

Dedication Service for the Fellowship House of The Unitarian Fellowship of the Three Villages

Feb. 29th, 1976

NARRATOR: Once upon a time a unicorn lived in a blueberry and oak wood. It was very old although it did not know it. It possessed that oldest, wildest grace that horses have never had, that deer have only in a shy way. And goats in dancing mockery.

The unicorn's neck was long and slender, making its head seem smaller than it was, and the mane that fell almost to the middle of its back was as soft as dandelion fluff and as fine as cirrus. It had pointed ears and the long horn above its eyes shone and shivered with its own seashell light.

UNICORN: (moves and turn as if in a world of its own) MUSIC

NARRATOR: Unicorns are immortal. It is their nature to live alone in one place; usually an unsuspected place, near a medical center or a Fellowship building. They are a little vain knowing themselves to be the most beautiful creatures in the world, and magic besides.

This unicorn has no idea of years and centuries, or even of seasons. It is always February 29th in its place. The sight of people fills it with an old slow strange mixture of tenderness and wonder. The Unicorn never lets one see it if it can help it, but it likes to watch people and hear them talking.

MAN AND WOMAN enter: strolling

MAN: My great grandmother saw a unicorn once. She used to tell me about it when I was little.

WOMAN: And did she capture it with a golden bridle?

MAN: No, she didn't have one. You don't have to have a golden bridle to catch a unicorn; that part's the fairy tale. You need to be pure of heart.

NARRATOR: The unicorn stepped softly into a thicket as they turned and took up the trail only when they were well ahead of it once more. The people walked in silence until they were nearing the edge of the wood.

MAN: Why did unicorns go away, do you think? If there ever were such things.

WOMAN: Who knows? Times change. Would you call this age a good one for unicorns?

MAN: No, but I wonder if any person before us ever thought that their time was a good time for unicorns. LIGHTS FADE ALL EXIT MUSIC

NEXT SCENE:

Committee meeting, small table, three people bring in chairs (or high stools), sit and work. Sign on the table reading: COMMITTEE MEETING, 1973, Bayview Ave. Fellowship building.

1. (Holds up survey map) Did you know that 75% of our membership lives within this 5 mile radius? that doesn't give much potential for growth with ½ of our territory covering Long Island Sound. Now what else do we have to report for this survey? (Reads from Sharing in Growth folder) How many children were registered in your Fellowship/ church school in 1970? 1971? 1972? (pauses) 1970? How the hell would I know? Wasn't that the year Irving Carton taught the whole Fellowship school in one room?

2. (Counts money continually throughout scene) Now if I pay the phone bill, and reimburse Doris for the coffee and paper cups, I'll still have enough left to pay the mortgage.

3. (Talking on phone) Well, I don't know if that is enough rent or not. Let's see, first we met at the American Legion Hall and we paid \$15. Then we moved to the Suffolk Museum. I can't remember if we paid rent there or not. Then we had the house on Cedar Street. When they went up on the rent, we bought the Bayview Avenue house. Yes, that's when we first had space for other groups. The Art Barn started renting then. (Pause)

Well, they don't use it every afternoon. Perhaps you could have it on Thursday from 4 to 7. Oh, no, excuse me, I just remembered — that's when our LRY meets. How about Friday? No, that's when the Identity series meets. Saturday? That might work. We have dinners for nine but we meet at individual homes, not at the Fellowship. (Pause) All right, call me back after you check your calendar.

2. (Goes to kitchen window labeled Veatch) Had stacks of bnills with rubber bands. Virginia Gallagher takes money from kitchen)

Yes, I'm sure that's right – \$1,068 dollars. That pays us up through 1974 on the Nicolls Road property. Do you suppose we will ever build on it?

LIGHTS FADE - TAKE CHAIRS AND TABLE OFF STAGE - MUSIC

BACKGROUND MUSIC FOR UNICORN (Unicorn wanders onto stage)

TWO CHILDREN: (wearing butterfly wings wander as if walking and romping through the woods)

UNICORN: How can it be? I suppose I could understand if this was here when I wandered through in July but never a broken branch. Roof all finished, lights installed, even people running about. The ground looks a bit muddy as if a truck or two had been here.

CHILD 1: I am a Uni-Uni child.

UNICORN: Child, what are you doing out on such a windy day? You'll take cold. Do you know what I am, child?

CHILDREN: (Wander, hop, skip, stand on their head, cartwheel, frolic about)

CHILD 1: You're my everything, You are my Sun- shine - (runs about singing)

You are pink and pearly and full of shine. (Goes off and dashes back on) You're Piglet!! (pauses)

Your name is a golden ball hung in my heart. I would love to call you by name.

CHILD 2: Go and catch a falling star! Love is a circle, round and round (singing). You are my friend: We welcome you today. I know your name.

UNICORN: Say my name then. If you know my name, tell it to me.

CHILD 1: (Happily) Rumpelstiltskin! Right?

UNICORN: (nods and plods on amused and disappointed.) MUSIC FOR UNICORN

NARRATOR: “It serves you right,” the unicorn told itself. “You know better than to expect a child to know your name. They know songs and poetry and television commercials. They mean well, but they can’t keep things straight. And why should they?”

(Unicorn and children rejoin each other and travel together.)

CHILD 1: Do you have a home?

UNICORN: Sort of. It’s just for me and I’ve always lived there. There is a deeply felt need for places where we feel at home. Our feelings about such places run very deep and we need these places if we are to grow, to become and to take hold in the world. I leave it now and then just because it is special to come back to. Do you have a home?

CHILD 2: We’re just getting a new one. There’s a hallway and rooms and the walls are painted white. It’s all shiny and it smells, well, – kind of like a new house. And you know what? We might put up a swing.

UNICORN: A home needs a swing - or a fern or a tree root just to make it a special place where people can dream. A home needs a door so you can leave.

CHILD 1: Otherwise, you’d be trapped.

CHILD 2: But when you go out the door you can go for a ways. But not too far. Cause if you went too far you couldn’t come back and you’d be lost.

CHILD 1: (Turns to leave) Bye, bye, I must go to woodworking now.

UNICORN: Farewell. I hope you get your swing.

NARRATOR: Which was the best way the Unicorn could think to say goodbye to a child, but the children did not leave, but dashed about making the unicorn nervous.

UNICORN: Run along, it’s too cold for you to be out.

CHILD 2: Unicorn. (Teasing) “unus” — one “cornu” — a horn A fabulous animal. Bye.

(Runs off stage)

UNICORN: (Startled and happy to hear its name)

Oh, you do know me! (Dances for joy gradually slowing and falling asleep.) MUSIC

LIGHTS GO DOWN.

LIGHTS COME UP AGAIN Enter Margaret, Wilma, Mike

NEXT SCENE - COFFEE HOUR - SIGN SAYS "COFFEE HOUR, 1974, BAYVIEW AVE"

(Unicorn flits from one pair to another - spotlight focus on pair talking. Spot goes off as pair moves to new positions and unicorn rejoins next group. Spot on that group. People do not acknowledge unicorn)

DIALOGUE ONE:

Person 1: I would miss the warmth and charm of this house, but do you think it's possible to build new quarters?

Person 2: I remember the split vote on this house – it tore us apart. But, yes, I do think we can. — Look, we've outgrown this place. We're elbow to elbow – WATCH OUT! - Don't spill your hot coffee on that little one.

DIALOGUE TWO:

Person 1: (Wilma) There's a marvelous new curriculum that we did a workshop on at Southold called the Haunting House. I know you like that age group! (Sits)

Person 2: That room upstairs is so small that I never could manage it. Ask me again when we get in the new building. I love this house, but we've really grown too big for it!

DIALOGUE THREE:

Person 1: Do you think we could rent the Episcopal rectory hall again? It's been months since we had a pot luck.

Person 2: I know what you mean. The dinners for 9 are fun, but the children can't come. (Sit)

DIALOGUE FOUR:

Person 1: Well, that music program we planned for Dec. 5th won't be able to come. There is just no way we can arrange for a piano. That set at the Slavic Center covers the whole floor — Another program scratched due to circumstances beyond our control.

Person 2: I know what you mean. I'm hoping they get rid of the Auschwitz prison camp set before our winter holiday program. (Sits.)

Person 1: One can't say much for the setting, but people keep coming in spite of the handicaps. Attendance is up! (Sits)

DIALOGUE FIVE

Person 1: (Dorrie) That was so nice last evening. I don't know when I've been in a group that seemed so supportive. And I was really down before I went.

Person 2: (Doris) You were really great. I loved when you told about getting your hair cut. That really brought back a lot of memories I had completely forgotten. I enjoy the sharing we do. (Sit)

DIALOGUE SIX

Unicorn is recognized by a person

Unicorn: There has never been a spell on me before

Person 1: (Les) I know exactly how you feel. It's a rare person who is taken for what he or she truly is. There is much misjudgement in the world. Now, I knew you for a unicorn when I first say you and I know that I am your friend.

UNICORN: I feel at home her. What is this place?

Person 1: It is a place to feel at home. It is for living and dying. It is for strength and happiness. It is a place for giving. It is a place for intimacy, for solitude, for dreaming, for doing.. It is called a Fellowship. It is a universe.

UNICORN: May I haunt this Fellowship House?

Person 1: Haunt, you may, for this is a place connected to the world and yet, separate from it.

It is like not other place we go to during the week (exit)

UNICORN: (dances and smiles - end of scene) LIGHTS DOWN

Next scene: Unicorn is joined by man in Dialogue #6, Woman and Child (Terry)

Child is hopping and playing hopscotch, chanting "U - N - I - "

MAN: Making this house was fun. I feel at home here.

CHILD: I wish we had a swing or a tree house.

WOMAN: It took a lot of courage to build it.

CHILD: I had a dream about it.

MAN: I often dreamed about building it and being in it.

UNICORN: Well, now that it is built, what does it mean?

Who will enter and return? Who will play here? What will go on here?

Will people know this place in their memory?

MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD: (together - addressing themselves to the audience)

What shall we make of this place, on this day, and in the days to come?

AUDIENCE RESPONSE: (Narrator leads the audience in response)

Let us make of it
a refuge, But not an escape –
A place wherein to stand
that we may move the world
And shape its course.

Let us make of it
A seeking-place,
Knowing That in new questions alone
Can answers be found.
Let us make it an opening -of-doors place
That we may not shut ourselves up
Within our human finitude,
Male or female, Living unto ourselves alone,
For there is no peace of mind
In such isolation.
Lastly, A listening-place
Let us listen In the stillness of our beings
To the deepest regions of our heart
Listening for that which can be heard
If one has the courage of silence
and the strength to hear!

Man, woman, child and the unicorn sit in small group, heads down resting.

MUSIC (2-3 minutes. Light is on them as they rest. Child becomes restless, stretches, dances, sees rainbow, goes close, comes back, goes closer, taps man on the shoulder.

CHILD: I see something. I think it's a rainbow, but I'm not sure. See? Look! (POINTS)

MAN: (Looks) It goes part way, but it's not finished.

CHILD: It has rainbow colors ---- It's a dream rainbow – a wish rainbow – It's a promise.
(Child goes and wakes woman and unicorn. They see the rainbow.

WOMAN: Look, it stops right over the Fellowship.

CHILD: Let's finish the rainbow. Let's build OUR dreams and wishes into the rainbow,

MAN: What are your dreams?

WOMAN: Dreams? Yes, dreams and wishes. Dreams, and memory. These can all be part of the rainbow.

MAN: Our hopes, dreams, and wishes are many-faceted.

What is the promise this Fellowship house holds for you? (Calls on people as he reads.)

R.E.? Social Responsibility? Worship/ Programs? YRUU/ Senior Youth?

(one sentence replies from each of these people)

WOMAN: Our Fellowship is home to others, others with dreams and hopes, What dream does our Fellowship house for you? Art Barn? NOW? Woman's Center? Re-evaluation co-counseling? (IOW? Harbormen?)

CHILD: Color the rainbow bright, color the rainbow hopeful, DREAM IN TECHNICOLOR.

Unicorn: Beyond these woods, beyond these walls, beyond this town a rainbow can be seen.
What are the Fellowship's dream that reach out?

Will this home be a bridge to others? Is this a place for other UU's from LIAC?

What is the district's hope for Fellowships such as ours?

How can this place act with a broader conscience:? For the UUA? For the UUSC?

MAN: Our dreams - a kaleidoscope of hopes, rays reaching out, colorful and strong.

UNICORN: A wish, what are your dreams in this house? What is your hope? Within the stillness of your being, in the deepest regions of yourselves DREAM.. (MUSIC BEGINS)

Now you are in the story (colored paper going around, passes into the audience)

Write your dream, your hope, wishes, and dreams to add to the rainbow. (On the wall)

(MUSIC plays while people write. All exit except the unicorn.)

Unicorn dances, directs people to form a circle and as they pass the rainbow, place their wish on the rainbow. When people finish forming the circle, the unicorn stands in the middle and says:

UNICORN: Repeat after me:

We are circle people. (Response) We are dreamers and doers, (Response)

We are Unicorn people (Audience responds) We are Rainbow people. () We are the Fellowship Circle. We are at home here. We experience his building, this home as both feeling and place.

It is a feeling of being at home. It is a feeling of being at home in a place with oneself, with those with whom we live, and with the world.

It is a feeling and a place which is forever being lost and re-found.

BENEDICTION: George - candle lighting

Standing in this special home

Surrounded on all sides by people we love,

Looking out on a sea of trees, visited by a unicorn

The North Star forever beckoning overhead

Let us, hand in hand

In loves' name venture forth

From this now-hallowed spot:

Free men and women

People of peace and goodwill!

Amen.