

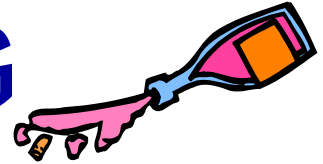
# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



## *Fellowship News*

January 2004. No. 1; published 12 months each year. Richard and Marnie Francisco, Editors

# Happy 2004 UUFLG



### SUNDAY PROGRAMMING FOR JANUARY

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 PM

Sunday Forums: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month: 12 – 1 PM (Childcare provided)

**January 4, 2004: "The Golden Rule... or Fool's Gold?"**

by Erika Hewitt, Minister

In this sermon, Erika will explain why she believes that the Golden Rule ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you") is not always the best guiding principle for our behavior. Why does the Golden Rule fall short, and what alternative principles are there for our actions, words, and decisions?

**January 11, 2004: "What Does it Mean to Care?"**

by Reverend Daniel S. Schatz

UU congregations are caring communities, committed to the inherent worth and dignity of every person as well as compassion in human relations. Yet in the rush and tumble of days, sometimes we wonder if our care is enough, and how best to express that care. The Reverend Daniel S. Schatz will be the speaker for this Sunday. Dan is the Minister of the Buxmont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Warrington, Pennsylvania. Dan has also served as a hospital and hospice chaplain and is an accomplished folksinger.

**FORUM 12-1 PM:** "Love Heels: Dogs Helping the Disabled" with **Jewel Peyton**. Three human/dog teams from Canine Companions for Independence, South Bay Chapter, will demonstrate and answer questions. Included will be a wheelchair user demonstrating how the dog helps overcome mobility limitations; a dog/handler team from a facility for the disabled; and a Los Gatos High student who is raising a puppy to become a Canine Companion. This is a Forum for all ages.

**January 18, 2004: "The Stories We Tell Ourselves"**

by Erika Hewitt, Minister

On this Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, we'll explore the topic of racial justice. Racism often works its way into our souls through the stories we tell ourselves. This morning we'll learn what it means to question those tired old tales and instead sing the new song of our second UU Principle: justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

**January 25, 2004: "The Paths We Walk to Common Ground"**

An Intergenerational Service

This will be a service of storytelling and celebration! In our Fellowship we come from diverse cultures and spiritual backgrounds. What have we brought with us from our journey through life to the community we are today? We will explore the ways we weave our disparate life paths into the "Common Ground" that supports our community. Members of the Fellowship will share their stories.

**FORUM 12-1 PM:** "Hope for Peace in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," with **Scott Kennedy**. Scott, a member of the Interfaith Peace Builders Program, Fellowship of Reconciliation, returned in November from a trip he led to Israel and Palestine. He is also a co-founder of the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz and has been working on this issue for thirty years.

**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.

## Minister's Corner by Erika Hewitt



Over the past 5 years, a phenomenon called small group ministry (a.k.a. "covenant groups") has swept the Unitarian Universalist world by storm. The program is described fully in *The Complete Guide to Small Group Ministry*, by Rev. Robert Hill. I've heard so many personal testimonies

from UU's across the country about small group ministry's power to transform congregations, that it's easy to understand why this book's subtitle is *Saving the World Ten at a Time*.

Covenant groups are a structured program in which the same 6-8 people meet regularly to discuss a particular topic. The meetings follow a standard order of service and are led by trained facilitators. What that dry description doesn't capture is the meaning and intimacy that many UU's discover in their covenant groups, and how they find themselves woven more tightly into their communities as a whole.

Ever since I arrived at UUFLG last September, your leadership and I have been eagerly waiting for the right time to begin small group ministry at this Fellowship. We think it's time! Over the next two months you'll have several opportunities to reach out and inform yourselves about what to expect as our program slowly gets off the ground later this spring. Here are the best ways for you to do your learning now; watch the announcements for even more offerings!

\* Your Committee on Shared Ministry (COM) will host two informational meetings during January to present basic facts about covenant groups, and answer your questions about them (although we won't necessarily have all of the answers!). You are welcome to attend one, or both, of these meetings, which will be held on **Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00 p.m.** and **Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 p.m.** (Childcare will be provided at both sessions.)

\* Our local Unitarian Universalist seminary is opening its doors to all UU laypeople and ministers for a day-long workshop about small group ministry. I encourage you to travel to Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley on Saturday, February 7, 2004, for the course, as described below. The cost is \$50 (some financial assistance is possible – see me if you need a "scholarship"). To register, call the School at 510/845.6232. The description is as follows:

*Small Group Ministry: Renewal and Growth*  
Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Feb. 7  
Calvin Dame

People enter our congregations seeking intimacy and spiritual growth. Small Group Ministry holds the

promise of meeting those needs, strengthening our congregations and helping us to reach beyond our sanctuary walls. The Rev. Dame serves as minister at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta, Maine, where the congregation has been transformed through its small group ministry program. This course is open to students, ministers and lay members of Unitarian Universalist congregations.

I'll be attending this workshop myself, and look forward to giving you a tour of my beloved seminary!

\* Finally, the COM and I encourage you to go surf our UU bookstore at [Hwww.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) to order your very own copy of the covenant group handbook, described above.

We hope that these, and other, resources will get you as excited as we are about launching this new program!

There's another big change happening at our Fellowship this winter: **Ruth Webb**, our beloved Music Chair, Sunday accompanist and all-around Music Goddess, has decided to go into semi-retirement from her musical jobs at UUFLG. Ruth will delegate her duties as Chair of the Music Committee to its members – but even more significantly, she'll scale back her Sundays at the piano bench to twice a month. Ruth hopes that, by curtailing her work, she will be able to find new pleasure and joy as a *participant* on Sunday mornings!

Ruth has our deepest gratitude for all of her years of service to us, and I know that all of us will miss hearing her fingers on the ivories every week. This is an opportunity, though, to involve new people in our music program, and to tread into that uncomfortable territory that we call "change." Like any change, it will require patience as we adjust to Ruth's absence, and as we step up to meet this new challenge.

I hope that you'll take the time this month to thank Ruth personally for all of the tremendous work that she's put into our Fellowship. But on behalf of all of the Fellowship's members, friends, and singers: **Thank you, Ruth, for sharing your time and talents with us!**

Shine on,  
Erika



P.S. The **Reverend**

Conflict Management Team of **Joy Atkinson and Bill Pryor**

will bring their report and recommendations to the congregation on the afternoon of Sunday, January 18, 2004 (See President **Susan Parks'** column, next page). Please make it a high priority to attend this meeting so that we can receive their news and move forward, together.

### **Office Hours for January 2004**

Thursday, January 8, 2004: 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Thursday, January 15, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Thursday, January 22, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Thursday, January 29, 2004: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

## President's Corner by Susan Parks



To our Fellowship,

Last month I reported at great length about events surrounding the Fall Business Meeting, and asked for you to consider, "*how do we want to 'be' together when we profoundly disagree*".

Over a year ago the Fellowship made a covenant for how we wanted to act

with one another. We want to create a compassionate and nurturing environment. We want to support healthy relations by being willing to change our own views and listen fully, respect differences, and lovingly resolve conflict. We move away from our covenant when we don't communicate openly and directly with our leaders and each other; when we talk *about* instead of *to* one another; when we use hurtful language; when we are silent when we need to speak out; when we forget that we are an integral part of the whole.

So, why did the Board of Trustees bring in the Pacific Central District's (PCD) Conflict Management Team (CMT)? Well, it is not because we (the Board of Trustees, the individual members, the minister, and the committees) disagree on issues; whether smaller or on larger. We contacted the CMT because our Fellowship's health is damaged and trust in one another is badly shaken. The CMT is here to help get us back on the path of being in covenant with one another.

First, the CMT held sessions for input on November 22, 2003. It took courage and commitment to go to those sessions. And on behalf of the Board of Trustees I thank everyone who gave of their time and participated in the sessions.

Now, I would like to invite all the members of this Fellowship (and friends) to the CMT's presentation on **January 18, 2004 at 3 PM** in the sanctuary. This is your opportunity to hear firsthand from **Joy Atkinson** and **Bill Pryor** and to ask questions regarding their report and their subsequent recommendations.

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 our community.

For now I would like to encourage you to continue with direct open communications with each other so

that we can begin to heal our wounds and prepare ourselves for formal organized process. That said, the Board of Trustees has made a commitment to this formal process and has agreed not to participate in group discussions regarding the conflict or possible resolutions until after the January 18, 2004, meeting.

Finally, so much of the Board of Trustees' time has been taken up in working through all the issues that surfaced at the Fall Business Meeting. As I said in last month's column, this has slowed us in recognizing all the wonderful work that people are continuing to do on a daily basis. There has been tremendous work going on in committees and in events (Sunday Services, Holiday Boutique, and Safe Congregation Task Force, just to name three). On behalf of the Board I thank each and every one of you for continuing to move forward in making this Fellowship a special place for us all.

As always, I close my column with an invitation to come to our monthly Board Meeting. Our next meeting will be *early* in the month: January 8, 2004, at 7 PM. Refreshments and chat begin at 6:45 PM.

Warmest regards and a Happy New Year.

### News of the Membership

**Barbara Kalmoutis**, a longtime friend and supporter of UUFLG, was inadvertently left out of the Fellowship's newest directory. We apologize for the oversight! Barbara has requested that her contact information be provided here. Her phone number is (408) 378-0813. Barbara's address is 250 Budd Ave - - Corinthian House; Campbell, CA 95008.

### IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and prayers are with UUFLG member **Gratia Trevey** and her family. Gratia's husband Bob passed away on December 17, 2003. Bob's memorial service will be held at the Fellowship on Saturday, January 17, 2004, at 4 PM.

### THE COUNCIL OF STANDING COMMITTEES

During the month of January 2004, the Council will meet Saturday, January 10, 2004: 9 AM to 12PM. The meeting will primarily be a planning meeting for the second half of the UUFLG year. Guests are welcome to attend and observe the Council. If you wish to be put on the agenda, please contact the Chair of the relevant standing committee. If there is no relevant committee, please email one paragraph describing your issue to Jim Beebe, Council Chair: [Tjames\\_e\\_beebe@yahoo.com](mailto:Tjames_e_beebe@yahoo.com)

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



**The Owl's Question.**

This year I've really been enjoying the way my Waldorf Teacher Training has been complementing my experience as your DRE. The more time I spend with the children the more my experience challenges the assumptions I've held about childhood and education. One of the assumptions I've held is that teaching followed the sort of "Mommy Bird" model: those eager little faces turned up to receive the tasty tidbits of knowledge I would lovingly shove down their throats. This model works (or does it?) with general subjects like readin' writin' and 'rithmetic, but when I got to Unitarian Universalist religious education, I was stumped. What are my tidbits? The Bible? Humanism? The 7 principles? How about (God help us) transcendentalist theology? If I were the DRE in almost any other spiritual community, my agenda would be clear, for there is a specific set of information you must swallow and digest to become a good Christian/Jew/Muslim/Pagan/etc. Open up, here it comes! But what is the menu to grow a good Unitarian Universalist? I'm sure you and you and you all have different ideas about this.

The other path I've been running down is the "how?" path. How to fill those empty vessels at the well of whatever truth I happen to decide on? Again, this is a model from an earlier time, when children were seen as blank slates and each spiritual community felt they possessed the "One Truth."

One of the tenets of our Unitarian Universalist Faith is that there are many paths to spiritual truth. One of the realities of children is that far from being empty vessels they are full to bursting with their own unique ideas and capacities and talents and gifts. As the teacher I just need to bring them the appropriate material at the appropriate time... and then get out of the way and be amazed by what they make of it.

So how can I bring the appropriate subjects/materials/ideas to our children? The wise owl knows. It is not the "what" or the "how" question that is most important, it is the "who?" Who are these children? Who do I see them as right now, when I wipe away all judgment and preconception from my eyes? When I have the answer to the "Who?" then the "What?" and the "How?" become much more clear. Seeing the children truthfully, I see how I can nurture them in their unique unfolding. I see what they need from me and from their experience on Sunday mornings. And who am I as their teacher? I can only teach out of my own authentic self, I can only lead them down paths that I have walked, only instill reverence out of my own reverence. We do not teach peace by reciting creeds or learning the biographies of peacemakers, we teach by the example of living peacefully with one another.

In this New Year, may we all keep in mind that the owl's question is the most important. Who am I? Who are you? By seeing one another clearly then the "what" and the "how" of our shared path together will dawn in our awareness. May we all have a peaceful and joyful New Year.

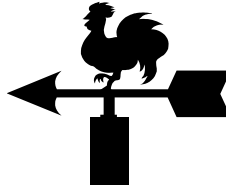
**News from the Committee on Shared Ministry**

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

It has been said that we seek out a church/fellowship community for both "ultimacy and intimacy." One of the sentiments expressed at this past summer's cafe conversation (a group discussion held at our retreat) was the sense of loss of the intimacy associated with the congregation of the past. As our Fellowship grows with new faces appearing regularly it can seem that we are slowly losing touch with one another. Yet there are successful congregations many times our size. What do these larger congregations do to satisfy our need for intimacy in the midst of so many? They are better at being small than a small church. One of the key ingredients to their diminutive success is Small Group Ministry; also called *Covenant Groups*, or *Chalice Circles*, or *Friendship Circles*. These small groups have repeatedly proved successful at recapturing intimacy, and because of that they lead the way to a stronger congregation.

The Committee on Shared Ministry has been educating itself on this exciting process and will present informational forums in January to spread the word. *The first is on January 4, 2004* after the Sunday service, and *the second is January 15, 2004, at 7 PM*. If you would like to get a head start you may contact any member of our committee or review the three resources listed below:

1. *The complete guide to Small Group Ministry* by the Rev. Robert L. Hill, available from Skinner House Books (see the UUA website);
2. Rev. Hill edits an e-newsletter -- *Covenant Group News* available at <http://www.swuuc.org>
3. Our neighbors at the San Jose Unitarian Church have a well established program. Information is found at: <http://pages.ivillage.com/quixoposto/sanjosesmallgroupministry/>.



**Life Stories Classes** will be held from 9:30 AM to 3 PM each Monday beginning January 4, 2002 and ending March 15, 2004. There will be 10 classes and there will be no class on "President's Day (Monday, February 16, 2004)." **Sheila Dunec** will again be the class instructor.

Please note that the January 3, 2004, **Potluck and Game Night** has been cancelled.

*The Morning Women's Group* of the UUFLG met on Thursday, December 11, 2003, at the Fellowship building. We all brought food, gifts, and gift certificates for our assigned family from *Friends Outside*. While we enjoyed coffee and snacks we pitched in and packed five boxes for our family. The spirit of giving remained with us throughout the rest of our meeting. We also selected our officers for the next 6 months, and shared our thoughts on the article "Reflections" from the current *UU World Magazine*. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 8, 2004: 10:30 AM. All women of the Fellowship are welcome. We will discuss "Our Humanist Legacy" on page forty-two of the November/December issue of *UU World Magazine*. Our contact person is Lou Yabroff (356- 1921).

#### ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be no *Sunday Forum* held on February 8, 2004. Instead of a Forum, the *Safe Congregation Task Force* will hold its second **Town Hall Meeting**. Additional information about that meeting will be forthcoming during January. Please note, the meeting *will not* be a repeat of our first meeting. The members of the *Safe Congregation Task Force* are **Bob Shebesta, Julie Doyle, Hollie Dunham** and **Tim Connelly**.

#### PCD CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TEAM PRESENTATION: JANUARY 18, 2004: 3 PM

All members and friends of the Fellowship are invited to attend the PCD Conflict Management Team's presentation in the sanctuary. This will be an opportunity to hear firsthand **Joy Atkinson** and **Bill Pryor's** report and their subsequent recommendations. Please see the Board President's article in this Newsletter (page 3) or contact Susan Parks (408)261-2956 for more information and/or questions.

The **Deadline for the Newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**. Email articles and announcements to: [rachylcisco@aol.com](mailto:rachylcisco@aol.com). Additionally, only information, other than that from the **Minister** and the **President**, which is free of bias and opinions and received before the deadline is guaranteed publication. It is also **the responsibility of the committee chairs or their designee** to get articles or contributions for the newsletter to the editors by the deadline date. Regular contributors to this newsletter should be aware that the editors **do not** track down or make extra efforts through telephone calls regarding any article. **Again, if information is not received by email by the deadline there is no guarantee that it will be published.**

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls: July 18-21, 2004. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every prospective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit our web site: <http://www.uunex.net/>

## UUFLG Calendar for January 2004

- January 1: **Welcome to 2004: HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- January 4: RECCY Meeting in the lounge (9:00 AM): Contact **Diana Humphrey, DRE** or **Nan Bixler**  
Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "The Golden Rule. . . or Fool's Gold" by **Minister Erika Hewitt**  
Preschool/childcare (10:30 AM)  
Children's RE: (K-8): Small group classes learning the *Egyptian myth of Isis and Osiris*  
YoUUth group meeting – 5:30 PM at the Fellowship  
ovenant Group Informational Session (12:00-1:00 PM): sponsored by **Minister Erika Hewitt** and the Committee on Shared Ministry
- January 7: Sunday Forum Committee Meeting (6:30 PM); East Room: Contact: **Nan Bixler**, 356-5697.
- January 8: UU Women's "Morning" Group (10:00 AM-noon): Contact: **Lou Yabroff**, 356-1921  
**UMs** Noon brown bag lunch for Men with flexible time. Contact **Bob Bixler**, 356-5697. *Please note the date change for the month of January.* In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held in the Lounge.  
Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (3-4:30 PM)  
**BOARD MEETING (7:00 -9:30 PM)**
- January 11: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "What does it mean to care?" by **Reverend Daniel S. Schatz**  
Preschool/childcare (10:30 AM)  
Children's RE: (K-8): Mixed Ages Lesson: "Children around the World;" preparation for the Intergenerational Service of January 25.  
No YoUUth group meeting  
**Forum** (12-1 PM): "Love Heels: Dogs Helping the Disabled" with **Jewel Peyton**
- January 15: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (4:00 – 5:30 PM)  
Covenant Group Informational Session (7:00 -8:00 PM): sponsored by **Minister Erika Hewitt** and the Committee on Shared Ministry
- January 17: Memorial Service for **Bob Trevey** (4:00 PM)
- January 18: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "The Stories We Tell Ourselves" by **Minister Erika Hewitt**  
Preschool/childcare (10:30 AM)  
Children's RE (K-8) mixed ages: Small Group Work on the work of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
YoUUth group meeting: 5:30 PM at the Fellowship  
**PCD Conflict Management Team Report: 3:00 PM**
- January 20: **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
January 22: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (4-5:30 PM)
- January 25: Sunday Service (10:30-11:30 AM): "The Paths We Walk to Common Ground:" An Intergenerational Service  
Preschool/Childcare (10:30 AM)  
No YoUUth group meeting  
**Forum** (12-1 PM): "New Hopes for Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" with **Scott Kennedy**
- January 29: Office hours for **Minister Erika Hewitt** (4- 5:30 PM)



# January

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> Happy New Year	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> RECCY-9 "The Golden Rule or Fool's Gold" Covenant Group-12	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Forum Comm-6:30	<b>8</b> Morning Women -10 RUMs -12 Office Hr (3-4:30)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> "What Does it Mean to Care" Forum 12-1	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Office Hr (4-5:30) Covenant Group (7-8)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Memorial Service for Bob Trevey (4:00 PM)
<b>18</b> "The Stories We Tell Ourselves" CTM Report-3	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> NEWS- LETTER DEADLINE	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Office Hr (4-5:30)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> "The Paths We Walk to Common Ground" Forum 12-1	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Hr (4-5:30)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>