

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

November 2005 No.11; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, November 2005

Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am

November 6: “Who’s In Charge Here?” or “The Taste of Butter”

Part of this sermon title comes from a Hindu proverb, and it all is concerned with the use of the democratic process. Rev. Nancy preaching, Linda Krenicky, lay leader

November 13: “Building From the Heart”

--The importance of communities of faith as an underpinning to the work Habitat For Humanity does. The Rev. McCreath is Faith Relations Coordinator for the Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity. He works with congregations and other faith communities to increase financial and volunteer support for SVHfH.

Rev. McCreath is a retired Presbyterian pastor who moved to Los Gatos a year and a half ago from Louisville, Kentucky, where he was national director of the offices responsible for stewardship education. Earlier in his ministry he spent 20 years as staff and director of ecumenical agencies in Chicago and Texas. J.J. Martin, lay leader.

November 20: Guest at Your Table Sunday

Each year, around this time, UU congregations distribute little boxes from the UU Service Committee. We place these Guest at Your Table boxes on our dining tables and invite the world into our kitchens and dining rooms. Our Service Committee supports human needs and human rights throughout the world. This is an intergenerational service with our children participating. We will sing many songs. Service leaders, Rev. Nancy and DRE Kari Sparks. Musicians, Ruth Webb and Norm Crane.

November 27: “Our Religion is Us and We are It”

As Unitarian Universalists, we are open to diversity -with a wide variety of theological orientations among us. Rev. Nancy preaching, Linda Krenicky, lay leader.

Treasurer's Update

I'd like to update everyone on a regular basis regarding some of the activities and plans of the finance committee via the newsletter. In addition, there is much information about our financial activities on our website, www.uuflg.org.

We have just begun our regular program after the summer break with our new full time minister and DRE and while it has only been two Sunday services since the pancake breakfast kick-off, I am excited by the changes. It is great to have Nancy and Kari on board. Funding both the minister and DRE positions were the key goals of last spring's canvas and will be key to our continued growth.

Recent activities include:

- Review of the insurance coverage for the Fellowship
- Funding for part time RE teacher
- Funding for part time ministerial administrative assistant
- Review of potential land donation to the Fellowship through a LLP
- Sharing of book keeping tasks
- Monthly review and tracking of P&L Statement, Balance Sheet and budgets

Near term plans include:

- Prepare finance operations guidelines for board approval.
- Provide information and guidelines for bequests and endowments.

Finally we would like to welcome Ann Campbell as a new finance committee member and encourage anyone else interested in helping manage the Fellowship's finances to join us. Our next meeting will be held Sunday Oct 9th at 9:00 in the lounge.

-John Omvik

Holiday Wanderers Boutique.

November 6th 11:30 am to 3 pm
First Unitarian Church of San Jose
110 North Third St., San Jose.
Arts & Crafts by local Artists

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The CoM held it's first potluck/discussion on October 14 concerning how to help our fellowship members and friends feel the love and caring of this special place. Some of the ideas were: More family outings and special events that include the whole family, group projects, special events where we get to know each other better, adult education classes, a large and loving caring committee, more support for those that are home bound, feeling comfortable enough to ask for help when we need it, and making a "village" of support for each other.

Please come to the next potluck/discussion groups being held Oct. 27, Nov. 4 and Nov. 17. We need your ideas and great food!

Chalice Circle Update

We conducted our Chalice Circle evaluation last month and wanted to share with you what some of the participants indicated that they have received from participating the Chalice Circle Program. There were several common themes, including: closer friendships and deeper understanding of the other members in the circle; exploration of own feelings and thoughts while exploring own spirituality; and appreciation of the greatness of our members. One anonymous quote: "I've been challenged to think about UU principles, learning more about my religion, and I've come to think of myself as a UU where I didn't really do that before. Now I no longer think of myself as an ex-Christian, but as a UU – a religion that has identity. I feel part of the larger UU denomination."

If this sounds like something that you would like to be receiving in your life, please contact any member of the Chalice Circle Steering Committee (Bill Scarvie, Coralee Linton, Katie Rall, and Susan Parks) for more information. We currently have three groups meeting and will start new groups as interest allows – there is a place for YOU in our Chalice Circle Program!

Minister's Musings

At the "Where Do We Go From Here? Meeting" on October 1, there were approximately 25 to 30 people present. Most of the folks are long time members. (I report here from the excellent notes taken by Margo Smith. Margo's complete, verbatim notes are available from her at ricepaper@sbcglobal.net)

We did a time line first. The Fellowship was established in 1949, but the earliest of those present had joined in 1960, so we went through decade by decade up to the 2000's.

Then we addressed the question: Where would you like the Fellowship to be in five years - in 2010? The answers - *a visible presence in the community/ *professional music program/ *flourishing RE program/ *strong governance process/ *cohesion not dependent on minister/ *leadership ministry/ *exciting - in depth adult RE/ *strong interest in social justice/ *ad hoc small groups/ *programs that attract stable membership numbers/ *mainstream UU Church/ *set of programs that encourage interaction and support/ *teen college youth members/

The next question was: Where would you like the Fellowship to be in ten years - in 2015? The answers - *in a larger building/ *larger building on different site/ *two Sunday services (180 membership) *membership less than 200/ *really good minister and associate minister/ *transportation for people who need it/ *dial-in services/ *TV or video services/ *parish nurse/

Then we did some "brain storming." The question was asked: Where in the future do you see this Fellowship in your wildest dreams? The sky's the limit!

I report these dreams in narrative form: This future Fellowship features several buildings, a campus really, surrounded by a forest, and beautiful views of nature. All buildings are of 100% Green construction with solar panels. The main building is two stories high with an elevator, a sanctuary and an assembly room that

will hold all members. There is a book store (Beacon Press books), a gift shop and a coffee shop.

There is a Religious Education building with a K - 12 UU religious day-school that also provides after school care and tutorial services. These facilities are also used for Sunday School, of course.

We see a Conference Center with a swimming pool and spa, and a restaurant with vegan/vegetarian food. There are Hostel facilities here. But wait! There's more... a retirement facility with a senior drop-in center and a hospital.

The programs that go on here, including those already mentioned, are: a complete music program for all ages, campus outreach, a weekly social dance, Preschool/parent participation preschool with parent education, music concerts to raise funds, an organic garden, yearly visits to partner church, General Assembly participation, and Leadership school participation.

And, what of the ministers to serve here? One answer was two ministers, one parish minister and one RE minister. And then, four ministers, parish, music, pastoral care, and RE. And, what kind of minister? One who is both young and wise.

Also envisioned is a \$10 million endowment fund and more land.

So that was the collective dream on a Saturday afternoon.

As I look this over, looking at the five year and ten year visions, and even the "no holds barred vision," it seems to me (as a new observer) that at least some of this is doable. Cogitate on it, meditate on it, you could come up with something. My computer search could not tell me about Ted Kennedy's eulogy at Robert's funeral. He said something like, "my brother dreamed things that never were, and said, "Why not?" " If any of you can find that, please let me know.

Yours in the faith, Nancy

Newcomer's Circle

On Sunday, November 6, at 12:00 pm, we will have a Newcomer's Circle after the service. This is a get-together with the minister and some long time members that offers visitors and newcomers a chance to ask questions and learn more about our Fellowship. You are invited to help yourself to refreshments and then join us in the Lounge (just off the main hallway).

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

We are invited to an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:30pm at Shir

Hadash Congregation - 20 Cherry Blossom Lane. This is a Los Gatos gathering of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Moslem folks. Rev. Nancy will be giving the scripture reading and we may contribute snack food for the reception if we wish.

Coming in January

Building Your Own Theology
Adult RE Study Group

Walt Main and Rev. Nancy will lead this workshop - in eight sessions. This is a new edition of this old favorite. Dates and times to be determined by December.

Words From Your DRE

As I celebrated my nth-birthday in October I thought about all that I am grateful for: my family, friends, and the volunteers that have dedicated their time to teach our UU children.

I am thankful for Nan recovering from her ailments and returning to the pre-school classroom, Michelle for leading the class and being enthusiastic and committed, Kristin for returning to our UU family (and including her own daughter) and teaching again, Margo for leading the YoUUtH Afghan Women's project, and our many dedicated volunteers: Hollie, Chris, Pam, Leslie, Joe, Sabine, Karen, Julie, JJ, Pat, Barbara, and Hsiao-In. Thank you! (Please forgive me if I did not state your name.) If you would like to volunteer to help the children please sign-up on our schedule board by the front door.

Furthermore, I am thankful for what the YoUUtH have been doing. Lead by Margo Smith and the Social Justice Committee they are putting together a project to raise funds for Afghan women. Donations

will be solicited; those wishing to make a donation in honor of another person will receive a hand-designed card for their honoree and/or piece of jewelry, also created by the youth. Those wishing to make a regular donation will receive a piece of jewelry as a thank you gift. Donations will be tax deductible. The youth will be soliciting on the deck after Fellowship and, hopefully, other times and places TBD. Each week the youth will be working on jewelry, preparing marketing materials, learning about *a little help* and making plans to help them promote their cause. We are looking for volunteers to help with jewelry making, marketing, and planning. Please contact me if you'd like to help.

Lastly, we will be having a CLEAN UP PARTY on Saturday, November 12th, from 1:30 to 3:30. After cleaning out our closets and bookshelves we will have great food, folks, and fun. First, second, and third place prizes will be given out. Don't miss the festivity! Please email me if there are any questions: dre@uufg.org.

"The end my friend."

--Kari Sparks, DRE

IT'S "GREENING" TIME AGAIN. That is decorating the Fellowship building for the holiday season. Saturday Dec. 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12: 00, the whole Fellowship is invited to help. Grown ups and kids, let's all get together to make our Fellowship home festive.

We already have quite a few decorations, but we'd especially like more Holiday Banners to hang on the walls. If you have a banner you're not using, would you please bring it with you.

The Morning Women's Group is sponsoring this activity. Call Ruth Webb for information 356-1735.

Nurture the Spirit Dinner

Everyone Welcome!! Please join us for this Nurture the Spirit Dinner on Monday, November 7 from 6-8 PM. Bring your own dinner & share conversation about our Second Principle, "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations" and what this means to you personally and in the context of our UUFLG community.

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.

Social Justice Committee News

The Social Justice Committee held it's last meeting Sun., Oct. 16 and much activity was reported.

Four girls from our youth group, Kelli Smith, Jenny Heath, Kristin Jones, and Alexandra Robertson, have been working on projects to support Rosemary Stasek's ...a little help project for women in Afghanistan. The girls have been selling Afghan treats (provided by Julie Doyle) at coffee hour. They have also been creating lovely cards and bracelets which they will giving to people who would like to donate to . . . a little help -- in lieu of giving Christmas presents this year. You will be hearing much more about their project. Please stop by the table and support our generous and thoughtful youth.

Eleven participants representing UUFLG worked from 8 - 4 at the Murphy Ave. Habitat for Humanity building site on Sat., Oct. 15. Everyone enjoyed the experience and would like to do it again. We can sign up to work again as a church group in December and in the new year if we tell the HfH office a month or so ahead of time. Individuals are free to drop by and volunteer at any time. Forms have been and will continue to be available at the Social Justice table during coffee hour.

Beginning Sun, Nov. 13, UUFLG will begin our charitable program, "Share the Plate" (previously referred to as "Split Plate"). "Share the Plate" means that for that day, the Sun-

day service collection, not designated as pledge money, will be divided evenly between a specific charitable organization and the Fellowship. If was decided to address specific local needs instead of needs already addressed by well-established national and global organizations.

We plan to have a "Share the Plate" Sunday every other month, beginning on Nov. 13. On that day, half of our donations will go to Habitat for Humanity for purchase of a kitchen sink. We are considering other local organizations who we would like to support. Please contact the Social Justice Committee if you have an idea and the committee will select a different charitable organization for each "Share the Plate" collection. Please remember that for StP collections, all checks must be made out to the Fellowship -- UUFLG. Checks that are meant for pledges must be marked "Pledge" and will not be shared with the charity. After the service, Irving Yabroff, our bookkeeper, will total the amount of money donated to UUFLG, that is not "Pledge" money, divide that amount by two, and write a check to the chosen charitable organization for their share. The other half goes to UUFLG. It is our hope that "Share the Plate" will be a program that illuminates our caring community and will benefit both charitable organizations and our Fellowship.

Our next meeting is tentatively set for Sun. Nov. 13 12:15 - 1:15. All welcome.

The PCD-UUA Stebbins Summer Gathering at Asilomar, invites you to a workshop selection meeting Saturday Dec. 10, 2005 at the Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church (www.mduuc.org). There will be a potluck lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 and workshop presentations 12:30 to 2:00).

We are looking for some new workshops. Do you have a workshop you would like to present? Is there someone who could give a workshop you would like to attend? Please come and bring a friend.

Whether you would like to present a workshop or not, please join us for a friendly time and to help us select this

year's group of workshops. We will be stronger because of your presence. For a copy of the workshop brochure, call Dick LeBlanc at 510-234-3524. For more information about our program, call Jann Rose Schaub at 925-938-5454 or check our website at www.serve.com/stebbins.

The conference, July 29 to August 3, 2006, "Finding the Way Forward: Connecting Forgiveness, Self Discovery and Global Healing", is pleased to announce two theme speakers: Reverend Cathleen Cox Burneo, community minister with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley; and Dr. Fred Luskin, cofounder and director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Thanks to Marion Peterson for arranging clothing etc, for the Oct. pick-up for Friends Outside Organization.

Thanks to the following folks who worked a full day at the Habitat house building project: Pam and Bill English, Lynn O'Keefe, Katie Rall and son Nick, and a friend, Susan Parks, Ben Strand, and Connie Springer with 2 friends. This is a project of our Social Justice Committee.

Joanne and Norm Crane had a grand trip to New Zealand thru Friendship Force for Peace agency.

Lida Kluzak is off to see the sights of Egypt, and Sharon Graham is on her way to visit family and Pat Horton in southern California.

Welcome home to Ann and Harry Campbell who had a month in France with daughter, Emily.

Cal Clauer enjoyed a visit with his daughter Lyn from Connecticut. Marty and Rick had a short visit with their parents Irving and Lou Yabroff

Shirley Rosenberg is recuperating from a bout with pneumonia.

The pot luck supper sponsored by the COM was very enjoyable to all who came. Good food and good discussions were enjoyed by all. Watch for their next evening of good discussion and come. A good evening is guaranteed!!

The "old lounge" is taking on a "new look", and is being sponsored by the building committee. It will become our new small multi-purpose room. Plans are for Rev. Nancy to hold conferences, discussions, meetings etc. It will continue to be a meeting place for small groups, chalice groups, women's spirituality meetings, class room, etc. Thanks to all who are helping in this project.

The Thursday A.M. Women's group is planning an activity for the whole family. Ruth Webb is chairman of the arrangements to decorate the building for the holidays. Come join us on Dec. 3rd, at 10 a.m.

Warm greetings and best wishes to Barbara Kalmoutis, Shirley Rosenberg, Frank Levy, Margaret Howard, Diana Payne, Cathy Clauer, Robin Connelly, and Coralee Linton, and YOU.

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November Birthdays: 1st – Kristin Jones, 4th -Bob Bixler, 8th - Tim Mathiessen, 12th - Lida Kluzak, 15th-Syambra Moitozo, 16th- Kelley Smith, 20th- Robin Connelly, 21st- Brandon Connelly, 21st-Stacey Dunn, 22nd Edy Young.

Here are brief bios of the new members:

Phyllis Foxcroft is a recent new member, and have no doubt enjoyed her piano playing. Music has always been a part of her life. She has accompanied many singers and other musicians. Phyllis was born in Saskatchewan, Canada. As a child they moved to Van Couver, Canada, and in 1949, she and her husband came to the Bay Aea. She has 4 grown children and 5 grandchildren. She graduated with a teaching degree from Hayward and taught 10 years in special ed. Her husband also was a teacher. Her husband participated in the "Snoopy World Hockey Tournament," playing with Charles Schultz in Santa Rosa. Her husband continued to play hockey until he was 82 years old. Welcome, Phyllis.

Karen Hyams was born and raised in Pittsburg, PA. She came West 8 years ago, spending 4 years in San Francisco and 4 years in Los Gatos. Karen and her husband, Doug Bunting, have one ten year old son, Cass, who will be celebrating his birthday on Halloween! Karen is a staff member for the 2nd year at a private school in Santa Clara, Cedarwood Sudbury School.

Karen's hobbies are reading, knitting, doing family outings, and she enjoys taking care of animals. Karen is an artist working in mixed medias but prefers oils. She has been an art docent working with Ann Katherine Walton. One of her specialities is grant writing, and she is an organizational specialist.

Welcome Karen to the Fellowship.

Suzanne Jo is a native Californian and has lived most of her life in the Bay Area. She is an artist, loves to paint, has done design work, and her last employement was with HP in the Human Relations department. Currently she is a full time mom for Alexis. She and Charles are expecting a new baby in April. Suzanne is spending a great deal of time helping her parents who live in Sunnyvale.

Charles Jo is a native of Korea and came to the USA when he was 8 years old. Charles has his degree in Psychobiology from U.C Riverside. He is currently employed at Life Scan, a division of Johnson and Johnson, in Milpitas. His parents are living in Fremont. Carolyn says between Charles and his parents they are slowly teaching Alexis a few Korean words. Charles hobby is exploring and learning new technology in the inter-net field. He is interested in spiritual and mental growth. Both Suzanne and Charles are enjoying being parents for the first time!

Welcome Suzanne, Charles, and Alexis Jo!

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Nov 1** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle Meeting By Invitation. Contact Katie Rall
1:00p -2:30p Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Lounge. All interested are invited. See Bob Bixler.
3:00p -4:30p Membership Committee Meeting (in West Room) Everyone is welcome to attend. For information contact Harry Campbell (Secretary of the UUFLG Membership Committee).
6:30p -8:00p Sunday Services Committee Lounge. All are welcome. Contact Nan Bixler
- Nov 2** 7:00p -9:00p SGM Meet Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle
- Nov 3** 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.
- Nov 4** 6:00p -9:00p COM Focus Group Potluck
- Nov 6** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler, nbixler@jps.net
- Nov 7** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories Morning Session West. Sheila Dunec*
6:00p -8:00p Nurture the Spirit Dinner. Bring Your Own Dinner & Share Conversation - Everyone is Welcome!! Sponsored by the Tuesday Morning Chalice Circle - Contact Katie Rall
- Nov 8** 9:45a -12:00p Women's Group West. All Women are invited. Call Joanne Crane at 268-2199 for more info.
10:30a -1:00p Tuesday Mums East. See Kristina Strand for information
1:00p -2:30p Bylaw Task Force Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Nov 10** 6:30p -9:00p Board Meeting West. Contact Margo Smith, 408-674-8933 ricepaper@sbcglobal.net All are welcome
- Nov 12** 1:30p -3:30p RE Clean Up Party Building. After cleaning there will be prizes, food, folks, and fun! Everyone is welcome. See Kari Sparks for more info.
- Nov 13** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler, nbixler@jps.net
12:15p -1:15p S. J. Comm. Meeting West. Ann Campbell or Lynn O'Keefe
- Nov 14** 10:00a -12:00p Life Stories Morning Session -- West.Morning Session: Sheila Dunec*
7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Nov 16** 7:00p -9:00p SGM meeting Lounge. By Invitation. Contact Julie Doyle or Doug Doughty
- Nov 17** 6:00p -9:00p COM Focus Group Potluck.
- Nov 20** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler - nbixler@jps.net
12:30p -2:30p SGM Sunday Meeting-E
- Nov 22** 10:00a -12:00p Chalice Circle by invitation. Contact Katie Rall
10:30a -1:00p Tuesday Mums East. See Kristina Strand for Information
1:00p -2:30p Bylaw Task Force Lounge. All are Welcome. Contact Walt Main
- Nov 27** 10:30a -11:30a Sunday Service Building. See NanBixler - nbixler@jps.net
- Nov 28** 7:15p -9:00p Women's Spirituality Group Lounge. Contact Ann Campbell - 374-8844
- Nov 29** 10:30a -1:00p Tuesday Mums East. See Kristina Strand for Information
4:30p -6:30p Chalice Circle Steering Committee Meeting

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



Fellowship News

November 2005

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.