weeks with the congregation-made wreaths on display.

*We talked about the totem art project and realized we need to get a drier place for the pieces to cure before firing them; Mel Cole and Scott Young are working on that.

*Optimistically we are hoping, sometime in the first of the year, to have our sculptor Toshi Kawai available to make a presentation of his concept for the main wall art project and to answer questions you might have.

*Plans are made for visiting artists to exhibit their work on the sanctuary walls in the next few months.

*We discussed the possibility of buying more tables, chairs, and umbrellas for the patio. Being able to sit down and share food with others is a wonderful way to get to know each other better. Let's be sure to make a place for visitors at our tables.

*Our next meeting will be January 7, at 10:00am in the sanctuary. You are welcome to join us.

—Joan Roberts

The Philosopher's Stone

I feel so sentenced by your words,
I feel so judged and sent away,
Before I go I've got to know
Is that what you mean to say?

Before I rise to my defense,
Before I speak in hurt of fear,
Before I build that wall of words.
Tell me, did I really hear?

Words are windows, or they're walls,
They sentence us, or set us free.

When I speak and when I hear,
Let the love light shine through me.

There are things I need to say,
Things that mean so much to me,
If my words don't make me clear,
Will you help me to be free?

If I seemed to put you down,
If you felt I didn't care,
Try to listen through my words
To the feelings that we share.

—Ruth Bebermeyer

Communications Committee

Announcements

The Communications Committee will continue working on the logistics of sending out the Unicorn Newsletter electronically. Like all new technology, we will need to work out a few “bugs” so the transition will go smoothly.

If you have not already done so, and would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please send an email to unicorn@uufsc.org with “Electronic Unicorn” in the subject line. I will be collecting these names and will eventually take them off the postal mailing list. Hopefully we will be able to enact this in the coming months. Please know that if I do not hear from you, you will continue to receive your newsletter in the mail.



The Communications Committee is also working on a policy and procedure for our “AllUUF Emails” and this function will soon work through our UUF Office Administrator, Priscilla Mann. Look for announcements on the order of service to learn more and in future *Unicorns* for details.

Communicatively, Terra Collier-Young

Compassionate Communication (NVC) Practice Group

Tip of the Month: Self-compassion: We are compassionate with ourselves when we are able to embrace all parts of ourselves and recognize the needs and values expressed by each part. Critical voices, or “jackals” can keep us stuck in a particular feeling state or frame of mind if they are not addressed. Feelings of despair, guilt, resentment, anger, shame, and depression arise out of a critical internal voice, which is judging either oneself or others. These feelings are alarms letting you know that there are important needs up for you. Try listening to your jackal without judging it or believing everything it says (it often says “I should” or “How could he?” or “She was wrong”). Then try to identify some needs that the jackal might be telling you about; remembering that needs are universal (eg. we have a need for connection or to be understood, not a need for a particular strategy).

If you've had NVC beginning training and would like to get together to practice NVC skills, you're welcome to join the UU Non-Violent Communication Practice Group that meets off-site from 7pm to 9pm on the first and third Mondays. Please call Linda Neher (684-0506) for more information.

Social Action Committee News



The Second Annual Social Action Open House on December 9 was a big success. Following a Sunday service where the focus was on social justice legislation we heard a moving presentation by Jorge Savala from COPA, from Bruce Fihe on the UU Ministry for legislation in California, and a sermon by Rev. Deane.

After the morning service, a congregant potluck offered good food, largely from local producers; and the tables, with several from local organizations, provided information about where and what SAC and UUFSCC was doing on many varied social justice tasks and issues. The service raised \$460 for our membership in UULM and the raffle brought in another \$210; this money will go toward providing basic necessities to the ISSP recipients from the Homeless Services Center Program.

We are all very pleased with this special annual event. The people that work so hard on social justice concerns get to show what they are doing, whether it's helping the indigent, raising funds for worthy causes, supporting a children's program in Africa, helping to reduce global warming, organizing events that seek peace and non-violence. Others less directly involved can see the many, many ways to help. Every little bit helps.

Because of the holidays, SAC's next meeting will be 7pm, Thursday, January 10, 2008.

Submitted by Brian Heath

Green Sanctuary Committee: With the holidays over there may be some high-tech trash in the home. Americans toss out about two million tons of unwanted electronics annually. But it's getting easier to discard responsibly.

Grey Bears, located at 2710 Chanticleer Ave. in Santa Cruz, accepts many electronic gadgets and used computers. Cell phones are repurposed by some charities and used as lifelines for seniors and victims of domestic violence. For options visit www.recyclewirelessphones.com. And website www.collectivegood.com allows you to select the charity you wish to donate to then you give them information for a tax credit and send them the phone; remember to remove your card. They also take pagers and PDAs. Televisions and mobile phones also can be recycled. Again remember that the local Grey Bears takes electronic gadgets. Staples takes ink cartridges. And finally for more information go to www.epa.gov/ecycling. --Linda Milgate

UU Film Series In the Fellowship Hall, Fridays at 7pm and Sundays at 11:45am

Films from a social justice perspective selected to inform, challenge and inspire. Many screenings will include expert guest speakers, as well as time for lively discussion following the provocative films. Put the following dates on your calendar, and join us!

Health Care for All Friday, January 11, at 7pm and Sunday January 20 at 11:45am. What does CA Senator Kuehl's Bill provide and how? Guest Speaker Gail Olson will answer our questions. This is the only Health Care Bill that leaves out the Insurance Companies and their profits.

Precipice of Survival Friday, February 8 at 7pm. The already small sea otter population has declined again. Features scientists working to understand the threats. Guest Speaker, Jim Curland from Defenders of Wildlife at Moss Landing, will discuss this and our local marine environment. Co-sponsored by the UU Green Sanctuary Team.

A Force More Powerful Sunday, February 17, at 11:45am, an encouraging documentation of the successes of mass non-violent campaigns in six countries where ordinary people won major changes. Examines the strategies used --- from the lunch counters of Alabama to the shipyards of Poland.

Continuing Film Dates will be Sundays, March 30, April 13, May 18, June 8, and Fridays, March 14, April 11, May 9 and June 13: films and speakers to be announced. Contact Marcia Heath, Joan Roberts, or Ruth Valdez at 684-0506

Sylvia Forsyth would like to thank ALL the people who brought hygiene products and socks for the Homeless center bags. Brian Tong and his friend bagged 46 bags filled with goodies on December 16 and they were delivered on the 20th. Our ISSP (Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program) guys got them with other presents from Social Action Committee on Sunday the 23rd.

The Larger UU Picture

Love of nature has its root in wonder and veneration... There can be no abounding and ardent patriotism Where sacred attachment to the scenery of our civil home is wanting.

-The Rev. Thomas Starr King,
“Lessons from Sierra Nevada” sermon, 1863

Lots of places carry Thomas Starr King’s name. My personal favorite is this Yosemite mountain. While Starr King is most famous for helping to keep California in the Union during the civil war, he also brought attention to the amazing beauty of the Sierra even before John Muir set foot in Yosemite.

December 17 was Starr King’s 183rd birthday. I can’t sing happy birthday to him in person, but I do want to sing thanks and praise to each of you who, in your own way, follow in his footsteps by serving your congregations and bringing UU values to bear on today’s civic issues.

In 2007, your contributions in time, money, and energy have enabled UULM as an organization to make a real difference.

We were honored in early December to have Secretary of State Debra Bowen (a lifelong UU), as the featured guest at a fundraising party for UULM in Contra Costa County. A



**UU Legislative
Ministry California**

couple days later, the San Francisco Foundation (a non-UU fundraiser) gave UULM a vote of confidence, approving a grant to support our UU Voices for Health Care ministry in the SF Bay Area in 2008.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce a collaboration with the Planning and Conservation League to offer regional trainings for UU’s who want to have an impact on climate change in their local communities. Plans are also underway for an August 2008 UU young adult (18–25 year-olds) tour of California focusing on actions to impact climate change and California water justice.

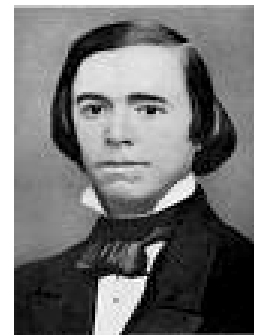
Blessings to you and yours, Rev. Lindi Ramsden
(adapted from email letter sent to the *Unicorn*)



UULM is hosting A “Freedom to Marry” spokesperson training in Thousand Oaks on Saturday, January 19, from 1-5 p.m. The training will be led by Vaishalee Raja, Associate Director of Media Field Strategy for the California office of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Participants will learn how to discuss marriage equality for gay/lesbian couples with their neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and the news media. “If you’ve wanted to be a stronger advocate for marriage equality, this training will give you the tools and words to speak from the heart, and reach the ‘moveable middle,’” said Paul Boisvert, a UULM volunteer organizer in San Luis Obispo County.

The workshop will also cover UULM’s Cottage Conversation program and introduce Let California Ring, a public education campaign to open hearts and minds about the freedom to marry and the respect, support, protections, and responsibilities that come with marriage. UULM is one of more than forty-five organizations working in collaboration with Let California Ring, a project of Equality California Institute.



Thomas Starr King

The Starr King School for the Ministry is offering a class for ministers, seminarians and laity, on Combating Oppression: Power Analysis through Anti-Ableist and Anti-Racist Lenses.

Presented by Sofia Craethnenn and Devorah Greenstein, the 1.5 unit class will meet from noon to 5 pm., January 14-18. Course materials will be available at Copy Central, 2483 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. For fees and other information, see http://www.sksm.edu/academics/intersession_2008.php

CUUPS presents “Poems of Praise” Poetry Writing Workshop

Applaud, Acclaim, Honor, Glorify, Worship, Revere, Admire, Commend, Extol, Eulogize, Congratulate, Pay tribute to, Go into raptures over, are all words or terms that describe “Praise.”

Terra Collier-Young and CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist PaganS) would like to invite you to join us on a late winter’s day and explore “Poems of Praise,” a workshop lead by founding member of Poetry Santa Cruz, and current English and Poetry teacher at California State University Monterey Bay, Maggie Paul.

We will be meeting on Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 10am to 4pm. The location (either on the Westside Santa Cruz or at the Fellowship) will be determined closer to the date due to weather. We are asking \$20 per person but no one will be turned away for lack of funds; all monies earned beyond paying the facilitator will go to the general fund. This workshop is open to your friends and family as well.

Please call or email me at 684-0506. I will close this article with one of Maggie’s poems.

Yours
in Poetry, Terra

“On Neruda”

*Look how he numbered his poems
as they spilled out over the rim of his life,
currents always heading in the direction
of Mathilde, in whose hair
he saw stars and vines, whose hands
furnished him with prayer,
certain dark things to love. Moments
brimmed with moons, apples, bread, sky.
Like a pomegranate, his heart’s center grew
crowded with seeds and stars, which he
sprinkled across his garden
as a way of insisting on beauty,
so that now his voice pulls me
into the earth’s core, to the underneath
of love, which is more love.*

UUF FYI’s

***Remember that Stewardship Day** is always held on the first Saturday of the month; it will be at 9am on January 5. Come and join Facilities Committee chairman, Scott Young, and other dedicated regulars as they spruce up the Fellowship grounds.

***It’s easy being green! UUFSCC cloth bags**, with our special chalice image and website on the front, will be available after the service on various Sundays. Listen for the announcement and look for Terra Collier-Young after the service to purchase them. The proceeds will go towards our annual income.

***Be sure to sign up for a Secret Pal** on January 6 and 13.

This UUF tradition has brought children and adults together for community building and friendship.

***If you can, please stay after the service** on the fourth Sunday of the month to fold the Unicorn with Dave “Woody” Wood.

***The Poet’s Corner** (see page 11) is available for all UUF members and friends to express themselves poetically. Send your submission to unicorn@uufsc.org.



Our Chalice
Photos by Erica Crawford

Youth Religious Education Review

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

We're going to thaw our icicles with SECRET PALS this January! On January 6 and 13, we'll sign adults up to be a Secret Pal to one of our RE kids. For the next 4 weeks, you will send the kids notes and little gifts without telling them who you are. Secret Pals often get notes and gifts back from their special little someone! Then, at a splendid All-Ages Service in February, you will reveal yourself to your Pal! Being a Secret Pal builds a lasting bond between the adults and kids who participate - I hope you will sign up with Marley Smith-Merrill this January!

Annabelle Siino, one of our splendid RE teachers, is moving from her weekly teaching role to substitute role. Her mom is not well and needs more of Annabelle's attention. Let's hold them both in our thoughts and prayers. Natasha Castro, another of our splendid RE teachers, will take over in Annabelle's grade. Thanks, Natasha!

And thanks to Karen Holl for her fine leadership of our RE Committee. Between now and June, if you have questions for Karen about RE, please book a flight to Costa Rica and make for the nearest rain forest. And bring work gloves. Otherwise, you can try anyone else on the Committee - Devi Tong, Beth McKinnon, Ted Merrill, Thomas Witz, Annie Twist Lubke, or me (Brent Haddad).

--RE Committee (Brent Haddad, Devi Tong, Thomas Witz, Ted Merrill, Karen Holl, Beth McKinnon, Sue Stone, Annie Lubke)

Sun. Schedule for January:

Jan. 6—RE Classes, Ted coordinator
Jan. 13—RE Classes, Annie coordinator
Jan. 20—RE Classes, Thomas coordinator
Jan. 27— RE Classes, Devi coordinator

Class Updates:

Preschool/Kindergarten Class: Through an artistic project with the combined class on the eve of the New Year, we'll explore our dreams and visions for 2008! In upcoming regular classes we'll be continuing with winter themes and some little social action projects connected to the wider community.

—Juliet Goldstein

1-3 Grade Class: The 1st-3rd graders will welcome in the New Year by reflecting on personal resolutions and brainstorming ways they can help the world around them. We will begin to brainstorm possible ideas for a social action project. --Natasha Castro

4-6 Grade Class: We will be participating in the Secret Pals and continue our theme of gratefulness and how to express it to others and in taking care of the Earth. --Annabelle Siino

Sunday Morning Teen Group: The teen class will be working on our part of the "Greening the Sanctuary" Program. Come join us as we discuss ways to become more environmentally conscious and explore ways to educate the Fellowship on some ways to go "green." Also, don't forget the teen ski trip is January 19-21! For more details or questions, talk to Lee or Laurie. --Lee Maranto

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists teen youth group): What an awesome group effort everyone did for the bake sale fundraiser! Great job!

We will be skipping YRUU until January 15, which is a mandatory meeting if you want to go on the ski trip! I have the info/sign-up packets available, so please contact me ASAP to confirm your spot and/or get paperwork. It's going to be an amazing trip (January 19-21)!!!

--Laurie Simpkinson



Proud mama Sharon and precious Alexandra, who will be 1 year old on February 24.

UUFSCC Musical Ministry

Open Mic Date: Wednesday, January 9, the second Wednesday of the month. Time: Sign-up: 7pm, Start time: 7:30 pm. Place: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County. Information Phone: 684-0506

Open mic is primarily for fellowship members, but is open to all. We provide a comfortable venue for musicians, poets, magicians, and other artists of all ages to perform before a live audience. Refreshments are provided.



Chant and Meditation Circle: Join us for an evening of calming meditation and spirit lifting chants. We will meet on January 23, 2008, the fourth Wednesday of the month, in the



Sanctuary at 7:30pm. The Chant and Meditation Circle is led by Jenean Watrous or Terra Collier-Young.

Invitation for Choir: The act of singing together creates fellowship, and is excellent for physical, spiritual and mental health. Vocal music can help bring home a point, inspire us to greater social awareness and action and keep us company on the journey. Please consider joining the UUFSCC Choir. We will be making beautiful music with an emphasis on folk, spiritual, classical, and ethnic based choral music. This is a non-audition choir and we need you! We practice on Wednesday nights at 7pm, usually at the Fellowship, and twice monthly on Sundays at 9am in the Sanctuary.

Invitation for Small Ensemble Unicorn: Do you love to sing and /or play instruments but you are already over committed with other musical or church projects? Would you like to perform at the Fellowship, but do not have the time for a weekly commitment? Then please consider the UU Small Ensemble. Repertoire could include music from other cultures with percussion. Strong voices and/or musical skills are important.

Invitation for Instrumentalists: I am currently compiling a list of instrumentalists to assist us in the Music Ministry at UUFSCC. We'd like you to play on your instrument during Fellowship services. Your presence will be warmly appreciated.

For all of these invitations contact UUFSCC Music Coordinator, Gail Swain, 684-0506

Dinner Club

The Dinner Club is an opportunity for UUF Members and Friends to spend an evening together, share food, and conversation. It is usually held on the second Saturday of the month but can be changed to accommodate the participants.

The first name(s) on the list will be the host, the second named person(s) bring the main dish, the third name brings salad and bread, and the fourth brings dessert, and if there is a fifth name listed, they bring a vegetable.

Group 1) 1. Anton 2. Paul 3. LeMaster
4. Aaker/Fihe

Group 2) 1. Woodruff 2. Collier-Young 3. Lamb
4. McCreadie 5. Bowman

Group 3) 1. Bunger 2. Smith-Merrill 3. Hudson/
Shackelford 4. Oxley/Newfarmer

Group 4) 1. Cantwell 2. Star Dancing/Partlow
3. Cole 4. James/McCrow 5. Forsyth

Group 5) 1. Meyer 2. Johnson 3. Crawford
4. Heath

Group 6) 1. Senko 2. Neher 3. Wood, D
4. Newman

Substitutes- Isherwood, McBrien, Mohsenin, Thiemann, Tong

Hospitality Committee Reports

"CHILI LUNCH FOR A CHILLY DAY"

This month on January 27 there will be a Congregational meeting and the Hospitality Committee will provide a lunch of chili, chips, salad, and drinks, to sustain you!

We want to thank all those who helped with coffee and clean-up this last month: Dennis Johnson, Ed Hedgpeth, Elizabeth Strong, Mary Bailey, Erica Crawford, Edy Rhodes, Eric Thorson, the YRUU Group, Annabelle and her 4-6 RE class, Kamyar Mohsenin and Serena Shane, Barbara England, John Thiemann, Woody, Sally Real and Bill Taggart.

"Many hands make light work"

There are spaces open for January coffee hours and for clean-up on January 27. Join forces with another person, or two, and make it a fun, community building experience, not a labor.

If you have any suggestions for Hospitality Committee please contact Sylvia at 684-0506



Notice for Friends and Visitors

For those who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or our Fellowship, we will be holding a newcomers chat with the minister after the service on January 6. All welcome!

Submitted by Iran Mohsenin

New Members



New member information is available in the UUF office, 684-0506.

UUF Website Members' Page Log in and Password Info

To access the www.uufsc.org "Member's Only" webpage you must have a user name and password. This can be obtained by calling the office at 684-0506 and let the Office Administrator know who you are to prove membership. This is an attempt to protect the sensitive information of our membership from cyber-pirates.

First Friday Book Group

In December the First Friday Book Group focused on a heavy book, both weight-wise and as literature. Now in the new year we have turned to much lighter fare.



For January we'll be reading *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh; for February it's Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild* (well, this isn't exactly a light subject); March we'll be doing Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*; Greg Mortensen's *Three Cups of Tea* is our selection in April; and in May we'll read *Staying On* by Paul Scott.

We think it is going to be an exciting New Year. However our old modis operandi will still apply. Seven-thirty on the first Friday of the month is our meeting time, at Joan Roberts' home. Everyone is welcome. If you need more information call 684-0506

Poet's Corner

Reminding Me

*From Santa Cruz, California, USA
To Santacruz, Mumbai, India.*

*Arriving at the mother lode of spiritual knowing
In a land honoring the inner search for truth,
Reminding me of the universal quest for soul.*

*Dozing off lightly after the excitement of arrival
and*

*Later waking to horn sounds heralding the dawn,
Reminding me that all "noises" are God's voice.*

*The striking beauty of untold sari-clad women
Walking in a profusion of varied color and pattern,
Reminding me now of the infinite oneness of all.*

*School boys in a terraced garden above the city
Their open, easy, friendly, infectious laughter,
Reminding me of my own precious humanity.*

*Then high flying carrion birds circling low
To pick flesh from the carcasses of Parsi dead,
Reminding me that I too will return to the source.*

*City streets choked with cars, mobbed with people
Each on their appointed journey from here to there,
Reminding me that we are all in this together.*

*Careening through traffic in a roller coaster taxi
ride*

*Only narrowly averting what seem like imminent
collisions,*

*Reminding me that this amusement park ride is for
real.*

*Visiting Mani Bhavan to learn of Gandhi's long ago
betrayal*

*When a man of "color" was removed from a first
class train car,*

*Reminding me that life is what happens in this
moment.*

***This journey around a tiny planet
Is a passage across the universe***

--Bill Taggart



"Gandhi lived here from 1917 - 1934.

I was taken by the simplicity of his small room and awed by his life celebrated in the Mani Bhavan museum." B.T.

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