

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos



## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

June 2003 Volume 2003-04. No.7; published 12 months each year. Glen Marchant, Editor

### **SUNDAY PROGRAMMING, JUNE 2003**

**Sunday Services, 10:30-11:30am**

**Sunday Forums, 2nd & 4th Sundays, Noon-1pm**

**June 1, 2003: “Flower Petals and Bird Feathers” - an intergenerational Flower Communion led by Erika Hewitt, Minister and RECCY members**

Eighty years ago, a Unitarian minister in Prague named Norbert Capek (CHOP-ek) introduced the Flower Communion to his church as “a new experiment in symbolizing our liberty and brotherhood.” At this service, we’ll remember our roots through this ritual and we’ll hear a story - “The Bird-Feather Rainbow” - that paints a new picture of how we find sisterhood and brotherhood in our diversity as a congregation.

**June 8, 2003: “Roads for Traveling Souls” - Erika Hewitt, Minister**

American poet Walt Whitman spoke of knowing the universe as many roads for traveling souls. As we arrive into summer, this service will be a “good-bye” service (or maybe a “see you later” service) of sorts, during which we’ll thank and honor our Religious Education teachers. We’ll also examine where we’re traveling as a community. What accomplishments lie behind us? More importantly, what awaits us down the road, and how shall our feet be guided?

**June 8, FORUM “On Being an American” Hans H. Zappe** elected this title to explain why he and his wife, Martha, chose to become Americans. Hans has had a prolific career as a scientist, inventor, and lecturer. Ruth Webb got to know the Zappes in their life stories class and invited him to speak to us and respond to our questions.

**June 15, 2003: FATHER’ DAY.** A former therapist, a former UU lay minister, and currently a vice president of engineering, Bennett Barouch brings a diverse background, a unique perspective, and a sense of humor to many subjects. He has delivered a number of sermons recognizing the pain of bad fathering and the wonders of good fathering. This Father’s Day Bennett says he will talk about the role of fatherly approval in the development of personal independence, if his father says it’s okay. 😊

**June 22, 2003: A Place in the World--Laurel Liefert**

Do each of us have our own special place in the world? If we do, how do we find it? So many people find themselves facing major life transitions--some people are leaving school, deciding on what to do next; some people are being let go from jobs and considering new ways of earning a living; some people are taking early retirement and deciding how they should spend the next period of their lives. As we make our decisions, is it possible to find that place of wholeness and joy where “our deep gladness meets the world’s deep hunger”? Ms. Liefert is pursuing a Masters in Diversity at Starr King School of Religion.

**June 22, FORUM “What I Like About UUFLG”** This session will focus on sharing personally positive perceptions!

**June 29, 2003: On the Path of the Warrior: Looking Backward While Walking Forward**

“We will explore the meaning of myth, myth’s recreation in ritual, and the contribution of ritual to a life of meaning and value.” Bill Scarvie is a new member of the Fellowship; however, he traces his connection to our religious community back to the beginning of his UU experience in 1996. He was formerly a member of the Mission Peak UU Congregation, where he either facilitated or led many Sunday Services, and served on the Committee on Ministry.

## Minister's Corner

After a long, grey winter, it's finally summer. For the next few months we'll be blessed with long hours of sunshine, warmer days in which to play, and - for most of us - the opportunity to take some vacation time. Summer travels mean one thing to this Unitarian Universalist: gathering water for the fall **Water Communion!**

I know that the Water Communion is an unfamiliar ritual for this Fellowship. (It won't be after September.) Although the Water Communion takes place in the fall, we prepare for it during the summer. In almost every UU congregation, members *take care to fill a small bottle with water from the place(s) they visit over the summer months*. Whether it's from a river in New York, a fountain in an Italian village, melted snow in the Rockies, or tap water from a hotel room, these samples are gathered throughout the summer and kept in homes until the Water Communion. On the first Sunday after Labor Day, everyone brings their bottles of water to church, names its source, and pours their water into a collective bowl (please note: the communion does not include drinking this water!). This gathering of waters symbolizes the many directions we've traveled away from each other and our coming together once again into a single, living body.

I'll be traveling quite a bit over the summer, and so my small bottle of water will contain water from many places: my hometown of Delaware, Ohio; Boston, the site of our Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly and cradle of American Unitarianism; my family's home on the Oregon coast; and the pulpits of three other UU congregations, where I'll present theatrical sermons about Ralph Waldo Emerson.

[A note for all of you minister-visitors and minister-visitees: Because I'm taking my ministry on the road during the second half of June, I won't have office hours on June 18th or the 25th, but will remain available by phone only. I'm back in the office (albeit jet-lagged) on Wednesday, 2 July and will be working at the Fellowship for most of July, but I'll be in the pulpit only once that month, on the 13th.]

Where will you be traveling this summer? Let's keep reminding each other to gather water in the places we find ourselves, even if it's just past the county line, so that we can have a new tradition (oxymoronically speaking) to look forward to. *And if you're in "tourist mode" as you sojourn into the world, I'd love to get a postcard from you.* The tackier, the better - send 'em to me at the Fellowship so that, by the end of the summer, we have water to share reverently as well as a more irreverent record of those travels.

Travel in safety, gather your water..... and send those postcards!

**Shine on,  
Erika**

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### PUTTING OUR BEST "FACE" FORWARD

At its May meeting, your Council discussed ways to develop the Fellowship's public face and bring greater consistency to our outreach methods. Their first recommendation was to reflect the name "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos" (which is in our by-laws and in current use) throughout our materials. Our current webmaster, **Brian Smith**, will be setting up a new website and address for the Fellowship, [www.uuflg.org](http://www.uuflg.org), to replace [www.lguf.org](http://www.lguf.org), which confuses a lot of folks. (Thank you, Brian!)

The Council also agreed that a unique and recognizable logo is important for the Fellowship's outreach and appearance. Because Unitarian Universalism is symbolized by a flaming chalice, the Council agreed that the unique chalice in our new stained glass window is the optimal design to use as our own. **JJ Martin**, who did the majority of that chalice's design, has given us her blessing for its use as our new logo (Thank you, JJ!) and Friend of the Fellowship **Connie Springer** will do the work of creating a graphic from the window. Connie has also begun to design a brochure about our Fellowship that can be distributed to our ever-growing number of visitors. (Thank you, Connie!)

All of these changes will make our Fellowship more welcoming to guests and more recognizable in the community. We look forward to seeing these improvements unfold and to the growth that they'll foster.

## President's Message by Bob Shebesta

Can you believe it? Two years have come and gone and this will be my last president's message for the newsletter. It has been an exciting two years with a great many successes, a significant amount of change and more than a few challenges. I feel very good about how this Fellowship has evolved over the past few years, and feel very fortunate to be part of that change. I believe we are more focused and have a greater sense of common direction, we are more in sync with our UU values and with the larger PCD/UUA community, and we are attracting new members both young and old alike. I would like to thank all of those who put so much of their faith, hope, and energy into keeping this Fellowship alive with their support and caring.

As for my immediate future involvement with the Fellowship, I have decided to not take on any leadership position for at least one year. This will allow me to move from being very actively involved, into more of a reflective space. I plan to start by writing a report on my two years as president, what I have learned and suggestions for the future. Beyond that, I plan to pick up on my reading again. In the three years prior to becoming president I read approximately twenty books. In the past two years, I have read only three books that were not related to business or my involvement in UU activities. One area of service I still plan to stay involved in is to continue to facilitate the Exploring UU program for visitors and potential new members.

Next I would like to give a quick summary of results of the General Membership meeting that took place on May 4th. Sixty-three members were represented. The membership approved a budget of approximately \$120,000 which included extending the contract for our consulting Minister **Erika Hewett**, hiring a part time Administrative Assistant, and hiring a part time Director of Religious Education. In addition, nine changes to the bylaws were approved and the following slate of candidates for the Board were approved. President: **Susan Parks**, Vice President: **Julie Springer**, Secretary: **Audrey Freeman**, Council Chair: **Jim Beebe**, Council Vice Chair: **Tim Connelly**, and CFO: **Russell Malley**. Finally, the following individuals were approved for committee chair positions. Sunday Services: **JJ Martin**, Lifespan Education: **Nan Bixler**, Finance: **Steve Springer**, Social Justice: **Allison Levy**, and the following group of individuals were elected to the Endowment committee: **Cal Clauer**, **Bob Bixler**, and **Robin Connelly**. This still leaves open vacancies for Membership, Building and the Information committees.

The most interesting part of this meeting was the apparent consensus that was present in the votes taken. Of the nine bylaw changes, eight of the nine votes passed by greater than 96%. The other bylaw change passed by 89%. The three hiring decisions were all passed by at least 85%. The budget passed by 88%. Finally, all of the Board positions, committee chair positions, and a few miscellaneous committee positions were approved by unanimous votes. By any measure of consensus, I believe I could safely say that this community is definitely coming together in its thinking and vision for the future. I would once again like to thank all of those who made this happen. I would also like to give a special thanks to our consulting ministers **Parisa Parsa** and **Erika Hewitt** who were so patient and so persistent in working with the Fellowship through all of the change.

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### **Are you interested in any of the following aspects of the Fellowship: membership, publicity and building improvements?**

For the 2003-2004 fiscal year which starts July 1st, 2003, there are available chairperson positions for the Membership, Information, and Building committees. If you're particularly interested and excited to serve as the Information chairperson, there's an opportunity now to serve as the interim Information chair before July 1st. If you have any questions or would like to serve, please contact **Brandon Connelly**, Vice Council Chairperson (Btconnelly@hotmail.com)

## **DRE's June Newsletter**

Can you believe summer is here! I can't. It's very disorienting how being a teacher and a parent requires one to simultaneously be fully in the present moment and planning three months into the future. (At least!). Really, the summer session for our children at the fellowship (June-July-August) will be a third over by the time most of you read this article. On to September!

Wait, wait, not so fast. This summer the religious education program will be slowing down to account for vacations, and to give our teachers a break. We will be holding mixed age activities each Sunday, led by volunteers, exploring the varied interests of our fellowship members - music, arts and crafts, sports, gardening. It's an opportunity for our children and adults to play together as a family, without too much emphasis on "getting things done" and more emphasis on "being here now." (I want all of you who volunteered to lead a session to read that line over and over as you prepare.) We'll probably spend a couple Sunday mornings just playing outside. Take the time to hang out with your children this summer. Notice how much they've grown and changed since last year. Notice and appreciate who they are right now, because they will never have another summer to be five, or fifteen or almost 21. If you're short on kids at the moment, hang out with somebody who used to be a kid. Take some time to appreciate how much you've grown and changed since last July. And has our Fellowship grown and changed since last July? There is a lot to appreciate. So pour yourself a glass of lemonade and be cool this summer. You have at least another week before you need to start shopping for back-to-school clothes.

**Blessings, Diana Humphrey**

### **Children's Religious Education Calendar - June 2003**

Note: The Youth Group (yoUUth) will be in recess until fall (late August). Be on the lookout for info regarding special summer events (via email, most likely). If you know the DRE doesn't have your email, send it to "seayew@yahoo.com." Have a fun summer!

#### **June 1**

9 AM - RECCY meeting

10:30 Intergenerational Service - Flower Communion. All children welcome in the service. Childcare available for the young and the restless.

#### **June 8**

10:30 AM Preschool and Grades - Teacher Appreciation project (Shhh! Secret!)

#### **June 15**

10:30 AM Preschool and Grades - Father's Day Activity

#### **June 22**

10:30 AM Preschool and Grades - Special Music Program

#### **June 29**

10:30 AM Preschool and Grades - Special Music Program

## Committee on Shared Ministry News:

We welcome **Bill Scarvie** for the '03-'05 CoM

Next Month: Welcoming **Sharon Graham!**

02-03 Members: **Audrey Freeman** (Chair), **Doug Doughty**, **Katie Rall**, **Julie Springer**

Bill Scarvie joined the Fellowship on Sunday, May 4, 2003. He comes to us from the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont, where he was a member from 1996--2002. During that time, he served the congregation and the Pacific Central District in many capacities, most recently as a member of the Committee on Ministry from 2000--2002. As a Worship Associate he facilitated many Sunday Services. He also led several services, speaking on a variety of topics, including Voluntary Simplicity, the role of myth and ritual in intentional living, his volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, and the importance of play to health and well-being. After the service on Voluntary Simplicity, he founded a Simplicity Study Circle under the adult Religious Education program. He was also a founding member of the PCD Men's Council, with whom he helped organize the first PCD Men's Retreat in 1996, which has been held annually since that time.

Bill traces the origin of his commitment to Unitarian Universalism to Jubilee Weekend in January, 1996. On Sunday of that weekend, he visited The Fellowship for the first time to view "The Color of Fear," a film that documented a frank and occasionally brutal discussion of racism by men of many races: Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian. The experience was transformative, forcing him to reflect deeply on the privileges extended to him as a White, Anglo-Saxon, formerly Protestant male in America. He began to realize that he could no longer accept the benefits of that position of privilege without accepting responsibility for the obligations as well. This epiphany marked a profound change in the direction of Bill's life, a turn toward self-awareness and expressions of gratitude for the many gifts he has received.

**Bill** and **Karen Scarvie** own and operate The Wooden Horse, Toys for Growing, a 32-year-old independent specialty toy store in Los Gatos.

03-04 CoM Members: **Doug Doughty**, **Katie Rall**, **Sharon Graham** & **Bill Scarvie**

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## Social Justice Committee

At our May meeting **Sharon Graham** spoke to us about **CHES**, an organization that gives scholarships to girls in Africa, presently in Kenya. For \$350 a girl can go to college and make her way out of poverty as well as feel good about herself. The committee voted to do this.

We have been telling you about the urban ministry called the **Third Street Community Center** (TSCC) which was originally founded by the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. It provides key educational and social services to extremely low immigrant families (average income below \$15,000). The kids have shown remarkable improvement in test scores. Even better than test scores, the kids are actively engaged in hands on educational activities, are excited about what they are doing and are not afraid of math, science and technology. We want your support for TSCC and will continue to tell you how you can connect with this worthwhile project.

Also at our May meeting we had two guests from **Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley**, board member, **Ginger Taylor McDonald** and executive director, **Robert Freiri**. Hope you will all follow the progress of the house on Charles Street in Los Gatos.

**Allison Levy**, Chair

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## Social Justice Meeting - June 8, 5:30 p.m.

Let's celebrate the year end... Bring a BROWN BAG dinner, and desert will be provided.

At **Allison Levy's**, 101 Pinta Court, Los Gatos Please call (408)356-8227 to give her heads up.

# MUSIC NEWS

Our young people are taking part in our Sunday morning music. We had two soloists in May, **Melissa Malley** and **Kelly Smith**. We'll look forward to hearing them sing again soon.

Our May Music Party was held on Sunday afternoon, May 18th. It was a lovely, sunny day so many of our musicians chose to be outside with their families. But we had fun with those who came. There won't be a Music Party in June, but plan for July 13th at 3:00 p.m.

Both our adult and children's choirs will be performing in June. The children will sing on the 8th, and the adults on June 15, Father's Day. Both choirs are open for membership. Adults practice at 9:00 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, director **Ruth Webb**; the children between 11:30 and 12:00, director **Phyllis Reid**.

Our music program needs both singers and instrumentalists. If you play any instrument at all we invite you to participate. Contact **Ruth Webb**, 356-1735, or talk to any of us that you see up front.

**THE MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP** of our Fellowship met on May 8th at 10:30 a.m. with eleven women present. We drank coffee and visited before beginning our meeting.

Our hymnal purchase project is creating a lot of interest, with several people signing up and dedicating a hymnal in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one.

By next month we will have completed the re-upholstering job on the "favorite yellow chair" of several members.

The discussion led by **Edy Young** was based on the article "In Praise of Hometowns", from the UU World.

Next month's discussion will be led by **Pauline Stonehill**. It will be based on an article to be chosen from the May/June issue of the UU World. The meeting will be on Thursday, June 12th at 10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship. This group is open to all women of the Fellowship.. Contact **Lou Yabroff**, 356-1921 for questions and information.

## Social Activities

Come to the **Summer Salad Potluck & Game Night** on Saturday, June 7. Bring your favorite summer salad, beverage, or dessert to share. Don't forget to bring your favorite games! Dinner begins at 6 PM, games to follow.

## Auction Update:

Good News... our final tally for the auction was over \$5,000. Thank you to **JJ. Martin** (auctioneer), **Kathy & Doug Doughty** (food), **Jerry Scott & Marilyn Wilder** (decoration), **Sally Eccles** (email coordinator and food consultant), **Chris & Jane Lindgren** (technical recorders). A big thank you for all who contributed and bought. We have another year of full calendar of dinners and social activities.

## SAVE THE DATE!

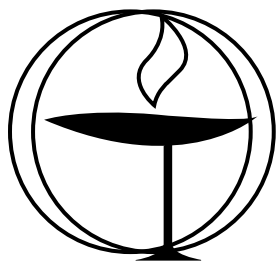
August 22-24, 2003 UUFLG will gather for our annual **Intergenerational Retreat at Monte Toyon** in Aptos. Let's "Celebrate our Diversity" in the beautiful coastal redwoods! Be part of it all & join the planning team! Contact **Julie Springer** (408) 927-5893 or email [sjrjn5@earthlink.net](mailto:sjrjn5@earthlink.net) *Registration info coming soon!*

## June 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>"Flower Petals &amp; Bird Feathers"</i>  RECCY meeting 9am	2	3	4  Minister's office hrs. 5-6:30pm mid-week meditation 6:30-7pm in lounge	5  RUMS lunch on deck- noon  Bldg. Comm. 1pm	6	7  Summer Salad Potluck & Game Nite 6pm
8 <i>"Roads for Traveling Souls"</i> Forum: <i>"On Being an American"</i> Social Justice meeting Brown Bag 5:30pm	9	10	11  Minister's office hrs. 5-6:30pm mid-week meditation 6:30-7pm in lounge Sunday Service Comm. 7pm	12  UUFLG Board Meeting 7:30pm	13	14
15 <i>"Father's Day"</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>"A Place in the World"</i> Forum: "What I Like About UUFLG"	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>"On the Path of the Warrior: Looking Backward While Walking Forward"</i>	30					

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

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos**  
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*“Affirming the Inherent Worth and  
Dignity of Every Person”*



**Fellowship News**

**June 2003**

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(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.