My UU History

By Sylvia Prescott Forsyth

I have been a UU since 1966, the year after the Unitarians joined the Universalist, at Neighborhood church in Pasadena, CA.

When I returned to my "homeland", being born and raised in Soquel and Santa Cruz, I started coming to this UU Fellowship in 1989. I came as Rev. McDonald was preparing to leave and a search for a new minister was starting.

I joined the choir (under Carl Hunter) and the first committee I joined was FINANCE. Rosalie Kraft was the chair at that point and she ran a "tight ship". The chair changed off and on. I have memories of cutting out paper figures for Joe Bryans' kindergarten class during the meetings.

Fund raising has always been a concern here and I recall helping and organizing several events: a flamenco dance performance, a Medna Usta performance and several comedy nights with Richard Stocton, were among them.
The next committee (which we called them then) was LONG RANGE PLANNING. This was an eclectic group which evaluated what was happening and made suggestions to the board as to what we felt should happen. We met at Jenny Choate's office and had Treats after the meeting! Cheers!

We have had very good and pretty bad AAs in the office. I am still in touch with Mary, the best I remember, who lives in Livermore now and makes quilts. She had lived in the mobile home park north of Santa Cruz which got too expensive so people moved away. One interim month without an AA I worked in the office. Everyone often defers to me still to find out where something is.

Since 1989 there have been a lot of major changes on the campus. Dave Boone, architect, drew up an overall ultimate plan for us.

We had flooding in what is now the patio which precipitated putting in a new leach field and septic system. A year or so later, giving the new system time to prove it worked, the pavers were put in the patio AND THE BLOOMING PLUM TREE WAS MOVED AGAIN.

I served as Director of Religious Education from 2000-2005 and worked with Pam/Paul Daley and enjoyed it. When Paul left and members wanted paid teachers I left. Ever since then I am still on teams and helping where I can.