

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

August 2004 No.8; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, August 2004

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

No Sunday Forums this month

August 1: “From Expectations to Reality—The Tools to Make the Transition.” Confucius said, “The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.” What are our expectations for this Fellowship? What tools do we need to sharpen to reach them? UUFLG member Hollie Dunham will tell the tale of the non-merry marigolds. She will share how she realized that her expectations of herself were out of line with reality, and how the Fellowship saved the day.

August 8: “A Celebration of Love.” In this service we will celebrate the power of love through music, readings, and storytelling. As a hospice chaplain and spiritual companion in private practice, Rev. Jurgen Schwing has accompanied people of all ages on their journeys of love. He will share stories about finding love, making love work, and creating transformation in the world through love. Rev. Schwing works at Kaiser Permanente Hospital and Hospice in Walnut Creek. He has studied at the Universities of Frankfurt and Heidelberg in his home country of Germany and received an M.A. in Religion and Psychology from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Together with his wife, Deborah, and daughter Amy, he is a member of the UU Church of Berkeley.

August 15: “Getting to Know You”. A few of our UUFLG members will share with us a bit about the paths they have chosen to make meaning of their lives and what drew them to our Fellowship. Bill Scarvie will moderate this presentation. Confirmed participants as of newsletter deadline are Margo Smith and Kristina Strand.

August 22: “From San Francisco to Boston to Los Gatos: A Unitarian Universalist Look at the Freedom to Marry.” Guest speaker: Jim DeLaHunt, Policy Director of Marriage Equality California. “Civil Marriage is a Civil Right” proclaims a huge banner on the headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Boston. Rev. Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA, officiated at the marriage of one of the first gay couples to marry in Massachusetts this Spring. Our guest speaker explores the history of our denomination’s involvement in the movement to allow gays and lesbians to marry and the basis of that support in the UU conception of religious marriage and our Seven Principles.

August 29: “The Discipline of Hope”, a presentation by Scott Kennedy, co-founder and staff member of the Resource Center for Nonviolence and Mayor of Santa Cruz will talk about what sustains people in their work for social change over many years and despite many frustrations and failures. Scott’s activism spans his work with a grass roots community organization, RCNV, and the national Fellowship of Reconciliation where he served as national chair for two terms. He has served on the Santa Cruz City Council for three terms (12 years). He authored the resolution opposing US war on Iraq that was adopted by the Santa Cruz city Council in September 2002, the first resolution by a city in the USA opposing the war on Iraq. The cities for peace movement has grown to include more than 100 cities representing more than 40 million people, including Atlanta, Los Angeles, Detroit and Chicago.

THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Jim doesn't know this yet, but he's on another committee. This is the committee to nominate a team of five to find the Sunday Minister we voted to hire last March. You remember: "to organize and lead two Sunday services each month." This special-purpose nominating committee is composed of the chairs of Sunday Service (Nan Bixler), Membership (Jim Beebe), and COM (Bill Scarvie). Their nominations, plus any nominations from the floor, will be voted on (yes, this is required to be an election) at a special membership meeting for the purpose, coming soon to a Fellowship near you. Anyone interested in joining the Minister-Finders should let Nan know of their interest.

Our Minister-Finders will not be a full-blown search committee in the UUA "search for a settled minister" style. None the less, many of their criteria for search committee members are applicable. Here's an excerpt from the "Settlement Handbook for Ministers & Congregations" (p. 9-10), UUA, August 2003:

However chosen, all members of the search committee should be:

- *Known and respected by others in the congregation*
- *More strongly committed to the congregation as a whole than to any subgroup*
- *Well informed about the demands and time requirements of search committee membership. Members should promise to attend every meeting, and to give about 250-400 hours over the coming year*
- *Balanced by sex, age, skills, interests, and tenure of membership to reflect the diversity of the congregation. Major areas of church like such as religious education, social action, property management, finance, and music should be represented by participants, not partisans*
- *Not paid members of the church staff, except for a senior minister who will be supervising the minister to be called*
- *Pledges to conduct a search that is fair and nondiscriminatory with respect to race, color, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, and national origin*
- *Committed to maintain confidentiality and to seek consensus*
- *Capable of both self-assertion and compromise*
- *Not prone to extreme reactions to ministers. The previous minister's strongest supporters or opponents are rarely the best choice*
- *Well suited to teamwork: a search committee is no place for Lone Rangers!*

Some of these qualities don't come in to play. Item three on this list we can ignore; this search should take a whole lot less than a year. Considering item four, reflecting the diversity of the congregation is important, but having representation of the various church departments is not.

Appeals of this sort generate few volunteers. So: if you know someone who's qualified to be a Minister-Finder, find out if they're willing and if so, call Nan. She'll take it from there.

Anyone who needs to know about the gritty detail of how the election will be held and why we're doing it that way should call me. This paper is already too long.

In Fellowship,

Walt Main
PG.2

Committee On Ministry



The Chinese pictograph for crisis combines characters meaning danger and opportunity. Having recovered our balance after the events of last year, we must thoughtfully consider both the dangers and opportunities that the new year presents. While our situation may not be dire, there is danger ahead and issues to be confronted. Pledges are 20-25% lower than projected. How can we build a vibrant community with limited means? Vital committees, specifically Social Justice and Pastoral Care, are struggling. How can we provide essential services with neither professional ministry nor trained volunteers? Deficit spending has eroded our reserves. How long can we keep the doors open, let alone retain the services of high-quality professional staff, without a growing membership and greater financial commitment from all? Danger? Yes. Hopeless? No! Threat and opportunity are two sides of the same coin.

We have the opportunity to not only keep the doors of the Fellowship open, but keep the “Light” on as well. It takes commitment and faith. . . commitment to the promised rewards of a beloved community . . . faith in our ability to fulfill that promise, each of us on behalf of all others. We have a strong Board, committed to doing the hard work necessary to keep us moving forward, building momentum as we go. Your Committee on Ministry is equally committed to building a shared ministry that sustains us all.

Toward that end we invite you to a gathering of members to engage in deep conversation about the opportunities before us. This second edition of Cafe Conversations will address the following questions:

- What is it that sustains our willingness, as free individuals, to commit our precious time, treasure, and energy to this community?
- What would it take for this community to become the center of our life, the hub of our existence, as other churches appear to be to their members?
- If the essence of shared ministry is service to one another, what would move each of us to deliver a full measure?
- What role should professional ministry play in building and sustaining the Fellowship?

Please set aside this important date. Full participation, as always, is the key to our future.

What: Cafe Conversations & Potluck Dinner

Where: The Home of Bill & Karen Scarvie

When: Sunday, August 22, 4:00–8:00 pm

Child Care: Provided

In Fellowship,

Bill Scarvie

For the Committee on Ministry

I'm having a wonderful summer so far, and hope you all are too. The children and I have begun to explore our theme of "Building a Bridge to Africa" and have done our discussions and art as well as singing and drumming out on the deck. Attendance has been low, since many families are away doing typical summer things, so we're having a special intimate and relaxed time. We'll continue with our theme throughout the month of August.

I had an exciting time in June attending the General Assembly in Long Beach as well as a few "Professional Days" of workshops preceding it. I have written a detailed report of my experiences, which I will be happy to share with anyone who is interested. Some of the highlights were being able to listen to talks by some renowned speakers, including UUA President Rev. Bill Sinkford, human rights activist Ernesto Cortes, Jr., former US Labor Secretary Robert Reich and folk singer/activist Holly Near. I'm sure all who heard these presentations were as inspired as I was to continue to work for social justice in whatever ways we can.

I was able to attend many workshops devoted to developing my skills as a Religious Educator, including topics such as "Worship for All", "Yoga for Kids", "The UU Answer to Vacation Bible School", "Nurturing our Children's Spirit-Nature Connections" and "Transforming Religious Education: Justice, Spiritual Practice and Growth". I also made a point of attending as many events as I could on topics relevant to YoUUth group planning and was impressed by the excellent YoUUth leadership that was much in evidence. Some workshops I went to were more for personal spiritual enrichment, like "Learn a UU Friendly Meditation Practice", and a musical program called "She changes Everything She Touches". Others, like "Rebuilding Africa From Within; Working with African Communities", and "Giving it up for God", a UU Christian Communion Service with Rev. Parisa Parsa officiating, gave me insights into aspects of UUism hitherto unknown to me. I was able as well to explore the new RE Credentialing program and find out how to apply any past or future course work to the obtaining of "Credentialed" RE status.

There was so much to take in that at times it was almost overwhelming. I was pleased to find that many of the workshops were recorded, and I purchased a goodly number of them for my own perusal and to share with interested members of our congregation. I will make a list of available titles later and will set up a system for lending them out.

Looking over the offerings in the Exhibit Hall filled in the time between workshops. There I became aware of such things as "The Church of the Larger Fellowship" where for an annual fee you can obtain teaching resources as well as sermons that could be used to fill out our Sunday Services calendar. I also found out about "The Seventh Principle Project" and its program for assigning "Green Sanctuary" status to churches that meet certain environmental criteria. There was also information on "Fair Trade Coffee", a subject that has interested me for a long time. Of course there were numerous books and song books available and it was difficult to limit my purchases to a few. Two of the titles I bought were "A Winter Solstice Ritual", which is a program of song and readings, and "The Almost Church", by Michael Duvall which "redefines UUism for a new era" and could make a good study guide. I also bought some items for children's worship, such as a ceramic chalice and Tibetan singing bowl, which are now housed in the lounge.

I came away from GA with a renewed resolve both to deepen my own spiritual practice, and to share a sense of the sacred with our children while building loving, caring relationships within our Fellowship and the community at large. I feel truly honored to have been able to attend the General Assembly, and thank the members of the UUFLG for having made my trip financially possible. I trust that I will be able to put into practice at least some of the things I learned, and that my sense of inspiration will carry on throughout the coming year.

Namaste, **Phyllis Reid, DRE**

Hi Families, Teachers and other interested parties,

Your new LifeSpan Learning and RECCY chair is a bit behind on things this month. The Dunham's had a glorious 2 week vacation driving as far north as Whistler, British Columbia and returning through Seattle, Mt. St. Helens, Portland and the northern California coast. It was such a good break that when I got back to work, I had to have my voice mail password reset. I couldn't for the life of me remember it!

I know most of you also have active summer plans, and we seem to have a good handle on general plans for the fall. Therefore, I would like to cancel the official July 11th RECCY meeting this month. I will still be there at 9am for anyone who wants to stop in and chat.

There are some tasks ahead for us to discuss. We need to plan the Coming of Age program and have identified the yoUuth, mentors and a small team of coordinators. Phyllis and I will review time lines and registration and setup a meeting soon.

In the August 1st meeting we will discuss the teacher status for the Fall term and get some ideas for a date for teacher training.

Please feel free to propose potential topics for Intergenerational Services that would be fun for all. I've put in my request to coordinate an Intergenerational Day of the Dead service this year as we have done in the past. I believe it is healthy as a community to remember our ancestors and beloved friends, relatives and pets who are no longer with us. Others may have ideas that are near and dear that we could work into good community services.

Phyllis reported a wonderful, enlightening, enriching time at General Assembly. I believe she will speak to it in her monthly report that she is preparing for us that can be forwarded in email. I will also make copies when it is available.

There is a Safety Policy for Children and YoUuth being drafted by the Safe Congregation Task force. The it will be available sometime in early fall for review and it will be important for the entire community to review it and give feedback and ask questions. There will be an informational meeting as well. So please watch the newsletter and announcements for it.

There has been some discussion among a few about how we can all use the lounge safely and reasonably. We will talk about it in the August 1st meeting. In the meantime we are asking that if there is not a meeting or childcare in the room that the doors remain open after services on Sunday.

In all cases, please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the program. You now have my email address. My home phone number has changed from what is published in the current Membership Guide. It is now 650-812-0525

Blessings and Happy Summer,

Hollie Dunham

UUFLG Lifespan Education Trustee and RECCY chair.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The budget passed by the Membership last May envisages hiring an Interim minister by the first of January, 2005, and \$90,000 in pledges to pay for it. However, we have received only \$70,000 in pledges for this year. We have used up our reserve funds covering the last three year's deficits, so we can't have another budget deficit this year. Therefore, your Board of Trustees has instructed the Finance Committee to produce an Adjusted Budget which re-estimates our income expectations and adjusts expenses to conform and still support our high priority programs.

The Finance Committee has worked with each of the Board of Trustees representing the committees they are responsible for, to develop the detailed Adjusted Budget. That Budget, along with a detailed explanation of each line item was sent to all UUFLG Members on July 25, and an Information Meeting to answer questions on the Adjusted Budget was held after the Service on Sunday, August 1.

This budget will be presented to the Board at the Board meeting on August 12 and to the Membership at the next Membership meeting. Meanwhile, the Board has instructed all committees to consider this Adjusted Budget to be in force beginning July 1, 2004.

UU CONGREGATION OF SANTA FE CELEBRATES STEPHEN FURRER'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Our Fellowship has been contacted by the UU Congregation of Santa Fe welcoming any memories we wish to contribute to the 25th anniversary celebration of Rev. Stephen Furrer's ordination by our Fellowship December 2, 1979. Stephen has been minister of the Santa Fe congregation for several years, following his ministry at other congregations in the East.

Long-time members of our Fellowship may remember the Ordination which Charlie Walton hosted on the rooftop terrace of his home in the L.G. foothills. We did not own a building at that time and met for most Sunday Services in the Los Gatos Recreation Center on East Main Street.

Stephen attended Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley and as a student and after graduation spoke often at our Fellowship. He was also active in Renaissance West, a combination think-tank and social action organization in Pacific Central District of professional and lay leaders.

Anyone wishing to send congratulations may send to Else Folsom, 2868 Plaza Verde, Santa Fe, NM 87507 or email to elsefolsom@worldnet.att.net.

Pancake Breakfast

Members and friends of the Fellowship are invited to our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 5, at 10:30 at our church. The Breakfast recognizes the end of summer and celebrates the start of our fall schedule.

If you would like more information or to volunteer to help with the Breakfast, please contact Hollie Dunham, Hollie Dunham" <hollied58@yahoo.com .

CALENDAR ITEMS

Sunday, August 1 - RECCY meeting from 9-10am

Thursday, August 5 - RUMS noon lunch on the deck. Men with flexible time invited to bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy an hour or so of sociability.

Sunday, August 8 - 9 am. Finance committee meets in Lounge. Bob Bixler, Chair, 356-5697.

Wednesday, August 11 - 6 pm. Sunday Services Committee meets in Lounge. Nan Bixler, Chair, 356-5697.

Sunday, August 15 - Children's Chapel

Sunday, August 22 - a Pool Party at Phyllis Reid's house after the service.

Sunday, August 22 - Cafe Conversation and Potluck Dinner, 4-8 pm.

Sunday, September 5 - annual Pancake Breakfast at 10:30 at the Fellowship.

The Thursday morning **Women's Group** will not meet in August, but will resume on September 9. Have a lovely, restful summer. If you have questions in the interim, call Lida Kluzek at 294-4770.

INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO? Board of Trustees President, Walt Main, will email a copy of the meeting agenda to anyone who is interested.

Walt: wmain@earthlink.net

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE BOARD? There will be a guest commentary time for members at the beginning of each monthly Board of Trustees meeting. Contact Walt Main for more information and to schedule your 3 or 4 minute slot.

Walt: wmain@earthlink.net

Items for the monthly newsletter are to be submitted (by the **20th** of the month) to **Glen Marchant** at: **UUFLGnews@att.net**. Please submit articles and e-mail attachments as **single spaced MS Word documents, .rtf** (Rich Text format), or **plain text**, and limit to less than 200 words. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster communication and planning among friends and members. However, due to the size constraints of the printing, we regretfully cannot print opinion pieces.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
15980 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, 95032
(408) 358-1212

Return Service Requested



*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Person”*



Fellowship News

August 2004

The Newsletter is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos (UUFLG). The Newsletter is available to everyone on the web at www.uuflg.org. Members may elect to receive a printed copy. Individual friends and visitors may receive the printed Newsletter free for three months. After three months, the suggested subscription rate for non-members is \$10 per year. (Send to: Newsletter, c/o Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos, 15980 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032.) The subscription expiration date appears on the name line of the mailing label.