

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



## *Fellowship News*

February 2004. No. 2; published 12 months each year. Richard and Marnie Francisco, Editors

**SUNDAY PROGRAMMING FOR FEBRUARY**  
**Sunday Services begin at 10:30 AM**  
**Sunday Forums this month will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays: 12 – 1 PM**  
**(Childcare provided)**

### **February 1, 2004: “Concert and Storytelling on Divine Desire”**

**by Julie McKay**

Julia McKay is a composer, “storyweaver” and music minister who is committed to enhancing lives by promoting passionate living. Julia, a Colorado native and former public school teacher, uses music as a profound tool to open the heart and create connection. Julia is also an activist and founder of “Spiritfingers Music.” She currently attends Starr King School for the Ministry.

### **February 8, 2004: “Power”**

**by Erika Hewitt, Minister**

Power. There are many interpretations of the word and just as many applications. Who has it in congregations? Who *should* have it, and what should it be used for? This sermon will examine power and explore why every theory of power is implicitly a theory of community.

The Safe Congregation Task Force will hold its second *Town Hall Meeting* from 12 – 2PM. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Also, please note, this meeting is not a repeat of our first meeting and is for **members only**. We will discuss the recent task force and board actions. Childcare will be provided. The members of the Safe Congregation Task Force are: **Bob Shebesta; Tim Connelly; Julie Doyle; Hollie Dunham and Sharon Graham**. Please look for a letter from the board about the meeting.

### **February 15, 2004: "Ocean: An Ecology of Soul"**

**by Adam Robersmith**

Adam who is a writer, storyteller, musician and a Divinity student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, provides the following scenario for his talk: *In 1934, William Beebe took a world-record descent into the depths of the ocean in a bathysphere. Here and now, our religion offers us the opportunity to deeply explore our lives and our communities. From the familiar at the surface to the unimaginable at the depths, Beebe's observations and discoveries serve to tell us as much about human life as they do about the life in the sea. As we explore our relationships and ourselves, the ocean's ecology can help us understand what we find.*

Forum 12-1 PM: **Dr. Martin L. Fishman**, a practicing physician in Los Gatos, and immediate Past-President of the Santa Clara County Medical Association will discuss the current crisis in healthcare and future trends.

### **February 22, 2004: “Divine Chaos”**

**by Erika Hewitt, Minister**

We’ve all experience chaos in some form, but what’s it good for? On the brink of Mardi Gras, which itself ushers in Lent, this Sunday we’ll hear about physics, early Christianity, beads, and bacchanalia (not necessarily in that order) as we let our hair down in a celebration of divine chaos.

*Following this service there will be a good-bye reception for our departing Director of Religious Education, Diana Humphrey. Please plan to join us!*

### **February 29, 2004: An Intergenerational Service – “Great Performances of 2003”**

**Led by the UUFLG Musical Group**

This entirely musical Sunday morning service will feature repeat performances from the past year of some of the especially memorable moments by our UUFLG musicians. Come again and hear the lovely music that is sure to touch your heart and perhaps your “funny bone.”

Forum 12-1 PM: **Meg Lumsdaine**, a Lutheran Pastor, and **Peter Lumsdaine**, coordinator of the Military Globalization Project will give an “Eye-witness Account of a Recent Fact- Finding Trip to Conflict Zones of Baghdad, Karbala, and the Sunni Triangle.”

## Minister's Corner by Erika Hewitt



Although nobody at UUFLG has ever asked me this question, I'm sure that more than a few of you wonder how I choose my sermon topics. After all, I've been well aware of your collective penchant for intellectual fodder ever since I gave my first "presentation" at this Fellowship in 1998. I'm just as aware that some of you are growing a tad weary of sermons that address so-called "spiritual" issues.

Why do I make the choices that I do?

Here's the short answer to that question: the challenging responsibility of parish ministers is to preach – or, if you prefer, "speak" – about topics that we perceive as important growing edges for our congregations. There are lots of ways to get a message across: sermons can be "prophetic" (calling a congregation toward a vision or commitment), "pastoral" (comforting and affirming), or purely informational. There are Sundays, too, when the whole point is to have fun and feel uplifted, especially as an intergenerational community.

It would be nice if we could take the latter approach every Sunday, wouldn't it? Usually there are, alas, so many topics to tackle in any given month that I find myself planning some "broccoli" sermons to go along with our "dessert" services. When I sat down to plan February's services, for example, I reflected on what's floating in our congregational atmosphere – and there's *lots* of grist for the mill! Just to name a few of the issues we're sitting with:

- Our beloved Director of Religious Education, **Diana Humphrey**, and her daughter **Camille** are about to bid us farewell to begin a new life with Diana's husband-to-be, **Ben Carlson**, in Massachusetts
- We've received the Conflict Management Team's thorough report and recommendations, prompting intense planning and eventual work
- We'll hold an important Town Hall meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, led by the Safe Congregation Task Force
- The Committee on Shared Ministry is pulling out all the stops to get Covenant Group Ministries off the ground in our Fellowship *Whew!*

Given all of the challenges and changes before us, we definitely need services for *recreation* ("re" + "creation"), which our two all-music services will provide on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. We ought to talk about the emotional effects of all of these changes – and sure, get a little crazy to boot – which we'll do on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in a bittersweet Mardi Gras service *cum* good-bye party for Diana. But there's also a metaphorical elephant in the Fellowship these days that needs to be talked about: *power* (everyone seems to think that someone else has more, but shouldn't). Come hear about that on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and then come back on the 15<sup>th</sup> for a return visit from **Adam Robersmith**.

That's right: I hope that you'll join us for all five Sunday services in February (this Leap Year alignment hasn't happened since 1948, and won't happen again until 2032!). But most of all, I hope that you keep communicating with me and/or with **J.J. Martin**, the Chair of your Sunday Service Committee, to share your ideas for future Sundays in a proactive manner.

Don't forget that February will also offer opportunities for social connection, growth, and plain old fun: women, please join me to make alternative valentines on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup>. And all friends and members are encouraged to come to one or more "drop-in" Covenant Group circles later in the month (see COM article later in this newsletter). Finally, as always, my door is open to you during my weekly office hours. Here's to us, as we carry on together!

Shine on,  
Erika



**Minister Erika Hewitt** will host the **Second Annual Women's Alternative Valentine Making Party** on Thursday, February 5, 2004. Instead of hearts and lace, we'll craft 3-D tokens of affection using beads, maps, fortunes, paint tiles, coins... you name it. Erika will provide supplies, snacks, and music. Please bring extra "stuff," and a glue gun, if you have one. We'll meet our Muses in the West Room from 6—8 PM. See you then!

### **Office Hours for February 2004**

Thursday, February 5, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Women's Alternative Valentine Making 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 12, 2004: 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, February 19, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Covenant Group drop-in Circle 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 26, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Covenant Group drop-in Circle 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Office Hours for Thursday March 4, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Covenant Group drop-in Circle 7:00 - 8:00 PM

## President's Corner by Susan Parks



To our Fellowship,

In these last several months I have spoken on several fronts: about “*how do we want to ‘be’ together when we profoundly disagree;*” about why your Board of Trustees called in the Pacific Central District’s (PCD) **Conflict Management Team (CMT)**; about trust and working through how we can get back on the path to trusting one another. Many of us were able to attend the CMT presentation on January 18, 2004. And by now, even if you haven’t attended the meeting, you have the report that was handed out. Hopefully you have read it and considered it carefully. Perhaps you have talked among yourselves about what it means.

Now would be a good time for us all to pause and reflect, to catch our breath before we start anew with the ideas the CMT and, indeed, many of you have given us.

These questions were asked at the CMT meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2004: “*What are our next steps?*” And “*what is the board going to do?*” These are valid questions. By the time you read this, the Board will have already met once to start the process of setting goals specific to the recommendations in the CMT report. Regardless, key to the Fellowship’s successful recovery will be your input, your time, and your dedication to turning this into the Fellowship you want it to be. I will repeat what I said last month: “*In the weeks and months to follow I cannot emphasize enough the importance of intentionally working in covenant together as we sift through the recommendations. As a Fellowship, we will have to make tough decisions in order to determine the future of this community.*” And, like many of you, the Board of Trustees is looking forward to helping our Fellowship come to the decisions that need to be made.

For those who have not heard yet, there is cause for celebration! **Diana Humphrey** will be getting married in a very short time. However, this wonderful change in her life means that she and **Camille** will be moving back east to start their new family. It is with great sorrow that the Board of Trustees has accepted her resignation as our loved Director of Religious Education (DRE). Join us in congratulating Diana on her good news and in thanking her and Camille for all the wonderful gifts they have shared with us. We are ever grateful. The Religious Education Committee for Children and Youth (RECCY) has started the process of advertising for an interim DRE. Please contact Diana or **Julie Doyle** for questions you may have regarding the RECCY program.

Your Board of Trustees has been working hard to make progress with the Nominating Committee appointees as mandated in the Bylaws. We have our nominees and by the time you are reading this, we will have held a special board meeting to vote on our appointments. Watch for our announcement of the additional member and chair of this important committee. They are due to meet by the end of January – Whew!

As you may recall, **Ann Campbell** was elected at the Fall Business Meeting to serve as alternate for the Nominating Committee. Now that Diana is stepping away from the Fellowship, the Board has asked Ann to replace Diana as a regular member of the Nominating Committee. This committee works hard every year to study the needs and leadership requirements of the Fellowship, and then to interview and select the prospective Trustees and/or Chairpersons for various vacancies. Please help support their work as they create the slate for our coming election at the Spring Business Meeting.

As I have also mentioned in previous columns, your Board of Trustees is moving with great care in working through its recovery from the actions at the Fall Business Meeting. We continue to strive for harmony amongst ourselves so that we can move forward in a healthy manner and properly perform the duties in which we have been entrusted.

A final note: as always, regular Board of Trustees meetings are on the second Thursday of the month. The next one is February 12, 2004, 7:00 PM sharp. Please come early (6:45 PM) for conversation.

Warmest Regards



### BOARD

For all you “policy wonks,” our being on an ad hoc committee to The intent of this committee is to you have experience or interest, please give Susan Parks a call: 408-261-2956 or [sparksuuflg@earthlink.net](mailto:sparksuuflg@earthlink.net). This is an opportunity to participate in a positive way to impact our Fellowship.

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

Board of Trustees is looking for individuals, who would be interested in review personnel policies. provide policy recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Fellowship. If

News from the Director of Religious Education and Children's Programming  
by Diana Humphrey, DRE

*"Out of darkness shall come dawn.  
Out of winter shall come spring.  
From the seed shall come the scarlet rose.  
Out of striving shall come peace."*



### New Beginnings

I get to experience two springs this year. On my walk yesterday I noticed how the furry magnolia buds are beginning to swell on the trees. My tulips are poking their sharp teeth out of the soil. The hillsides are green and by February all the blossoms will be out on the plum trees. In California we have deep spring by February.

In Massachusetts right now it is freezing cold, with snow on the ground and no sign of little buds or green grass. Rumor has it (is it true?) that blossoms often don't appear until April, that sometimes there is snow until April. My mom said yesterday, "Oh, but then you'll have dogwood blossoms. We don't have them here. They are so beautiful."

When I first came to this fellowship two years ago you were all like those dogwood blossoms are to me now - an unknown, something not yet revealed. Over this time we have spent together I have had so many new experiences bloom in my life - new friendships, new opportunities for learning, new challenges, new questions, new answers. I have been a teacher of this fellowship's children for my entire tenure here and that experience has brought me to the knowledge that teaching is a definite part of my life's path. My experience as your Director of Religious Education has helped me hone my organizational and leadership skills and to gain a deeper understanding of my Unitarian faith.

I am grateful to the members of this community for giving me these opportunities to learn so much. I am grateful to you for entrusting me with the care of your children. I will never forget what they have taught me, for they have really been my teachers.

This fellowship is in a time of intense transition. I encourage you to see this as a tremendous opportunity to live out the spirit of the Unitarian Universalist principles we all value so highly. This is the finest kind of religious education we can give the children of this community - the living example of adults who, even in times of conflict, can be respectful of one another and work side by side to create a positive future for the whole.

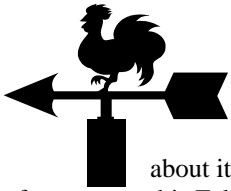
The children's program will continue to grow and flourish under the direction of our strong RECCY and the new leadership that will come forward. I wish everyone bright skies and smooth sailing. Stop by for a lobster roll if you're ever on Cape Cod. . . . In Fellowship -- Diana

### News from the Committee on Shared Ministry

**Committee Members: Katie Rall, chair, Doug Doughty, Julie Doyle and Bill Scarvie**

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is again this month's newsletter theme as our Fellowship begins to more deeply explore this exciting process. One of the distinguishing characteristics of SGM compared to many other small groups is the structured framework within which the participants interact. While the activity within the group can be wide-ranging, it is the formal structure that insures inclusiveness and continuity. Which leads to the second distinguishing characteristic of SGM -- there is a trained facilitator as part of each group. The facilitator is a full participant of the group, but this person has the additional responsibility of insuring the structure of SGM and the groups Covenant of Right Relations are followed. The facilitator is typically a member of a second SGM composed of all the facilitators -- this group allows for discussions of what is working well, how to improve the process, and to refine facilitation skills. Selection of facilitators is a deliberate process usually involving a consensus between professional and lay leaders. Individuals with good relational skills and an understanding of the difference between facilitation and leading or teaching are candidate facilitators; they are not expected to be experts or content providers. It is natural to ask: "But where are we going to find facilitators when we have a hard enough time filling committee leadership positions?" Here we must rely on the experience of the myriad congregations engaged in SGM. This process is so engaging and rewarding -- as it successfully fulfills that need for intimacy -- that the up swelling of participation will bring forth the facilitators. And they typically stick with it because they are surrounded with a training support structure that does not leave them abandoned.

If you are interested in trying out the Small Group Ministry experience we invite you to attend any or all of three drop-in sessions planned for February 19 (facilitator: **Erika Hewitt**); February 26 (facilitator: **Doug Doughty**); and March 4 (facilitator: **Bill Scarvie**). The sessions will be held at the Fellowship from 7 – 8 PM.



## UUFLG Bulletin Board for February

We will kick off our Canvass soon for the 2004/2005 Fellowship year. I saw that a nearby UU church talked about its upcoming canvass in a unique way, and thought I'd borrow that technique to remind you of the financial realities of this Fellowship community. Do you know how much each member would have to give in order to achieve an annual budget of \$150,000? Based upon 150 members, if each member gave equally, the answer is \$1000. For a couple or family, that is \$2000. Obviously, not all members can afford to pledge \$1000 and many members can and do pledge significantly higher. Can you afford to increase your pledge to offset those who cannot contribute \$1000? As your finance chair, I believe we are "living" hand to mouth. It is time to build financial wealth within our fellowship. Once your personal bills are paid, where are your discretionary funds going? Why not send those discretionary funds to the fellowship? This organization will be around long after you and I are gone. In the grand scheme of life, we are only here for a brief time – let's leave our legacy with a vibrant, liberal religious organization with social & financial power greater than any one of us. We almost own the building and land outright. Now is the time to grow our bank account so we don't need to fret if the roof starts leaking. I look forward to working alongside all of you - growing and glowing towards a brighter future..... Steve Springer

**A Reminder:** On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> (12 PM) we will have a "Brain Storming Meeting" to generate new ideas to add sparkle to our annual auction. Attending this meeting also does not mean that you have to be on the Auction Committee. We just want ideas. Please contact Sharon Graham for more information: (408) 356-5532 or email [shsron.graham@comcast.net](mailto:shsron.graham@comcast.net)

**Moms of infants and toddlers are welcome to join the "Monday Mums." We meet most Mondays from 10:30 AM-12:00 in the West Room for playtime and camaraderie. Please call Kristina Strand, (408) 395-5886 if interested.**

**New Exploring Unitarian Universalism Program:** The next Exploring UU program will start on February 15<sup>th</sup> after Sunday service. This program is for visitors and non-members who would like to inquire into Unitarian Universalism in general and into our Los Gatos Fellowship in particular. The structure of the program is designed to give the attendees a well-rounded overview of Unitarian Universalism. In addition to providing general information and UU history, we will introduce the participants to members of our fellowship and we will share our own UULGF history and how we conduct our Sunday services through a description of what the different parts of the service mean. The program ends with a welcoming service for those who express an interest in joining our fellowship. Existing members of the Fellowship are also welcome to attend. If you are interested in the program please contact Bob Shebesta: (408)203-6248. Childcare will be provided only with advance notification. The meetings will start one-half hour after Sunday service in the west room. Each session is ninety minutes.

Announcing a Series on "EARTH BASED SPIRITUALITY" with **Anne Hill** and sponsored by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. Anne Hill has been involved in activist and Pagan circles in the San Francisco Bay Area for almost 20 years, and has taught classes, intensives and workshops in feminist spirituality with Reclaiming in the US, Canada, and England. Along with **Starhawk** and **Diane Baker**, Anne co-authored the bestselling "Circle Round: Raising Children in Goddess Traditions (Bantam, 1998)." To register, mail the coupon below (one coupon per person), together with your check, to: First Unitarian Church of Oakland, Attention: Adult Religious Education, 685 Fourteenth Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Have questions answered at [re@uuoakland.org](mailto:re@uuoakland.org) or telephone (510) 893-6129 x6

**REGISTRATION COUPON** - First Unitarian Church of Oakland --Please register me for Anne Hill's Earth-Based Spirituality Workshops, as follows:

- 1/28/04 Workshop - Music & Ritual \$10.00
- 2/25/04 Workshop -- Spiritual Child Raising in a Technological Age, \$10.00
- 3/10/04 Workshop - A View of Women in Spiritual Leadership: The Path of the Priestess, \$10.00
- All three Wednesday Workshops \$25.00

My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** We are meeting for a brown bag supper on February 9, 2004, to reorganize. The meeting is at the home of **Allison Levy**. Please come and tell us what you are doing and what we can do to get our Fellowship more active in social justice. Telephone Allison: (408) 356-8227, for more information.

## UUFLG Calendar for February 2004

- February 1: RECCY Meeting in the lounge (9:00 AM): Contact **Diana Humphrey, DRE** or **Nan Bixler**  
 Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "Concert and Storytelling on Divine Desire" by **Julie McKay**  
 Preschool/childcare (10:30 AM)  
 Children's RE: (K-8): Small group classes learning the "*Candlemas and Chinese New Year Celebration*" - mixed ages  
 No YoUUth group meeting
- February 2: Life Stories Classes (9:30 AM -- 3 PM)
- February 4: Sunday Forum Committee Meeting (6:00 PM); East Room: Contact: **Nan Bixler, 356-5697.**
- February 5: **RUMs** Noon brown bag lunch for Men with flexible time. Contact **Bob Bixler, 356-5697..**  
 In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held in the Lounge.  
 Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (4:00 – 5:30 PM)  
*Women's Alternative Valentine Making* (6:00 - 8:00 PM)
- February 6: Recorder Group (2 – 4 PM)
- February 7: **No-host Potluck & Game Night** : Begins at 6 PM, with dinner at 6:30 PM and games to follow. Please bring a potluck dish to share & your favorite games. All are welcome. Contact **Sharon Graham** (356-5532) for more information.
- February 8: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "POWER." by **Minister Erika Hewitt**  
 Preschool/childcare (10:30 AM)  
 Children's RE: (K-8): Mixed Ages Lesson: "*Exploring our UU Principles.*"  
 YoUUth group meeting (5:30 PM)  
**Town Hall Meeting** (12-2 PM): Sponsored by the **Safe Congregational Task Force**
- February 9: Life Stories Classes (9:30 AM -- 3 PM)  
*Monday Mums* (10:30 AM)  
 Social Justice Meeting (5:30 PM) at home of **Allison Levy**  
 Women's Spirituality Group (7:30 – 9 PM)
- February 11: Sunday Services Program Committee Meeting (5:30 PM); East Room. Contact: **Nan Bixler, 356-5697**
- February 12: UU Women's "Morning" Group (10:15 AM-noon). Contact **Lou Yabroff: (408)356-1921**  
 Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (3-4:30 PM)  
**BOARD MEETING (7:00 -9:30 PM)**
- February 13: Recorder Group (2 – 4 PM)
- February 14: **Valentine's Day**
- February 15: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "Ocean: An Ecology of Soul" by **Adam Robersmith**  
 Preschool/childcare (10:30 AM)  
 Children's RE (K-8) mixed ages: Small Group Work: "*Exploring Our UU Principles.*"  
 No YoUUth group meeting  
**Forum** (12-1 PM): "The Health Care Crisis" with **Dr. Martin L. Fishman**  
 Exploring UU Program (12 – 2 PM)  
**Friends Outside Donations:** Contact **Lynn O'Keefe: (408) 997-2540**
- February 16: *Monday Mums* (10:30 AM)
- February 19: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (4-5:30 PM)  
**Covenant Group Drop-in Circle** (7- 8 PM)
- February 20: **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
 Recorder Group (2 – 4 PM)
- February 22: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "Divine Chaos" by **Minister Erika Hewitt**  
 Preschool/Childcare (10:30 AM)  
 Children's RE (K-8) mixed ages: Mardi Gras and end of the Winter term Celebration  
 YoUUth group meeting (5:30 PM)  
**CELEBRATION!!** For **Diana Humphrey** & daughter **Camille**
- February 23: Life Stories Classes (9:30 AM -- 3 PM)  
*Monday Mums* (10:30 AM)  
 Women's Spirituality Group
- February 26: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (4- 5:30 PM)  
**Covenant Group Drop-in Circle** (7- 8PM)
- February 27: Recorder Group (2 – 4 PM)
- February 29: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "Great Performances of 2003" an Intergenerational Service  
**Forum** (12-1PM): "An Eyewitness Account. . ." with **Meg** and **Peter Lumsdaine**  
 Exploring UU Program (12 – 2 PM)

