

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

July 2005 No.7; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, July 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

July 3: “Don’t Think of Church” --George Lakoff’s work in the field of cognitive science and linguistics provides a radically different way of understanding human thought. What do his ideas on conceptual metaphor and embodied realism have to say to our liberal religious tradition? Some thoughts on traditional UU rationality, the language of reverence, conflict and social action. Myron Andes, guest speaker, is a third year Master of Divinity student at Starr King School of religion in Berkeley. He has also done graduate work in Religious Studies at Claremont Graduate School. He is a member of White Bear UU church in Minnesota. Lynn O’Keefe is lay leader.

July 10: “Death Through Deep-Time Eyes”. Coming to terms with death, of loved ones and ultimately of ourselves, has long been regarded as a core impetus for the religious impulse. Science writer Connie Barlow, a popular UU speaker, assembles modern understandings drawn from sciences spanning biology, geology, and astrophysics to weave a modern cosmological celebration of death that is both realistic and comforting. Because she uses song as the structure for this sermon, this program is highly recommended for children age 10 and up. Connie and her husband, Michael Dowd, who is a UU and United Church of Christ minister, travel the country as itinerant ministers and will be featured at the PCD Stebbins Institute at Asilomar following Connie’s engagement here. They speak and do seminars on the compatibility of science and religion. Michael was guest speaker at our Fellowship a year and a half ago. J.J. Martin is lay leader

July 17: “It’s an OLD-FASHIONED HYMN SING!”

“Songs will outlive all sermons in the memory.”--Henry Giles, c.1880. I think ol’ Henry had it right or, as the Unitarian Universalist poet, May Sarton, said, “There are days when only religious music will do... It is all a matter of getting to the center of the beam.” Today we will revisit (mainly from the 19th and 20th century Protestant tradition) many old, familiar hymns. Come remember (and learn) some songs from the “center of the beam.” The Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, Ruth Webb, and others. Lynn O’Keefe is lay leader.

July 24: “Sing a New Song: A Newfangled Hymn-Sing,” In contrast to an “Old-Fashioned Hymn-Sing,” we offer this exploration of the new and, perhaps, unfamiliar. Our hymnal “Singing the Living Tradition” is a highly acclaimed resource used by many liberal congregations-- UU and others-- and noted for its progressive usage of language, its multicultural repertoire, its variety of musical genre, and its breadth/depth of theological expressions. It is a contemporary engagement with a life of spirit and a practical resource for spiritual devotion. Today we will take a closer look at this little book we hold each week and (re-)discover what is there. The Rev. Ben Kocs-Meyers, Ruth Webb, and others. Julie Doyle is lay leader.

July 31: Join us for Lammass, the first harvest - the time to begin to reap what has been sown, to bake the first bread from the first grains. Daily Bread - Bread of Life - Breaking Bread: well known phrases used throughout traditions. Join us in celebrating our needs being met and our life being sustained. This is an intergenerational service lead by Walt Main and Hollie Dunham.

The Social Justice Committee organizational meeting was held 5-29 at 11:45 AM and we were pleased at the participation! There were ten people in attendance and another four who would like to be on the committee but could not attend. Pretty good for the Memorial Day Week-end!

Carol Stevenson, Social Justice Chair from the SJUU church was there to tell us about how their Social Justice Committee operates and the projects in which they are involved. She gave us some good ideas and good for thought.

We discussed social justice projects that UUFLG would like to maintain or pursue given our smaller congregation and need to focus our energies. Betty Feldheim reminded us of our Fellowship's strong social justice history and people are hopeful that we can generate that enthusiasm now with a renewed Social Justice Committee which works together toward a common goal. To help us achieve this, it was decided to have monthly meetings.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 10 at 11:45 in the Lounge.
For any questions, please call Pam Rhodes English 408-266-5942

Membership Committee News:

The Membership Committee meets at the Fellowship at 3:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month. All Fellowship members are invited to attend.

Volunteer of the Month

The Membership Committee is please to name Walt Main as volunteer of the month for July. Walt serves us as President of the Fellowship and represents us at many PCD and UUA meetings. He is an "ex officio" member of all Fellowship committees. Please say "thanks" to Walt the next time you see him.

Ciao.
Harry

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATE

Our Small Group Ministry groups have been very busy with their service projects lately! The Wednesday Evening Group sponsored our All Fellowship Annual Auction and celebrated a very successful auction by dining at Willow Street Pizza. The Sunday Afternoon Group has been collecting food and clothing items for St. Luke's Pantry, that distributes them to the homeless. The Tuesday Morning Group continues to care for the Fellowship indoor plants and is starting a new tradition in July – "Nurturing the Spirit Dinner Group", an informal dinner and discussion time.

There will be a Small Group Ministry Workshop at the Unitarian Universalist's of San Mateo on Sunday, July 31 from 5 - 8 pm. The workshop will cover:

- the philosophy of small group ministry or covenant groups,
- the role of small group facilitators,
- how to choose, train, and replace facilitators,
- how to administer the small group ministry program,
- the role of the minister,
- the service project aspect, and
- challenges and complications.

If you are interested in attending the workshop to find out more about Small Group Ministry or have an interest in joining one of our Small Group Ministry groups either as a participant or as a facilitator, please contact a member of the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee: Coralee Linton, Susan Parks, Katie Rall or Bill Scarvie.

LifeSpan Education Transitions

As I type this message, it is Summer Solstice, Litha in the Wiccan calendar. Solstice means “standing still sun” but it seems that both for the Summer and Winter Solstice we find our lives busier than ever. I seem to have little to time to stand still, let alone catch my breath. The kids aren’t apt to stand still either, especially in Midsummer. But the Solstice is also a time of transition, marking the wheel’s turn from light to dark.

Looking at the Summer Solstice as a time of transition is particularly appropriate as we move to a new Fellowship year. We have a minister on the way, hopes of a DRE and a new Lifespan Education Trustee, Sabine Omvik. I am excited to think of the RE program lead by Sabine and the new DRE, infusing new ideas and energy into the program. We will soon be selecting the curriculum for the coming year and reviewing tweaks or changes in the program’s format.

It has been an energetic year, but I don’t see the burnout of 5-6 years ago when the co-chairs of the RE committee handed over the reigns and, sadly, never came back. This year’s transition have been times of movement and change, but people are still engaged, even as they ease into other roles. Phyllis has continued to support the program and our Fellowship with love and beauty (have you seen the butterfly garden lately!? Wow!) And I will continue as a member of RECCY and at least an occasional teacher. It’s been heartening to see the program continue with strong support in the midst of change.

Another change this year was to recreate a paid position for the second teacher in the preschool room. Michelle Sierra is a joy to our youngest and providing consistency and support for Nan Bixler, who continues to cherish our little ones every Sunday she is at the Fellowship. We continue to rely on volunteers for all other teaching positions as well as for those times when Michelle or Nan are otherwise engaged.

As a special thanks to all those who support the children and youth program this year, by the first weekend in July, we will have a new picnic table for the play area on the west side of the parking lot. The inscription will read “With gratitude for the love and learning provided by our teachers. 2004-2005.” The names of teachers who dedicated 5 or more Sunday’s per year to the children’s program will also be written there. Please take a moment to thank the teachers. With only one Sunday service per week it is truly a gift to give time to our kids.

We’re taking a break this summer from curriculum classes. So far we’ve had discussions about current world conflicts, played a bit of UU Bingo and made “Father’s Day” cards to give to anyone who supports us in our daily lives (Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are both holidays to honor and appreciate people who take care of you, that spans many more people than gender and genetic lines define.) I still haven’t pulled out the origami or the list for the scavenger hunt, but it will soon be time. Other activities will be defined as people step forward to take on a class.

Thanks for the good times of the past, and the ones that are surely in our future.

Blessings,
Hollie Dunham

The Monday Evening Women's Group will be meeting informally this summer. Guests are welcome. Join us on the second and fourth Mondays of July and August from 7:15pm to 9:00pm in the lounge for good conversation and possibly a video or two.

Nurturing the Spirit Dinner Group

Sponsored by the Tuesday Morning Small Group Ministry Group

July 5, 6-8 pm: Bring your own dinner (not potluck) & come prepared to discuss the spiritual question: "How would you describe your own spiritual growth path and how can the community best support you in it?" No need to RSVP, but if you have questions, please call Katie (369-0433) or Lynn (997-2540).

CONNECTING AGAIN WITH OUR PARTNER CHURCH

Our Fellowship is renewing membership in the UU Partner Church Council and re-establishing ties with the Medgyes Unitarian Church in Romania. There has been a lapse in our Partner Church relationship because no one has picked up this responsibility. Following the June 19th sermon by the Rev. Julia Kocs-Meyers, our members and friends donated \$410 to send to the Rev. Kiss Karoly and the Medgyes congregation. This collection and the \$100 already in the current budget will be sent through the UU Partner Church Council.

Current Fellowship members who have visited the Partner Church in past years include Hugh Warner and Sharon Graham. Deceased member Ed Crane was a major supporter of the Partner Church, wanting to encourage liberal religious thought in that region. Nan Bixler and Julie Doyle have volunteered to pick up the on-going responsibility and would welcome others to join in their efforts.

INTERESTED IN WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO? The Board minutes and agendas are listed under "Board Meetings" on the left hand side of the home page of our website www.UUFLG.org.

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.

TIDBITS FROM THE DECK

Nan and Bob Bixler and son Ron had a brief trip to Ventura to attend the memorial services of Bob's brother. We extend our sympathy to them and their families.

We were saddened to hear the news of Dave Reiter's death on June 6th. Dave used to provide recorded music for the Fellowship services when we were meeting at the Recreation Center. He was 81 years old. The memorial service will be held in our building for him at a later date. It will be announced on our Announcement List.

Becky Sheldon graduated from Johnson State College in Vermont this spring. She has her BA in Hotel Management, and is currently looking for work.

Jim Sheldon will be attending the UU General Assembly this summer. This will be his fourth year to be a delegate to GA.

Phyllis Foxcroft just happened into a bank when it was being held up !! She says it was pretty tense and scary, but no one got hurt. Ask her about that experience!!

I was happy to have a good conversation with Diana Payne over the phone. She sends greetings to each of us. She is in a wheel chair now and can get around her home much better. She would appreciate an afternoon phone call.

It is good to have Karen and Bill Scarvie home from vacation, as well as Joanne and Norm Crane. We miss you when you are gone.

Pauline and Len Stonehill have enjoyed having visits from son Randy, and grandson Alex and his girl friend.

Ruth Webb, Pauline Stonehill, and Norm Crane are music coordinators for our Sunday Services. We appreciate you and your good works. We have had some outstanding music and thank you for making these arrangements. It was good to have Jenny Heath at the violin accompanied by Kathryn Chan on the piano.

Soon Julie and Jerry Doyle will be visiting daughter Tasha and new husband who live in Montana. Have fun!!

Edy Young is in Utah with friends and relatives.

Ann and Harry Campbell are visiting on Friday Island, WA.

Pam Rhodes English is visiting in Seattle and being a grandmother.

Jim Beebe had a great experience of river rafting on the Green River, Idaho, for 5 days.

Linda Krenicky has given a welcome gift of a computer to the Fellowship. Thank you very much.

Jo Cooley won several awards on her gourds displayed at an art show. Some firsts, seconds, and the grand prize! Congratulations!!

Marion Peterson has just returned from Southern California where she was at a grandson's graduation and Boy Scout awards dinner. Marion has signed up to learn how to be a docent at the Elkhorn Slough.

The caring committee now has information regarding the Hospice program. Give us a call and we can give you their printed information.

FYI, the Omviks had a grand time in Australia and New Zealand. Welcome home.

We send special healing thoughts and prayers to Lucille Reiter and family, George and Terry Gordons, Leo and Doris Boyd, Robin Connelly, Margo Smith, Barbara Kalmoutis, Frank Levy and Margaret Howard.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO: July 5- Geoff Bradley, July 7- Leslie Jones, July 10- Doris Boyd, July 11- Laura Doughty, July 13- Alexandra Robertson, July 13- Chris Washburn, July 14- Norman Crane, July 15- Lou Yabroff, July 16- Robin Curtis, July 18- Jinni Stahl, July 21- Leo Boyd, .

Bible Discussion Group - July 3, 12:00 PM- 1:00PM Topics this meeting, Matthew 5, Parables.

Coordinator Charlie Walton

A basic problem facing the United States today is the large number of voters who support what are called fundamentalist political positions. The New Testament values support aid to the poor, contrary to those who would cut aid programs.

Also, the N.T. quote ,“Let he who is without sin cast the first stone,“ opposes the death penalty, whereas conservative political leaders generally support the death penalty.

Charlie Walton

The Coffee Tasting Social was held on May 22 after the regular Service. Nine different Fair Trade coffees were served including three decaffeinated blends. Three teas were served, also. Those of you who attended were pleased with the coffees and teas offered. I did not take an official poll but I heard people expressing a preference for Mind, Body and Soul and the Colombian blends. People who, ordinarily, prefer the French Roast liked the one offered.

Your Social Justice Committee introduced Fair Trade Coffee so that we may serve it after Sunday Service, regularly. We plan to offer Fair Trade Coffee for sale to individual members, as a service. You may order the drip grind or whole bean coffee. Fair Traded coffees sold, retail, at local stores range in price from \$8.00 to \$12 per pound. We will offer excellent coffee at \$5.50 to \$6.50 per pound, depending on the blend. This includes a small fee for shipping mixed cases.

We support Fair Trade practices because the Equal Exchange Organization, partners with small farmer co-operatives so that the growers are paid a fair price for their product, eliminating middlemen. Farmers agree to use ecologically sound growing practices, eliminating the need to cut tropical rain forests. Some of the coffee blends are certified and labeled, organically grown. We join fellowships and congregations throughout North America and Europe in supporting farmers living in poverty, when we order Fair Traded products from the Equal Exchange organization.

We would like to thank the Thursday Morning Women’s group for lending their coffee makers and making the coffee. Claire Steely and Joanne Crane did a great job setting up. Pat Horton baked cookies and JJ Martin brought the other treats. Pat Horton did a stunning job with clean up. Be sure to thank Ann Campbell and Gratia Trevey for taking orders. It was not an easy job. Special thanks to Ann who has agreed to take your orders for coffee in the future. Our present plan is to take orders every other month. You can buy enough to last that long and keep it in the freezer. Ann will announce the ordering plan within the next few weeks. Think of giving Fair Traded Coffee for Christmas Hostess Gifts. I will make fabric gift bags in holiday colors/prints and take orders in November. Price to be announced then.

Edy Young, Social Justice co-chair with Pam Rhodes-English

The Women’s Alliance, First Unitarian Church, 160 North Third St., San Jose offers a Readers’ Theatre on Women’s History with once-a-month gatherings the first Thursday of each month, starting on Sept. 1, 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.

Original dramatic readings on women such as Sappho, Hypatia, Harriet Tubman, Florence Nightingale, Susan B. Anthony and Emma Goldman will be read by participants.

Meetings are free and refreshments will be served.

Call (408) 292-1172 or 984-5838 for details.

Meg Bowman

CALENDAR ITEMS

- July 1** 2:00p -4:00p Recorder Group Practice West By Invitation. Contact Pauline Stonehill.
- July 3** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Building See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
12:00p -1:00p Bible discussion group. Coordinator Charlie Walton
- July 4** 10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums East Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
- July 5** 10:00a -12:00p SGM meet Lounge By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.
5:00p -8:00p Nurture the Spirit Dinner - West The Tuesday SGM is hosting. Bring your own meal (this is not a potluck) and share conversation about a selected topic. See Katie Rall for more info.
- July 6** 5:30p -7:00p Bylaw Task Force Lounge All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting Lounge By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- July 7** 12:00p -1:00p RUMS Lunch on the deck Brown bag lunch on the deck (or inside if it is cold or rainy) for men with flexible time. Come and enjoy an hour or so of sociability. Contact Bob Bixler 356-5697, rbixler@jps.net for information.
- July 10** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Building See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
11:45 -1:00 Social Justice Committee Meeting
7:30p -11:00p Rental: Recital Hsiao-in Wang-T
- July 11** 10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
- July 14** 4:30p -6:30p Committee on Ministry - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Bill Scarvie or Julie Doyle
6:30p -9:00p Board Meeting - West Contact Margo Smith 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net
All are welcome
- July 17** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service - Building See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
11:45a -1:00p Lay Leader Training with Rev. Ben and Lynn O'Keefe
12:30p -2:30p SGM Sunday Meeting-East
- July 18** 10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
- July 19** 10:00a -12:00p SGM Meeting - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall or Lynn O'Keefe.
- July 20** 5:30p -7:00p Bylaw Task Force - Lounge All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting - Lounge By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- July 24** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service - Building See Nan Bixler nbixler@jps.net
11:45 to 1 pm. Sunday Service Committee meeting in the Lounge. Nan Bixler, contact.
- July 25** 10:30a -1:00p Monday Mums - East Contact Kristina Strand 395-5886
- July 31** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service - Buildng See NanBixler nbixler@jps.net

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



Fellowship News

July 2005

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